

## Fisheries Allocations in the Gulf of Mexico

The Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) Fishery Management Council (Council) has apportioned (or is considering the allocation of) fisheries resources between various user groups, including:

- (a) allocations between the commercial and recreational sectors;
- (b) allocations within the recreational sector, i.e., between the federal for-hire and the private angling components;
- (c) jurisdictional apportionments between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils;
- (d) allocations between Gulf commercial zones and gear types, and,
- (e) allocations between the five Gulf states.

### I - Allocations between the commercial and recreational sectors

Table 1 lists the current recreational and commercial allocations for reef fish and coastal migratory pelagic (CMP) species. Amendments that established the allocations and their year of approval are also provided.

**Table 1.** Commercial and recreational allocations in the Gulf.

Stock	Allocation (%)		Amendment (year of approval)
	Commercial	Recreational	
Red Snapper	51%	49%	Reef Fish Amendment 1 (1989)
Gag	39%	61%	Reef Fish Amendment 30B (2008)
Shallow-water Grouper IFQ aggregate	77%	23%	Generic ACL/AM Amendment (2011)
Deep-water Grouper IFQ aggregate	96.4%	3.6%	Generic ACL/AM Amendment (2011)
Tilefish IFQ aggregate	99.7%	0.3%	Generic ACL/AM Amendment (2011)
Red Grouper	76%	24%	Reef Fish Amendment 30B (2008)
Gray Triggerfish	21%	79%	Reef Fish Amendment 30A (2008)
Greater Amberjack	27%	73%	Reef Fish Amendment 30A (2008)
Gulf King Mackerel	32%	68%	CMP Amendment 1 (1985)

### Red Snapper

The recreational and commercial allocations were established in Reef Fish Amendment 1 (1989) based on historical landings during the base period of 1979 – 1987.

## **Gag**

The recreational and commercial allocations were established based on historical landings during the base period of 1986 – 2005. Reef Fish Amendment 30B (2008) established a 61% recreational and 39% commercial allocation.

## **Shallow-water Grouper IFQ aggregate (SWG)**

The SWG IFQ aggregate includes black grouper, scamp, yellowmouth grouper, and yellowfin grouper. The Generic ACL/AM Amendment (2011) established a commercial SWG ACL but did not define a recreational ACL. The proportion allocated to the commercial sector was determined based on commercial SWG landings from 2001 – 2004. This *de facto* allocation granted 77% and 23% of the ACL, to the commercial and recreational sectors, respectively.

## **Deep-water Grouper IFQ aggregate (DWG)**

The DWG IFQ aggregate includes warsaw grouper, snowy grouper, speckled hind, and yellowedge grouper. The Generic ACL/AM Amendment (2011) established a commercial DWG ACL but did not define a recreational ACL. The proportion allocated to the commercial sector was determined based on commercial DWG landings from 1996 – 2000. This *de facto* allocation granted 96.4% and 3.6% of the ACL to the commercial and recreational sectors, respectively.

## **Tilefish IFQ aggregate**

The tilefish IFQ aggregate includes golden, blueline, and goldface tilefish. The Generic ACL/AM Amendment (2011) established a commercial Tilefish ACL but did not define a recreational ACL. The proportion allocated to the commercial sector was determined based on commercial tilefish landings from 1996 – 2000. This *de facto* allocation granted 99.7% and 0.3% of the ACL, to the commercial and recreational sectors, respectively.

## **Red Grouper**

The recreational and commercial allocations were established based on historical landings during the base period of 1986 – 2005. Reef Fish Amendment 30B (2008b) established a 24% recreational and 76% commercial allocation.

## **Gray Triggerfish**

The Council revised the allocation for gray triggerfish in 2008 on an interim basis in Reef Fish Amendment 30A (2008a) based on 2001 – 2004 landings. The allocation was set at 21% commercial and 79% recreational.

## **Greater Amberjack**

The Council established an interim allocation near the historical long-term average allocation (1981 – 2004: 71% recreational and 29% commercial). Reef Fish Amendment 30A (2008a) reduced recreational landings proportionally less than commercial landings and established a 73% recreational and 29% commercial allocation.

## **Gulf King Mackerel**

The recreational and commercial allocations were established based on historical landings during the base period of 1975 – 1979. CMP Amendment 1 (1985) established a 68% recreational and 32% commercial allocation.

## **II - Allocations within the recreational sector**

Reef Fish Amendment 40 (2014) allocated 42.3% and 57.7% of the recreational red snapper ACL to the federal for-hire and private angling components, respectively. The apportionment was based on 50% of the average percentages landed by each component between 1986 and 2013 (2010 excluded) and 50% of the average percentages landed by each component between 2006 and 2013 (2010 excluded).

## **III - Allocations between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils**

### **Black Grouper**

The Generic ACL/AM Amendment (2011) established an allocation for the southeastern U.S. black grouper acceptable biological catch (ABC) based on the Florida Keys (Monroe County) jurisdictional boundary between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils. The allocation was computed by using 50% of the catch history from the 1993 – 2008 time interval and 50% of catch history from the 2006 – 2008 time interval. The Generic ACL/AM Amendment allocated 47% of the ABC to the South Atlantic and 53% to the Gulf.

### **Yellowtail Snapper**

The Generic ACL/AM Amendment (2011) established an allocation for the southeastern U.S. yellowtail snapper ABC based on the Florida Keys jurisdictional boundary between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils. The allocation was computed by using 50% of the catch history from the 1993 – 2008 time interval and 50% of catch history from the 2006 – 2008 time interval. The Generic ACL/AM Amendment allocated 75% of the ABC to the South Atlantic and 25% to the Gulf.

### **Mutton Snapper**

The Generic ACL/AM Amendment (2011) established an allocation for the southeastern U.S. mutton snapper ABC based on the Florida Keys jurisdictional boundary between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils. The allocation was computed by using 50% of the catch history from the 1993 – 2008 time interval and 50% of catch history from the 2006 – 2008 time interval. The Generic ACL/AM Amendment allocated 82% of the ABC to the South Atlantic and 18% to the Gulf.

## **IV – King mackerel commercial allocations between zones and gear types**

The Gulf migratory group king mackerel commercial quota was allocated between commercial zones and gear types based on a motion approved by the CMP Advisory Panel during its March 2015 meeting. CMP Amendment 26 (2016) allocated the commercial zone quotas as follows:

- 40% for the Western Zone;
- 18% for the Northern Zone;
- 21% for the Southern Zone (handline component); and
- 21% for the Southern Zone (gillnet component).

## V - Allocations between the Gulf states

Reef Fish Amendment 50 (currently under development) would allocate the private angling component's portion of the recreational red snapper ACL between the five Gulf states. The current Preferred Alternative 8 would apportion the private angling ACL among the states based on the allocations requested by each state in its exempted fishing permit application, which totaled 96.22%; and apportion the remaining 3.78% between Florida and Alabama proportionally based on their requested allocation. The resulting state allocations would be as follows:

<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Florida</u>	<u>Louisiana</u>	<u>Mississippi</u>	<u>Texas</u>
26.298%	44.822%	19.120%	3.550%	6.210%

## REFERENCES

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