

**Gulf Council Motions Report
April 3-6, 2017
Birmingham, AL**

SHRIMP

Biological Review of the Texas Closure

Motion: That the Texas closure out to 200 miles run concurrent with the date the State of Texas recommends for the 2017 shrimp season.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Final Action on Shrimp Amendment 17B

Motion: To approve Shrimp Amendment 17B and that it be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation, and deem the codified text 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.

Dr. Lucas – yes	Mr. Sanchez – yes	Mr. Greene – yes
Dr. Crabtree – yes	Mr. Boyd – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes
Mr. Swindell – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes	Mr. Walker – yes
Mr. Banks – yes	Mr. Matens – yes	Ms. Guyas – yes
Dr. Stunz – yes	Mr. Robinson – yes	Ms. Bosarge – yes
Dr. Dana – yes	Mr. Anson – yes	

Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET

Approval of Changes to Check Writing Procedures

Motion: To accept the revised language as stated in the SOPPs.

6.4 Check Signatures: All checks issued will bear two authorizing signatures, these signatures being two of either: the Administrative Officer, the Executive Director, or the Deputy Executive Director. All checks **processed through accounts payable** for amounts greater than **\$5,000** must be manually signed.

Motion carried with no opposition.

REEF FISH

Discussion of Recent Court Rulings

Motion: That staff return to the June Council meeting with a suite of recommendations with options to allow discussions to move forward with reallocation of red snapper.

Substitute Motion: To put discussion of red snapper allocation on the agenda for the June Council meeting.

Substitute Motion carried 13 to 3.

Projections for 2017 Federal Recreational Fishing Season and Discussion of State Seasons

Motion: To develop an amendment that would allow Louisiana to manage the harvest of its historical percentage of the Gulf-wide recreational red snapper landings during the calendar years of 2019, 2020, and 2021 out to 200 nm. Historical landings refers to landings as determined through the preferred alternatives outlined and adopted by the Council for allocations in Amendment 40 but also including the years 2014 and 2015.

Motion carried 11 to 5.

Motion: To direct staff to start a framework action to modify the red snapper ACT for the federal for-hire component and the private recreational component.

Motion carried 14 to 0.

Final Action – Amendment 36A – Modifications to Commercial IFQ Programs

Motion: In Amendment 36A, that Action 4 be moved to considered but rejected.

2.4 Action 4 – Dealer Notification Requirement for Beginning to Offload IFQ Species

Preferred Alternative 1: No Action. Do not require IFQ dealers to provide notification to NMFS specifying when a vessel will offload IFQ species.

Alternative 2: Require IFQ dealers to notify NMFS when a vessel will offload IFQ species. The notification must be made at least 1 hour, and no more than 24 hours, before offloading begins.

Alternative 3: Require IFQ dealers to notify NMFS when a vessel will offload IFQ species. The notification must be made at least 3 hours, and no more than 24 hours, before offloading begins.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To move Action 2.2 in Amendment 36A to Amendment 36B.

2.2.2 Action 2.2 – Method of Redistributing Shares from Non-activated Accounts

Alternative 1: No Action. Do not redistribute the red snapper and grouper-tilefish shares that were returned to NMFS.

Preferred Alternative 2: Redistribute the shares from each share category equally among all shareholders of that share category.

Alternative 3: Redistribute the shares from each share category according to the proportion of shares held by shareholders of that share category at the time the shares are redistributed by NMFS.

Alternative 4: Redistribute the shares equally from each share category to the allocation-only account holders with a commercial reef fish permit and landings in 2015 for that share category, but not related to other accounts with shares.

Motion carried 13 to 2.

Motion: To approve Reef Fish Amendment 36A and that it be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation, and deem the codified text 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.

Mr. Robinson – absent	Dr. Stunz – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes
Mr. Diaz – yes	Mr. Sanchez – yes	Mr. Boyd – yes
Dr. Lucas – yes	Mr. Anson – yes	Ms. Guyas – yes
Mr. Matens – yes	Dr. Dana – yes	Mr. Swindell – yes
Dr. Crabtree – yes	Mr. Greene – yes	Ms. Bosarge – yes
Mr. Banks – yes	Mr. Walker – yes	

Motion carried 16 to 0 with one absent.

Final Action – Amendment 46 – Gray Triggerfish Rebuilding Plan

Motion: In Action 3.3, to make Alternative 1 the preferred.

Action 3.3: Modify the Recreational Minimum Size Limit

Alternative 1: No Action. Do not modify the gray triggerfish recreational minimum size limit of 14 inches fork length (FL).

Motion withdrawn.

Motion: To approve Reef Fish Amendment 46 and that it be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation, and deem the codified text 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.

Mr. Swindell – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes	Mr. Robinson – absent
Mr. Matens – yes	Mr. Anson – yes	Dr. Dana – yes
Ms. Guyas – yes	Mr. Greene – yes	Mr. Boyd – yes
Mr. Banks – yes	Mr. Sanchez – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes
Dr. Lucas – yes	Mr. Walker – yes	Ms. Bosarge – yes
Dr. Crabtree – yes	Dr. Stunz – yes	

Motion carried 16 to 0 with one absent.

Final Action – Framework Action – Mutton Snapper ACL and Management Measures and Gag Commercial Size Limit

Motion: In Action 1, to make Alternative 2, Option 2a the Preferred Alternative.

Alternative 2: Accept the OFLs and ABCs recommended by the Gulf and South Atlantic Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs) from 2017 through 2020. Apply the Gulf apportionment of the ACL equal to 18% of the stock ABC.

Option 2a: Remove the Gulf ACT as a management target.

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

Alternative 2: Retain mutton snapper within the aggregate 10-snapper recreational bag limit in the Gulf, but specify a bag limit for mutton snapper within the aggregate bag limit year round.

Option 2b: 5 fish/person/day

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 3, to make Alternative 2 the Preferred Alternative.

Alternative 2: Increase the minimum size limit for commercial and recreational mutton snapper in the Gulf to 18 inches TL.

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

Alternative 2: Increase the commercial minimum size limit for gag in the Gulf to 24 inches TL.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To recommend that the Council approve Framework Action Mutton Snapper ACL and Management Measures and Gag Commercial Size Limit and that it be forwarded to the Council for final action and sent to the Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation, and deem the codified text 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.

Dr. Dana – yes	Dr. Stunz – yes	Mr. Matens – yes
Mr. Walker – yes	Dr. Lucas – yes	Ms. Guyas – yes
Mr. Swindell – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes	Mr. Sanchez – yes
Mr. Robinson – absent	Mr. Boyd – yes	Mr. Banks – yes
Dr. Crabtree – yes	Mr. Greene – yes	Ms. Bosarge – yes
Mr. Anson – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes	

Motion carried 16 to 0 with one absent.

Draft Amendment 47 – Modify Vermilion Snapper ACLs and MSY Proxy

Motion: In Action 1, to make Alternative 2 the Preferred Alternative.

Alternative 2: The proxy for vermilion snapper MSY is the yield when fishing at F30% SPR.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 1, to add a new Alternative 3.

Alternative 3: The proxy for vermilion snapper MSY is the yield when fishing at F26% SPR.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 2, to make Alternative 3 the Preferred Alternative.

Alternative 3: The ACL for vermilion snapper for the years 2017 through 2021 will be 3.11 mp ww (constant catch average of the 5-year annual ACLs).

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 2, to remove Options a and b under Alternatives 2 & 3.

Alternative 2: The ACL for vermilion snapper for the years 2017 through 2021 will be based on the annual ABC derived from fishing at 75% of $F_{30\%}$ SPR.

~~**Option a.** After 2021, the ACL will be remain at 3.03 mp ww.~~

~~**Option b.** After 2021, the ACL will be set at 2.98 mp ww (equilibrium ABC).~~

Alternative 3: The ACL for vermilion snapper for the years 2017 through 2021 will be 3.11 mp ww (constant catch average of the 5-year annual ACLs).

~~**Option a.** After 2021, the ACL will be remain at 3.11 mp ww.~~

~~**Option b.** After 2021, the ACL will be set at the equilibrium ABC level of 2.98 mp ww.~~

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To send Amendment 47 out for public hearing via webinar.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Charter-for-Hire Management Discussion

Motion: To add an action item to include cyclical redistribution of red snapper to Amendment 41.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To add the additional species of gag grouper, gray triggerfish, greater amberjack and red grouper as annual catch limit allocation action items for consideration in Amendment 41.

Motion carried 10 to 7.

Other Business

Motion: To start an amendment for Mississippi to manage red snapper for the recreational sector out to 200 nm.

Motion carried 11 to 4.

Motion: To develop an amendment that would allow Alabama to manage the harvest of its historical percentage of the Gulf-wide recreational red snapper landings during the calendar

years of 2019, 2020, and 2021 out to 200 nm.

Motion carried 11 to 5.

Motion: To instruct staff to develop a document to allow longliners to carry any number of unrigged hooks.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To place Amendment 41 and Amendment 42 on the next Council meeting agenda for further discussion.

Motion carried with no opposition.

JOINT CORAL/HABITAT PROTECTION

Summary of the Scoping Workshops for Coral Amendment 7

Motion: To add a second amendment that would address the proposed areas not included in the scoping document for Coral Amendment 7 (Coral Amendment 8).

Motion carried with no opposition.

SPINY LOBSTER

Draft Options Joint Spiny Lobster Regulatory Amendment 4

Motion: To make Alternative 2 the Preferred Alternative in Action 2.

Alternative 2: Prohibit the use of traps for recreational harvest of spiny lobster in the South Atlantic EEZ.

Motion carried with no opposition.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Effectiveness of Techniques to Reduce Barotrauma Effects

Motion: To instruct staff to develop an action to require either descending devices or venting tools on board vessels possessing reef fish in federal waters to reduce discard mortality.

Substitute Motion: To instruct staff to develop an action to require either descending devices or venting tools on board vessels possessing reef fish to reduce discard mortality.

Substitute Motion carried without opposition.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

The Council met as a committee of the whole and voted by secret ballot for 2016 Officer of the Year. The winner is Officer Roy Lipscomb of Mississippi.