

Supporting the Blue Economy - SECOORA Annual Meeting

Hyatt House Charleston/Historic District, 560 King Street, Charleston, SC 29403

May 22-24, 2018 | [Website](#) | *Speaker Biography*

Ben Hartig



Ben Hartig
*Commercial Fisherman
and Chairman of South
Atlantic Fishery
Management Council*

Ben's fishing experience has been varied. He literally grew up on the Juno Fishing Pier and when he was old enough, started working at the pier. Ben has worked as a mate on a headboat, managed a tackle store, obtained his captains license and was captain of a corporate snapper grouper vessel, was partners in a wholesale/retail seafood market and has sold fish since he was 10 years old. Using the money he had saved while serving in the Army, Ben was able to purchase his first boat in the early 1970s.

Ben has been involved in the federal fisheries management process, at some level, since the passage of the Magnuson/Stevens Act. As a commercial fisherman dedicated to the long-term sustainability of fishery resources, his involvement with the Council has been a natural progression. With the support and guidance of many along the way, Ben started out serving on the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel, serving as Chairman of the AP, and then applied and has served on the council during two different periods. He served on the council for 6 years in the 1990s and reapplied 4 years ago due to the number of long serving State representatives that were retiring. The collective corporate memories of the Council were being lost and Ben reapplied so that at least some of that institutional memory was restored to the management process. He believes that you can't get to where you want to go unless you know where you've been.