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**HEARING ON
MAGNUSON-STEVEN'S FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT**

**BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES, AND COAST GUARD, U.S.
SENATE**

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Introduction

Good afternoon, Chairman Rubio, Ranking Member Booker, and Members of the Subcommittee. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today about the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and proposed revisions to the Act's National Standard 1 guidelines. My name is Samuel D. Rauch and I am the Deputy Assistant Administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in the Department of Commerce. From daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, and climate monitoring to fishery management, coastal restoration, and supporting marine commerce, NOAA's products and services support economic vitality and affect more than one-third of America's gross domestic product. NOAA's dedicated scientists use cutting-edge research and high-tech instrumentation to provide citizens, planners, emergency managers, and other decision makers with reliable information they need when they need it. Today, I will describe our work under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which sets forth standards for conservation, management, and sustainable use of our Nation's fisheries resources.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act has been a success. U.S. fisheries are among the world's largest and most sustainable. For forty years, Magnuson-Stevens has taught us that a dynamic science-based management process is fundamental for managing fisheries to be sustainable. The goal of fisheries management is to achieve fisheries that are both environmentally sustainable and economically important. In partnership with the regional fishery management councils, interstate fishery commissions, and our stakeholders, and driven by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the agency has ended overfishing and made significant progress rebuilding domestic fish stocks. By preventing overfishing and rebuilding stocks, we are strengthening the value of fisheries to the economy and communities, and also ensuring that marine ecosystems are able to provide a sustainable supply of seafood for the nation in the future.

Marine fish and fisheries—such as tropical tunas in the Western and Central Pacific, salmon in the Pacific Northwest, halibut in Alaska, cod in New England and red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico—are vital to the prosperity and cultural identity of coastal communities in the United States. U.S. fisheries play an

enormous role in the U.S. economy. Commercial fishing supports fishermen, contributes to coastal communities and businesses, and provides Americans with a valuable source of local, sustainable, and healthy food. Non-commercial and recreational fishing provides food for many individuals, families, and communities; is an important social activity; and is a critical economic driver of local and regional economies, as well as a major contributor to the national economy. Subsistence and ceremonial fishing provides an essential food source and has deep cultural significance for indigenous peoples in the Pacific Islands and Alaska and for many Tribes on the West Coast.

Our most recent data show that after adjusting for inflation the landed volume and the value of commercial U.S. wild-caught fisheries remained near the high levels posted in 2011. U.S. commercial fishermen landed 9.4 billion pounds of seafood valued at \$5.5 billion in 2014, the third highest landings value over the past decade and in nominal terms, the second highest landings value on record.^[1] The seafood industry—harvesters, seafood processors and dealers, seafood wholesalers and seafood retailers, including imports and multiplier effects—generated an estimated \$142 billion in sales impacts and \$40 billion in income impacts, and supported 1.4 million jobs in 2013, the most recent year economic impact numbers are available. Jobs supported by commercial businesses increased 6 percent from the previous year.^[2]

At the same time, recreational catch remained stable. Recreational fishing generated an estimated \$52 billion in sales impacts and \$18 billion in income impacts, and supported 370,000 jobs in 2013. Jobs generated by the recreational fishing industry represented a 13 percent increase over 2010.^[3]

The advancement of our science and management tools has resulted in improved sustainability of fisheries and greater stability for industry. Key requirements in the 2007 reauthorization mandated the use of science-based annual catch limits and accountability measures to better prevent and end overfishing. The reauthorization provided more explicitly for market-based fishery management through Limited Access Privilege Programs, and addressed the need to improve the science used to inform fisheries management.

The U.S. has many effective tools to apply in marine fisheries management. Yet, as we look to the future, we must continue looking for opportunities to further improve our management system. While significant progress has been made since the 2007 reauthorization, progress has not come without a cost to some. Challenges remain. Fishermen, fishing communities, and the Councils have had to make difficult decisions and absorb the near-term cost of conservation and investment in long-term economic and biological sustainability.

We all share the common goal of healthy fisheries that can be sustained for generations. Without clear, science-based rules, fair enforcement, and a shared commitment to sustainable management, short-term pressures can easily undermine progress toward restoring the social, economic, and environmental benefits of a healthy fishery. Although challenges remain in some fisheries, the benefits for the resource, the industries it supports, and the economy are beginning to be seen as fish populations grow and catch limits increase.

My testimony today will focus on NMFS' progress in implementing the Magnuson-Stevens Act's key domestic provisions, how our proposed revisions to the National Standard 1 guidelines could further facilitate, provide additional flexibility, and improve compliance with the Act, and some thoughts about the future.

Progress in Implementation

Working together, NMFS, the Councils, coastal states and territories, treaty fishing tribes, and a wide range of industry groups and other stakeholders have made significant progress in implementing key provisions of this legislation.

Ending Overfishing and Rebuilding Fisheries

U.S. fisheries are producing sustainable U.S. seafood. The Federal fishery management system has effectively ended overfishing and is rebuilding overfished fisheries. We continue to make progress toward long-term biological and economic sustainability and stability. Since its initial passage in 1976, the Magnuson-Stevens Act has charted a groundbreaking course for sustainable fisheries. When reauthorized in 2007, the Act gave the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils and NMFS a very clear charge and some new tools to support improved science and management. We are now seeing the results of those tools. As of December 31, 2015, 91 percent of stocks for which we have assessments are not subject to overfishing, and 84 percent are not overfished. The number of stocks subject to overfishing was highest in 2000, when 47 stocks were on the overfishing list. In 2002, 55 stocks were overfished. Nationally, we have rebuilt 39 stocks since 2000.^[4]

We expect the number of stocks on the overfishing list to continue to decrease as a result of management under annual catch limits. Ending overfishing allows stocks to increase in abundance, so we expect to see further declines in the number of overfished stocks and increases in the number of rebuilt stocks.

Flexibility is inherent in the Magnuson-Stevens Act's rebuilding requirements. The Act requires that the period to rebuild a stock not exceed 10 years, but it permits a longer time period in certain cases where the biology of the fish stock, management measures under an international agreement in which the United States participates, or other environmental conditions dictate otherwise, although this period still must be as short as possible. Current rebuilding time periods for stocks with active rebuilding plans range from four years to more than 100 years. Of the 36 active rebuilding plans with a target time to rebuild, 22 of them (61 percent) are set longer than 10 years due to the biology of the stock (slow-growing, late-reproducing, long lived species) or environmental conditions. For example, Pacific yelloweye rockfish has a rebuilding timeline of 71 years. The remaining 14 rebuilding plans are set for 10 years or less. Of the 39 stocks rebuilt since 2000, 35 stocks were rebuilt within 10 years or less.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act provides flexibility to adjust rebuilding plans when a stock is failing to make adequate progress toward rebuilding. In these situations, the Councils can amend the rebuilding plan with revised conservation and management measures. The Act requires that the revised plan be implemented within two years and that it end overfishing (if overfishing is occurring) immediately upon implementation.

Rebuilding plans are also adaptable when new scientific information indicates changing conditions. For example, the target time to rebuild Pacific ocean perch off the Pacific Coast was lengthened based on information within a rebuilding analysis. The rebuilding analysis, conducted in 2011, revised our understanding of the Pacific ocean perch stock status and productivity and showed that, even in the absence of fishing, the time it would take to rebuild the stock would be longer than the previously established target time to rebuild. Given this information, NMFS worked with the Pacific Fishery Management Council in 2012 to modify the rebuilding plan and extend the target time for stock rebuilding from 2017 to 2051.

Rebuilding timelines can also be shortened based on new information. As one example, the original rebuilding plan for cowcod, a Pacific Coast groundfish, was 95 years. The rebuilding time has been modified based on updated scientific information, and is currently 67 years.

Rebuilding fisheries brings significant biological, economic, and social benefits, but doing so takes time, persistence, sacrifice, and adherence to scientific information. Of 26 rebuilt stocks for which information is available, half of them now produce at least 50 percent more revenue than they did when they were overfished. Seven stocks have current revenue levels that are more than 100 percent higher than the lowest revenue point when the stock was overfished.

Atlantic sea scallops provide one example of rebuilding success. In the early 1990s, the abundance of Atlantic sea scallops was near record lows and the fishing mortality rate was at a record high. Fishery managers implemented a number of measures to allow the stock to recover, including an innovative area management system. The stock was declared rebuilt in 2001. In real terms, gross revenues in New England increased almost seven-fold from \$44 million in 1998 to \$298 million in 2014, making New Bedford the Nation's top port by value of landings since 2000.

Another example of rebuilding success can be seen with Bering Sea snow crab. In 1999, scientists found that Bering Sea snow crab was overfished. In response, managers reduced harvests to a level that would allow the stock to rebuild, and the stock was declared rebuilt in 2011. In the 2011-2012 fishing year, managers were able to increase the harvest limit by 65 percent to nearly 66 thousand metric tons. In 2013, revenue from the fishery was \$236 million, an almost three-fold increase from its low in 2005 prior to being fully rebuilt.^[56]

Benefits of Annual Catch Limits

One of the most significant management provisions of the 2007 reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act was the mandate to implement annual catch limits, including measures to ensure accountability and to end and prevent overfishing in federally managed fisheries by 2011 (an annual catch limit is an amount of fish that can be caught in a year such that overfishing does not occur; accountability measures are management controls to prevent annual catch limits from being exceeded, and to correct or mitigate overages of the limits if they occur). This is an important move away from a management system that could only be corrected by going back through the full Council process in order to amend Fishery Management Plans – often taking years to accomplish, all while overfishing continued.

Now, when developing a fishery management plan or amendment, the Councils must consider, in advance, the actions that will occur if a fishery does not meet its performance objectives. As of December 31, 2015, overfishing had ended for 70 percent of the 33 domestic U.S. stocks that were subject to overfishing in 2007 when the Magnuson-Stevens Act was reauthorized.^[7]

Ending overfishing is the first step in rebuilding. Prior to the implementation of annual catch limits, a number of rebuilding plans experienced difficulty in ending overfishing and achieving the fishing mortality rate called for in the plan. As a result, rebuilding was delayed. Conversely, stocks where overfishing has ended quickly have seen their stock size increase and rebuild more quickly. For example, Widow rockfish in the Pacific was declared overfished in 2001. Fishing mortality on Widow rockfish was immediately substantially reduced resulting in a corresponding increase in stock size. The stock was declared rebuilt in 2011, ahead of the rebuilding deadline.

Most major reductions in allowable catch experienced by fishermen when stocks enter rebuilding plans are predominantly from the requirement to prevent overfishing – which is now required through annual catch limits for all stocks, not just those determined to be overfished. When unsustainably large catches have occurred due to high levels of overfishing on a depleted stock, large reductions in catch will be needed to end overfishing, and the stock must rebuild in abundance before catches will increase.

Because ending overfishing is essential to rebuilding, annual catch limits are a powerful tool to address prior problems in achieving rebuilding. Overfishing has ended for nine of the 14 stocks currently in 10-year (or less) rebuilding plans. Annual catch limits, which are now in place as a mechanism to control catch to the level specified in the rebuilding plan, are working and we anticipate the next stock assessments for these species to confirm that overfishing has ended. With that result, we will begin to see stronger rebuilding for these stocks. In addition, preliminary data show that annual catch limits have been effective in limiting catch and preventing overfishing for the majority of stocks. Fisheries have successfully stayed within their annual catch limit for 89 percent of the stocks for which we have catch data.

Ensuring Transparency and Stakeholder Engagement

The Magnuson-Stevens Act created broad goals for U.S. fisheries management and a unique, highly participatory management structure centered on the Councils. This structure ensures that input and decisions about how to manage U.S. fisheries develop through a “bottom up” process that includes fishermen, other fishery stakeholders, affected states, tribal governments, and the Federal Government. By working together with the Councils, states, tribes, and fishermen—under the standards set in the Magnuson-Stevens Act—we have made great strides in ending overfishing, rebuilding stocks, and building a sustainable future for our fishing-dependent communities.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act guides fisheries conservation and management through 10 National Standards. These standards, which have their roots in the original 1976 Act, provide a yardstick against which all fishery management plans and actions developed by the Councils are measured. National Standard 1 requires that conservation and management measures prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery, which is the average amount of harvest that will

provide the greatest overall ecological, economic, and social benefits to the Nation, particularly by providing seafood and recreational opportunities while affording protection to marine ecosystems.

The Councils can choose from a variety of approaches and tools to manage fish stocks to meet this mandate—e.g., catch shares, area closures, and gear restrictions—and, when necessary, also determine how to allocate fish among user groups. These measures are submitted to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for approval and are implemented by NMFS. Thus, the Councils, in developing their plans, must carefully balance the need for stable fishing jobs, ecological conservation, and societal interests to create holistically sustainable fisheries. A key aspect of this effort is to ensure that overfishing is prevented, and if it occurs, to end it quickly and rebuild any stock that becomes overfished. Other National Standards mandate that conservation and management measures be based upon the best scientific information available, not discriminate between residents of different states, take into account variations in fisheries and catches, minimize bycatch, and promote the safety of human life at sea.

Effects on fishing communities are central to many Council decisions. Fishing communities rely on fishing-related jobs, as well as the non-commercial and cultural benefits derived from these resources. Marine fisheries are the lifeblood of many coastal communities in the Pacific Islands and West Coast regions and around our Nation. Communities, fishermen, and fishing industries rely not only on today's catch, but also on the predictability of future catches. The need to provide stable domestic fishing and processing jobs is paramount to fulfilling one of the Magnuson-Stevens Act's goals—to provide the Nation with sources of domestic seafood. This objective has even greater purpose now than when the Act was passed, as today U.S. consumers are seeking—more than ever—options for healthy, safe, sustainable, and local seafood. Under the standards set in the Magnuson-Stevens Act—and together with the Councils, states, tribes, territories, and fishermen—we have made great strides in maintaining more stocks at biologically sustainable levels, ending overfishing, rebuilding overfished stocks, building a sustainable future for our fishing-dependent communities, and providing more domestic options for U.S. seafood consumers in a market dominated by imports. Thanks in large part to the strengthened Magnuson-Stevens Act and the sacrifices and investment in conservation by fishing communities across the country, the condition of many of our most economically important fish stocks has improved steadily over the past decade.

Successes and Challenges

There are many examples of what fishermen, scientists, and managers can do by working together to bring back a resource that once was in trouble. In the Pacific Islands Region, NMFS, the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, the State of Hawaii, and fishing communities have ended overfishing of the Hawaiian archipelago's deep-water bottomfish complex—a culturally significant grouping of seven species of snapper and grouper. This has enabled NMFS to increase annual catch limits for these stocks for both commercial and recreational fishermen and ensure these fish are available year-round.

On the West Coast, NMFS and the Pacific Fishery Management Council, the fishing industry, recreational anglers, and other partners have successfully rebuilt a number of once overfished stocks, including coho salmon, lingcod, Pacific whiting, widow rockfish, canary rockfish, and petrale sole. These and other conservation gains, including implementation of the West Coast groundfish trawl

rationalization program, enabled NMFS to increase catch limits for abundant West Coast groundfish species that co-occur with groundfish species in rebuilding plans.

In the Southeast Region, NOAA, the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, the fishing industries, recreational anglers and other partners have successfully rebuilt a number of once overfished stocks, including red grouper and king mackerel in the Gulf of Mexico, black sea bass in the South Atlantic, and yellowtail snapper, which is shared by both the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic regions. These and other conservation gains enabled NMFS to increase catch limits for six stocks or stock complexes and eliminate or reduce two fixed seasonal closures over the last year. The additional harvest opportunities attributed to rebuilding the South Atlantic black sea bass stock alone have increased 2013 gross ex-vessel revenues for commercial fishermen and annual profits for for-hire vessels by about \$1 million and \$15 million, respectively, relative to their low point prior to being fully rebuilt.^[8]

Many fisheries in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic are also a significant part of the national success story. Of the 39 stocks rebuilt nationally since 2000, 21, more than half, were rebuilt by NOAA, the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, the fishing industries, recreational anglers, and other partners on the Atlantic coast. In addition to Atlantic sea scallops, these include other important stocks such as summer flounder and Atlantic swordfish.

But meeting mandates to prevent and end overfishing and implement annual catch limits can be very challenging where data is scarce, which is the case for many of the stocks in the Pacific Islands region and the Caribbean, particularly those species being fished in the coral reef ecosystem. We also face formidable challenges managing recovering stocks to benefit both commercial and recreational user groups with fundamentally different goals and objectives.

Looking to the Future

Remaining Challenges

Amid these successes, challenges remain. It is critical that we continue meeting the mandate of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to end overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks. Annual catch limits have been an effective tool in improving the sustainability of fisheries around the Nation, but managing fisheries using annual catch limits and accountability measures was a major change for some fisheries, and the initial implementation has identified some areas where we can improve that process.

To address these issues, the agency has begun the process of revising the National Standard 1 guidelines, which were modified in 2009 to focus on implementing the requirement for annual catch limits. This was a major change in how many fisheries were managed, and we want to ensure the guidance we have in place reflects current thinking on the most effective way to meet the objectives of National Standard 1 and builds on what we, together with the Councils, have learned. In January 2015, NMFS requested public comment on a proposed rule to revise National Standard 1 guidelines (and related guidelines) to enhance their utility for managers and the public. The objective of these proposed revisions is to improve and streamline the National Standard guidelines, address concerns raised during the implementation of annual catch limits and accountability measures, and provide flexibility within current statutory limits to address fishery management issues.

The proposed rule included the following significant proposed revisions:

- A recommendation that Regional Fishery Management Councils reassess the objectives of their fisheries on a regular basis,
- Consolidated and streamlined guidance on determining which stocks are in need of conservation and management,
- Additional flexibility in rebuilding plans and managing data limited stocks,
- A recommendation on the use of indicator stocks within stock complexes,
- Guidance on the use of aggregate maximum sustainable yield and a definition for depleted stocks, and
- Revised guidance on optimum yield, accountability measures, and Acceptable Biological Catch control rules to provide additional flexibility in carrying over unharvested catch to a subsequent year and providing more stability in catches from year to year.

The agency received a significant amount of input on our proposed rule and we are in the process of responding to the comments and developing a final rule.

We will continue to work with the Councils to achieve the best possible alignment of science and management for each fishery to attain the goals of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. We will continue to develop our science and management tools, improve our stock assessments and monitoring efforts, and create more effective annual catch limits and accountability measures. In so doing, we must continue to ensure solid, science-based determinations of stock status and better linkages to biological, socioeconomic, and ecosystem conditions.

We value the important partnerships we have formed with the states, territories, tribes, fishermen, and other interest groups in helping address these challenges. These partnerships are critical to developing successful management strategies. Together with our partners, we continue to explore alternative and innovative approaches that will produce the best available information to incorporate into management.

It is also increasingly important that we better understand ecosystem and habitat factors, such as the effects of climate change, interannual and interdecadal climate shifts, ocean acidification, and other environmental regime shifts and natural disasters, and incorporate this information into our stock assessments and management decisions. The agency has recently taken steps to further address these challenges. In August, NMFS finalized a Climate Science Strategy as part of a proactive approach to increase the production, delivery, and use of climate-related information in fulfilling our mandates.

In September 2015, we also released a draft policy, which outlines a set of principles to support implementation of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management at NMFS. We are currently reviewing comments and will finalize the Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management policy in the coming months. Resilient ecosystems and habitat form the foundation for robust fisheries and fishing jobs. The Magnuson-Stevens Act currently provides flexibility for bringing ecosystem considerations into fisheries management. This flexibility in the Magnuson-Stevens Act is one of the Act's strengths, allowing us to meet our responsibilities under the Act in concert with related legislation, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act, to reduce bycatch of protected species to mandated levels. The alignment of measures to conserve habitat and protected species with measures to end

overfishing and rebuild and manage fish stocks will be a key component of NOAA's success in implementing ecosystem-based fisheries management.

NOAA supports the collaborative and transparent process embodied in the Councils, as authorized in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and strongly believes that all viable management tools should continue to be available as options for the Councils to consider when developing management programs.

Conclusion

Because of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the United States is sustainably and responsibly managing U.S. fisheries, to ensure that stocks are maintained at healthy levels, fishing is conducted in a way that minimizes impacts on the marine ecosystem, and fishing communities' needs are considered in management decisions. Fisheries harvested in the United States are scientifically monitored, regionally managed, and enforced under 10 National Standards of sustainability. But we did not get here overnight. Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, our Nation's journey toward sustainable fisheries has evolved over the course of 40 years.

In 2007, Congress gave NOAA and the Councils a clear mandate, new authority, and new tools to achieve the goal of sustainable fisheries within measurable timeframes. Notable among these were the requirements for annual catch limits and accountability measures to prevent, respond to, and end overfishing—real game changers in our national journey toward sustainable fisheries that are rapidly delivering results.

This progress has been made possible by the collaborative involvement of our U.S. commercial and recreational fishing fleets and their commitment to science-based management, improving gear-technologies, and application of best stewardship practices. We have established strong partnerships with states, tribes, Councils, and fishing industries. By working together through the highly participatory process established in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, we will continue to address management challenges in a changing environment.

To understand where we are, it is important to reflect on where we've been. We have made great progress but our achievements have not come easily, nor will they be sustained without continued attention. This is a critical time in the history of federal fisheries management, and we must move forward in a thoughtful and disciplined way to ensure our Nation's fisheries are able to meet the needs of both current and future generations. When final, we expect the revisions to our National Standard guidelines to address concerns raised during the implementation of annual catch limits and accountability measures and provide additional flexibility within current statutory limits to address fishery management issues. We look forward to working with Congress on fisheries management issues in a holistic, comprehensive way that builds on its success and considers the needs of the fish, fishermen, ecosystems and communities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to discuss implementation progress of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. We are available to answer any questions you may have.

^[1] See NOAA Annual Commercial Fisheries Landings Database, available at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/commercial-fisheries/commercial-landings/annual-landings/index>.

^[2] See Fisheries Economics of the U.S. 2013. NMFS Office of Science & Technology, available at: http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/economics/publications/feus/FEUS-2013/fisheries_economics_2013

^[3] See Fisheries Economics of the U.S. 2013. NMFS Office of Science & Technology, available at: http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/economics/publications/feus/FEUS-2013/fisheries_economics_2013

^[4] These statistics were compiled from the quarterly stock status reports at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/fisheries_eco/status_of_fisheries/status_updates.html

^[5] Garber-Yonts, B., and J. Lee., 2014. Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report for King and Tanner Crab Fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Regions: Economic Status of the BSAI Crab Fisheries, 2014. P. 79.

^[6] North Pacific Fishery Management Council. 2015. Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report for King and Tanner Crab Fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Regions: 2015 Final Crab SAFE. P. 12

^[7] See Fish Stock Sustainability Index. This report was the source for the underlying data, but the numbers presented here were compiled specifically for this hearing. The report is available at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/statusoffisheries/2012/fourth/Q4%202012%20FSSI%20Summary%20Changes.pdf>

^[8] SAFMC (South Atlantic Fishery Management Council). 2013. Regulatory Amendment 19 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place, Ste 201, North Charleston, S.C. 29405.