Modifications to the greater amberjack recreational management measures
Update on progress

- **October 2019 Council motions:**
  - Develop a decision support tool for potential zone management
  - Include options for a split-season quota for consideration

- **Updated progress**
  - Decision support tool created
    - Zone management options: no zones, two zones, three zones
    - Allows for setting different seasons within in zones
    - Options for Gulf-wide split-season quota
    - Tool uses MRIP-Coastal Household Telephone Survey
    - Number of potential scenarios too are numerous and complex for a document at this time

- **How is the 2019/2020 season shaping up?**
  - Stock ACT for season is 1,086,985 lbs ww
  - More likely than last year that the season will open May 1, 2020
  - Progress has begun on the operational assessment (terminal year 2018) to be completed first quarter of 2021
  - Aims to incorporate MRIP-Fishing Effort Survey data
Decisions to be considered

- Zone management
- Split-season quota
- Fixed closed season
- Modification to daily bag limits
Zone management?

No

Gulf-wide management approaches:
- split-season quotas, closed fixed seasons, changes to daily bag limits

Yes

Different seasons?

Allocation must be decided
Potential scenario: No zones
Gulf-wide measures
Here is what is currently in the decision tool (when selecting the ‘No zone’ option in the tool) and how this may look in the document:

**Action 1:** Establish Recreational Seasonal Quotas (ACTs).

**Alternative 1:** No action. Do not establish recreational seasonal quotas.

**Alternative 2:** Allocate the recreational quota: 50% fall season and 50% to the spring season.

**Alternative 3:** Allocate the recreational quota: 60% fall season and 40% to the spring season.

**Alternative 4:** Allocate the recreational quota: 70% fall season and 30% to the spring season.
Potential scenario: No zones Gulf-wide measures

**Action 2:** Modify the Recreational Fixed Closed Seasons.

**Alternative 1:** Retain the recreational season closures of November 1 – April 30 and June 1 – August 31 (Open August 1 – October 31 and May 1 – May 31)

**Alternative 2:** Modify the recreational seasonal closures to be November 1 – April 30 and June 1 – August 31 (Open September 1 – October 31 and May 1 – May 31).

**Alternative 3:** Modify the recreational seasonal closures to be November 1 – April 30 and May 21 – July 31 (Open August 1- October 31 and May 1 – May 20).

**Alternative 4:** Modify the recreational seasonal closures to be November 1 – April 30 and May 21 – August 31 (Open September 1- October 31 and May 1 – May 20).

**Alternative 5:** Modify the recreational seasonal closures to be October 1 – April 30 and May 21 – June 30 (Open July 1- September 30 and May 1 – May 20).
Potential scenario: No zones Gulf-wide measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allocation options</th>
<th>Alt 1</th>
<th>Alt 2</th>
<th>Alt 3</th>
<th>Alt 4</th>
<th>Alt 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 50%/Spring 50%</td>
<td>F: 139%</td>
<td>S: 46%</td>
<td>F: 104%</td>
<td>S: 46%</td>
<td>F: 139%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 60%/Spring 40%</td>
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<td>S: 58%</td>
<td>F: 87%</td>
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<td>F: 115%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 70%/Spring 30%</td>
<td>F: 99%</td>
<td>S: 77%</td>
<td>F: 75%</td>
<td>S: 77%</td>
<td>F: 99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Alternative 1: Open August 1 – October 31 and May 1 – May 31**

**Alternative 2: Open September 1 – October 31 and May 1 – May 31**

**Alternative 3: Open August 1 - October 31 and May 1 – May 20**

**Alternative 4: Open September 1 - October 31 and May 1 – May 20**

**Alternative 5: Open July 1 - September 30 and May 1 – May 20**
Potential scenario: No zones Gulf-wide measures

**Action 3**: Modify the Recreational Bag and Possession Limit.

**Alternative 1**: No Action – Maintain the current one fish per angler per day recreational bag limit.

**Alternative 2**: Reduce the recreational bag limit to one fish per two or fewer anglers per day.

**Alternative 3**: Reduce the recreational bag limit to one fish per three or fewer anglers per day.

**Alternative 4**: Reduce the recreational bag limit to one fish per six or fewer anglers per day.

**Alternative 5**: Allow only one daily bag limit of greater amberjack per anglers on multi-day trips.

*Note: Alternative 5 can be selected in addition to any of Alternatives 1-4.*
Summary and potential next steps

- These measures would be applied to the entire Gulf

- All three management approaches could be selected
  - Could establish a split season quota, modify the fixed closed season, and modify the daily bag limit

- Could still run into the same issue where one season exceeds the ACT and the next season would not be able to open

- All of these changes can be accomplished in a framework action

- Pros:
  - Could increase season length; Be implemented quickly

- Cons:
  - May restrict access across the Gulf; Some measures would not reduce harvest considerably (i.e. daily bag limits)
Potential scenario: Two zones are established
Potential scenario: Three zones are established

- Western Zone
- Northern Zone
- Southern Zone
An allocation decision must be made and rationale has to be given

Average historical (1992-2008) landings* have been:

- Two zone option: 16.5% West & 83.5% East
- Three zone option: 16.5% West, 70.0% North, & 13.5% South

Different fishing seasons and/or bag limits could be established within zones

- Very complicated very quickly

*Reference period before recent management changes was selected here as example; other periods could be used. Landings used were MRIP-CHTS
**Potential scenario: Zones are established**

**Action 1:** Establish Recreational Fishing Zones and Allocate the Recreational Quota (ACT) between Zones.

**Alternative 1:** Do not establish zones

**Alternative 2:** Establish a **Western Zone** (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi) and **Eastern Zone** (Alabama, Florida).

*Must have Allocation options:* xx% west; xx% east *Must have justification*

*May have Season sub options:* TBD dates west is open; TBD dates east is open

**Alternative 3:** Establish a **Western Zone** (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi), **Northern Zone** (Alabama to Florida Dixie/Levy county line), and **Southern Zone** (south of Florida Dixie/Levy county line through Monroe County)

*Must have Allocation options:* xx% west; xx% north; xx% south *Must have justification*

*May have Season sub options:* TBD dates west is open; TBD dates north is open; TBD dates south is open

- An allocation option for each zone would have to be selected

- This would have to be done in an amendment rather than a framework action
Summary of zone management scenarios

- What should the zones be?
  - How many?
    - Enforceable? Provisions for moving between zones?
    - Data collection and monitoring at appropriate timeliness and spatial scale?

- What would allocation be between zones?
  - Landings? Time period?
  - Zone-specific payback provisions
    - 2009-present landings data are confounded by multiple factors

- Different bag limits, start of fishing year, fixed closures within zones?
  - Analyses are constrained to landings information

- Pros
  - Could increase accessibility regionally

- Cons
  - MRIP in east but not west; what if a zone exceeds stock ACT?; further dividing small amount of data
This tool allows users to quickly visualize and compare a variety of potential management scenarios.

The tool can be modified based on Council input.

Note: The tool does not currently incorporate any modifications to bag limits.

Tool can be accessed here: https://gulfcouncilportal.shinyapps.io/GAJ_tool/
Zone management?

No

Gulf-wide management approaches:
spilt-season quotas, closed fixed
seasons, changes to daily bag limits

Yes

Different seasons?

Allocation must be decided
Questions?