



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL: TOP ISSUES

Council Round Robin
CCC May 16-18, 2017
Gloucester, MA
Dr. Michelle Duval, Chair



....To Conserve and Manage

MAIN TOPICS

- Address Significant Data Deficiencies
- Implement Citizen Science Program
- Address Bycatch
- More Stock Assessments
- Address Snapper Grouper Vision Blueprint



ADDRESS SIGNIFICANT DATA DEFICIENCIES

Facilitate implementing electronic logbook reporting by charter vessels (1/1/18) and improve compliance with existing electronic logbook reporting by headboats (IMPROVES RECREATIONAL DATA):

- NMFS funded 2-year project to work on outreach with NMFS and Harbor Light Software
- Outreach Specialist
- Help desk
- Outreach meetings with fishermen & LE Officers



ADDRESS SIGNIFICANT DATA DEFICIENCIES

Test electronic permitting and logbook reporting in the private recreational snapper grouper fishery (IMPROVES RECREATIONAL DATA):

- NMFS funded 2-year project to work on pilot system with NMFS and Snook & Gamefish Foundation
 - Outreach Specialist
 - Help desk
 - Meetings with participating fishermen
 - Catch, catch location, discard location (depth), and length of fish discarded (picture)
 - Cobia may be added; could complement state programs



ADDRESS SIGNIFICANT DATA DEFICIENCIES

Develop & Implement Alternative ACL Tracking Methodologies:

- Fisheries are being closed due to recreational landings exceeding the recreational ACL based on expanded estimates that may be heavily influenced by outlier data points
- Joint SA/GM/MA SSC with MRIP, SEFSC & SERO Workshop – develop alternative methodologies



ADDRESS SIGNIFICANT DATA DEFICIENCIES

Fishery Independent Data Funding:

- NMFS makes the case that funding for Fishery Independent Data Programs is increasing at the National level while at the South Atlantic Regional level we are seeing decreases
- Work with NMFS to ensure adequate funding is available for SEAMAP, MARMAP & SEFIS



ADDRESS SIGNIFICANT DATA DEFICIENCIES

Facilitate collecting current economic and social data:

- Our existing data are often outdated or insufficient
- Work with states/NMFS to update
- Seek to include tackle manufacturers, bait & tackle shops, other secondary impacts
- SEFSC Social & Economic Branch has minimal available support for Amendments & S/E data collection in the South Atlantic
- SERO provides support but has a small S/E staff



IMPLEMENT AN EFFECTIVE CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM

- Working in cooperation with state and federal agencies, scientists, fishery stakeholders and other organizations
- Support projects that will increase the region's data gathering capacity and help resolve longstanding data needs



ADDRESS BYCATCH & REPORTING

- Bycatch reporting to comply with SBRM
- Reduce bycatch
- Address the high level of discards in the recreational fishery (e.g., red snapper, red grouper, black sea bass) through adaptive management



MORE STOCK ASSESSMENTS

- Council advised to plan for 4 assessments per year; average output over 10 years is 2 per year
- Delays and low productivity typically attributed to the time required to develop input datasets, evaluate age structures, and develop indices



2016-2020 VISION BLUEPRINT FOR SNAPPER GROUPER FISHERY

- Working to implement
- Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 26 – Recreational
- Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 27 – Commercial



QUESTIONS??



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL....*To Conserve and Manage*