

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Dr. Michelle Duval, Chair | Charlie Phillips, Vice Chair Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

MARCH 6-10, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT JEKYLL ISLAND, GEORGIA

The following summary highlights the major issues discussed and actions taken at the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's March 2017 meeting in Jekyll Island, Georgia.

Briefing materials, presentations, and public comments are available on the Council's website at: http://safmc.net/briefing-books/03-2017-council-meeting/. Final Committee Reports contain more details of what was accomplished for each committee and the motions made; Committee Reports are located on the March briefing book page (see link above). In addition, the Summary of Motions on the Council's website includes all motions from the meeting. Read further details and see images and other links at the March 2017 Council Meeting Round-up Story Map: http://safmc.net/news-releases/3102017-safmc-news-release-march-2017-council-meeting.

Issue:	Action Taken:	Schedule:
Experimental Fishing	The Council will develop procedures to	1. Letter will be sent within 2
Permits (EFPs):	consider future EFPs and specify at	weeks.
1. Lionfish	which point during the process the	2. Letter will be sent within 2
2. Pelagic Longline	request should be sent to the Council.	weeks.
3. SA Collaborative	1. Recommended to the Regional	3. The application will be
	Administrator that the Lionfish EFP be	resubmitted at some future date
	permitted.	once it is revised and the
	2. Send letter to HMS Division Chief	documentation is complete.
	noting concerns regarding interaction	
	with the royal red shrimp & golden	
	tilefish fisheries; cap on dolphin harvest;	
	user conflicts & discards; concern that	
	only one company is involved; and	
	ensuring that the minimally necessary	
	sets and time needed to be scientifically	
	valid. Include the fact that a vote was	
	taken and the Council was evenly divided	
	on approval/disapproval.	
	3. The applicant withdrew the request.	
For-Hire Limited	The Council discussed the White Paper	Discuss at the June 2017 meeting.
Entry	but took no action.	

Issue:	Action Taken:	Schedule:
Gulf For-Hire	The Council approved the Gulf Council's	Letter will be sent to the Gulf
Reporting	amendment that would establish/modify	Council about approval and the
	electronic reporting for headboats &	request for an exemption within 2
	charter vessels: reports must be submitted	weeks.
	prior to offloading fish; require a hail out	
	with return time & location; and require	
	vessel operators to submit fishing records	
	via NMFS approved hardware/software	
	with GPS capabilities that, at a minimum,	
	archive vessel position data to NMFS.	
	The GPS portion of the hardware is	
	permanently affixed to the vessel.	
	The Council approved requesting that the	
	Gulf Council consider an exemption to	
	the Gulf for-hire trip level reporting	
	requirements for vessels with Gulf and	
	South Atlantic permits when taking a trip	
	solely in South Atlantic waters, and to	
	allow vessels taking such trips to report	
	according to the South Atlantic	
	requirements.	
Red Snapper	Amendment 43: Provided guidance to	Review & approve best fishing
	staff to continue work on Amendment 43	practices items for public hearings
	but focus on best fishing practices items	at June 2017 meeting.
	pending resolution on obtaining an ABC	
	for red snapper. Removed the large area	Continue working on remaining
C . I .	closures from the amendment.	items as identified.
Spiny Lobster	Regulatory Amendment 4: Provided	Schedule a Webinar Public
	guidance to staff.	Hearing.
	• ACL = ABC as recommended by the	Einel review & engravel at the Lune
	Gulf and South Atlantic SSCs using	Final review & approval at the June
	the mean landings from the years	2017 meeting.
	1991/92-2015/16 plus 1.5 standard	
	deviations (9.6 million pounds). The ACT is 90% of the new ACL (8.64	
	`	
	million pounds).	
	• Prohibit the use of traps for	
	recreational harvest of spiny lobster in the South Atlantic EEZ.	
Recreational Visioning	Regulatory Amendment 26: Provided	Review & approve for public
Amendment	guidance to staff.	hearings at the June 2017 meeting.
Commonaial Wisiania	Dogulotom: Amondment 27. Describ	Davious & approve for authlic
Commercial Visioning Amendments	Regulatory Amendment 27: Provided guidance to staff.	Review & approve for public hearings at the June 2017 meeting.
1 monuments	gardanee to start.	nearings at the same 2017 meeting.
Yellowtail Snapper	Amendment 44: Suspend work until the	Resume work in late 2018 or early
	revised MRIP data are available.	2019.

Issue:	Action Taken:	Schedule:
Golden Tilefish	Amendment 45: Requested the SSC	The Council will review the ABC
	consider establishing an interim ABC at	recommendation at the June
	75% F _{MSY} . The Council requested a	meeting.
	SEDAR standard assessment of tilefish	
	for late 2017, to be provided to the SSC	Continue work on golden tilefish
	for consideration in April 2018, with a	after the June 2017 meeting once
	2016 terminal year.	Spiny Lobster if completed.
Mackerel/Cobia	The Council received updates from the	Gather input from the Advisory
	ASMFC and States on cobia management	Panel in April and bring back to the
	progress.	Council in June 2017.
	The Council postponed Amendment 29	
	indefinitely to concur with the Gulf	
	Council.	
Dolphin	Amendment 10: Suspend work until the	Resume work in late 2018 or early
	revised MRIP data are available.	2019.
Citizen Science	Provided guidance on Year 1 Plan of	Continue to implement the
	Work and the Proposed Transition Team	Council's Citizen Science Program

For details on any item, please refer to the Final Committee reports available on the Council's website at: http://safmc.net/briefing-books/03-2017-council-meeting/.