

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Objectives

In Reef Fish Amendment 1 (GMFMC 1989), the Council determined that the overall goal of the FMP is:

To manage the reef fish fishery of the United States within the waters of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council jurisdiction to attain the greatest overall benefit to the nation with particular reference to food production and recreational opportunities on the basis of the maximum sustainable yield as reduced by relevant ecological, economic, or social factors.

The Gulf Council will be publishing the most recent changes to the FMP objectives in a Generic Amendment on Carryover Provisions and Framework Modifications

(2019, http://gulfcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/E-8-Draft-Public-Hearing-Generic-Amendment-for-Quota-Carryover-and-Framework-Modification-011619_508.pdf).

- 1) To prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks.
- 2) To achieve robust fishery reporting and data collection systems across all sectors for monitoring the reef fish fishery which minimizes management uncertainty.
- 3) To conserve and protect reef fish habitat.
- 4) To minimize conflicts between user groups.
- 5) To minimize and reduce dead discards.
- 6) To manage Gulf stocks at OY as defined in MSA.
- 7) To revise the definitions of the fishery management unit and fishery to reflect the current species composition of the reef fish fishery.
- 8) To encourage and periodically review research on the efficacy of artificial reefs for management purposes.
- 9) To promote stability in the fishery by allowing for enhanced fisher flexibility and increasing fishing opportunities to the extent practicable.
- 10) To avoid to the extent practicable the "derby" type fishing season.
- 11) To provide for cost-effective and enforceable management of the fishery.
- 12) To promote and maintain accountability in the reef fish fishery.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Joint Coastal Migratory Pelagic (CMP) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Objectives

The Gulf Council and the South Atlantic Council last modified the FMP objectives in CMP Amendment 6 (1992, <http://gulfcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/MAC-Amend-06-Final-1992-06-1.pdf>), which brought the number of objectives from 7 to 8.

- 1) The primary objective of this FMP is to stabilize yield at the maximum sustainable yield (MSY), allow recovery of overfished populations, and maintain population levels sufficient to ensure adequate recruitment.
- 2) To provide a flexible management system for the resource which minimizes regulatory delay while retaining substantial Council and public input in management decisions and which can rapidly adapt to changes in resource abundance, new scientific information, and changes in fishing patterns among user groups or by areas.
- 3) To provide necessary information for effective management and establish a mandatory reporting system for monitoring catch.
- 4) To minimize gear and user group conflicts.
- 5) To distribute the total allowable catch of Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel between recreational and commercial user groups based on the catches that occurred during the early to mid-1970s, which is prior to the development of the deep water run-around gillnet fishery and when the resource was not overfished.
- 6) To minimize waste and bycatch in the fishery.
- 7) To provide appropriate management to address specific migratory groups of king mackerel.
- 8) To optimize the social and economic benefits of the coastal migratory pelagic fisheries.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Shrimp Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Objectives

The Gulf Council established the FMP objectives in the Original Shrimp Fishery Management Plan

(1981, <http://archive.gulfcouncil.org/docs//amendments/SHRIMP%20FMP%20Final%201981-11.pdf>).

- 1) Optimize the yield from shrimp recruited to the fishery.
- 2) Encourage habitat protection measures to prevent undue loss of shrimp habitat.
- 3) Coordinate the development of shrimp management measures with the shrimp management programs of the several states, when feasible.
- 4) Promote consistency with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).
- 5) Minimize the incidental capture of finfish by shrimpers, when appropriate.
- 6) Minimize conflict between shrimp and stone crab fishermen.
- 7) Minimize adverse effects of obstructions to shrimp trawling.
- 8) Provide for a statistical reporting system.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Objectives

The Gulf Council last modified the FMP objectives in Spiny Lobster Amendment 2 (1989, <http://archive.gulfcouncil.org/Beta//GMFMCWeb/downloads/spiny%20lobster%20fmp/SP%20Amend-02%20Final%2007.pdf>), which brought the number of objectives from 5 to 6.

- 1) Protect the long-run yields and prevent depletion of lobster stocks.
- 2) Increase yield by weight from the fishery.
- 3) Reduce user group and gear conflicts in the fishery.
- 4) Acquire the necessary information to manage the fishery.
- 5) Promote efficiency in the fishery.
- 6) Provide for a more flexible management system that minimizes regulatory delay to assure the more effective, cooperative state and federal management of the fishery.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Joint Coral Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Objectives

The Gulf Council and the South Atlantic Council last jointly modified the FMP objectives in Coral Amendment 2 (1994, <http://gulfcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/Coral-Amendment-2.pdf>), which added live rock and live bottom habitat to Objective 2. In addition, in Coral Amendment 2, the following statement was included: “Because stocks are separate and have different management needs between the jurisdictional areas of the two Councils, this amendment proposes, in the future, to provide each Council sole responsibility for management within its jurisdictional area.”

***Note:** The Coral FMP is no longer a joint plan with the South Atlantic Council via Coral Amendment 3 (GMFMC 1995). At this time, it does not appear that the South Atlantic Council has made any changes to their Coral FMP objectives.

Primary Management Objective:

Optimize the benefits generated from the coral resource while conserving the coral and reefs.

Specific Management Objectives:

- 1) Develop specific information necessary to determine feasibility and advisability of harvest of coral.
- 2) Minimize, as appropriate, adverse human impacts on coral, coral reefs, live rock and live bottom habitat.
- 3) Provide, where appropriate, special management for coral habitat areas of particular concern (HAPCs).
- 4) Increase public awareness of the importance and sensitivity of coral and coral reefs.
- 5) Provide a coordinated management regime for the conservation of coral and coral reefs.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Red Drum Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Objectives

The Gulf Council last modified the FMP objectives in Red Drum Amendment 2 (1988, <http://gulfcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/REDDRUM-Amend-02-Final-1988-03.pdf>), which increased the percentage in Objective 1 from 20 percent to 30 percent.

- 1) Cooperatively with the states provide at least a 30 percent level of escapement of juvenile red drum to the offshore spawning stock, and control offshore fishing mortality to assure optimum recruitment and enhancement of the inshore and offshore populations.
- 2) Establish, implement, and maintain research and data gathering programs to ensure that appropriate data will be available to formulate management measures and monitor the condition of the stock.
- 3) If a total allowable catch (TAC) is determined which provides for an EEZ catch, then the TAC will be fairly allocated between EEZ users of the resource.
- 4) Maximize the economic and social benefits of the resource to the nation.
- 5) Identify and encourage actions resulting in the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of red drum habitat.