

Thursday, February 7, 2008 –  
Sheraton New Bern, 100 Middle Street,  
New Bern, NC 28560; phone: 252-638-  
3585.

Wednesday, February 20, 2008 –  
Hilton Garden Inn, 5265 International  
Boulevard, North Charleston, SC 29418;  
phone: 843-308-9331.

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

Dated: January 16, 2008.

**Emily H. Menashes,**

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

[FR Doc. E8-1042 Filed 1-18-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XE88**

#### **Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery, Shrimp Fishery, Sargassum, Dolphin/Wahoo, Spiny Lobster, Golden Crab; and Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitat off the Southern Atlantic States; Comprehensive Amendment**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent (NOI) to  
prepare a draft environmental impact  
statement (DEIS); notice of scoping  
meetings; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery  
Management Council (Council) intends  
to prepare a DEIS to assess impacts on  
the natural and human environment of  
management measures proposed in its  
draft Comprehensive Amendment to the  
Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for  
the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources  
of the Gulf of Mexico and South  
Atlantic Region; and the Snapper-  
Grouper Fishery, Shrimp Fishery,  
Sargassum, Dolphin/Wahoo, Spiny  
Lobster, Golden Crab, and Coral, Coral  
Reefs, and Live/Hard Bottom Habitat in  
the South Atlantic Region to address  
allocations.

**DATES:** Written comments on the scope  
of the issues to be addressed in the DEIS  
will be accepted until February 22,  
2008, at 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be sent by  
any of the following methods, mail: Kate  
Michie, NMFS, Southeast Regional  
Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St.

Petersburg, FL 33701; phone: 727-824-  
5305; fax: 727-824-5308; e-mail: [0648-  
XE88@noaa.gov](mailto:0648-XE88@noaa.gov). Scoping documents are  
available from the Council's Web site at  
[www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim  
Iverson, Public Information Officer,  
South Atlantic Fisheries Management  
Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite  
201, North Charleston, SC 29405;  
phone: 843-571-4366, toll free 1-866-  
SAFMC-10; fax: 843-769-4520; e-mail:  
[kim.iverson@safmc.net](mailto:kim.iverson@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Fisheries  
of the South Atlantic region in the  
exclusive economic zone are managed  
under their respective FMPs. The  
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery  
Conservation and Management Act  
requires the Councils to establish  
annual catch limits (ACLs) that will  
limit harvest and prevent overfishing.  
To establish sector specific ACLs, the  
Council would need to allocate the total  
allowable catch between recreational  
and commercial sectors. In addition, the  
Council could consider a separate  
allocation for the for-hire sector such  
that there could be three sectors with  
allocations: commercial; for-hire  
(charters, headboats and guides); and  
private recreational.

This NOI is intended to inform the  
public of the preparation of a DEIS in  
support of a Comprehensive  
Amendment to the Council's FMPs to  
address allocations. Options suggested  
thus far for determining sector  
allocations include: use of historical  
landings; examination of relative  
catches by each sector and projection of  
future demand; and detailed social and  
economic analyses.

Following consideration of public  
scoping comments, the Council plans to  
begin preparation of the draft  
Comprehensive Allocation Amendment/  
DEIS in March 2008. The Council and  
its Scientific and Statistical Committee  
will review the draft Comprehensive  
Allocation Amendment/DEIS in 2008. If  
the Council approves the document,  
public review will take place in  
November 2008.

A **Federal Register** notice will  
announce the availability of the DEIS  
associated with this amendment, as well  
as a 45-day public comment period,  
pursuant to regulations issued by the  
Council on Environmental Quality for  
implementing the National  
Environmental Policy Act and to  
NOAA's Administrative Order 216-6.  
The Council will consider public  
comments received on the DEIS in  
developing the final environmental  
impact statement (FEIS), and before  
voting to submit the final amendment to

NMFS for Secretarial review, approval,  
and implementation. NMFS will  
announce in the **Federal Register** the  
availability of the final amendment and  
FEIS for public review during the  
Secretarial review period, and will  
consider all public comments prior to  
final agency action to approve,  
disapprove, or partially approve the  
final amendment.

#### **Scoping Meetings, Times and Locations**

All meetings will begin at 2 p.m. In  
addition to the Comprehensive  
Amendment, the Council intends to  
scope three other amendments at this  
series of meetings. Separate NOIs have  
been prepared for each amendment. The  
meetings will be physically accessible to  
people with disabilities. Requests for  
information packets or for sign language  
interpretation or other auxiliary aids  
should be directed to the Council (see  
**ADDRESSES**).

Monday, February 4, 2008 – The  
Mutiny Hotel, 2951 South Bayshore  
Drive, Coconut Grove, FL 33133; phone:  
305-441-2100.

Tuesday, February 5, 2008 – Radisson  
Resort at the Port, 8701 Astronaut  
Boulevard, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920;  
phone: 321-784-0000.

Wednesday, February 6, 2008 –  
Quality Inn, 125 Venure Drive,  
Brunswick, GA 31525; phone: 912-265-  
4600.

Thursday, February 7, 2008 –  
Sheraton New Bern, 100 Middle Street,  
New Bern, NC 28560; phone: 252-638-  
3585.

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Boulevard, North Charleston, SC 29418;  
phone: 843-308-9331.

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

Dated: January 16, 2008.

**Emily H. Menashes,**

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

[FR Doc. E8-1046 Filed 1-18-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XE86**

#### **Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper- Grouper Fishery off the Southern Atlantic States; Amendment 17**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent (NOI) to prepare a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS); notice of scoping meetings; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) intends to prepare a DEIS to assess the impacts on the natural and human environment of the management measures proposed in its draft Amendment 17 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (FMP).

**DATES:** Written comments on the scope of the issues to be addressed in the DEIS will be accepted until February 22, 2008, at 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be sent by any of the following methods, mail: Kate Michie, NMFS, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701; phone: 727-824-5305; fax: 727-824-5308; e-mail: 0648-XE86@noaa.gov. Scoping documents are available from the Council's Web site at [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; phone: 843-571-4366, toll free 1-866-SAFMC-10; fax: 843-769-4520; e-mail: [kim.iverson@safmc.net](mailto:kim.iverson@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The snapper-grouper fishery of the South Atlantic region in the exclusive economic zone is managed under the FMP. The FMP was prepared by the Council and implemented by NMFS under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) by regulations at 50 CFR part 622.

The Council is considering specifying annual catch limits (ACLs) for all snapper-grouper species currently undergoing overfishing. Revisions to the Magnuson-Stevens Act in 2007 require that by 2010, FMPs, for fisheries determined by the Secretary to be subject to overfishing, must establish a mechanism for specifying ACLs at a level that prevents overfishing and does not exceed the recommendations of the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committees or other established peer review processes. These FMPs are also required to establish, by 2010, accountability measures for fisheries subject to overfishing.

By 2011, FMPs for all other fisheries, except fisheries for species with annual life cycles, must meet these same requirements. The Council is considering alternatives such as removing species from the fishery

management unit that are rarely captured or taken primarily in state waters. The Council is also considering assigning some species to stock complexes. Furthermore, the Council is considering extending regulations for the snapper-grouper complex into the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's jurisdiction because the northern part of the range of some snapper-grouper species occurs beyond the current jurisdiction of the Council.

This NOI is intended to inform the public of the preparation of a DEIS in support of Amendment 17 to the FMP. The DEIS will specify ACLs, establish measures to ensure accountability for species experiencing overfishing, as well as establish other measures. Following publication of this NOI, the Council will conduct public scoping meetings to determine the range of issues to be addressed in the DEIS and the associated Amendment 17.

Following consideration of public scoping comments, the Council plans to begin preparation of the draft Snapper-Grouper Amendment 17/DEIS. The Council and its Scientific and Statistical Committee will review the draft Snapper-Grouper Amendment 17/DEIS in 2008. If the Council approves the document, public review will take place in late 2008. A comment period on the DEIS is planned, which will include public hearings to receive comments. A **Federal Register** notice will announce the availability of the DEIS associated with this amendment, as well as a 45-day public comment period, pursuant to regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and to NOAA's Administrative Order 216-6. The Council will consider public comments received on the DEIS in developing the final environmental impact statement (FEIS), and before voting to submit the final amendment to NMFS for Secretarial review, approval, and implementation. NMFS will announce in the **Federal Register** the availability of the final amendment and FEIS for public review during the Secretarial review period, and will consider all public comments prior to final agency action to approve, disapprove, or partially approve the final amendment.

#### Scoping Meetings, Times, and Locations

All meetings will begin at 2 p.m. In addition to Amendment 17, the Council intends to scope three other amendments at this series of meetings. Separate NOIs have been prepared for each amendment. The meetings will be physically accessible to people with

disabilities. Requests for information packets or for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council (see **ADDRESSES**).

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

Dated: January 16, 2008.

**Emily H. Menashes,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XE87**

#### Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery off the Southern Atlantic States; Amendment 18

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent (NOI) to prepare a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS); notice of scoping meetings; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) intends to prepare a DEIS to assess the impacts on the natural and human environment of the management measures proposed in its draft Amendment 18 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (FMP).

**DATES:** Written comments on the scope of the issues to be addressed in the DEIS will be accepted until February 22, 2008, at 5 p.m.