

**ALWTRP Public Hearing
Ormond Beach Public Library
Ormond Beach, FL
September 9, 2013**

NMFS PRD Staff—Barb Zoodsma and Jessica Powell

Number in attendance: 5

Including:

- David Hilton, contracted fishery liaison to SERO PRD
- Tom Pitchford, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Take Reduction Team State Representative

No objects on vertical lines

One commenter mentioned he puts a small net float 20' from the the pot (commercial Black Sea Bass) to keep the sinking vertical line from hanging on the bottom.

Management Area (Southeast Restricted Area North (SERA N))

Commercial Black Sea Bass (BSB) trap/pot fishermen fish about 15-30 mi offshore, in 60-100 ft depths, in the Southern portion of the SERA N. Whales are typically seen closer to shore and only in February and March.

Other

One commenter supported customizing management measures to specific high priority areas; however, questioned whether use of the SERA N management area was accomplishing this goal.

A few commenters stated that many of the goals of the ALWTRP were currently being achieved through the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (SAFMC) Snapper-Grouper Fishery Management Plan (limited number of endorsements, pots are tended (approximately 1.5-2 hrs between set and retrieval, pots are deployed ~ 25 yards apart), pots return to shore at the end of the fishing trip, 1000 lb trip limit, etc.).

BSB fishing gear used off Florida is very light -vertical line is #8 or #10 Osprey line.

A number of comments addressed the SAFMC's Regulatory Amendment to the Snapper-Grouper Fishery Management Plan; specifically, fishermen wanted to fish from November 1 through April 30.

One commenter advocating relocating the southern boundary of SERA N to just north of Ponce Inlet (relative to gillnetting).