Tab B, No. 6a

Summary for the Ad Hoc
Headboat Reef Fish Advisory Panel
Tampa, FL
September 20, 2017

Panel Members	Council and Staff	Attendance-Others
Pam Anderson	Assane Diagne	Ken Anderson
Gary Bryant	Roy Crabtree	Jeff Barger
Randy Boggs	Jessica Matos	Susan Gerhart
Clifton Cox	John Sanchez	Dylan Hubbard
James Green	Camilla Shireman	Joan Paprocki
Chad Haggert	Carrie Simmons	Elizabeth Sileck
Mark Hubbard		Jessica Stephen
Charles Paprocki		Daniel Willard
Eric Schmidt		
Dustin Trochesset		
John Williams		

The Ad Hoc Reef fish Headboat Advisory Panel (AP) meeting was convened at 9:00 am Wednesday, September 20, 2017. AP members suggested items to add under Other Business and proceeded to adopt the meeting agenda. Recommendations made by the AP are summarized below. Failed or withdrawn motions are provided at the end of this report.

Reef Fish Amendment 42

Staff reviewed actions included in Reef Fish Amendment 42 and, for each action, highlighted the preferred alternative previously selected by the AP. An AP member stated that the headboat component of the reef fish fishery could be successfully managed without an allocation-based management plan. Other AP members replied that the status quo approach does not account for the flexibility afforded by allocation-based management programs, and for the uncertainty resulting from state water fishing seasons.

AP members discussed Action 3 which addresses participation at the onset of the allocation-based management program and would allow eligible headboat operators to opt out of the program. AP members suggested moving Action 3 to the considered but rejected section but in the end withdrew the motion. The AP noted that Alternative 1 (No Action) remains their preferred alternative for Action 3.

AP members discussed Action 4 which considers the establishment of an endorsement to reef fish for-hire permit or the creation of a new permit for landing history vessels. AP members

noted the need to explicitly state that Action 4 does not impede the harvesting of reef fish species not included in Amendment 42. The AP approved the following motion:

> **In Action 4, to amend the text in Alternatives 2 and 3 to include "This is not intended to prevent vessels from fishing for other legally available species."**
>
> **Alternative 2.** Establish an endorsement for LHV. LHV program participants are required to have an LHV endorsement to their Gulf reef fish for-hire permit. Endorsements will be issued to qualifying LHV program participants at the time of implementation of this action. With a PFQ, the shares would be attached to the endorsement. An LHV endorsement holder may only fish off the LHV quota for the species selected in Action 2 throughout the year. LHV endorsements are transferrable to any vessel with a Gulf reef fish for-hire permit. ***This is not intended to prevent vessels from fishing for other legally available species.***
>
> **Alternative 3.** Establish a Gulf reef fish LHV permit. LHV program participants are required to have a Gulf reef fish LHV permit. Gulf reef fish for-hire permits held by qualifying LHV program participants at the time of implementation of this action will be converted to Gulf reef fish LHV permits. A Gulf reef fish LHV permit holder may only fish off the LHV quota for the species selected in Action 2 throughout the year. Gulf reef fish LHV permits are fully transferrable. ***This is not intended to prevent vessels from fishing for other legally available species.***

Motion carried 10-1.

AP members discussed the allocation of quotas to the landing history vessels (Action 5) and noted that the Ad Hoc Charter For-Hire AP selected Alternative 5 as their preferred alternative. AP members indicated that they were willing to amend their previously selected preferred alternative to be consistent with the charter AP and passed the following motion:

> **In Action 5 to change the preferred alternative 4 to Alternative 5.**
>
> **Alternative 5**: For each species, allocate a portion of the recreational ACL to the LHV Program based on 50% average from 1986-2013 (2010 excluded) and 50% average landings from 2006-2013 (2010 excluded). (Preferred Alternative from Amendment 40)

Red Snapper	14.5%
Gray Triggerfish	11.0%
Gag	4.0%
Red Grouper	3.9%
Greater Amberjack	6.9%

Motion carried 9-2.

AP members discussed the transferability of shares (Action 8) and annual allocation (Action 10). AP members suggested additional language to include in the alternatives and passed the following motions:

In Action 8, to amend the last sentence in Alternative 2 to: "Shares can only be transferred to US citizens or permanent resident aliens holding a LHV endorsement or LHV permit."

Alternative 2. Require a valid reef fish for-hire permit with LHV endorsement or a reef fish LHV permit (whichever is established in Action 4) to receive **shares** through transfer. Shares can only be transferred to US citizens or permanent resident aliens. **(AP Preferred)**
Motion carried unanimously.

In Action 10, to amend the last sentence in Alternative 2 to: "Annual Allocation can only be transferred to US citizens or permanent resident aliens holding a LHV endorsement or LHV permit."

Alternative 2. Require a valid reef fish charter/headboat permit with LHV endorsement or a valid reef fish headboat permit (whichever is established in Action 4) to receive **annual allocation** through transfer. Annual allocation can only be transferred to US citizens or permanent resident aliens. **(AP Preferred)**
Motion carried unanimously.

AP members discussed cost recovery fees (Action 14). AP members considered the use of a flat fee as a method to recover the costs of administering the program but realized that flat fees may not be consistent with MSA provisions relative to cost recovery. The AP passed the following motion:

In Action 14, Alternative 2a be the preferred alternative.

Alternative 2. For each participant, cost recovery fees will be based on a **standard price** per pound (or per fish) of a given species multiplied by the number of pounds (or of fish) harvested by the participant during the specified time period. The **standard price** will be equal to:

Option a: the commercial ex-vessel price

Motion carried 8-2.

AP Members discussed new entrants (Action 15) and expressed their willingness to assist new entrants gain access in the fishery. AP members passed the following motion:

To add an Action considering a set aside of shares for the purpose of facilitating new entrants access to the fishery.

Motion carried 7-3

AP members maintained previously selected preferred alternatives that are not explicitly modified in this report.

Referendum Eligibility Criteria

Staff reviewed the referendum eligibility requirements for Amendment 42 and processes, noting the Council's preferred alternative. AP members inquired about the number of potential voters that would not be eligible to participate in the referendum under various minimum annual average landings requirements. The AP expressed its support for the Council's preferred alternative and passed the following motion:

To adopt Alternative 2, Option b as the preferred alternative.

Alternative 2: Restrict participation in the referendum to persons who have a valid or renewable federal reef fish for-hire permit issued to a landings history vessel (LHV) and who have substantially fished for red snapper, gray triggerfish, greater amberjack, red grouper, or gag based on landings submitted to the SRHS during the qualifying years. A vessel qualifies as a LHV if it has individual landings history recorded by the Southeast Region Headboat Survey by December 31, 2015. For-hire federal permit holders whose vessels landed an annual average of at least **100 fish** of all species combined are considered as having substantially fished. Annual average landings are based on landings recorded by the SRHS between 2011 and 2015.

Option b: Each eligible permit will have one vote regardless of the relative size of the vessel's catch history.

Motion carried 8-2 with one absent.

Other Business

AP members discussed the restrictions Reef Fish Amendment 30B placed on the federally permitted for-hire reef fish fleet but acknowledged that Amendment 30B defines the fleet as a separate component. AP members paced the following motion:

To inform Council that the Headboat AP supports Amendment 30B.

Motion carried 6-4.

AP members noted that the Council is currently considering state management for recreational red snapper. AP members expressed their preference for the federal management process and the opportunities to comment and safeguards it provides. AP members passed the following motion:

To recommend that the Council not pursue state management of the federally permitted Headboat industry.

Motion carried 6-4.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm

FAILED or WITHDRAWN MOTIONS

Motion: To recommend to the Council relative to the design and implementation of flexible measures for the management of reef fish for the headboat component of the for-hire sector, 1) managing with recreational seasons that will accommodate the needs of the headboat sector, 2) manage with size limits to sustain the fishery eliminating discards and allowing increased access to growing fishery, 3) bag limits that will provide adequate opportunities to fish for anglers while maintaining a robust fishery, 4) provide data collection requirements that would optimize MSY while considering points 1, 2, and 3 above. (Motion fails 4 -7)

Motion: To move Action 3 to considered but rejected. (Motion withdrawn)

Motion: To recommend to the Council under Action 14 a fee be incorporated based on a set metric based on allocation distributed per vessel. (Motion withdrawn**)**

The meeting concluded at 2:00 pm.