



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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George Geiger, Chairman
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Robert K. Mahood, Executive Director
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October 1, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members
FROM: Bob Mahood *RKM*
SUBJECT: Summary of Motions from the September 2007 Council Session

Attached is a summary of the motions approved at the September 2007 Council session in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Enclosure

cc: MAFMC, NEFMC, GMFMC, and CFMC
Bill Hogarth (NMFS Headquarters)
Robert Gill (GMFMC)
Phil Steele, Joe Kimmel, and Jack McGovern (NMFS SERO)
Jennifer Lee, David Keys and David Dale (NMFS SERO)
Monica Smit-Brunello (NOAA GC SERO)
Tracy Dunn (NMFS SERO LE)
Alex Chester, Tom Jamir, and Steve Turner (SEFSC)
Council Staff
Briefing Book Distribution

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GULF FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA
SEPTEMBER 20, 2007
SUMMARY COUNCIL MOTIONS**

SNAPPER GROUPE

AMENDMENT 16 ACTIONS

MOTION #1: The Council voted to establish Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative for the gag grouper MSY action. (*MSY equals the yield produced by FMSY; MSY and FMSY are defined by the most recent SEDAR; FMSY=0.237; MSY Value=1,238,000 lbs gutted weight*).

MOTION #2: The Council voted to establish Alternative 3 as the preferred alternative for the gag grouper OY action. (*OY equals the yield produced by FOY {Note if a stock is overfished, FOY equals the fishing mortality rate specified by the rebuilding plan designed to rebuild the stock to SSBMSY within the approved schedule. After the stock is rebuilt, FOY = a fraction of FMS}; FOY=75% FMSY; FOY Value=1,217,000 lbs gutted weigh; Gag is not overfished.*)

MOTION #3: In terms of whether gag is overfished or not, the Council agreed that Alternative 1 was appropriate (*Gag grouper should be considered as not overfished because the Secretary of Commerce has not notified the Council that the stock is overfished*)

MOTION #4: The Council selected Alternative 1 for the gag projections (*Use the current projections in the SEDAR assessment that assume F=75% FMSY beginning in 2008 but change the dates to start in 2009*).

MOTION #5: The Council agreed that all current snapper grouper allocations be considered interim allocations; and that staff begin development of guidelines which would serve as the vehicle to establish allocations for snapper grouper and all other FMP species commensurate with the establishment of annual catch limits (ACL), in accordance with the time constraints of 2010 and 2011 imposed under the reauthorization of MSFMCA.

MOTION #6: The Council voted to drop the state-by-state quota scenario and consider an alternative that would establish two regions: North Carolina/South Carolina and Florida/Georgia.

MOTION #7: The Council voted to establish Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative for the vermilion snapper MSY action with a discussion on the uncertainty of the estimate. (*MSY equals the yield produced by FMSY; MSY and FMSY are defined by the most recent SEDAR; FMSY=0.355; MSY Value=2,699,957 lbs whole weight*).

MOTION #8: The Council voted to establish Alternative 5 as the preferred alternative for the vermilion snapper OY action. (*OY equals the yield produced by FOY. {If a stock is overfished, FOY equals the fishing mortality rate specified by the rebuilding plan designed to rebuild the*

stock to SSBMSY within the approved schedule. After the stock is rebuilt, FOY = a fraction of FMSY}; the overfished status of vermilion snapper is unknown; FOY=75% FMAX; OY Value=628,459 lbs whole weight).

MOTION #9: The Council selected Alternative 2b (68% commercial/32% recreational) as the preferred alternative for vermilion snapper allocation and agreed to move Alternative 2a to the considered but rejected appendix.

AMENDMENT 15 ACTIONS

MOTION #10: The Council voted to move development of the snowy grouper, black sea bass, and red porgy management reference points, rebuilding schedules, and rebuilding strategy alternatives (currently in Amendment 15) into a separate new Amendment 15A.

MOTION #11: The Council approved changing the preferred alternative to Alternative 1 for the black sea bass rebuilding strategy (*no action alternative*).

MOTION #12: The Council voted to approve Amendment 15A for public hearing.

MOTION #13: The Council selected Alternative 2 as the preferred snowy grouper allocation alternative. (*Define allocations for snowy grouper based upon landings from the ALS, MRFSS, and headboat databases. The allocation would be based on landings from the years 1986-2005. The allocation would be 95% commercial and 5% recreational*).

MOTION #14: The Council approved adding the Snapper Grouper AP's alternative for red porgy allocation (50% commercial/50% recreational).

MOTION #15: The Council approved Amendment 15B for public hearing. (Amendment 15B will contain actions addressing sale of recreationally caught fish, bycatch, sea turtles and sawfish, permit renewals, permit transfers, and allocations for snowy grouper and red porgy.)

MOTION #16: The Council approved adding two seats to the Snapper Grouper Committee for MAFMC representatives; and sending a letter to the MAFMC informing them of this action.

MACKEREL

MOTION #1: The Council unanimously approved the Mackerel Framework Action for submission to the Secretary of Commerce.

LAP PROGRAM

MOTION #1: The Council appointed Steve Shelley to the LAPP Workgroup.

MOTION #2: The Council decided that the 225-pound limited snapper grouper permit holders should be eligible to participate in a possible LAP.

ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT

MOTION #1: The Council decided to remove all “preferred” designations from the alternatives in the options paper.

SEDAR

MOTION #1: The Council voted to approve the prioritized research plan (presented in the briefing book for the meeting) with the edits recommended.

FINANCE

MOTION #1: The Council approved the modified activities schedule presented in the briefing book for the meeting.

ADVISORY PANEL SELECTION

MOTION #1: The Council appointed Maureen Donald to the Information and Education AP.

MOTIONS #2 & #3: The Council reappointed Kelly Schoolcraft, Ben Hartig and Bobby Pillar to the King and Spanish mackerel AP.

MOTIONS #4 & #5: Mark Marhefka and Steve Amick were reappointed to the Snapper Grouper AP.

MOTION #6: The Council appointed Dubose Griffin to the Protected Resources AP.

SOPPs

MOTION #1: The Council approved the modifications to the Administrative Handbook as specified in the briefing material for the meeting.

OTHER COUNCIL ACTIONS

MOTION #1: The Council reelected George Geiger as Chairman.

MOTION #2: The Council reelected Duane Harris as Vice-Chairman.

MOTION #3: The Council directed staff to write a letter to HMS in support of the MPA closures in Amendment 2 to the Consolidated Highly Migratory Species FMP.

MOTION #4: The Council voted to establish a control date for the commercial sector of the dolphin and wahoo fishery effective on the date of publication in the Federal Register.