

Reef Fish Committee
Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab B

Agenda Item IV: Reef Fish Landings and Coastal Migratory Pelagics

Timeline Status: Information and Discussion

Council input and next steps: NMFS provides this update on the status of reef fish and coastal migratory pelagics landings relative to ACLs. This is provided for information only. This ongoing report to the Council requires no action by the Committee.

Agenda Item V: Draft Amendment 36B: Modifications to Commercial IFQ Programs and Presentations

Timeline Status: Draft Amendment

Council input and next steps: The Committee will hear a presentation on quota banks, then review the draft actions and alternatives in the amendment. Because the Council was only able to review Action 1.1 and Action 4 at its June 2019 meeting, staff will begin the amendment review with the remaining actions (i.e., distribution of reclaimed shares and development of a quota bank), and the recently added IFQ program goals. The Committee should discuss the new goals and proposed actions and alternatives, and recommend modifications as appropriate.

Agenda item VI: Final Action: Framework Action to Modify the Recreational For-hire Red Snapper Annual Catch Target Buffer

Timeline Status: Final Action

Council input and next steps: Staff will review the purpose and need and proposed alternatives for reducing the buffer between the annual catch target and the annual catch limit for the federal for-hire component's harvest of red snapper. The Committee will review its preferred alternative to set the buffer between the federal for-hire ACT and ACL at 9%, and recommend any modifications to the Council. The Committee will also review public comments received and the draft codified text for the proposed regulations. If the Committee agrees that the proposed regulations are necessary and appropriate, it may recommend that the Council approve and submit the proposed regulations to the Secretary of Commerce for implementation.

Agenda item VII: Final Action: Draft Amendment 51: Establish Gray Snapper Status Determination Criteria, Reference Points, and Modify Annual Catch Limits

Timeline Status: Final Action

Council input and next steps: The Committee will be presented with a draft plan amendment to establish status determination criteria and modify annual catch limits for gray snapper. The Committee will review the Council's preferred alternatives in each action. The Committee will also review public comments received and the draft codified text for the proposed regulations. If the Committee agrees that the proposed regulations are necessary and appropriate, it may recommend that the Council approve and submit the proposed regulations to the Secretary of Commerce for implementation.

Agenda Item VIII: Draft Framework Action to Modify Greater Amberjack Recreational Management Measures

Timeline Status: Draft Framework Action

Council input and next steps: At its June 2019 meeting, the Council requested examination of the recreational management measures for Gulf greater amberjack to extend the fishing season with the goal of achieving harvest in both fall and spring seasons. Staff will present a draft framework action to modify the Gulf greater amberjack recreational bag limit, fishing year, and season. The Committee should review, discuss, and provide input on the draft framework.

Agenda Item IX: Presentation: Decision Points for Implementing Full-retention Bottom Longline Reef Fish Fishery: Viability, Monitoring, and Costs

Timeline Status: Information and Discussion

Council input and next steps: Staff from the Southeast Regional Office will present decision points which will need to be addressed to realize a full-retention bottom longline fishery in the Gulf of Mexico. The intent, as stated by the Council during its June 2019 meeting, is to reduce regulatory discards when fishermen may not have individual fishing quota allocation for red snapper. Discard mortality from the bottom longline fleet is historically higher than many other fishing fleets in the Gulf of Mexico. Thus, reducing discard mortality for this fleet would be expected to yield positive net benefits to the stocks affected by this form of fishing effort as more red snapper are encountered in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. The presentation will discuss viability within the existing individual fishing quota programs, monitoring and compliance requirements, and estimated costs for implementing a full-retention fishery for this fleet. Committee members should provide feedback to staff and propose additional queries of interest, as appropriate.

Agenda Item X: Hot Sheet: African Pompano

Timeline Status: Information

Council Input and Next Steps: After hearing public testimony at its June meeting expressing a desire to add African pompano to federal management, the Council asked to add African

Pompano to its next meeting agenda. The Committee will be presented with a “hot sheet” outlining the biological and harvest information available on this species. The Council should provide staff with direction on whether it wants to further consider this issue.

Agenda Item XI: Draft Amendment 52: Reallocation of Red Snapper

Timeline Status: Draft Options

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff will present draft options for reallocation of red snapper between the commercial and recreational sectors. The Committee is expected to review the draft options and provide guidance to staff on further development of these options. Timeline and next steps are dependent on the Committee’s recommendations.

Agenda Item XII: Other Business

Timeline Status: Additional items that can be brought up for discussion

Council Input and Next Steps: Additional items may be brought up for discussion by Committee members, time permitting. If the Committee wishes to pursue action, then action can be scheduled at a future Council meeting.
