

Blueprint for the Snapper Grouper Fishery, input on Citizen Science projects, fishery performance reports for Yellowtail Snapper and Golden Tilefish, recommendations on developing amendments to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan, and other issues as appropriate. The AP will develop recommendations as necessary for consideration by the Council's Snapper Grouper Committee.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 3 days prior to the public hearings.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: September 25, 2018.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG497

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings of its System Management Plan (SMP) Workgroup via webinar.

DATES: The SMP Workgroup will meet via webinar from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. on October 19, 2018 and from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. on November 2, 2018.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The meetings will be held via webinar. The meetings are accessible to the public via webinar. Registration is required. Information regarding registration and other meeting information will be posted to the Council's website at: <http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/> as it becomes available.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N Charleston, SC 29405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, SAFMC; phone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free: (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SMP Workgroup is an advisory group for the Council that reviews actions items, evaluates protected areas, and reviews management of protected areas recommended by the Council. The SMP Workgroup was formed in March 2018. These will be the first two meetings held to discuss the System Management Plan for the Spawning Special Management Zones (SMZs) created in Amendment 36 to Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region. Agenda items for the SMP Workgroup meetings include the following: Data collected in Spawning SMZs; outreach and enforcement, format for reports, and report card for the Spawning SMZs. The Workgroup will also elect a chair and vice-chair, assign writing tasks, and review materials developed for Spawning SMZs.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 5 days prior to the public meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: September 25, 2018.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG494

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that

an Exempted Fishing Permit application from the Coonamessett Farm Foundation contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. This Exempted Fishing Permit would allow participating commercial fishing vessels to temporarily possess undersized monkfish for biological sampling during normal fishing operations in the Southern Fishery Management Area. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed Exempted Fishing Permits.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 15, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* NMFS.GAR.EFP@noaa.gov.

Include in the subject line "Comments on CFF 2018 Monkfish RSA EFP."

- *Mail:* Michael Pentony, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on CFF 2018 Monkfish RSA EFP."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cynthia Ferrio, Fishery Management Specialist, 978-281-9180, Cynthia.Ferrio@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Coonamessett Farm Foundation (CFF) submitted a complete application for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) on September 12, 2018, to conduct fishing activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict. The EFP would authorize 12 participating vessels to temporarily possess undersize monkfish while biologically sampling all monkfish caught during normal fishing operations in the Southern Fishery Management Area. This research is designed to create a reproductive profile for monkfish in the region. Sampling would consist of recording the length, total weight, gonad weight, liver weight, and spleen color of each individual sampled fish. Collection of gonad and blood samples will also occur. Retention and sale of legal catch would be allowed on these trips, but all undersized fish and otherwise prohibited catch will be returned to the sea as quickly as possible.

If approved, this research would be conducted opportunistically over the course of 16 single-day commercial trips within the Southern Fishery Management Area for monkfish. All of these 16 trips are expected to take place in 2019 between January and June. All