

The Council reviewed draft amendments for establishing state management programs for recreational red snapper. The current preferred alternatives would allow each state to manage its private angling component of the recreational sector using the allocations set in the exempted fishing permits approved for 2018 and 2019. The Council added a new alternative for allocating the private angling annual catch limit that uses the quota initially requested by each state in its exempted fishing permit application, plus the remaining 3.78% distributed to each state proportionally based on the amount of quota requested. Those values are as follows:

Alabama	Florida	Louisiana	Mississippi	Texas	Total
26.298%	43.730%	19.843%	3.684%	6.445%	100%

The Council also modified the management measures that could be delegated to each state. It created a new action that would establish a procedure for states to use area or depth-specific regulations by requesting NMFS to implement closures in federal waters adjacent to the state. The Council also removed harvest gear requirements and requirements for release gear from the list of management measures that may be delegated. Finally, the Council added preferred alternatives in the individual state amendments for Florida to be delegated the authority to modify the bag limit and size limits, and for all states to have a quota adjustment that would be applied only to the component that exceeded its annual catch limit. Before taking final action, the Council plans to gather comments at public hearings on the following dates and locations:

#### Florida

Pensacola – December 3, 2018

Destin – December 4, 2018

Fort Myers – January 7, 2019

Saint Petersburg – January 8, 2019

#### Alabama

Mobile – December 5, 2018

#### Mississippi

Biloxi – December 11, 2018

#### Louisiana

Baton Rouge – December 10, 2018

#### Texas

Brownsville – January 14, 2019

Corpus Christi – January 15, 2019

League City – January 16, 2019

Webinar – January 17, 2019