

**Port Meetings
Brunswick, GA
4/15/14, 6:00 p.m.**

1. One size doesn't fit all for all states

Issues/Not Working--

- Size of regulated area too large is not homogenous regulating or data gathering to apply uniformly
- Generic regulations for the whole region

Solutions—

- Subdivide or “grid” a few areas by similar characteristics for management purposes
- Segregate into more site specific areas
- Be more strict in GA waters and GA tax payers;
- Keep Floridians out of our fishery; longitudinal boundaries
- Implement state specific controls
- Manage on a state by state basis

2. Commercial vs. Recreational fishing

Issues/Not Working--

- What % of red snapper are actually caught commercial compared to recreational; what would happen if you eliminate the commercial red snapper fishing? Charter captains expressed they're limited on what we can go out there to catch, and it's a fraction of 1% of what commercial fishermen can catch.
- Timing of the red snapper mini season was terrible (during hurricane season)

Solutions—

- Raise quota for recreational – for red snapper and black sea bass
- Increase bag limit on black sea bass to 10 pp/day

3. Discards

Issues/Not Working--

- Regulatory Discards

Solutions—

- Eliminate size limits

4. Red Snapper season – time of the year; notification; more days

Issues/Not Working--

- American red snapper season closed; limited season, weather concerns
- Longer open seasons for red snapper
- Timing of red snapper season
- Timeframe knowing regulations ahead of time

Solutions—

- Tag program - computerized authorization numbers to allow one to select their own days to fish (with a reporting requirement)
- Match seasons to fish availability

- Develop quarterly red snapper seasons
- Longer snapper season by state – GA has 9,000 fish to be caught between NC-FL, what is the % caught in GA? If we go to a longer season we could catch a larger % of this
- Give date bracket (range) to the # of days allocated – so you have an idea of the season
- 1-month season

5. Communication – about science, regulations, and changes

Issues/Not Working--

- Need explanations that are science based and makes sense. People don't understand why
- Web site for current regulations for species

Solutions—

- Clarify/simplify dates and reasons – trying to navigate between federal and state is confusing; fishermen need to know what they can and can't fish for and when between state and federal regulations
- Quarterly updates, not every few weeks (on quota monitoring)
- Remove old information from internet (web site), including outdated regulations
- Develop short segments regarding the “science” on YouTube

6. Data issues – confidence in science and data used

Issues/Not Working--

- Fishermen do not have confidence in science of data collection
- Getting data time-weather
- Stock assessments do not match what you see on the water
- Red snapper stock assessments – what we are seeing on the water
- Lack of confidence in stock assessments
- Data collected during a 2 or 3 day season – is it valid?
- Lack of confidence in science of data collection – discussion about the interest and need for more data coming from the fishermen on the water, and why isn't this data included in the assessment process.
- Issues with stock assessment – red snapper, black sea bass

Solutions—

- Confidence in science used
- More remote sensing data should be considered when making regulations
- Tag program, mark and recapture
- Web based reporting for recreational (Note: *lots of discussion about a tag program, and how it would be administered and updates on SG Amendment 22*)
- Incentive based reporting – give a reward for reporting

7. Economic Feasibility of Fishery

Issues/Not Working--

- Regulations make trips not economically feasible

Solutions—

- Longer seasons announced in advance

8. Limited habitat

Issues/Not Working--

- Limited habitat off GA coast

Solutions—

- Develop community reef projects, i.e. Charleston Memorial Reef
- Develop approved wreck reef building artificial (use state of Florida programs as a model)
- Don't regulate GA the same as FL/SC/NC – individual based on GA science

9. Complexity of state/federal regulations

Issues/Not Working--

- Confusion on state/federal rules and limits jurisdiction

Solutions—

- Allow GA to have separate regulations for their jurisdiction – allow GA to regulate the reef that it placed in federal waters

10. Get fish back for underage

Issues/Not Working—

- Paybacks for overage but none for underage

Solutions—

- Consider mini-season for underages – maximizing the quota that fishermen are given
- If an ACL is underfished – add 50% of underage back to ACL next season (For example, if there are 50K pounds left at end of fishing year, add another 25K to the quota next year.)