

**FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN COMPREHENSIVE AMENDMENT  
DRAFT LIST OF  
POTENTIAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

The Ecosystems Principles Advisory Panel recommended eight actions that regional Council should undertake in order to move toward ecosystem-based fisheries management. Management measures and regulations are being considered for the following items:

**ITEM #5. CALCULATE AND CHARACTERIZE TOTAL REMOVALS**

(i.e., landings, effort, catch location, discards, and bycatch)

**1. Identify all users:**

- A. Require a permit to fish for, harvest, or possess any EEZ resource for all:
  - (i) Commercial vessels (includes commercial and for-hire)
  - (ii) Private recreational anglers

Details about cost, endorsements, etc. would be developed before the Council finalizes alternatives.

B. No action – most commercial and for-hire vessels are currently required to have permits (shrimp and calico scallop vessels are examples of commercial vessels with no permit requirement in place); all states within the Council’s area now require recreational saltwater fishing licenses however, each excludes some users.

C. Others???

**2. Calculate and characterize removals:**

A. Implement the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program – catch and effort (trip tickets, logbooks & MRFSS); discards, bycatch and protected resources; socio-economic.....

If a permit is required for private recreational anglers, the methods used to calculate catch and removals from anglers could be modified to sample from a known universe (permit holders).

This alternative assumes completion of work to link the permits and logbook/landings databases in the southeast.

B. No action – commercial (trip ticket and logbook); for-hire and private anglers (MRFSS); discards, bycatch and protected resources (patchwork of programs)

C. Modify the logbook program to discontinue use of paper logbooks and implement use of electronic logbooks.

Paper logbooks no longer collect data that are not also collected under each state’s trip ticket program. If there are some minor differences, the trip ticket programs can be modified to collect such data.

Electronic logbooks have been used on an experimental basis in the snapper grouper fishery. This program should be expanded to sample a randomly selected subset

of all permitted fisheries. Electronic logbooks collect more specific catch location, bycatch/discards, and catch per unit effort data.

D. Others???

**ITEM #8. DEVELOP APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT INCLUDING CATCH LIMITS, GEAR REGULATIONS, ZONING, ETC.**

**1. Compliance with the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) final rule:**

A. Refine Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) designations.

B. Identify new Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) as necessary.

**Proposed New Item:** Consider designating the Deepwater Snapper Grouper MPAs as EFH-HAPCs. This would provide additional habitat protection by prohibiting bottom tending gear.

C. Address measures to reduce impacts of fishing and non-fishing impacts on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Essential Fish Habitat-Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (EFH-HAPCs) as necessary.

(i) Establish “Allowable Trawling Areas” – trawling would be allowed within this area/areas; all trawling would be prohibited outside of this area/areas. This would apply to royal red shrimp, rock shrimp, calico scallop, and roller-rig trawls (intent is to cover all trawls; Note: Shrimp trawling for brown, pink and white shrimp will be addressed in the future as information on detailed fishing areas becomes available).

A framework process for testing trawling gear outside this area/areas and modifying the allowable trawling areas would be developed (pattern after “allowable gear” provision in snapper grouper fishery management plan).

**2. Coral, Coral Reef and Live/Hardbottom Habitat Fishery Management Plan:**

A. Establish four deepwater Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs) – gear prohibitions from existing HAPCs would apply within these new HAPCs (Prohibit the use of: bottom trawls, fish traps, black sea bass traps, bottom longlines, anchors and grapples.) (Note: The Habitat and Coral Advisory Panels have recommended the Council consider expanding the list of gear prohibitions to any gear that may impact bottom habitat.) *Recommended management measures in all the deepwater coral HAPC sites include the following: prohibit all bottom-disturbing activities, prohibit harvest of corals, and compile a list of threats. The intent would be to prevent any allowable harvest presently permitted under the coral plan, in any deepwater coral HAPC. To prohibit the collection of gorgonians in coral HAPCs - clarify the prohibition would not apply to biomedical or taxonomic collections. To prohibit any type of anchoring. To identify the potential damage associated with other bottom gears (e.g.,*

*a future research priority - if damage occurs with the use of planers and cannonball weights).*

- B. Consider prohibiting harvest of soft corals.
- C. No action
- D. Others???

**3. Enforcement/Data Collection:**

- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ A. \_\_\_\_\_ Require VMS on all commercial, for hire and private recreational vessels. Private recreational vessels could use a “chip” that is imbedded in existing electronic gear or some type of acoustic monitoring.~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_ Require VMS on all commercial and for hire vessels.~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ C. \_\_\_\_\_ Require VMS on all commercial vessels.~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_ No action~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ E. \_\_\_\_\_ Others???~~

**Staff Recommendation:** Delete from the first FEP Comprehensive Amendment; evaluate VMS in the next FEP comprehensive amendment after the structure of South Atlantic fisheries has been determined.

**4. Changes to other Fishery Management Plans**

- ~~A. \_\_\_\_\_ Mackerel
  - ~~(i) \_\_\_\_\_ Atlantic king mackerel – reduce TAC to address expected effort shift from snapper grouper regulations and specify new ABC based on mixing rate between Gulf and Atlantic Migratory Groups.~~
  - ~~(ii) \_\_\_\_\_ Develop a separate Atlantic Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMP.~~
  - ~~(iii) \_\_\_\_\_ Consider allowing a 3-5% bycatch allowance for king and Spanish mackerel while trawling off North Carolina (suggested by the Mid-Atlantic Council).~~
  - ~~(iv) \_\_\_\_\_ Adjustments to species in the management unit.~~
  - ~~(v) \_\_\_\_\_ Require a dealer permit to purchase species in the management unit; specify fishermen must sell to a permitted dealer and dealers can only purchase fish from a permitted fisherman.~~
  - ~~(vi) \_\_\_\_\_ Changes to the framework.~~~~

**Staff Recommendation:** Delete from the FEP Comprehensive Amendment and address in the first amendment to the South Atlantic Council’s Mackerel FMP.

- B. Dolphin/Wahoo
  - (i) Consider options to allow sale by tournaments with state permits but not require a federal permit and develop some process for the states to provide a plan to document how they will handle the process.
  
- C. Sargassum
  - (i) Consider a total prohibition on harvest.
  - (ii) Comprehensive research and monitoring plan.
  
- D. ~~Golden Crab~~
  - ~~(i) Consider adding new permits to fish for golden crabs.~~
  - ~~(ii) MSY for golden crab.~~

**Staff Recommendation:** Delete from the FEP Comprehensive Amendment and address in an amendment to the South Atlantic Council's Golden Crab FMP.

- ~~E. Protected Species Interactions:~~
  - ~~(i) Recommendations to Take Reduction Teams~~
  - ~~(ii) Recommendations to States~~
  - ~~(iii) Recommendations to ASMFC~~

**Staff Recommendation:** Delete from the FEP Comprehensive Amendment.

- F. **Prohibit sale of recreationally caught fish.**
  
- G. Others???