



Prohibition of the Sale of Recreationally Caught Fish



Context: 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.



Coastal Migratory Pelagic Advisory Panel Recommendations

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 stop work on a framework amendment to prohibit the sale of recreationally-caught cobia because the sale of recreationally-caught cobia is prohibited by the states.

The Council suggested that the O&E discuss how the Council and the States can communicate the prohibitions on sale of recreationally-caught fish.



O&E Discussion and Recommendations

- Is the sale of recreationally-caught fish (cobia or other species) prevalent?
- Should the Council produce communications materials to address this?
- Is there an appetite for state level communications to address this?

