

Action 1 –Regional Management

Alternative 1: No Action – Retain current federal regulations for management of recreational red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Preferred Alternative 2: Establish a regional management program that **delegates** some management authority to a state or group of states (regions) for the harvest of an assigned portion of the recreational red snapper quota. If a region does not participate or is determined to be inconsistent with the requirements of delegation, the recreational harvest of red snapper in the EEZ off such region would be restricted to the federal default regulations for red snapper.

Preferred Option a: A region **must** establish its recreational red snapper season structure.

Preferred Option b: A region **must** establish a recreational bag limit from 0 to 4 fish.

Preferred Option c: A region **must** establish a minimum size limit from 14” to 18” total length.

Preferred Option d: A region **may** establish a maximum size limit.

Preferred Option e: A region **may** establish closed areas within the EEZ adjacent to their region.¹

Committee Preferred Alternative 3: Establish a regional management program in which a state or group of states (regions) submit proposals to **NMFS** describing the **conservation equivalent measures** the region will adopt for the management of its portion of the red snapper quota. If a region does not participate or its proposal is determined by NMFS to be inconsistent with the requirements of the regional management program selected in Action 1, the recreational harvest of red snapper in the EEZ off such region would be restricted to the federal default regulations for red snapper.

Committee Preferred Option a: A region **must** establish its recreational red snapper season structure.

Committee Preferred Option b: A region **must** establish a recreational bag limit.

Committee Preferred Option c: A region **must** establish a minimum size limit.

Committee Preferred Option d: A region **may** establish a maximum size limit.

Option e: A region **may** establish closed areas within the EEZ adjacent to their region.

In developing conservation equivalency proposals, does the Council want to specify boundaries to the management measures (necessary under delegation), similar to the options under delegation?

Alternative 4: Establish a regional management program in which a state or group of states (regions) submit proposals to a **technical review committee** describing the **conservation equivalent measures** the region will adopt for the management of its portion of the red snapper quota. The technical review committee reviews and may make recommendations on the proposal, which is either returned to the region for revision or forwarded to NMFS for final review. If a region does not participate or its proposal is determined by NMFS to be inconsistent with the requirements of the regional management program selected in Action 1, the recreational

¹ Electing this option would require additional NEPA analysis and rulemaking by NMFS.

harvest of red snapper in the EEZ off such region would be restricted to the federal default regulations for red snapper.

Option a: A region **must** establish its recreational red snapper season structure.

Option b: A region **must** establish a recreational bag limit.

Option c: A region **must** establish a minimum size limit.

Option d: A region **may** establish a maximum size limit.

Option e: A region **may** establish closed areas within the EEZ adjacent to their region.

Alternative 5: Establish a provision to sunset regional management after:

Option a: 10 calendar years of the program.

Option b: 5 calendar years of the program.

Option c: 3 calendar years of the program. [selected with Preferred Alternative 2]

Option d: 2 calendar years of the program.

Action 2 – Regional Management and Sector Separation

Alternative 1: No Action – Retain current federal management of recreational red snapper in the Gulf exclusive economic zone (EEZ). For the years 2015-2017, establish separate quotas for the federal for-hire and private angling components as specified in Reef Fish Amendment 40.

Alternative 2: Extend the separate management of the federal for-hire and private angling components of the recreational sector and have this amendment apply to the private angling component, only. The private angling component would be managed by each region under the regional quotas that are based on the allocation selected in Action 4 and the federal for-hire component would continue to be managed Gulf-wide under a quota that is based on the allocation selected in Amendment 40.

State	Private
wFL	34.05%
AL	35.98%
LA	18.40%
MS	5.52%
TX	6.05%

*Based on 57.7% of the recreational quota; regional allocations based on 50% of the average percentage of landings (1986-2013) and 50% of average percentage of landings (2006-2013), 2010 landings excluded from both time series.

Alternative 3: Extend the separate management of the federal for-hire and private angling components of the recreational sector and have this amendment apply to both components in the regions selected below. The private angling and federal for-hire components would be managed by each region under separate quotas that are based on the component allocation selected in Amendment 40 and the regional allocation selected in Action 4. In all other regions, the private angling component would be managed by each region under the regional quotas that are based on the allocation selected in Action 4 and the federal for-hire component would continue to be managed Gulf-wide under a quota that is based on the allocation selected in Amendment 40.

- Option a:** Florida
- Option b:** Alabama
- Option c:** Mississippi
- Option d:** Louisiana
- Option e:** Texas

State	Private (57.7%)	For-hire (42.3%)
wFL	34.05%	24.24%
AL	35.98%	43.37%
LA	18.40%	11.59%
MS	5.52%	0.45%
TX	6.05%	20.35%

*Based on 50% of average percentage of landings (1986-2013) and 50% of average percentage of landings (2006-2013), 2010 landings excluded from both time series.

Alternative 4: End the separate management of the federal for-hire and private angling components upon implementation of this amendment, and have this amendment **apply to the entire recreational sector**. The private angling and federal for-hire components would be managed by each region under common regional quotas based on the allocation selected in Action 4.

State	Recreational (no 2010)
wFL	38.80%
AL	30.40%
LA	15.30%
MS	3.00%
TX	12.60%

State	Recreational (no 2006 & 2010)
wFL	37.90%
AL	31.50%
LA	15.50%
MS	3.10%
TX	12.00%

*From Tables 2.4.4 and 2.4.5. Right-side table represents the current preferred alternatives.

No changes to Action 3:

Action 3 – Establish Regions for Management

Alternative 1: No Action – Retain current federal regulations for management of recreational red snapper in the Gulf EEZ.

Alternative 2: Establish an east (Florida, Alabama, Mississippi) and west (Louisiana, Texas) region and allow for different management measures for each region.

Alternative 3: Establish an east (Florida, Alabama) and west (Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas) region and allow for different management measures for each region.

Preferred Alternative 4: Establish five regions representing each Gulf state.

Alternative 5: Establish five regions representing each Gulf state, which may voluntarily form larger multistate regions with adjacent states.

Action 4 – Apportioning the Recreational Quota among Regions

Alternative 1: No Action – Retain current federal regulations for management of recreational red snapper in the Gulf EEZ. Do not divide the recreational quota or component quotas among regions.

Alternative 2: Apportion the recreational quota (or component quotas) among the regions selected in Action 3, based on the average of historical landings for the years **1986-2013**.

Alternative 3: Apportion the recreational quota (or component quotas) among the regions selected in Action 3, based on the average of historical landings for the years **1996-2013**.

Alternative 4: Apportion the recreational quota (or component quotas) among the regions selected in Action 3, based on the average of historical landings for the years **2006-2013**.

Preferred Alternative 5: Apportion the recreational quota (or component quotas) among the regions selected in Action 3, based on **50%** of average historical landings **from 1986-2013** and **50%** of average historical landings **from 2006-2013**.

Preferred Alternative 6: In calculating regional apportionments, exclude from the selected time series:

Preferred Option a: 2006 landings [Not selected as preferred in RF40]

Preferred Option b: 2010 landings

Alternative 7: Establish eastern and western recreational red snapper quotas (or component quotas) divided at the Mississippi River, based on the regional biogeographical differences in the stock used in the stock assessments.

Alternative 8: Apportion the recreational quota (or component quotas) among the regions selected in Action 3, such that each region's allocation provides an equivalent amount of fishing days.

No changes to Action 5:

Action 5 – Post-Season Accountability Measures (AMs)

Alternative 1: No action – Retain current federal regulations for managing overages of the recreational red snapper quota in the Gulf EEZ. While red snapper are overfished (based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress), if the recreational red snapper quota is exceeded, reduce the **recreational sector** quota in the following year by the full amount of the overage unless the best scientific information available determines that a greater, lesser, or no overage adjustment is necessary. The recreational ACT will be adjusted to reflect the previously established percent buffer.

Preferred Alternative 2: While red snapper are overfished (based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress), if the combined recreational landings from all regions exceed the recreational sector quota, then reduce in the following year the quota of any **region** which exceeded its regional quota by the amount of the region's quota overage in the prior fishing year. The recreational ACT will be adjusted to reflect the previously established percent buffer.

Alternative 3: While red snapper are overfished (based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress), if the combined recreational landings from all regions exceed the red snapper recreational quota, then reduce in the following year the quota of the **component** (for-hire and/or private angling) by the full amount of the respective component's overage unless the best scientific information available determines that a greater, lesser, or no overage adjustment is necessary. The recreational ACT will be adjusted to reflect the previously established percent buffer.

Alternative 4: While red snapper are overfished (based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress), if the combined recreational landings from all regions exceed the red snapper recreational quota, in the following year: reduce the **for-hire component**'s quota by the full amount of the component's overage; for the private angling component's quota, reduce the quota of any **region** which exceeded its regional quota by the amount of the region's quota overage in the prior fishing year. The recreational ACTs will be adjusted to reflect the previously established percent buffer.

Note: If the total landings from all regions do not exceed the Gulf-wide recreational quota in that year, the region's quota would not need to be reduced to account for the region's overage.

From prior document version:

Action 6 – For-Hire Vessels Federal Permit Restrictions

Alternative 1: No action – Retain current federal regulations for management of recreational red snapper in the Gulf EEZ. If federal regulations for Gulf reef fish are more restrictive than state regulations, a person aboard a charter vessel or headboat for which a charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf reef fish has been issued must comply with such federal regulations regardless of where the fish are harvested.

Preferred Alternative 2: Exclude the provision requiring the vessels with Gulf charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf reef fish to comply with the more restrictive of federal recreational red snapper regulations when fishing in state waters.