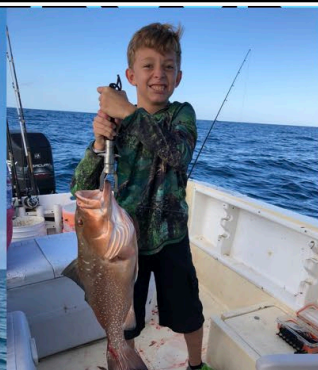




Outreach and Education Technical Committee Introduction to the

Gulf Council Recreational Initiative



What is the Recreational Initiative?

An effort to engage recreational anglers and associated industry members to:

- review and evaluate past and current management strategies,
- explore potential innovative management strategies that could be applied in the future.

Outcomes resulting from this exercise should inform future Council recreational management measures.



Six Parts of the Recreational Initiative

1. Development, review, and revision of goals and objectives for recreational fisheries management;
2. A review of the status of Federally managed species in the Gulf of Mexico that are highly sought after by recreational anglers, including recreational sources of directed and bycatch mortality;
3. A review of recreational management measures, including how management measures have changed over time;
4. Assessment of the performance and efficacy of recreational accountability measures and recommended improvements;
5. Evaluation and consideration of harvest control rules (i.e., pre-agreed guidelines) for setting bag, size, and season limits;
6. Scientific recommendations to the Council for addressing variability and uncertainty in recreational catch estimates, including use of multiple years of data, identification of catch estimates that are the result of low sample sizes or outliers, and statistical recommendations and guidance for how such approaches could be implemented; and,
7. Exploration of innovative new management strategies.

Recreational Initiative Work Plan

Consultant

- Guide Steering Committee to develop agendas and background materials
- Facilitate Working Group meetings and provide necessary background and speakers
- Coordinate work on technical parts of the initiative
- Compose summary reports and report outcomes to Council

Steering Committee

- Comprised of NOAA Staff, Council Staff, GSMFC Staff, and two recreational Council members
- Select consultant and guide work
 - Develop Working Group agendas
 - Assist with stakeholder engagement strategy
 - Coordinate work on technical parts of the initiative

Working Group

- Comprised of recreational fishermen and industry members
- Review current and historical management strategies
 - Evaluate potential novel management strategies
 - Provide recommendations on proposed stakeholder engagement

Timeline

Year	Month	Anticipated Activities
2023	October	Council reviews process document and provides staff direction
2024	January	Council appoints Steering Committee
	February	Steering Committee selects consultant
	March	Contract is finalized with consultant
	April - May	Planning meetings with consultant and Steering Committee
	June	Present Draft Agendas and Proposed meeting structure to the Steering Committee. Updates provided to the Council and feedback considered
	July	Solicit Working Group members/Perform fishing violations background checks on applicants, if Council requests.
	August	Council appoints Working Group members; Steering Committee and Consultant develop agenda and background materials for first Working Group Meeting
	September	Host Working Group Meeting #1
	October	Council discusses outcomes and future direction for next Working Group Meeting
	November	Host Working Group Meeting #2
	December	
2025	January	Council discusses outcomes and future direction for next Working Group Meeting
	February	Host Final Working Group Meeting #3 and Wrap-up project
	March	Consultant writes report and completes final edits with Steering Committee
	April	Consultant presents final report to Council