

Gulf Council Motions Report

March 30-April 2, 2015

Biloxi, Mississippi

REEF FISH

Amendment 39 – Regional Management of Recreational Red Snapper

Motion: To add an alternative to Action 6 to apportion the recreational quota among the regions selected in Action 3 based on 50% of the average historical landings formula used in Reef Fish Amendment 40 (50% from 1986-2013 and 50% from 2006-2013), and 50% based on the regional biogeographical differences in the stock used in the stock assessments.
Motion failed 6-7.

Motion: In Action 6, to add proposed Alternative 8 to Amendment 39.
Motion carried 14-2.

Motion: To move to considered but rejected: Action for-hire federal permit restrictions.
Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 3, to make Alternative 5 the Preferred Alternative.
Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 2, to make Alternative 2 the preferred alternative.
Motion failed 8-8.

Options Paper – Joint South Florida Management

Motion: In Action 6, Modify Mutton Snapper Commercial Trip Limit in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic, to add Options 5 a: 2 fish/person/day and 5b: 5 fish/person/day to Alternative 5: Specify a commercial trip limit for mutton snapper for the handline sector during the spawning season (May and June) in the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic.

Alternative 5: Specify a commercial trip limit for mutton snapper for the handline sector during the spawning season (May and June) in the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic

Option 5a: 2 fish/person/day

Option 5b: 5 fish/person/day

Option 5c: 10 fish/person/day

Option 5d: Some other trip limit

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 9, *Specify Accountability Measures for South Florida Species* to add back in options 5a and 5b in Alternative 5.

Alternative 5: If recreational landings reach, or are projected to reach, the recreational ACL, NMFS would close the recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year, unless, using the best scientific information available, NMFS determines that a closure is unnecessary.

Option 5a: If the species is overfished

Sub-option 5a(1): For yellowtail snapper

Sub-option 5a(2): For mutton snapper

Sub-option 5a(3): For black grouper

Option 5b: Regardless of stock status

Sub-option 5b(1): For yellowtail snapper

Sub-option 5b(2): For mutton snapper

Sub-option 5b(3): For black grouper

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 10, *Modify Shallow-water Grouper Species Compositions and Seasonal Closures in the Gulf and South Atlantic*, remove Alternative 2b- Throughout each Council's jurisdiction- to the Considered but Rejected Appendix.

Alternative 2: Remove the shallow-water grouper closure for all affected grouper species in the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic:

Option 2a: from the Dade/Monroe County line on the east coast of Florida to Shark Point on the west coast of Monroe County, Florida.

Option 2b: Throughout each Council's jurisdiction.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 10 to remove Alternative 5 to the Considered but Rejected Appendix.

Alternative 5: Establish identical regulations for the shallow-water grouper seasonal closures throughout the Gulf and South Atlantic:

Option 5a: Adopt the Gulf shallow-water grouper seasonal closures for the Gulf and South Atlantic.

Option 5b: Adopt the South Atlantic shallow-water grouper seasonal closures for the Gulf and South Atlantic.

Option 5c: Establish new and identical regulations for shallow-water grouper seasonal closures in the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 11, *Modify Black Grouper Fishery Closures and Bag Limits in the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic*, to remove Alternative 6 to the Considered but Rejected Appendix.

Alternative 6: Remove black grouper from recreational aggregate bag limits in the Gulf of Mexico.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 11, Alternative 8, to remove sub-option 8c to the Considered but Rejected Appendix.

Alternative 8: Establish a recreational bag limit for black grouper.

Option 8a: One fish/person/day

Option 8b: Two fish/person/day

Option 8c: Three fish/person/day

Option 8d: Four fish/person/day

Option 8e: Apply this bag limit only to the following area(s):

Sub-option 8a: Off Monroe County

Sub-option 8b: In federal waters off Florida

Sub-option 8c: In federal waters of the Gulf and the South Atlantic

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 1, to add a new alternative that sets the ACL of gag at 3.8 million pounds. Set the recreational ACT buffer at 8% based on the ACL/ACT control rule, and do not use a commercial ACT.

Motion carried.

Final Action – Framework Action for Modifications to Greater Amberjack Allowable Harvest and Management

Motion: In Action 1, to have Alternative 3, option (a) be the preferred alternative.

Alternative 3-Set a constant ABC at the level recommended the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for 2015

Option a: Apply ACL/ACT Control Rule:

Commercial Buffer = 15%

Recreational Buffer = 13%

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 2.1, *Modify Shallow-water Grouper Species Compositions and Seasonal Closures in the Gulf and South Atlantic*, that Alternative 3- Modify the minimum size limit for greater amberjack to 34 inches FL-be the preferred alternative.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 2.2, *Modify the Recreational Closed Seasons for Greater Amberjack* that Alternative 3 be the Preferred Alternative.

Alternative 3: Modify the recreational seasonal closure to March 1 - May 31.

Substitute Motion: In Action 2.2, that Alternative 1(status quo) be the Preferred Alternative. Substitute motion carried 13-3.

Second Substitute Motion: Increase the minimum, size limit to 36” and open the season to the first of the year.

Second Substitute Motion Withdrawn.

Motion: In Action 3, *Commercial Management Measures*, to select Alternative 1 as the preferred alternative

Alternative 1: No Action – Maintain the 1,923-lb gutted weight trip limit (2,000-lb whole weight trip limit) for greater amberjack. Note: The current regulation is specified in pounds whole weight.

Substitute Motion: To make Alternative 2 in Action 3, (1560lb ww trip limit) be the Preferred Alternative.

Substitute Motion carried 15-0.

Motion: To approve the Greater Amberjack Framework Action management and that it be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation, and deem the codified text as modified in discussion as necessary and appropriate, giving staff editorial license to make the necessary changes in the document. The Council Chair is given the authority to deem any changes to the codified text as necessary and appropriate.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Walker	Yes	Mr. Pearce	Yes	Mr. Sanchez	Yes
Mr. Greene	Yes	Mr. Fischer	Yes	Mr. Matens	Yes
Dr. Stunz	Yes	Mr. Robinson	Yes	Ms. Bademan	Yes
Dr. Dana	Yes	Mr. Boyd	Yes	Dr. Crabtree	Yes
Ms. Bosarge	Yes	Mr. Diaz	Yes	Mr. Anson	Yes
Mr. Williams	Yes	Mr. Perret	Yes		

Amend 28 Red Snapper Allocation

Motion: To make Alternative 9 the preferred alternative in RF Amendment 28.

Alternative 9: The increase in allowable harvest (due to changes in recreational data) from the update assessment will be allocated to the recreational sector. The percentage increase in the recreational sector should be that amount attributable to recalibration of MRIP catch estimates and the change in size selectivity. Based on red snapper quotas between 2015 and 2017, resulting allocations to the commercial and recreational sectors are:

Alternative	Year	Total ACL	Commercial		Recreational	
			ACL	Percent	ACL	Percent
Alternative 9: Allocate increases due to the recalibration of MRIP catch estimates and to the change in size selectivity to rec sector	2015	14.300	6.105	42.7%	8.195	57.3%
	2016	13.960	5.911	42.3%	8.049	57.7%
	2017	13.740	5.829	42.4%	7.911	57.6%

Motion failed 8-8.

Substitute Motion: To make Alternative 8- The increase in allowable harvest (due to changes in

recreational data) from the update assessment will be allocated to the recreational sector. The percentage increase for the recreational sector should be that amount attributable to recalibration of MRIP catch estimates.

Based on red snapper quotas between 2015 and 2017, resulting allocations to the commercial and recreational sectors are:

Alternative	Year	Total ACL	Commercial		Recreational	
			ACL	Percent	ACL	Percent
Alternative 8: Allocate increases due to the recalibration of MRIP catch estimates to recreational sector	2015	14.300	6.951	48.6%	7.349	51.4%
	2016	13.960	6.768	48.5%	7.192	51.5%
	2017	13.740	6.645	48.4%	7.095	51.6%

Substitute Motion Withdrawn.

Second Substitute Motion: To make Alternative 1(no action) the Preferred Alternative.

Second Substitute Motion failed 5-10.

Motion: To make Alternative 8, The increase in allowable harvest (due to changes in recreational data) from the update assessment will be allocated to the recreational sector. The percentage increase for the recreational sector should be that amount attributable to recalibration of MRIP catch estimates, the Preferred Alternative.

Motion carried 13-2.

Motion: To direct staff to develop a framework action to allow NMFS to hold back a portion of the commercial quota in anticipation of future regulatory changes.

Motion carried with 1 opposed.

Charge to the Reef Fish Headboat AP

Motion: To accept the charge of the Reef Fish Headboat Advisory Panel as written.

Motion carried.

MACKEREL

Motion: To have the Regional Office Staff conduct a bag limit analysis to increase the king mackerel limit from 2 fish to 3 fish.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Framework Amendment 3, Action 1, to have Alternative 2b be the Preferred Alternative (Increase the trip limit to 45,000lbs).

Substitute Motion: In Framework Amendment 3, Action 1, to have Alternative 2a be the Preferred Alternative (Increase the trip limit to 35,000lbs).

Substitute Motion carried 9-8.

Motion: To remove, Alternative 3: Establish a buffer to the trip limit to account for landings uncertainty. This buffer can be in addition to the trip limit. Fishermen may profit from the sale of all king mackerel landed up to the trip limit, but will not be considered to have exceeded the trip limit unless the selected buffer has also been exceeded. Fishermen may not profit from the sale of any fish in excess of the trip limit. All king mackerel landed by vessels with gillnet endorsements, regardless of whether the trip limit has been exceeded, will count against that year's Gulf Southern Zone gillnet quota.

Option 3a: Establish a 5% buffer

Option 3b: Establish a 10% buffer

Option 3c: Establish a 20% buffer

Motion Carried.

Motion: To give staff editorial license to make Alternative 3e in Framework Amendment 3 reflect the proposed guidance in National Standard 1 to incorporate natural mortality in determining any quota to be added to the following year's ACT.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Framework Amendment 3, to move Action 2, Alternative 2, to the Considered but Rejected Appendix.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Framework Amendment 3, Action 3, to make Alternative 3 the Preferred Alternative.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 4, to make Alternative 2 the Preferred Alternative.

Motion withdrawn.

SHRIMP

Biological Review of the Texas Closure

Motion: To recommend to have the Texas closure concurrent with the date Texas recommends, out to 200 miles, for the 2015 season.

Motion carried.

Update on Shrimp Amendment 15 – Status Determination Criteria for Penaeid Shrimp and Adjustments to the Shrimp Framework Procedure

Motion: To add a new Action 1.1 to the Shrimp Amendment 15 and to make alternative 2 the preferred:

Action 1.1 – Modify the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for Penaeid Shrimp

Alternative 1. No Action. The MSY values for the penaeid shrimp stocks fall within the range of values defined by the lowest and highest landings taken annually from 1990-2000 that does not result in recruitment overfishing as defined herein:

Brown shrimp: MSY is between 67 and 104 MP of tails.

White shrimp: MSY is between 35 and 71 MP of tails.

Pink shrimp: MSY is between 6 and 19 MP of tails.

Preferred Alternative 2. The MSY values for the penaeid shrimp stocks are values produced by the stock synthesis model approved by the SSC. Species specific MSY values will be recomputed during updated assessments, but only among the years 1984-2012. The values for each species will be updated every 5 years through the framework procedure, unless changed earlier by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

Motion carried.

Currently, the stock synthesis model produces the following values:

Brown shrimp: MSY is 146,923,100 pounds of tails

White shrimp: MSY is 89,436,907 pounds of tails

Pink shrimp: MSY is 17,345,130 pounds of tails

Motion: In action 1.2, to add an alternative 4 and make that the preferred alternative.

Alternative 4: The maximum fishing mortality threshold (MFMT) for each penaeid shrimp stock is defined as the F_{msy} . Species specific F_{msy} values will be recomputed during the updated assessments, but only among the fishing years 1984-2012. The values for each species will be updated every 5 years through the framework procedure, unless changed earlier by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. (Editorial license approved)

Currently, the values are:

- Brown shrimp: 9.12
- White shrimp: 3.48
- Pink shrimp: 1.35

Motion carried.

SPINY LOBSTER

Motion: That the Council send a letter to the RA requesting that spiny lobster not be subject to an

ACL, with the reasons outlined by the spiny lobster review panel.

Motion carried 11 to 5.

JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY & BUDGET/PERSONNEL

Motion: Starting in 2015, to increase to \$10,000 to a total of \$45,000 to each of the states and the Gulf States Commission, for the liaison contracts.

Motion carried.

Motion: To implement an early retirement plan for employees, with 20 years of tenure and at an age of 55 or older, with a 75% subsidy for health care premiums up to Medicare eligibility age for staff.

Motion carried.

Motion: That the AP and SSC members serve 3 year terms without term limits. The AP will have staggered terms but the SSC will not.

Motion carried.

Motion: To retitle the following APs as Technical Committees, with appointments to the SEDAR, Outreach and Education, and the Aquaculture Technical Committees made jointly by the Executive Director and Council Chair.

Motion carried.

Motion: To discontinue the SMZ monitoring group and reinstitute it as a working group on an as needed basis.

Motion carried.

Motion: To amend the handbook language as follows:

4.6 Unpaid Leave

The Executive Director may grant unpaid leave to an employee for any period as deemed appropriate. The unpaid leave status may be terminated at any time with seven days notification to the employee. Except when the unpaid leave is under the Family Medical Leave Act, or due to a medical condition that extends beyond the family medical leave period, the Council's current practice of wholly assuming the cost of health, life, dental, and disability insurance premiums will not continue after the first 30 day period of unpaid leave. .

Motion carried with no opposition

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES/ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Final Action - Categorical Exclusion – Charter/Headboat Decals

Motion: The Council stop work on the document to eliminate the decals for federally permitted for-hire vessels.

Motion carried.

NOAA CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

Motion: The Council gives staff editorial license and approves the draft letter on Climate Change Strategy for submission to the NMFS Office of Science and Technology.

Motion carried.

DATA COLLECTION

Motion: I move to change the language in in the document that reads “via computer or internet” to “via NMFS approved electronic logbook devices.”

Substitute motion: I move to change the language in in the document that reads “via computer or internet” to “via NMFS approved hardware/software.”

Substitute Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 3, to change the language of Alternative 3 as follows:

1) In line (i), include GulfFIN, so that the line reads “NMFS and/or ACCSP or GulfFIN,”

2) In line (v) include language that states “devices that can transmit data from sea,”

Motion failed 2 to 3.

EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT

Motion: To recommend that NMFS approve the EFP request from Mississippi as presented.

Motion carried 12-4.

GULF SEDAR

No Motions.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

No Motions.

AP Selection

ADHOC ARTIFICIAL SUBSTRATE

	NAME
1	BALLARD, James
2	BELTER, Mark
3	DALE, David
4	DELANEY, Glenn
5	DODRILL, Jon
6	DUBOIS, Thaddeus
7	FALGOUT, Ted
8	GALA, William
9	MATHERNE, Alan
10	MCDONOUGH, Mike
11	PETER, Douglas
12	PHILLIPS, Todd
13	RAINES, Ben
14	SANDERS III, James
15	SCHINDLER, Harvey "Sonny"
16	WILLIAMSON, Troy

ADHOC ARTIFICIAL SUBSTRATE

Total = 16 Members

ADHOC RED SNAPPER CHARTER FOR HIRE

	NAME
1	BRYANT, Gary
2	CANTRELL, Andrew (Shane)
3	CARPENTER, Daryl
4	ELLER, Michael
5	FRADY, Troy
6	GREEN III, James
7	GUILFORD, Charles
8	JARVIS, Gary
9	KELLEY, Mark
10	LANGLINAIS, Jr., Robert
11	MARVEL, Thomas
12	NUGENT, Michael
13	RICE, Richard Rene
14	ROBSON, Scott
15	SCHINDLER, Harvey "Sonny"
16	STEBER, Thomas
17	THIERRY, Jr., Frank
18	WALKER, Ed
19	WILLIAMSON, Troy
20	ZALES II, Robert

ADHOC RED SNAPPER CHARTER FOR HIRE

Total = 20 members

ADHOC RED SNAPPER IFQ

	NAME
1	ARCHER, Billy
2	BARGER, Jeffrey
3	BELL, Karen
4	BLACK, Jane
5	CLEMENTS, James
6	COX, Dean
7	DELACRUZ, Jason
8	ELLER, Michael
9	GILL, Robert
10	GUINDON, Keith "Buddy"
11	HICKMAN, Scott
12	JARVIS, Gary
13	KREBS Jr., David
14	SPAETH, Bob
15	SWINDLE, James
16	TUCKER, William
17	WERNER, Wayne
18	WHITFIELD, James (Mike)
19	WILLIAMSON, Troy
20	ZURBRICK, James

ADHOC RED SNAPPER IFQ

Total = 20 members

ADHOC REEF FISH HEADBOAT

	NAME
1	ANDERSON, Pamela
2	BOGGS, Randy
3	COX, Clifton
4	GREEN III, James
5	HAGGERT, Capt. Chad
6	HUBBARD, Mark
7	MERCURIO, Gregory
8	OWENS, Kelly
9	PAPROCKI, Charles
10	SCHMIDT, Eric
11	STEBER, Thomas
12	THIERRY, Jr., Frank
13	TROCHESSET, Dustin
14	WILLIAMS, John

ADHOC REEF FISH HEADBOAT

Total members = 14

COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS (CMP)

	NAME
1	FISHER, Martin
2	JARVIS, Gary
3	JENKINS, Chris
4	JENNINGS, Michael
5	KREBS, Jr., David
6	MARVEL, Thomas
7	MATHEWS, Jeffrey
8	MURPHY, Robert
9	NILES, George
10	NUGENT, Michael
11	PRESLEY, Edward
12	PROULX, Eugene
13	READENOUR, Kelty
14	SMITH, Gary
15	STEIN III, William
16	SWINDELL, Jr., Edward
17	WALKER, Ed
18	WELDON, Raymond
19	WHITFIELD, James (Mike)
20	WOITHE, Robert
21	ZALES, II, Robert

COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS (CMP)

Total members = 21

CORAL

	NAME
1	BROOKER, Jon Paul (J.P.)
2	KRUEGER, Shelly
3	ROSS, Steve
4	SAPP, Portia
5	TALBOTT, John
6	WEATHERBY, Joseph

CORAL

Total members = 6

DATA COLLECTION

	NAME
1	CANTRELL, Andrew (Shane)
2	COLBY, Michael
3	DELACRUZ, Jason
4	EICKE, Francis
5	ELLER, Michael
6	FRADY, Troy
7	GREEN, James
8	HANSON, Chad
9	HELIES, Francis (Frank)
10	INGRAM, Barry
11	JARVIS, Gary
12	LEAF, Robert
13	MICKLE, Paul
14	PHILLIPS, Todd
15	SCHINDLER, Harvey "Sonny"
16	SMITH, James Gary
17	SMITH, Nicole A
18	WELDON, Raymond
19	WESTMORELAND, Jerry D

DATA COLLECTION

Current members = 19

RED DRUM

	NAME
1	DONALDSON, Francis
2	FOTO, Mike
3	GRAHAM, Benjamin
4	GREEN, Scott
5	HENDON, Joseph (Read)
6	LEAF, Robert
7	MILLER, Jeffrey
8	MORITZ, Burt
9	NACIO, Lance
10	RAINES, Ben
11	RAWLINGS, Erman (Frank)
12	SATTERFIELD, Emily
13	SCHINDLER, Harvey "Sonny"
14	SHOOBRIDGE, Derek
15	SWINDELL, Jr., Edward
16	TROCHESSET, Dustin
17	WILLIAMSON, Troy

RED DRUM

Total members = 17

SHRIMP

	NAME
1	BOSARGE, Oliver (Steve)
2	CHAUVIN, Kimberly
3	COLLINS, Julius
4	DELANEY, Glenn
5	FALGOUT, Julie
6	GRAHAM, Gary
7	HELIES, Frank
8	HENDERSON, Dennis
9	LASSEIGNE, Harris
10	LONDRIE, Harley
11	MATHERNE, Alan
12	NACIO, Lance
13	SCHULTZ, Jr., Thomas
14	WILLIAMS, John

SHRIMP

Current members = 14

SPINY LOBSTER

	NAME
1	GAITANIS, Robert
2	KELLY, William
3	NICKLAUS, Joshua
4	NILES, George
5	PADRON, Daniel
6	STAFFORD, Simon

SPINY LOBSTER

Current members = 6