

**Reef Fish Advisory Panel
Scope of Work**

Agenda Item IV: Scope of Work

Timeline Status: Information only

Council input and next steps: This document serves as a guide for the items being presented at the meeting, and the actions that can be considered for those items.

Agenda Item V: SEDAR 64: Southeastern U.S. Yellowtail Snapper Stock Assessment

Timeline Status: Presentations, discussion, and recommendations

Council input and next steps: Staff from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) will review the findings of the SEDAR 64 stock assessment on southeastern U.S. yellowtail snapper. This assessment made several modifications to the model from the previous assessment, including the incorporation of the Marine Recreational Information Program's Fishing Effort Survey (MRIP-FES) adjustments to estimates of recreational catch and effort. SEDAR 64 found yellowtail snapper to be healthy. FWRI staff will also present the projections upon which the Gulf and South Atlantic Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs) made their catch recommendations to the Councils. Ms. Muehlstein will present the Gulf Council's Something's Fishy tool for yellowtail snapper, which captures angler observations on a stock being assessed. The Reef Fish Advisory Panel (RFAP) should consider the information presented and make recommendations to the Council regarding changes to management measures for yellowtail snapper, such as modifying annual catch limits (ACLs), regional apportionment of the stock, and other measures the RFAP finds appropriate.

Agenda Item VI: Discussion: Gray Triggerfish Recreational Fixed Closed Seasons

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council input and next steps: Council staff will present information regarding modifications to the gray triggerfish recreational fixed closed seasons. An analysis of the effects of changing these closed seasons will be provided, which will demonstrate the effects of modifying the closed season dates on the number of days that recreational fishing is predicted to be open. The RFAP should consider the information presented and make recommendations to the Council regarding changes to recreational fixed closed seasons for gray triggerfish.

Agenda Item VII: SEDAR 70: Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack Stock Assessment

Timeline Status: Presentations, discussion, and recommendations

Council input and next steps: Council staff will review the findings of the SEDAR 70 stock assessment on Gulf greater amberjack. This assessment made several modifications to the model from the previous assessment, including the incorporation of the MRIP-FES adjustments to estimates of recreational catch and effort. SEDAR 70 found greater amberjack to be overfished and undergoing overfishing. Council staff will also present the projections upon which the Gulf SSC made its catch recommendations to the Gulf Council. Ms. Muehlstein will present the Something’s Fishy tool for greater amberjack, which captures angler observations on a stock being assessed. The RFAP should consider the information presented and make recommendations to the Council regarding changes to management measures for greater amberjack, such as modifying annual catch limits (ACLs), sector allocations, and other measures the RFAP finds appropriate.

Agenda Item VIII: Draft Reef Fish Amendment 53: Red Grouper Allocations and Annual Catch Levels and Targets

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council input and next steps: Council staff will review the actions and alternatives in the public hearing draft and note the preferred alternatives selected at the January 2021 Council meeting. The RFAP should discuss the actions and determine if any modifications are needed. The RFAP may recommend preferred alternatives to the Council.

Agenda Item IX: Discussion: Commercial Electronic Logbooks

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: At its June and October 2020 meetings, the Council received information from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) regarding changes to the commercial electronic reporting program (see background materials). Broadly, these changes involve reporting effort and catch information at the set level rather than the trip level, and will help generate better estimates of stock abundance for inclusion into stock assessment models. Before these changes are to be implemented, a policy document will need to be developed by the Council. Work on a document has not begun, so input from the RFAP would be valuable during the early stages of this process. Council staff will present a summary of the two SEFSC presentations for the RFAP to consider. The RFAP should review the background materials, listen to the summary presentation, and provide recommendations to the SEFSC and Council on the changes to the commercial electronic reporting program.

Agenda Item X: Discussion: Modifications to Vermilion Snapper Recreational Bag Limit

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: Council staff will present information regarding modifications to the vermilion snapper recreational bag limit. An analysis of the effects of changing the bag limit has not yet been completed. The RFAP should consider the information presented and make recommendations to the Council regarding changes to recreational bag limit for vermilion snapper.

Agenda Item XI: 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 RFAP members during the adoption of the agenda, time permitting. If the RFAP wishes to pursue action, then action can be scheduled at a future RFAP meeting.
