



SAFMC Visioning Project: *Developing a Long-Term Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery?*

Visioning Project: *Background*

- Stakeholder concerns about current management strategies for **snapper grouper fishery**.
- Council wants to develop **new management ideas and solutions**.
- Need cooperative, **stakeholder driven process** to gather input.
- End result – vision and **long-term road map** for the fishery.



Visioning Project: *Process*

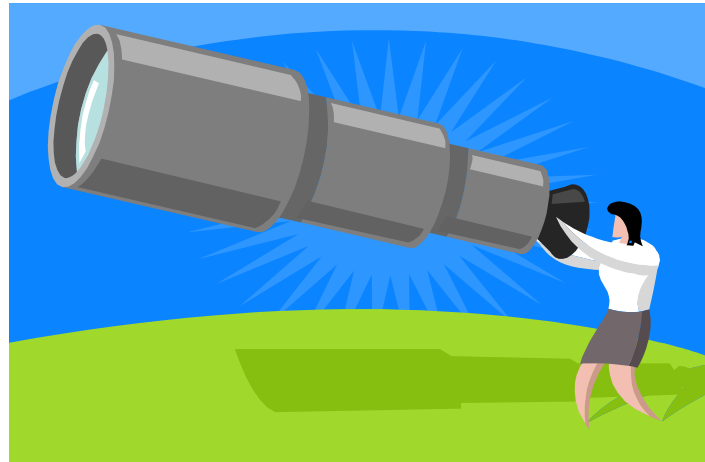
- Council member workshops at Council meetings.
 - ✓ *Started in December 2012.*
 - ✓ *Open to public.*
 - ✓ *Facilitated by staff; organized by visioning work group.*
- Purpose:
 - ✓ *Focus on snapper grouper fishery only.*
 - ✓ *Develop vision statement, goals, and objectives.*
 - ✓ *Public involvement throughout process.*



Visioning Project:

Draft Vision Statement -

“The snapper grouper fishery is a healthy, sustainable fishery that balances and optimizes benefits for all.”



Visioning Project: *Fisherman Input*

Public Involvement - Port Meetings:

- ✓ *Informal, town hall-style meetings in fishing communities throughout the region.*
- ✓ *Gather input from all stakeholders with fishery interests (commercial/for-hire/recreational; chefs/restaurants; eNGOs; coastal tourism operators, etc.).*



Port Meeting Goals & Results

- ✓ Develop a list of ideas for future management of the snapper grouper fishery.
- ✓ Develop a list of management tools for specific fishery issues. (*i.e., reducing discards, spatial management, etc.*)
- ✓ Compile results by state and by sector.
- ✓ Present draft results at June 2014 Council meeting.
- ✓ Further develop into specific goals, objectives, and strategic plan in 2014.



Port Meeting Schedule

South Carolina:	North Carolina:	Florida:	Georgia:
Feb 11 – Murrells Inlet (2 meetings)	March 17 – Southport	March 25 – St. Augustine (2 meetings)	April 14 – Savannah
Feb 12 – Charleston	March 17 – Shallotte	March 26 – Titusville (2 meetings)	April 15 – St. Simons Island
Feb 17 – Charleston	March 18 – Sneads Ferry	March 27 – Port Salerno	April 15 – Brunswick
Feb 18 – Bluffton	March 19 – Morehead City	March 27 – Lake Park	April 16 – Shellman Bluff
Feb 20 – Columbia	March 19 – Raleigh	March 31 – Key West	
April 22 - Charleston	March 20 – Wanchese	April 1 – Marathon	
	March 20 - Hatteras	April 2 – Key Largo	



South Carolina = *53 participants*





**North Carolina =
113 participants**



**Florida =
126
participants**



**Georgia =
56
participants**

Issues/Problems in the Region

- **Reporting – *Lacking in recreational sector and redundancy in commercial; not using new technology;***
- **Science/Stock Assessments – *Lack of Trust, Accuracy, Timeliness, not matching what fishermen are seeing on the water***
- **Data Collection – *MRIP problems***
- **Research – *Need for more cooperative***
- **S-G Permits – *Commercial 2 for 1; For-hire limited entry?; lacking in recreational sector***



Issues/Problems in the Region

- Flexibility in Management Strategies – *Annual Catch Limits, Seasons, Timeliness*
- Too Many Discards – *too many fish floating off*
- One Size Fits All Management vs. Regional Management – *area of Council's jurisdiction very different; geographical differences in fishery*
- Time/Area Management – *Seasonal Closures, frustration with existing MPAs*
- Allocation



Issues/Problems in the Region

- **Species Specific Issues – *Black Sea Bass, Red Snapper, Shallow-water Grouper, Jacks Complex***
- **Endorsement Program Issues – *Black sea bass and Golden Tilefish***
- **Fear of Catch Shares (*a few supporters*)**
- **Goliath Grouper, Lionfish, & Sharks - *Pests***
- **Conflicting Regulations/Permits – *OBX of NC and Florida Keys***
- **Keys fisheries are working just fine – *yellowtail, mutton and gray snapper***



Getting the Word Out

WE NEED YOU ...
Participate in Community Port Meetings



SCIENCE


MANAGEMENT


COMMUNICATION


GOVERNANCE


GOVERNANCE


BACKGROUND
The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is developing a long-term "vision" for managing the snapper grouper fishery. The Council wants to hear from everyone who has an opinion and an interest in the fishery. All stakeholders should be involved in developing this long-term plan in partnership with the Council.

PURPOSE of PORT MEETINGS
The Council is looking for fresh ideas and strategies to reach the goals for the fishery. No one knows the fishery better than those that interact with it regularly. The Council needs you to let them know what is working, what is not, and what they can do to improve management.

PORT MEETINGS - Structure
The Council will hold port meetings throughout the region to interact one-on-one and listen to ideas. Please **DO YOUR PART and GET INVOLVED!** The meetings will be a series of facilitated discussions with different sectors including:

1. Commercial
2. Recreational/For-Hire
3. General Fisheries Interests (chefs, restaurants, tourism, hospitality, etc.)

Meetings will be held from February through April 2014 and will run about 2-hours in length.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER FOR DISCUSSIONS
The Council wants to know:

What new strategies should be considered to collect better science? Manage the fishery better? Improve communication with stakeholders?

What strategies have you thought about that could fix an issue that the Council has not considered before?

GET INVOLVED
To participate in one of these meetings, or possibly host one in your community, please contact:

Amber Von Harten
amber.vonharten@safmc.net
843-571-4366

**RSVP for a port meeting at the Visioning Project page at www.safmc.net

Can't attend a port meeting? A web-comment form for submitting comments as well as web-based meetings (webinars) will be available. Webinar dates and times will be posted on the Council's website or use the e-mail above to request an e-mail notification about the webinars.

You can also share your ideas about visioning anytime by sending written comments via:

- E-mail: safmcvision@safmc.net
- Mail: SAFMC - Visioning Project
4055, Faber Place Drive, Suite 201,
Charleston, SC 29405

For more information and port meeting schedule visit: <http://safmc.net/resource-library/council-visioning-project>

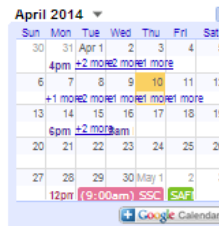
- Mail-out to 1,900+ permit holders
- E-mail blasts to 1,500+ constituents (1X/week)
- *SA Update* articles (4,500+ circulation) Keys

- Broad print media, radio and partner agency coverage



SAFMC Website: Visioning Project pages & Port Meeting Discussion Form

- ▶ Resource Library
- ▶ Visioning Project
 - 2014 Port Meetings
 - PORT MEETING Discussion Comment Form
- ▶ Regulations & Fish ID
- ▶ Managed Areas
- ▶ Science & Statistics
- ▶ Habitat/Ecosystems
- ▶ Get Involved!
- ▶ Meetings



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PORT MEETING Discussion

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Note: The following questions are offered to assist you in providing your input into the Council's visioning process. Council staff will have these questions available at port meetings to stimulate discussion and input; they will also be available from the Council's website. However, we want to make it very clear that discussions will be wide-ranging and determined by the participants and not by these questions.

Instructions: Please fill out the comment form below. Once you have completed the form, scroll to the bottom of the screen, enter the security code shown and hit the submit button. Please note that you will not be able to save your comments for later editing. If you close the browser before hitting the submit button your comments will not be recorded.

Please add your recommendations about future management of the snapper grouper fishery here:

What state do you reside in?

Management

- a. What specific management strategies are currently not working?
- b. What strategies have you thought about that could fix what is currently not working?

Please select a topic to provide additional comments.

- Commercial
- Chefs/Dealers
- For-Hire
- Recreational
- Tourism/Marine Related

Commercial

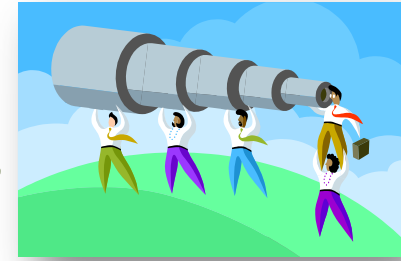
1. Reducing Discards:

- a. What are effective ways to reduce discards?
- b. Are there certain species or groups of species for which full retention or size limits makes sense?
- c. Other Ideas?



Next Steps:

How to synthesize all the information?



- Information compiled by STATE and by SECTOR
- Present DRAFT summary to Council = June 2014
- Council Visioning Workshops through 2014 (beyond?)
- Council begins work to develop strategic plan
- Additional review/input by the public

