

Prohibition of the Sale of Recreationally-caught Fish

LETC Meeting



October 18, 2023

Coastal Migratory Pelagic Advisory Panel Recommendations

In December 2022, the CMP AP approved the following motions:

The CMP AP recommends the Council to make the recreational sale of Gulf cobia prohibited.

The CMP AP recommends the Council require a federal commercial fishing permit to sell Gulf cobia harvested from the EEZ.



Gulf Council Recommendations

April 2023

The Council discussed the CMP AP motions but did not adopt them

The Council approved a motion to remove **Line 22** from the proposed actions for 2023, because the sale of recreationally-caught cobia is prohibited by the states.

Line 22: Framework amendment to prohibit the sale of recreationally-caught cobia.

The Council suggested that the LETC discuss the sale of recreationally-caught fish and provide relevant information that may be useful in the future.



LETC Discussion and Recommendations

- Is the sale of recreationally-caught fish (cobia or other species) prevalent
- Should the Council consider regulatory actions
- Are there additional issues related to the sale of recreationally-caught fish to consider



Sale and Purchase of Cobia

There is no specific Federal permit for the commercial harvest of Gulf cobia. All cobia harvested in the EEZ that are sold, are considered commercial harvest and count towards the commercial quota. State regulations still apply; the sale of recreational cobia is *currently* prohibited by existing state law in each Gulf state.

