

Sustainable Fisheries Committee Report
April 1, 2019
Mr. Dale Diaz, Chair

The Committee adopted the agenda and approved the minutes of the January 2019 meeting.

Presentation: Update on Deepwater Horizon Open Ocean Restoration Planning (Tab E, No. 4)

Laurie Rounds and James Reinhart of NOAA gave a presentation on open restoration planning. Topics discussed included the *Deepwater Horizon* settlement, the Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group, restoration planning, and fish restoration. Ms. Rounds noted that the programmatic restoration plan includes damage assessment, restoration, and governance. The implementation group's restoration planning cycle and the restoration priorities were discussed. Dr. Reinhardt discussed the types of projects under consideration. Some of the activities considered include barotrauma reduction in recreational reef fish fisheries, improvements to bycatch reduction devices in shrimp trawls, and bycatch reduction techniques in the pelagic longline fishery. Committee members suggested that greater emphasis be placed on projects mitigating the "dead zone" in the Gulf (a hypoxic area near the mouth of the Mississippi River). The Committee also noted that projects on descending devices should avoid duplicating the Council's efforts.

Replacement of Historical Captain Permits with Standard For-Hire Permit (Tab E, No. 5)

The document considering the replacement of historical captain permits with standard federal for-hire permits was revised to include Council recommendations made during the January 2019 meeting. Only historical captain permits valid as of October 25, 2018 (last day of the October Council meeting) would be eligible for replacement with standard permits. A newly-issued standard for-hire permit will have the same permit passenger capacity as the historical captain permit it would replace. In addition, historical captains may replace their historical captain permits with standard for-hire permits or decide to keep their historical captain permits. Outstanding letters of eligibility will be invalid as of the implementation date of this action.

Without opposition, the Committee recommends and I so move: To recommend the Council approve the Replacement of Historical Captain Permits with Standard Federal Charter/Headboat Permits, and that it be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation, and deem the revised 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.

Selection of Allocation Review Triggers (Tab E, No. 6)

Staff discussed a revised draft letter including potential review triggers for Gulf allocations. Time-based triggers and public interest-based triggers would serve as primary and secondary triggers, respectively. Public interest-based triggers would rely on the Council's public comment process. Committee members noted that the South Atlantic Council submitted a letter requesting the time interval for allocation review be reduced to 7 years for mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper, and black grouper.

Without opposition, the Committee recommends and I so move: **To change the time intervals on Black grouper, mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper allocations between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils from 10 years to 7 years.**

Committee members discussed the time interval suggested for the review of Gulf migratory group king mackerel.

Without opposition, the Committee recommends and I so move: **To change the time intervals on Gulf of Mexico group king mackerel allocations between the recreational and commercial sectors, zones, and gear types from 9 years to 6 years.**

Committee members discussed the role of indicator-based criteria for allocation review. A Committee member suggested that greater emphasis should be placed on indicator-based triggers.

With one opposed, the Committee recommends and I so move: **To approve the allocation review triggers letter as revised and submit it to NMFS.**

The Committee discussed information that would be required to conduct allocation reviews and suggested that a workgroup could assist in developing the methods and procedures for allocation reviews.

Without opposition, the Committee recommends and I so move: **To direct staff to contact SERO and SEFSC staff to convene an allocation review workgroup to identify criteria that would be appropriate for the species identified in the draft NMFS allocation review triggers letter.**

Generic Amendment – Carryover of Unharvested Quota (Tab E, No. 7)

Staff reviewed public comments received on the Generic Amendment for Carryover Provisions and Framework Modifications. Dr. Barbieri reviewed the SSC's discussions and request to see new simulations, which also examine the effects of quota overages, along with underages and their combined effect on the rebuilding plans for applicable species (greater amberjack, gray triggerfish, and red snapper). The Committee acknowledged that payback provisions from a quota overage typically apply to overfished species. Overfished species are presently excluded from carryover (Action 1, Preferred Alternative 2, Preferred Option 2b). Having a payback required for species in rebuilding plans that are also eligible for carryover was viewed favorably by the Committee. The SEFSC stated that simulations could be done for gulf greater amberjack, gray triggerfish, and red snapper to show the effects of both quota overages and underages, and could be provided to the SSC by May 2019. Staff clarified language in the purpose and need, reviewed the rest of the document with the Committee, and noted that the codified text is still outstanding. The Committee agreed to refrain from any recommendations to the Council until the requested simulations could be reviewed.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.