

# MEMORANDUM



**To:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners  
**From:** Jessica McCawley, Director, Marine Fisheries Management  
**Date:** September 27, 2018  
**Subject:** South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Report

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**Purpose:**

Update Commissioners on actions from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (SAFMC's) September 16-21 meeting in Charleston, SC.

**Summary:**

The SAFMC is scheduled to meet the week prior to the Commission's September meeting. Therefore, Commission briefing documents will be updated as soon as possible following the SAFMC meeting. Anticipated SAFMC discussions include:

Red snapper: The SAFMC will discuss the six-day 2018 Atlantic red snapper recreational season and the 2018 commercial season. They will review public comments on requiring best fishing practices (e.g., use of descending device or venting tool and single-hook rigs, and modifying the current circle hook requirement) to reduce discard mortality for red snapper and other snapper grouper species.

Yellowtail snapper: The SAFMC will review public comments on potential revision of accountability measures to reduce the likelihood of in-season closures for the commercial yellowtail snapper fishery.

Limited-entry program for federal snapper grouper for-hire permits: The SAFMC will also review public comments about limiting the number of vessels allowed to operate for-hire trips targeting snapper grouper species in federal waters.

The SAFMC is expected to take final action on several items, including:

- Spiny lobster: Updating federal spiny lobster regulations to be more consistent with FWC regulations
- Commercial snapper grouper regulation changes: Revisions to minimum size limits, fishing season structure, and trip limits for several snapper grouper species

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff may request direction on items following the SAFMC meeting.

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Jessica McCawley, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries Management