



MAGNUSON – STEVENS ACT/NEPA SCOPING DOCUMENT

DRAFT

Regulatory Amendment 17 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Marine Protected Areas)

NOVEMBER 13, 2013

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
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Background: At the March 2013 meeting, the Council approved the following motion: MOTION #54: BRING THE MPA ISSUE BACK TO THE SNAPPER GROUPER COMMITTEE AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING TO DEVELOP A PURPOSE AND NEED AND POTENTIALLY CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR RECONFIGURATIONS AND SPAWNING.

At the September meeting, the Council approved the following motions: MOTION #24: REQUEST PRESENTATIONS FOR THE DECEMBER 2013 MEETING FROM SAFMC STAFF, MARMAP, NOAA LAW ENFORCEMENT AND NMFS SEFSC ON WHICH OF THE NEEDS IDENTIFIED IN AMENDMENT 14 HAVE BEEN MET AND WHICH ARE OUTSTANDING.

MOTION #25: DIRECT STAFF/IPT TO WORK ON A SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE EXISTING 8 MPAs.

MOTION #26: APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PURPOSE AND NEED FOR REGULATORY AMENDMENT 17:

***Purpose:** Develop options to reduce bycatch of speckled hind and warsaw grouper by reconfiguration of deepwater MPAs (Amendment 14) and/or addition of new MPAs that contain evidence of occurrence and/or spawning of speckled hind or warsaw grouper. Develop and implement monitoring/evaluation/enforcement plans for any new marine protected areas.*

***Need:** Protect speckled hind and warsaw grouper and their deepwater habitat from fishing and monitor and assess the effectiveness of MPAs, as outlined in a system management plan, in meeting the stated goals.*

****Guidance to clarify that reconfiguration includes modification to size, etc.****

MOTION #27: DIRECT STAFF TO STRUCTURE THE ACTIONS/ALTERNATIVES WITH ONE ACTION FOR EACH STATE AND ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING NO ACTION, FOR EACH STATE.

***Acton 1.** North Carolina (repeat for each of the other states).*

***Alternative 1.** No action*

***Alternative 2.** Modification of existing sites*

***Sub-option 1.** Site x*

***Sub-option 2.** Site y*

And so on for other sites from the list recommended by the expert working group

***Alternative 3.** Spawning sites*

***Sub-option 1.** Site x*

***Sub-option 2.** Site y*

And so on for other sites from the list recommended by the expert working group

***Alternative 4.** New sites with occurrence*

***Sub-option 1.** Site x*

***Sub-option 2.** Site y*

And so on for other sites from the list recommended by the expert working group

MOTION #28: STATE THAT THE MPAs BEING CONSIDERED IN REGULATORY AMENDMENT 17 ARE TYPE 2 MPAs.

MOTION #29: DIRECT STAFF TO (1) PREPARE A DRAFT REGULATORY AMENDMENT 17 DOCUMENT FOR REVIEW AT THE DECEMBER 2013 MEETING; (2) APPROVE FOR SCOPING (ASSUMING AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IS NECESSARY) AT THE DECEMBER 2013 MEETING; (3) CONDUCT IN-PERSON SCOPING MEETINGS IN JANUARY 2014; (4) REVIEW SCOPING COMMENTS AT THE MARCH 2014 MEETING TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR MORE COMPLETE ANALYSES; (5) REVIEW ANALYSES AND APPROVE FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS AT THE JUNE 2014 MEETING; (6) CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS IN AUGUST 2014; (7) REVIEW COMMENTS AT THE SEPTEMBER 2014 MEETING TO APPROVE ACTIONS; AND (8) FINAL REVIEW OF REGULATORY AMENDMENT 17 AND APPROVE FOR SECRETARIAL REVIEW AT THE DECEMBER 2014 MEETING.

Spawning: Council staff reviewed the March 5-6, 2013 snapper grouper committee minutes to clarify which species “spawning” included. On pages 162-163 Mr. Hartig indicated that spawning referred to spawning speckled hind and Warsaw grouper. This was reiterated in discussion about the motion on page 169 of those minutes.

Type 1 versus Type 2: The issue of Type 1 (no fishing) versus Type 2 (no bottom fishing; no snapper grouper species) was discussed on page 148 of the March 5-6, 2013 committee minutes. The Expert Workgroup has recommend Type 1 while the committee/Council made the decision during the June 2012 meeting that these MPAs were going to be Type 2 MPAs. Note: There is disagreement among workgroup members on whether the recommendation for Type 1 is an “official” recommendation since it does not appear in the written report. Type 2 MPAs allow for pelagic trolling, however, no fishing for, possession, or retention of snapper grouper species is allowed. The use of shark bottom longline gear is prohibited. Vessels (both commercial and recreational) may transit (direct, non-stop progression) through the MPAs with snapper grouper species onboard with fishing gear appropriately stowed (see regulations for definition).

The Council is considering the following actions in Regulatory Amendment 17:

- **Action 1. Retain and/or modify the existing Snowy Wreck MPA, and establish new MPAs off North Carolina (Type 2).**
- **Action 2. Retain and/or modify the existing Northern SC, Edisto, and Charleston Deep Artificial Reef MPAs, and establish new MPAs off South Carolina (Type 2).**
- **Action 3. Retain and/or modify the existing Georgia MPA, and establish new MPAs off Georgia (Type 2).**
- **Action 4. Retain and/or modify the existing North Florida, St. Lucie Hump, and East Hump MPAs, and establish new MPAs off Florida (Type 2).**

NEED FOR ACTION

This document provides background information on the possible actions that will be considered for analysis in Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 17.

Snapper Grouper Amendment 14 established a series of deepwater marine protected areas in the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone. The amendment was approved by the Council during its June 2007 meeting and submitted to NOAA Fisheries for approval by the Secretary of Commerce on July 18, 2007. The Amendment was approved on January 13, 2009 and became effective February 12, 2009.

History of Management: Speckled hind and warsaw grouper regulations in the South Atlantic went from inclusion in the five grouper aggregate recreational bag limit in 1992 (56 FR 56016), to a commercial and recreational limit of one per vessel of each species with a commercial sale prohibition of these species in 1994 (59 FR 27242), to a complete harvest prohibition of both species in 2011 (75 FR 82280).

Stock Assessments:

“Warsaw grouper was assessed by catch curve analysis using data from 1988 and 1990 (Huntsman et al. 1992). Because warsaw grouper are infrequently caught, a single length frequency was constructed from several years (e.g., 1983-1988) for the assessment of the 1988 fishing year and 1989-1990 length samples were used for the 1990 fishing year. A limited age length key was applied to the length frequency to obtain catch-at-age data. No reproductive biology data were available; therefore, for SPR calculations the assumption for age-at-maturity was based on $\frac{1}{2} L_{\infty}$. Static SPR values for warsaw grouper were 0.2% and 6% for 1988 and 1990 fishing years, respectively.” [SG Amendment 17B, section 3.3.9]

“Speckled hind was assessed for the 1988, 1990, 1996, and 1999 fishing years (NMFS 1991; Huntsman et al. 1992; Potts and Brennan 2001). Length frequencies for each fishing year assessed was constructed from that year’s data. Length samples came primarily from the commercial fishery. Lengths for 1996 and 1999 were limited by the management restriction of one speckled hind per trip. Age and growth data were available but there were no reproductive biology data. The assumption of $\frac{1}{2} L_{\infty}$ as the age of maturity was used for estimating the static SPR. SPR values were 25%, 12%, 8%, and 5% for 1988, 1990, 1996, and 1999 fishing years, respectively.” [SG Amendment 17B, section 3.3.10]

Current Stock Status (NOAA Report to Congress): Note: Status of stocks report for 2012 lists red snapper, red grouper, speckled hind, and warsaw grouper as undergoing overfishing. Snowy grouper, red snapper, red grouper, and red pogy are listed as overfished.

Current Stock Status Conclusions from the April 2012 SSC Report: “It is possible that SH and WG are not undergoing overfishing, given all the regulations for associated species and the current analysis from the Regional Office; however, there is not sufficient

evidence to indicate overfishing has ended. Additional closed areas could further decrease bycatch mortality beyond current levels.

Based on the current info, the SSC cannot determine what benefits an additional closure will provide to the stocks of SH and WG, what amount of area closure is necessary to reduce bycatch mortality, or if additional closed areas are even necessary.

Additional monitoring and data needs to be collected in order to be able to conduct an assessment of these species.”

Current level of bycatch (numbers of fish) from logbooks and observer programs: (see included graphs from Nick Farmer, NMFS SERO; Appendix C)

Bycatch	2011	2011	2012	2012
By Sector	Speckled Hind	Warsaw	Speckled Hind	Warsaw
Commercial	51	84	26	180
Headboat	31	33	28	22
Private/Charter	333	0	420	0
Total	415	117	474	202

Gulf & South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation Observer Project – concluded the bycatch level of speckled hind/warsaw grouper was too low to generate an estimate of bycatch for the South Atlantic commercial snapper grouper fishery.

Purpose & Need (approved by Council at September 2013 meeting):

Purpose: Develop options to reduce bycatch of speckled hind and warsaw grouper by reconfiguration of deepwater MPAs (Amendment 14) and/or addition of new MPAs that contain evidence of occurrence and/or spawning of speckled hind or warsaw grouper. Develop and implement monitoring/evaluation/enforcement plans for any new marine protected areas.

Need: Protect speckled hind and warsaw grouper and their deepwater habitat from fishing and monitor and assess the effectiveness of MPAs, as outlined in a system management plan, in meeting the stated goals.

Purpose & Need (IPT recommended modifications):

Purpose: Reduce bycatch of speckled hind and warsaw grouper by reconfiguration of deepwater MPAs (Type 2; Amendment 14) and/or addition of new MPAs that contain evidence of occurrence and/or spawning of speckled hind or warsaw grouper. Develop and implement monitoring/evaluation/enforcement plans for any new marine protected areas.

Need: Reduce bycatch mortality of speckled hind and warsaw grouper and protect their deepwater habitat. Monitor and assess the effectiveness of MPAs, as outlined in a system management plan, in meeting the stated goals.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Discuss/modify the Purpose & Need
2. Approve the Purpose & Need

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

Action 1. Retain and/or modify the existing Snowy Wreck MPA, and establish new MPAs off North Carolina (Type 2).

Note: Multiple sub-alternatives under an alternative may be chosen. The existing MPA site(s) would remain unless specifically modified or removed. The Alternatives progress from what is currently in place (No Action) to reconfigurations to existing MPAs, to sites with spawning, and then to sites with occurrence of speckled hind and/or warsaw grouper. If an alternative does not meet the spawning or reconfiguration criteria, then it is shown in yellow strike-thru. It is anticipated that the Council will choose one criteria for each state and then select one or more sub-alternatives for that alternative.

Alternative 1. No action. Snapper Grouper Amendment 14 (2007; regulations effective 2/12/09) established the 190 square mile Snowy Wreck MPA (Type 2) off North Carolina.

Alternative 2. Modify the existing Snowy Wreck MPA (Type 2) through reconfiguration.

Sub-alternative 3a. Snowy Wreck MPA (Type 2) modified from 190 to 18 square miles.

Sub-alternative 3b. Snowy Wreck MPA (Type 2) modified from 190 to 4 square miles.

Sub-alternative 3c. Snowy Wreck MPA (Type 2) modified from 190 to 1 square miles.

Alternative 3. Establish the following new North Carolina MPAs (Type 2) based on documented occurrence of speckled hind and/or warsaw grouper.

Sub-alternative 2a. 780 Bottom MPA (Type 2; 22 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2b. South Cape Lookout MPA (Type 2; 72 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2c. Southern North Carolina MPA (Type 2; 89 square miles)

~~**Alternative 4.** Establish the following new North Carolina MPAs (Type 2) based on documented spawning of speckled hind and/or warsaw grouper. No new sites off North Carolina have documented spawning of speckled hind and/or warsaw grouper.~~

COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Discuss these sites
2. Approve sites to be included for scoping

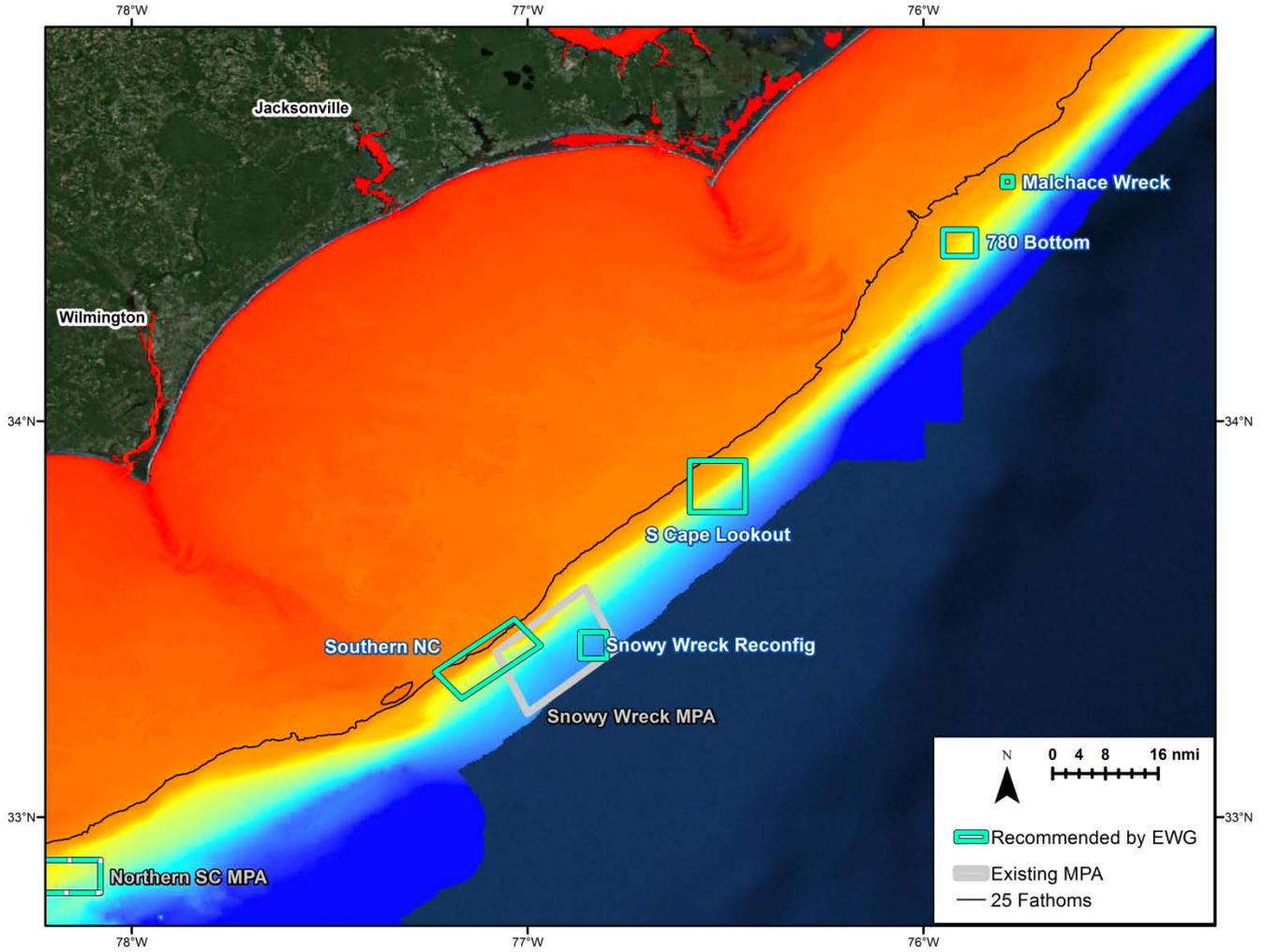


Figure 1. North Carolina MPA sites.
 Source: Nick Farmer, NMFS SERO

Action 2. Retain and/or modify the existing Northern SC, Edisto, and Charleston Deep Artificial Reef MPAs, and establish new MPAs off South Carolina (Type 2).

Note: Multiple sub-alternatives under an alternative may be chosen. The existing MPA site(s) would remain unless specifically modified or removed. The Alternatives progress from what is currently in place (No Action) to reconfigurations to existing MPAs, to sites with spawning, and then to sites with occurrence of speckled hind and/or warsaw grouper. If an alternative does not meet the spawning or reconfiguration criteria, then it is shown in yellow strike-thru. It is anticipated that the Council will choose one criteria for each state and then select one or more sub-alternatives for that alternative.

Alternative 1. No action. Snapper Grouper Amendment 14 (2007; regulations effective 2/12/09) established the Northern SC MPA (Type 2; 67 square miles), the Edisto MPA (Type 2; 66 square miles), and the Charleston Deep Artificial Reef MPA (Type 2; 28 square miles) off South Carolina.

Alternative 2. Modify the existing Northern SC MPA and/or Edisto MPA (Type 2) through reconfiguration.

Sub-alternative 3a. Northern SC Extension MPA (Type 2; 13 square miles).

Sub-alternative 3b. Edisto Reconfiguration 3 MPA (Type 2; 81 square miles).

Alternative 3. Establish the following new South Carolina MPAs (Type 2) based on documented spawning of speckled hind and/or warsaw grouper.

Sub-alternative 4a. Northern SC Extension MPA (Type 2; 13 square miles).

Sub-alternative 4b. Devils Hole/Georgetown Hole MPA (Type 2; 27 square miles).

Alternative 4. Establish the following new South Carolina MPAs based on documented occurrence of speckled hind and/or warsaw grouper.

Sub-alternative 2a. Northern SC Extension MPA (Type 2; 13 square miles).

Sub-alternative 2b. Devils Hole/Georgetown Hole MPA (Type 2; 27 square miles).

Sub-alternative 2c. Edisto Reconfiguration 3 MPA (Type 2; 81 square miles).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Discuss these sites
2. Approve sites to be included for scoping

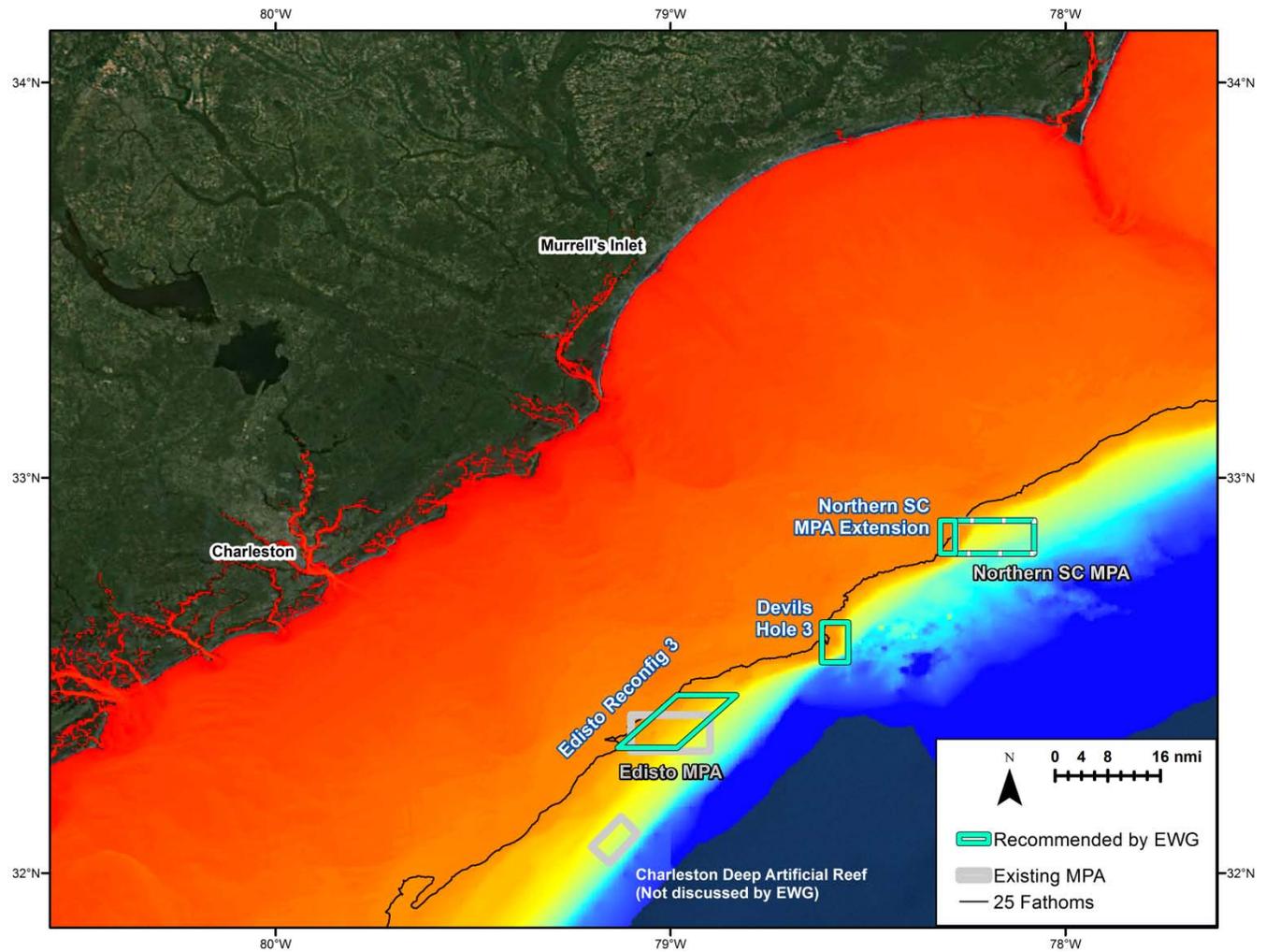


Figure 2. South Carolina MPA sites.
 Source: Nick Farmer, NMFS SERO

Action 3. Retain and/or modify the existing Georgia MPA, and establish new MPAs off Georgia (Type 2).

Note: Multiple sub-alternatives under an alternative may be chosen. The existing MPA site(s) would remain unless specifically modified or removed. The Alternatives progress from what is currently in place (No Action) to reconfigurations to existing MPAs, to sites with spawning, and then to sites with occurrence of speckled hind and/or warsaw grouper. If an alternative does not meet the spawning or reconfiguration criteria, then it is shown in yellow strike-thru. It is anticipated that the Council will choose one criteria for each state and then select one or more sub-alternatives for that alternative.

Alternative 1. No action. Snapper Grouper Amendment 14 (2007; regulations effective 2/12/09) established the 102 square mile Georgia MPA (Type 2) off Georgia.

Alternative 2. Establish the following new Georgia MPAs (Type 2) based on documented occurrence of speckled hind and/or warsaw grouper.

Sub-alternative 2a. Georgia MPA Reconfiguration MPA (Type 2; 79 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2b. St. Simons Extension 2 MPA (Type 2; 45 square miles)

~~**Alternative 3.** Establish the following new Georgia MPAs (Type 2) based on reconfiguration of existing MPA sites. No new sites off Georgia are modifications of the existing Georgia MPA.~~

~~**Alternative 4.** Establish the following new Georgia MPAs (Type 2) based on documented spawning of speckled hind and/or warsaw grouper. No new sites off Georgia have documented spawning of speckled hind and/or warsaw grouper.~~

COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Discuss these sites
2. Approve sites to be included for scoping

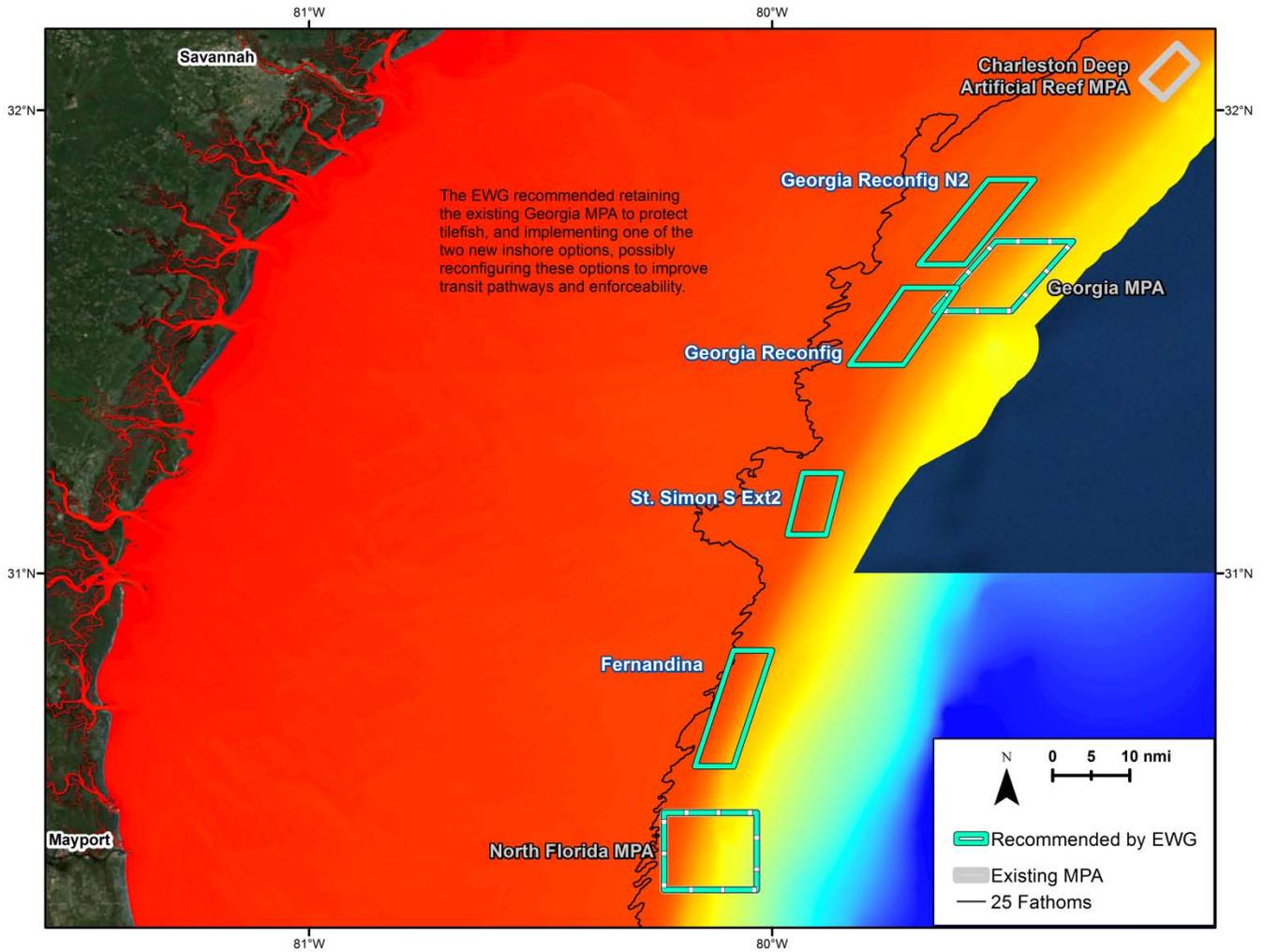


Figure 3. Georgia MPA sites.
 Source: Nick Farmer, NMFS SERO

Action 4. Retain and/or modify the existing North Florida, St. Lucie Hump, and East Hump MPAs, and establish new MPAs off Florida (Type 2).

Note: Multiple sub-alternatives under an alternative may be chosen. The existing MPA site(s) would remain unless specifically modified or removed. The Alternatives progress from what is currently in place (No Action) to reconfigurations to existing MPAs, to sites with spawning, and then to sites with occurrence of speckled hind and/or warsaw grouper. If an alternative does not meet the spawning or reconfiguration criteria, then it is shown in yellow strike-thru. It is anticipated that the Council will choose one criteria for each state and then select one or more sub-alternatives for that alternative.

Alternative 1. No action. Snapper Grouper Amendment 14 (2007; regulations effective 2/12/09) established the North Florida MPA (Type 2; 137 square miles), the St. Lucie Hump MPA (Type 2; 9 square miles), and the East Hump MPA (Type 2; 66 square miles) off Florida. The Oculina Bank Experimental Closed area functions as a MPA and provides similar benefits as the other MPAs. The Oculina Bank CHAPC and the proposed Extension provide some protection by prohibiting bottom tending gear (e.g., bottom longline) and anchoring.

Alternative 2. Establish the Warsaw Hole MPA (Type 2; 2 square miles) as a new Florida MPA (Type 2) based on documented spawning of ~~speckled hind and/or~~ warsaw grouper.

Note: Spawning by warsaw grouper has been reported from this site but not speckled hind.

Alternative 3. Establish the following new Florida MPAs (Type 2) based on documented occurrence of speckled hind and/or warsaw grouper.

Sub-alternative 2a. Fernandina MPA (Type 2; 85 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2b. St. Augustine 2 MPA (Type 2; 32 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2c. Daytona Ledge MPA (Type 2; 11 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2d. Daytona Steeples MPA (Type 2; 27 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2e. Oculina Bank CHAPC (Type 2; 279 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2f. Oculina Bank CHAPC Extension (Type 2; 242 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2g. Oculina Bank Experimental Closed Area (Type 2; 108 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2h. Push Button Hill MPA (Type 2; 9 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2i. Juno Beach MPA (Type 2; 4 square miles)

Sub-alternative 2j. Warsaw Hole MPA (Type 2; 2 square miles)

~~**Alternative 4.** Establish the following new Florida MPAs (Type 2) based on reconfiguration of existing MPA sites. No new sites off Florida are modifications of the existing Florida MPAs.~~

COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Discuss these sites
2. Approve sites to be included for scoping

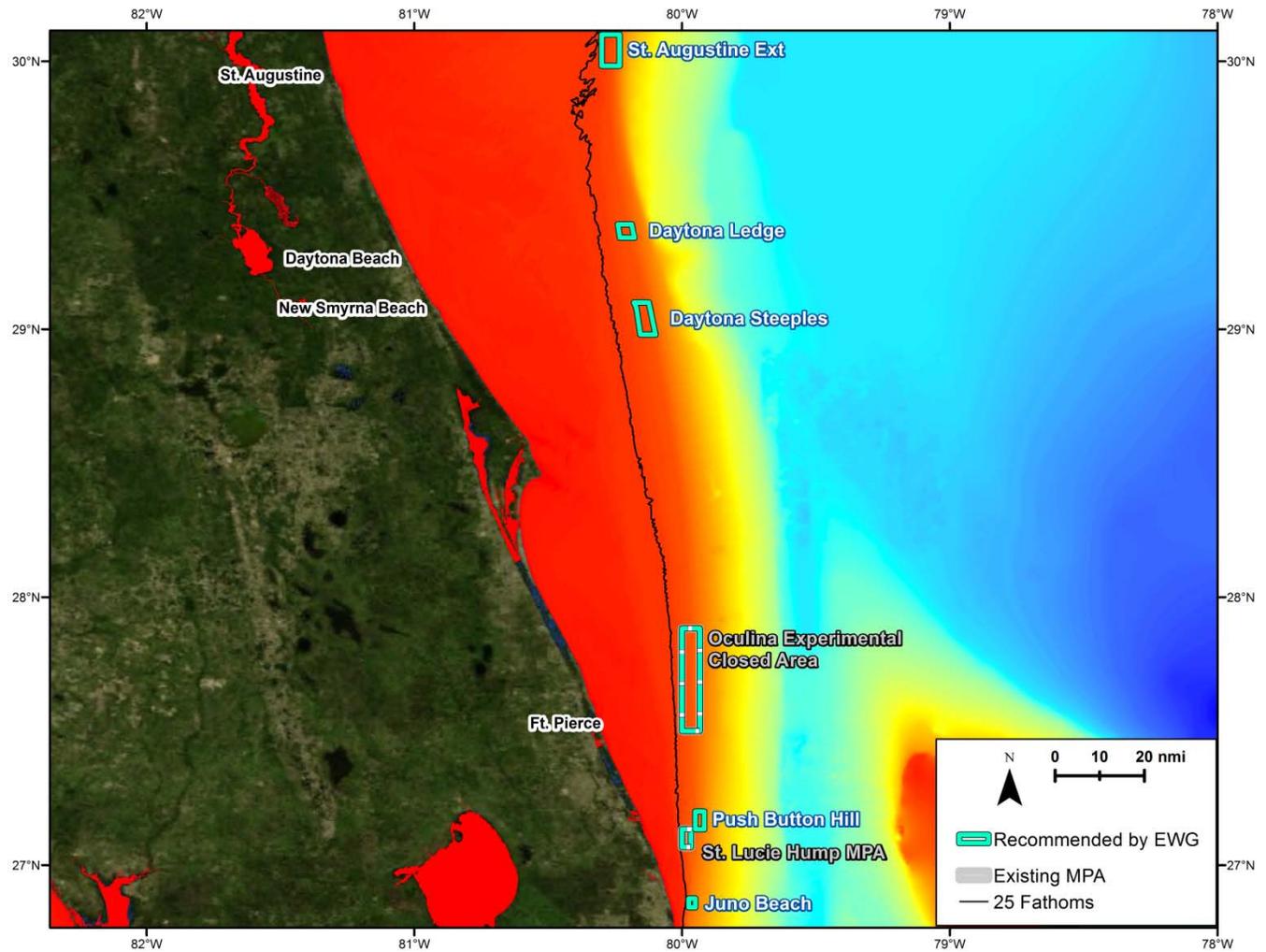


Figure 4. Mid to North Florida MPA sites.
 Source: Nick Farmer, NMFS SERO

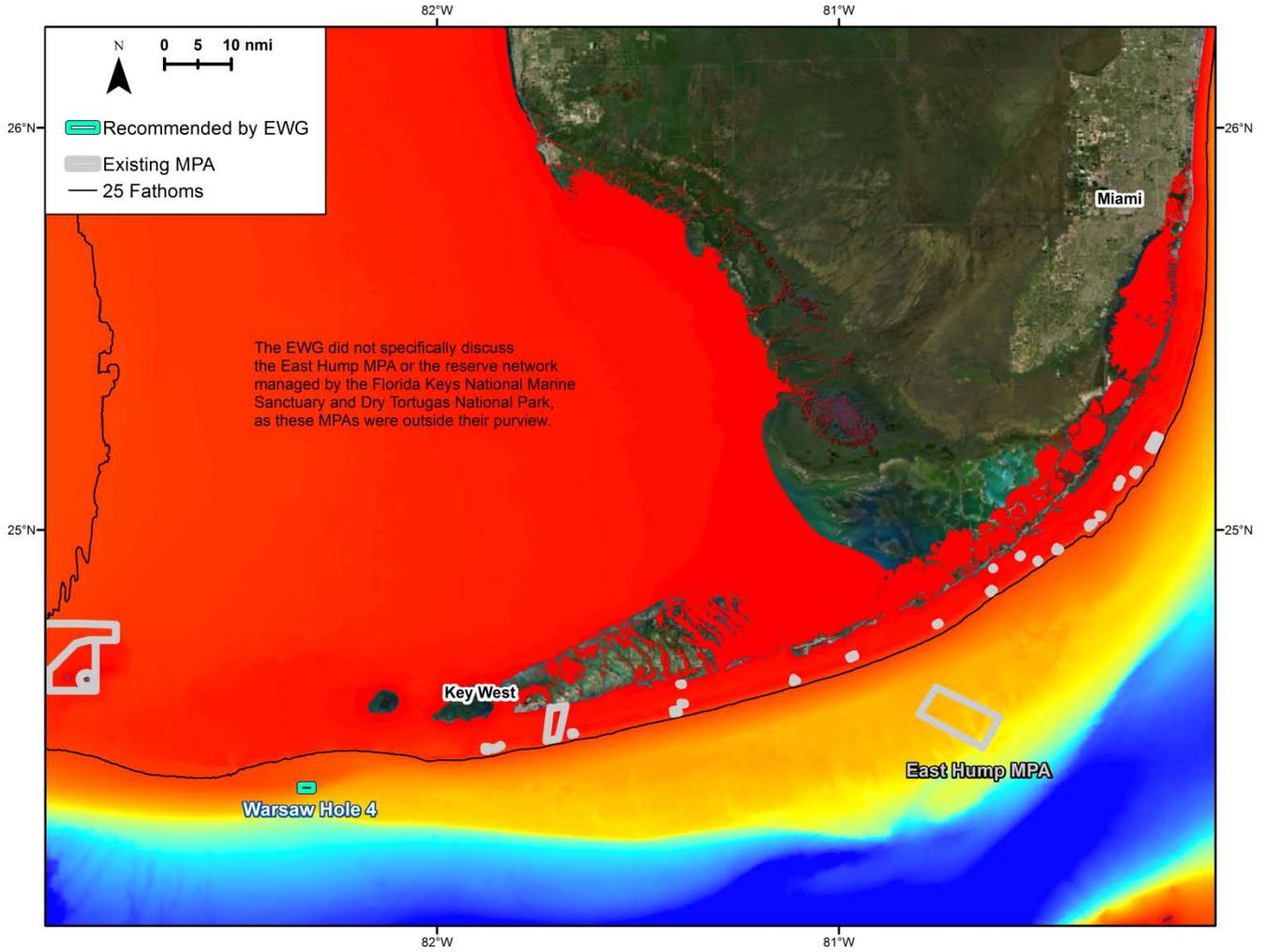


Figure 5. South Florida MPA sites.
Source: Nick Farmer, NMFS SERO

The following tables (Tables 1-3) show additional information about the sites being considered.

Table 1. Sites from the Expert Workgroup list that meet the Council’s criteria of reconfiguration and targeting speckled hind/warsaw grouper.

These sites meet the Council's criteria of reconfiguration and spawning for speckled hind/warsaw grouper.								
Site #	Location (Type 2 MPAs)	Size (sq. mi.)	Existing	New	Reconfiguration	Include Spawning Sites		
						SpHind	Warsaw	Others
North Carolina								
1a	<i>Snowy Wreck MPA</i>	190	X					X
1b	Snowy Wreck MPA Reconfiguration	190->18->4->1			X			X
South Carolina								
2	<i>Northern SC</i>	67	X			X	X	X
3a	<i>Edisto MPA</i>	66	X					X
3b	<i>Edisto Reconfiguration 3</i>	81			X			X
4	<i>Charleston Deep Artificial Reef MPA</i>	28	X					
5	Devils Hole/Georgetown Hole	27		X			X	X
6	Northern SC Extension	13			X	X		X
Georgia								
7	<i>Georgia MPA</i>	102	X					
Florida								
8	<i>North Florida MPA</i>	137	X					
9	<i>St. Lucie Hump MPA</i>	9	X					
10	<i>East Hump MPA</i>	66	X					
11	<i>Oculina Experimental Closed Area*</i>	108		X				X
12	Warsaw Hole	2		X			X	
<i>Green Italics</i> = existing MPA								
Green* = Oculina Experimental Closed Area - no SG fishing								

Table 2. Sites suggested by the Expert Workgroup.

Sites suggested by the Expert Workgroup.								
Site #	Location (Type 1 MPAs)	Size (sq. mi.)	Existing	New	Reconfiguration	Include Spawning Sites		
						SpHind	Warsaw	Others
North Carolina								
1	<i>Snowy Wreck MPA</i>	190->18->4->1	X		X			X
2	780 Bottom	22		X				X
3	Malchace Wreck	2.47		X				X
4	South Cape Lookout	72		X				X
5	Southern NC	89		X				X
South Carolina								
6	<i>Northern SC</i>	67	X			X	X	X
7	<i>Edisto Reconfiguration 3</i>	81	X		X			X
8	Devils Hole/Georgetown Hole	27		X			X	X
9	Northern SC Extension	13			X	X		X
Georgia								
10	<i>Georgia MPA</i>	102	X					
11	Georgia MPA Reconfiguration	79		X				X
12	Georgia MPA Reconfiguration N2	74		X				
13	St. Simons Extension 2	45		X				X
Florida								
14	<i>North Florida MPA</i>	137	X					
15	<i>St. Lucie Hump MPA</i>	9	X					
16	Fernandina	85		X				X
17	St. Augustine 2	32		X				
18	Daytona Ledge	11		X				
19	Daytona Steeples	27		X				
20	Oculina Bank CHAPC	279		X				
21	Oculina Bank CHAPC Extension	242		X				
22	<i>Oculina Experimental Closed Area*</i>	108	X					X
23	Push Button Hill	9		X				X
24	Juno Beach	4		X				
25	Warsaw Hole	2		X			X	
26	FKNMS SPAs and ERs	247		X				
<i>Green Italics</i> = existing MPA								
<i>Green*</i> = Oculina Experimental Closed Area - no SG fishing								
27	The workgroup is not recommending dropping the East Hump MPA							
28	The workgroup is not recommending dropping the Charleston Deep Artificial Reef MPA							

Table 3. Sites from the Expert Workgroup list that meet the Council’s criteria of occurrence.

Sites suggested by the Expert Workgroup.								Occurrence of		
Site #	Location (Type 1 MPAs)	Size (sq. mi.)	Existing	New	Reconfiguration	Include Spawning Sites			SpHind	Warsaw
						SpHind	Warsaw	Others		
North Carolina										
1	<i>Snowy Wreck MPA</i>	190->18->4->1	X		X			X	X	X
2	780 Bottom	22		X				X		X
3	Malhace Wreck	2.47		X				X		
4	South Cape Lookout	72		X				X		X
5	Southern NC	89		X				X		X
South Carolina										
6	<i>Northern SC</i>	67	X			X	X	X	X	X
7	<i>Edisto Reconfiguration 3</i>	81	X		X			X		X
8	Devils Hole/Georgetown Hole	27		X			X	X		X
9	Northern SC Extension	13			X	X		X		X
Georgia										
10	<i>Georgia MPA</i>	102	X							
11	Georgia MPA Reconfiguration	79		X				X		X
12	Georgia MPA Reconfiguration N2	74		X						
13	St. Simons Extension 2	45		X				X		
Florida										
14	<i>North Florida MPA</i>	137	X						X	X
15	<i>St. Lucie Hump MPA</i>	9	X							
16	Fernandina	85		X				X		X
17	St. Augustine 2	32		X						X
18	Daytona Ledge	11		X						X
19	Daytona Steeples	27		X						X
20	Oculina Bank CHAPC	279		X						X
21	Oculina Bank CHAPC Extension	242		X						X
22	<i>Oculina Experimental Closed Area*</i>	108	X						X	X
23	Push Button Hill	9		X					X	X
24	Juno Beach	4		X						X
25	Warsaw Hole	2		X			X			X
26	FKNMS SPAs and ERs	247		X						
27	The workgroup is not recommending dropping the East Hump MPA									
28	The workgroup is not recommending dropping the Charleston Deep Artificial Reef MPA									

What Next?

Scoping meetings for Regulatory Amendment 17 will be held as shown below. The scoping document, PowerPoint presentation, and video presentation will be made available on the Council's website prior to the scoping meetings.

Locations not finalized yet.

The scoping meetings will begin at 4 p.m. and end at 7 p.m.

<u>January 21, 2014</u> N. Myrtle Beach, SC – Hotel TBD Phone: 843-	<u>January 22, 2014</u> DoubleTree by Hilton Atlantic Beach Oceanfront 2717 West Fort Macon Road Atlantic Beach, NC 28512 Phone: 252-240-1155
<u>January 27, 2014</u> Key West Marriott Beachside 3841 N. Roosevelt Boulevard Key West, FL 33040 Phone: 305-296-8100	<u>January 28, 2014</u> DoubleTree by Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront 2080 N. Atlantic Avenue Cocoa Beach, FL 32931 Phone: 321-783-9222
<u>January 29, 2014</u> Jacksonville, FL – Hotel TBD	<u>January 30, 2014</u> Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum* 175 Bourne Avenue Pooler, GA 31322 Phone: 912-743-8888

Written comments must be received by 5 P.M. on February 3, 2013. All comments will be considered by the Council in drafting Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 17. There will be a number of opportunities to provide public input if the Council moves forward to develop an amendment. A simplified schematic of the Council process is presented in **Appendix B**.

References to be added:

Huntsman et al. 1992

SG Amendment 17B

NMFS 1991

Potts and Brennan 2001

Appendix A. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council 2013-2014 Membership

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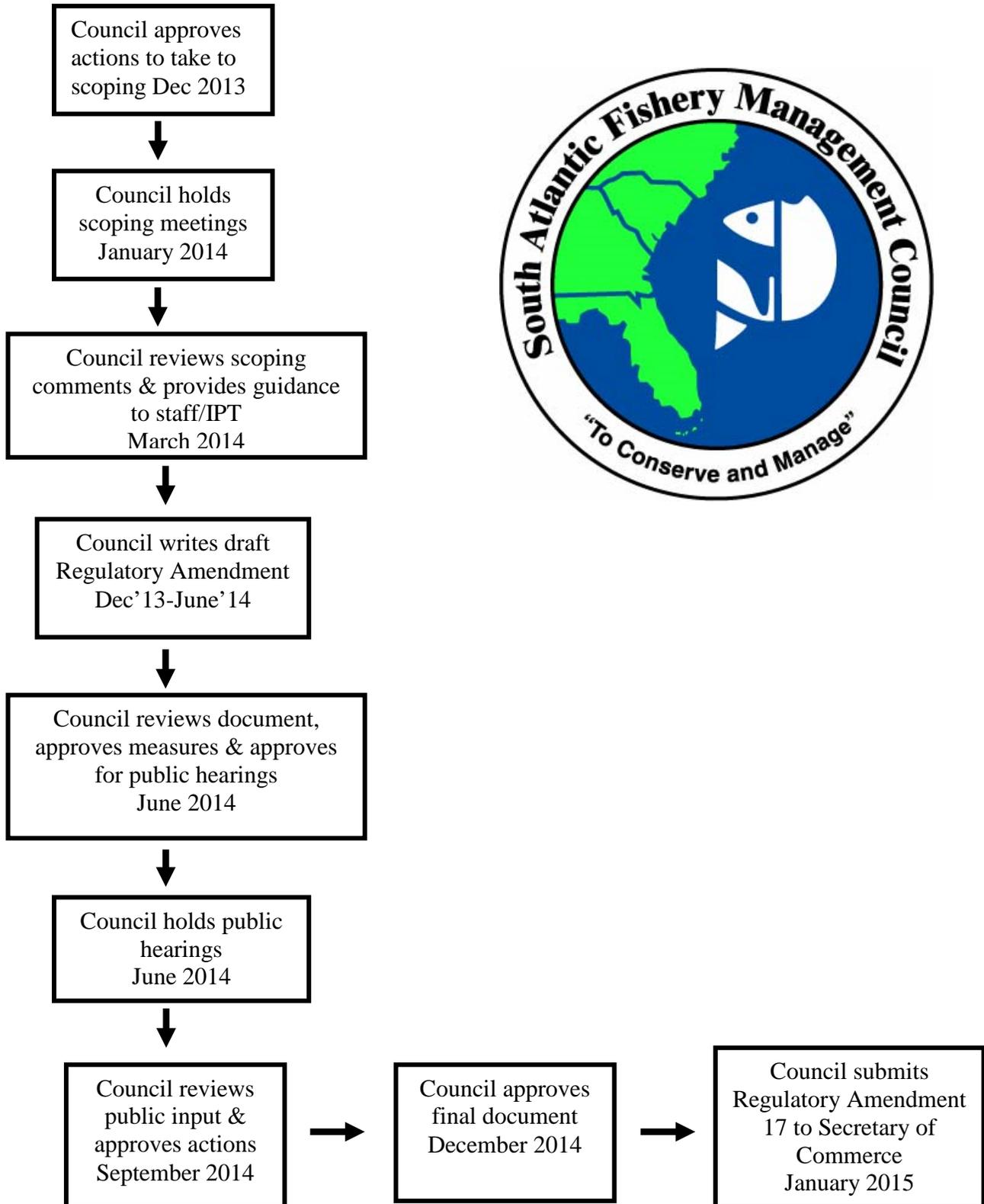
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Appendix B. A Simplified Schematic of the Council Process.



SAFMC SPECKLED HIND AND WARSAW GROUPER LANDINGS AND DISCARDS

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE, SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

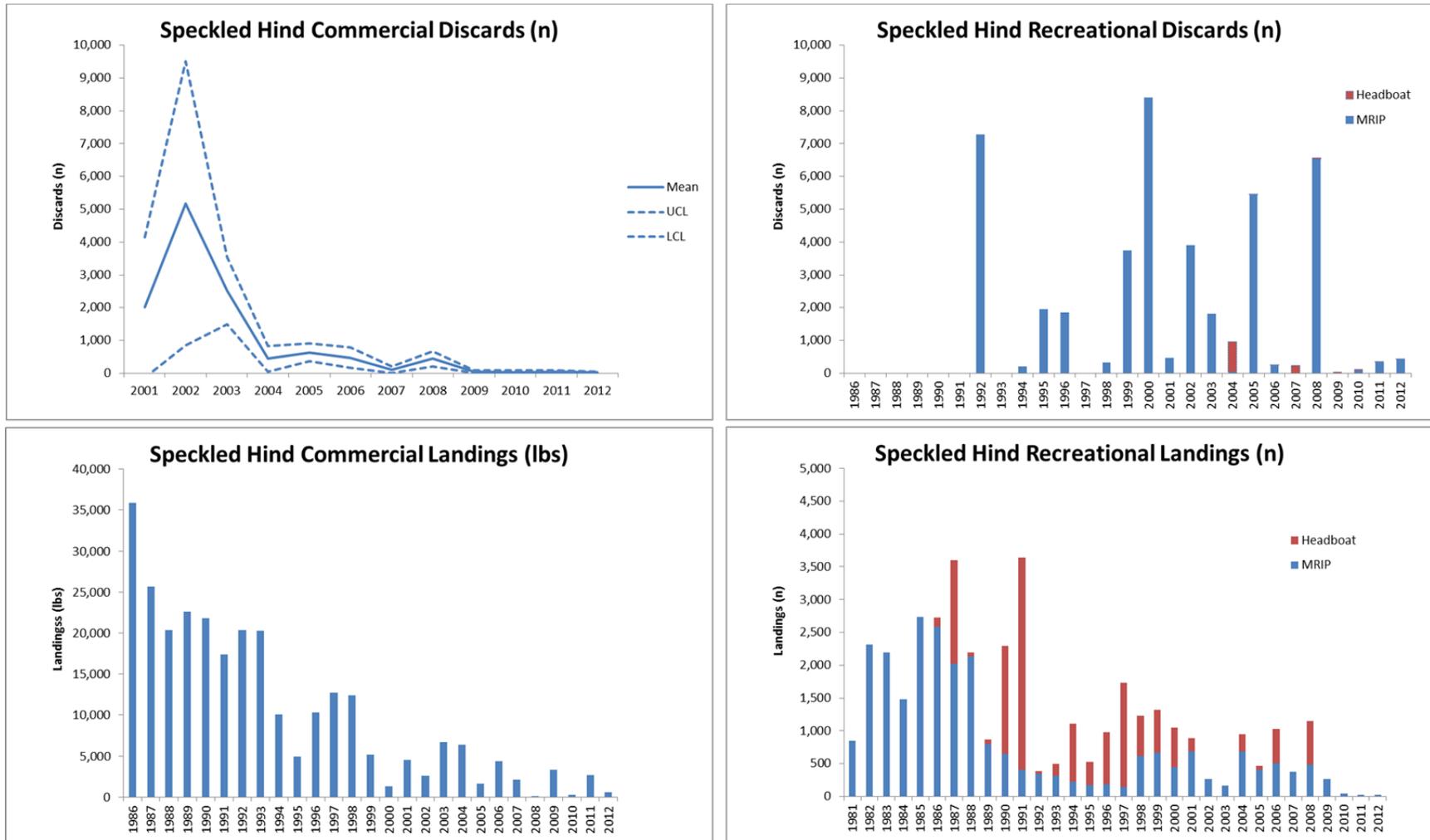


Figure 1. Trends in speckled hind commercial discards (2001-2012), recreational headboat and MRIP private/charter discards (1986-2012), commercial landings (1986-2012), and recreational headboat and private/charter landings (1986-2012) in the SAFMC’s jurisdiction.

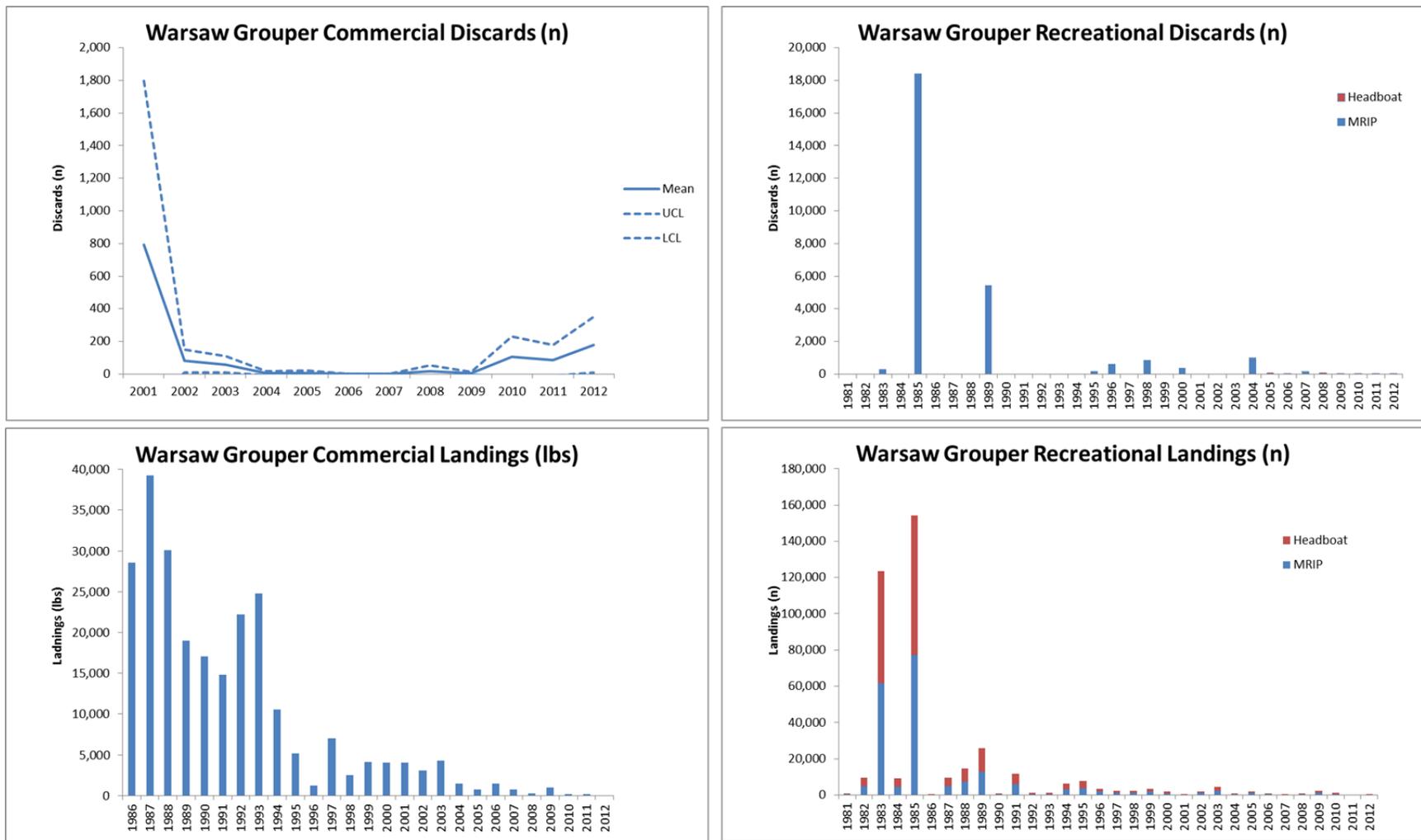


Figure 2. Trends in warsaw grouper commercial discards (2001-2012), recreational headboat and MRIP private/charter discards (1986-2012), commercial landings (1986-2012), and recreational headboat and private/charter landings (1986-2012) in the SAFMC's jurisdiction.

July 30, 2013

Sources: MRIP Private/Charter data from SEFSC Recreational ACL Dataset (May 2013), Headboat data from SEFSC Headboat Logbook CRNF files (expanded; May 2013), Commercial landings data from SEFSC Commercial ACL Dataset (July 10, 2013) with discard estimates from expanded SEFSC Commercial Discard Logbook (Jun 2013). Note commercial discard estimates are for vertical line gear only.

Note: Discard estimates for commercial are computed by expanding commercial discard logbook observed discard rates by total SAFMC effort; vessels which never report discards (for any stock) are excluded from discard rate computations.