

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

265<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

FULL COUNCIL SESSION

Marriott Plaza

San Antonio, Texas

AUGUST 9-10, 2017

**VOTING MEMBERS**

- Kevin Anson.....Alabama
- Leann Bosarge.....Mississippi
- Patrick Banks.....Louisiana
- Doug Boyd.....Texas
- Roy Crabtree.....NMFS, SERO, St. Petersburg, Florida
- Pamela Dana.....Florida
- Dale Diaz.....Mississippi
- Tom Frazer.....Florida
- Johnny Greene.....Alabama
- Martha Guyas (designee for Nick Wiley).....Florida
- Campo Matens.....Louisiana
- Paul Mickle (designee for Jamie Miller).....Mississippi
- Robin Riechers.....Texas
- John Sanchez.....Florida
- Greg Stunz.....Texas
- Ed Swindell.....Louisiana
- David Walker.....Alabama

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

- Glenn Constant.....USFWS
- Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
- LCDR Stacy McNeer.....USCG

**STAFF**

- Steven Atran.....Senior Fishery Biologist
- Assane Diagne.....Economist
- Matt Freeman.....Economist
- John Froeschke.....Fishery Biologist-Statistician
- Douglas Gregory.....Executive Director
- Beth Hager.....Administrative Officer
- Karen Hoak.....Administrative & Financial Assistant
- Ava Lasseter.....Anthropologist
- Emily Muehlstein.....Public Information Officer
- Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager
- Carrie Simmons.....Deputy Director

**OTHER**

**PARTICIPANTS**

1 Pam Anderson.....Panama City Beach, FL  
2 Hughes Andry.....Sportco Marketing  
3 Greg Ball.....Galveston, TX  
4 Tony Bess.....Alvin, TX  
5 Captain Murphys.....South Padre Island, TX  
6 Susan Boggs.....Orange Beach, AL  
7 Eric Brazer.....Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance  
8 Chester Brewer.....SAFMC  
9 David Briggs.....TX  
10 Steven Briggs.....  
11 David Brown.....TX  
12 Michael Brown.....Port O'Connor, TX  
13 B.J. Burkett.....Panama City Beach, FL  
14 Shane Cantrell.....Galveston, TX  
15 Bubba Cochrane.....Galveston, TX  
16 Connor Cochrane.....Galveston, TX  
17 Mike Colby.....Clearwater, FL  
18 Jason Delacruz.....FL  
19 Richard Fischer.....Louisiana Charter Boat Association, LA  
20 Troy Frady.....Orange Beach, AL  
21 Susan Gerhart.....NMFS  
22 Brad Gorst.....Palm Harbor, FL  
23 John Graham.....  
24 Jim Green.....Destin, FL  
25 Shepherd Grimes.....NOAA GC  
26 Buddy Guindon.....Galveston, TX  
27 Ken Haddad.....ASA, FL  
28 Chad Haggert.....Clearwater, FL  
29 Scott Hickman.....CFA, Galveston, TX  
30 Tom Hilton.....  
31 Dylan Hubbard.....FGA, Madeira Beach, FL  
32 Donald Jackson.....TX  
33 Mark Kelley.....Panama City, FL  
34 Jason Klosterman.....Destin, FL  
35 David Krebs.....Destin, FL  
36 Joey Lenderman.....Richmond, TX  
37 Terrell Miller.....San Antonio, TX  
38 Gary Morgan.....Satellite Beach, FL  
39 Blake Osgood.....TX  
40 Mike Osgood.....TX  
41 Bonnie Ponwith.....SEFSC  
42 Steven Rash.....Apalachicola, FL  
43 Michael Regan.....Galveston, TX  
44 Scott Robson.....Destin, FL  
45 Captain Fred Ruiz.....TX  
46 Lisa Schmidt.....Madeira Beach, FL  
47 Clarence Seymour.....Ocean Springs, MS  
48 Michael Short.....Galveston, TX

1 Line Check Charters.....Galveston, TX  
2 Steve Tomeny.....Port Fourchon, LA  
3 Russell Underwood.....Panama City, FL  
4 Tom Wheatley.....Pew Charitable Trusts  
5 Johnny Williams.....Galveston, TX  
6 Jim Zurbrick.....Steinhatchee, FL

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8  
9

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TABLE OF MOTIONS

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2  
3 [PAGE 90](#): Motion that the O&E Technical Committee allow the use  
4 of proxy attendees subject to the approval by council staff.  
5 [The motion carried on page 91.](#)  
6

7 [PAGE 91](#): Motion to direct staff to develop a plan that would  
8 create a data portal to collect public anecdotal information for  
9 council-managed species and bring that information back to the  
10 council. [The motion carried on page 94.](#)  
11

12 [PAGE 94](#): Motion to recommend that the O&E Technical Committee  
13 members be allowed to participate via webinar with approval by  
14 council staff. [The motion carried on page 95.](#)  
15

16 [PAGE 96](#): Motion to approve the budget as shown in Tab G, Number  
17 4(a). [The motion carried on page 96.](#)  
18

19 [PAGE 97](#): Motion to modify the SOPPs so that council members  
20 must be physically present to motion or vote. [The motion](#)  
21 [carried on page 101.](#)  
22

23 [PAGE 103](#): Motion in Action 1 to make Alternative 2, Option a  
24 the preferred. Alternative 2 is set the ACL equal to the ABC  
25 recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee from  
26 2018 through 2020-plus, based upon the SEDAR 33 update  
27 assessment (2016). This alternative is projected to rebuild the  
28 stock by 2027. Option a is apply the ACL/ACT control rule,  
29 landings from 2013 through 2016, to establish a 13 percent  
30 buffer to the commercial sector and a 17 percent buffer to the  
31 recreational sector. [The motion carried on page 103.](#)  
32

33 [PAGE 103](#): Motion in Action 2 to make Alternative 4 the  
34 preferred. Alternative 4 is modify the recreational closed  
35 season to be January 1 through June 30. [The motion carried on](#)  
36 [page 105.](#)  
37

38 [PAGE 106](#): Motion to approve the greater amberjack ACL and  
39 management measures and that it be forwarded to the Secretary of  
40 Commerce for review and implementation, and deem the codified  
41 text as necessary and appropriate, giving staff editorial  
42 license to make the necessary changes in the document. The  
43 Council Chair is given the authority to deem any changes to the  
44 codified text as necessary and appropriate. [The motion carried](#)  
45 [on page 108.](#)  
46

47 [PAGE 109](#): Motion that the greater amberjack framework include  
48 an action to change the fishing year for greater amberjack to

1 begin on August 1 and that it contain two options: 1)change only  
2 the recreational fishing year; 2)change both the recreational  
3 and commercial fishing years. [The motion carried on page 109.](#)

4  
5 [PAGE 112](#): Motion that the recreational season for greater  
6 amberjack be open from August 1 through October 31, closed  
7 November 1 through March 31, and open the month of April, then  
8 closes from May 1 through July 31. [The motion carried on page](#)  
9 [113.](#)

10  
11 [PAGE 114](#): Evaluate the following options for the recreational  
12 greater amberjack season: Open for the months of April,  
13 September, and October (closed January through March, May  
14 through August, and November through December); and open for the  
15 months of May, September, and October (closed January through  
16 April, June through August, November, and December). [The motion](#)  
17 [carried on page 115.](#)

18  
19 [PAGE 117](#): Motion to have staff develop a framework action for  
20 greater amberjack management measures dealing with seasons and  
21 develop a separate framework action dealing with vessel bag  
22 limits and commercial trip limits. [The motion carried on page](#)  
23 [122.](#)

24  
25 [PAGE 113](#): Motion to select Alternative 2, Option b as the  
26 preferred alternative and option. Alternative 2 is restrict  
27 participation in the referendum to persons who have a valid or  
28 renewable federal reef fish for-hire permit issued to a landings  
29 history vessel and who have substantially fished for red  
30 snapper, gray triggerfish, greater amberjack, red grouper, or  
31 gag based on landings submitted to the SRHS during the  
32 qualifying years. A vessel qualifies as a LHV if it has  
33 individual landings history recorded by the Southeast Region  
34 Headboat Survey by December 31, 2015. For-hire federal permit  
35 holders whose vessels landed an annual average of at least 100  
36 fish of all species combined are considered as having  
37 substantially fished. Annual average landings are based on  
38 landings recorded by the SRHS between 2011 and 2015. Option b  
39 is each eligible permit will have one vote, regardless of the  
40 relative size of the vessel's catch history. [The motion carried](#)  
41 [on page 113.](#)

42  
43 [PAGE 124](#): Motion to include in the Amendment 41 eligibility  
44 requirements an option that would create the voting interest by  
45 unique number of permit holders and also by a weighted option by  
46 unique permit holders and total permits held. [The motion](#)  
47 [carried on page 124.](#)

1 [PAGE 127](#): Motion to ask the SSC to review the alternatives in  
2 the Framework Action to Modify the ACT for Red Snapper Federal  
3 For-Hire and Private Angler Components Document and provide  
4 their recommendations. [The motion carried on page 127.](#)  
5  
6 [PAGE 127](#): Motion to identify quota set asides to address and  
7 assist small participants and new entrants and to reduce  
8 discards. [The motion carried on page 128.](#)  
9  
10 [PAGE 128](#): Motion to combine Action 2.4 into Action 2.3. [The](#)  
11 [motion carried on page 128.](#)  
12  
13 [PAGE 128](#): Motion to add an option for accounts that become  
14 inactive in the future so that quota would automatically go into  
15 the quota bank. [The motion carried on page 129.](#)  
16  
17 [PAGE 129](#): Motion to remove Action 2.6, Allocation Caps, from  
18 the document. [The motion carried on page 131.](#)  
19  
20 [PAGE 135](#): Motion to form a new Joint Ad Hoc Red Snapper/Grouper  
21 Tilefish IFQ Advisory Panel. [The motion carried on page 138.](#)  
22  
23 [PAGE 139](#): Motion in Action 2 to remove Alternatives 3 and 4.  
24 [The motion carried on page 140.](#)  
25  
26 [PAGE 140](#): Motion in Action 1, to make Alternative 4 the  
27 preferred. Alternative 4 is, for a state with an approved state  
28 management program, the state will choose whether to manage its  
29 private angling component only or to manage both its private  
30 angling and federal for-hire components. The state must  
31 constrain landings to the state's private angling component ACL  
32 and federal for-hire component ACL, as determined in Action 2.  
33 For states without an approved state management program,  
34 separate fishing seasons based on the component ACTs for the  
35 federal for-hire and private angling components would be  
36 estimated using the remainder of the recreational sector ACL.  
37 The state management plan would end when the separate private  
38 angling and federal for-hire ACLs end (currently 2022). [The](#)  
39 [motion carried on page 140.](#)  
40  
41 [PAGE 140](#): Motion to direct staff to construct allocation  
42 alternatives that reflect spatial patterns in biomass and  
43 recreational trips with options for weighting the two. [The](#)  
44 [motion carried on page 142.](#)  
45  
46 [PAGE 142](#): Motion to reconstruct the allocation tables and  
47 truncate the landing series through 2009. [The motion carried on](#)  
48 [page 143.](#)

1  
2 [PAGE 143](#): Motion that the allocation table include a formula  
3 that looks at the percentages, for the best ten years for each  
4 state, from the series 1986 through 2015 as the percentage of  
5 allocation. [The motion carried on page 143.](#)  
6

7 [PAGE 144](#): Motion to remove Action 3 from the document. [The](#)  
8 [motion carried on page 144.](#)  
9

10 [PAGE 145](#): Motion to begin two separate amendments for the state  
11 management of recreational red snapper for Florida and Texas.  
12 [The motion carried on page 146.](#)  
13

14 [PAGE 150](#): Motion in Action 1 of the Louisiana State Document to  
15 make Alternative 2 the preferred for Louisiana. Alternative 2  
16 is establish a management program that delegates some management  
17 authority in federal waters to Louisiana. Louisiana must  
18 establish the red snapper season structure and bag limit for the  
19 harvest of its assigned portion of the recreational sector  
20 annual catch limit. If Louisiana's red snapper harvest plan is  
21 determined to be inconsistent with the requirements of  
22 delegation, the recreational harvest of red snapper in the  
23 federal waters adjacent to Louisiana would be subject to the  
24 default federal regulations for red snapper. [The motion carried](#)  
25 [on page 153.](#)  
26

27 [PAGE 154](#): Motion to add a new alternative to the Florida and  
28 Texas documents that would delegate full management authority to  
29 the state related to harvest of recreational red snapper. [The](#)  
30 [motion carried on page 159.](#)  
31

32 [PAGE 159](#): Motion to remove Action 2 from all five, three  
33 existing and two proposed, state management of recreational red  
34 snapper documents. [The motion carried on page 161.](#)  
35

36 [PAGE 166](#): Motion in Action 3 of the Louisiana State Document to  
37 make Alternative 2, Option 2a the preferred. Alternative 2 is  
38 while red snapper are overfished, based on the most recent  
39 Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, if the combined  
40 Louisiana recreational landings exceed the Louisiana  
41 recreational ACL, then in the following year reduce Louisiana's  
42 ACL by the amount of the ACL overage in the prior fishing year,  
43 unless the best scientific information available determines that  
44 a greater, lesser, or no overage adjustment is necessary. The  
45 Louisiana recreational ACT, or component ACTs, will be adjusted  
46 to reflect the previously established percent buffer. Option 2a  
47 is, if Louisiana has both a private-angling ACL and a federal  
48 for-hire ACL, the reduction will be applied to the components



1 that exceeded the applicable ACL. [The motion carried on page](#)  
2 [167](#).  
3  
4 [PAGE 168](#): Motion to convene a joint meeting of the Ad Hoc Red  
5 Snapper Charter/For-Hire and the Ad Hoc Reef Fish Headboat  
6 Advisory Panels before the end of 2017. [The motion carried on](#)  
7 [page 169](#).  
8  
9 [PAGE 173](#): Motion to delay the current red snapper standard  
10 assessment to 2018 and to make 2017 the terminal year. [The](#)  
11 [motion failed on page 176](#).  
12  
13 [PAGE 177](#): Motion to move the cobia stock assessment to 2019  
14 with a terminal year of 2017. [The motion carried on page 177](#).  
15  
16 [PAGE 181](#): Motion to add a red snapper standard assessment in  
17 2019 with a terminal year of 2018. [The motion carried on page](#)  
18 [182](#).  
19  
20 [PAGE 182](#): Motion to move the vermilion snapper standard  
21 assessment to 2018. [The motion carried on page 184](#).  
22  
23 [PAGE 189](#): Motion to move forward with the document that  
24 approves the new turtle release gear and modifies our framework  
25 process to allow the specification of new release gears for  
26 turtles and other protected resources and to allow changes to  
27 the safe handling techniques. [The motion carried on page 190](#).  
28  
29 [PAGE 192](#): Motion to direct staff to continue development of the  
30 amendment to require descender-devices and venting tools onboard  
31 vessels possessing reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. [The motion](#)  
32 [carried on page 199](#).  
33

34 - - -  
35

1 The Full Council of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management  
2 Council convened at the Marriott Plaza, San Antonio, Texas,  
3 Wednesday morning, August 9, 2017, and was called to order by  
4 Chairman Leann Bosarge.

5  
6 **CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND INTRODUCTIONS**

7  
8 **CHAIRMAN LEANN BOSARGE:** Welcome to the 265<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Gulf  
9 Council. My name is Leann Bosarge, Chair of the Council. If  
10 you have a cell phone, pager, or similar device, we ask that you  
11 keep them on silent or vibrating mode during the meeting. Also,  
12 in order for all to be able to hear the proceedings, we ask that  
13 you have any private conversations outside.

14  
15 The Gulf Council is one of eight regional councils established  
16 in 1976 by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act, known  
17 today as the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The council's purpose is to  
18 serve as a deliberative body to advise the Secretary of Commerce  
19 on fishery management measures in the federal waters of the Gulf  
20 of Mexico. These measures help ensure that fishery resources in  
21 the Gulf are sustained, while providing the best overall benefit  
22 to the nation.

23  
24 The council has seventeen voting members, eleven of whom are  
25 appointed by the Secretary of Commerce and include individuals  
26 from a range of geographical areas in the Gulf of Mexico with  
27 experience in various aspects of fisheries.

28  
29 The membership also includes five state fishery managers from  
30 each Gulf state and the Regional Administrator from NOAA's  
31 Southeast Fisheries Service, as well as several non-voting  
32 members.

33  
34 Public input is a vital part of the council's deliberative  
35 process, and comments, both oral and written, are accepted and  
36 considered by the council throughout the process. Anyone  
37 wishing to speak during public comment should sign in at the  
38 registration kiosk located at the entrance to the meeting room.  
39 We do accept only one registration per person. A digital  
40 recording is used for the public record. Therefore, for the  
41 purpose of voice identification, each person at the table is  
42 requested to identify him or herself, starting on my left.

43  
44 **MR. JOHNNY GREENE:** Johnny Greene, Alabama.

45  
46 **MR. DAVID WALKER:** David Walker, Alabama.

47  
48 **MR. KEVIN ANSON:** Kevin Anson, Alabama.

1  
2 **MR. DAVE DONALDSON:** Dave Donaldson, Gulf States Marine  
3 Fisheries Commission.  
4  
5 **MR. ED SWINDELL:** Ed Swindell, Louisiana.  
6  
7 **MR. PATRICK BANKS:** Patrick Banks, Louisiana.  
8  
9 **MR. CAMPO MATENS:** Camp Matens, Louisiana.  
10  
11 **DR. TOM FRAZER:** Tom Frazer, Florida.  
12  
13 **MR. JOHN SANCHEZ:** John Sanchez, Florida.  
14  
15 **DR. PAMELA DANA:** Pam Dana, Florida.  
16  
17 **MS. MARTHA GUYAS:** Martha Guyas, Florida.  
18  
19 **MR. GLENN CONSTANT:** Glenn Constant, U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
20 Service.  
21  
22 **MR. CHESTER BREWER:** Chester Brewer, South Atlantic liaison.  
23  
24 **DR. ROY CRABTREE:** Roy Crabtree, NOAA Fisheries.  
25  
26 **DR. BONNIE PONWITH:** Bonnie Ponwith, NOAA Fisheries.  
27  
28 **MR. ROBIN RIECHERS:** Robin Riechers, Texas.  
29  
30 **MR. DOUG BOYD:** Doug Boyd, Texas.  
31  
32 **DR. GREG STUNZ:** Greg Stunz, Texas.  
33  
34 **DR. PAUL MICKLE:** Paul Mickle, Mississippi.  
35  
36 **MR. DALE DIAZ:** Dale Diaz, Mississippi.  
37  
38 **LCDR STACY MCNEER:** Lieutenant Commander Stacy McNeer, U.S.  
39 Coast Guard.  
40  
41 **MR. DOUGLAS GREGORY:** Doug Gregory, council staff.  
42

43 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
44

45 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** The agenda for our meeting can be found under  
46 Tab A, Number 3. Are there any additions or revisions to the  
47 agenda as presented? Seeing none, the agenda is adopted as  
48 presented.

1  
2 Our minutes from our last meeting can be found on Tab A, Number  
3 4. Were there any amendments or revisions that needed to be  
4 made to those minutes? Seeing none, the minutes are approved.  
5 Exempted Fishing Permits are next on our agenda, and I will look  
6 to the National Marine Fisheries side of the house to see if we  
7 have any.

8  
9 **EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

10  
11 **DR. CRABTREE:** We do not.

12  
13 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. That brings us right into our  
14 presentations, and right on time. Is Captain Ruiz ready? Good  
15 afternoon, sir. I will turn the microphone over to you.

16  
17 **PRESENTATIONS**  
18 **TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT**

19  
20 **CAPTAIN FRED RUIZ:** My name is Captain Ruiz, and I am a Captain  
21 with Texas Parks and Wildlife. I'm a game warden out of  
22 Galveston, and I've been a game warden for approximately  
23 fourteen years. Prior to that, I spent eight years in the Army,  
24 jumping out of airplanes, and so I'm glad to be here this  
25 morning. Typically, Brandi Reeder is usually here, and I'm in  
26 her stead. She's on vacation, which is a good place to be.

27  
28 I'm going to talk a little bit about our mission and some of the  
29 difficulties that we face. I will give a brief overview of 2017  
30 and some of the cases and some of the other things that we are  
31 involved with.

32  
33 Real simply, our mission is to provide a comprehensive, state-  
34 wide law enforcement program to protect Texas's natural  
35 resources and environment and provide safe boating and  
36 recreational water safety on public waters, by ensuring  
37 compliance with the applicable state laws and regulations.

38  
39 I take very seriously the concern that we have, in terms of our  
40 natural resources, and I think it's extremely important that we  
41 protect those resources for not only this generation as well as  
42 our future generations. The game wardens of Texas are extremely  
43 dedicated to the people of the State of Texas and protecting  
44 those resources.

45  
46 Just a brief overview about our division, we are a law  
47 enforcement division inside of a non-law enforcement agency, and  
48 so, at times, it's a difficult thing to understand for a lot of

1 the game wardens, but we work well with our brothers and sisters  
2 in the various divisions. Parks and Wildlife has eleven  
3 divisions, and we are one of those eleven divisions.

4  
5 Inside of that division, we have approximately 700 folks, of  
6 which 551 are sworn Texas peace officers. We have a seven-month  
7 academy that all game wardens go through. We typically have  
8 about 1,100 people apply every year for about forty slots, and  
9 we've gone through that process every year last for the last  
10 fifteen years.

11  
12 If you look at the numbers, 551 game wardens, there is 270,000  
13 square miles in Texas, and then you look at the distribution of  
14 those game wardens, and, when we talk about the enforcement of  
15 the joint enforcement agreement and various marine issues, we  
16 have about eighty on the water, and so just take that into  
17 perspective.

18  
19 If you look in terms of populations and just sheer numbers, the  
20 five counties, including Harris County, which would encompass  
21 the Houston area, in those five counties, there is about four-  
22 million people, and so it is a tremendous task for us to be out  
23 there and everywhere, but we do our best.

24  
25 There is a couple of things that I will cover that is relevant  
26 here. Typically, or every year, approximately around May 15,  
27 Texas closes its waters for shrimping out to 200 nautical miles.  
28 The Coast Guard helps us quite a bit, as well as National Marine  
29 Fisheries helps us enforce that closure. On July 15, it opens,  
30 and so we do a lot of heavy patrolling during that time period,  
31 from the Louisiana border all the way down to the U.S./Mexico  
32 border.

33  
34 I have been working in this area for about fourteen years, in  
35 the Galveston/Houston area for about fourteen years, and I have  
36 seen a steady decline in terms of violations in regards to TEDs  
37 and just the overall violations, whether it's at night, inside  
38 of five nautical miles, and a variety of violations.

39  
40 Now, obviously, in 2005, Katrina put a hit on the shrimping  
41 industry, as well as, in 2009, so did Hurricane Ike, and so  
42 those are in there, but, specifically, this particular year, for  
43 us that have been out on the water and understand the time it  
44 takes to get out to board these boats and to check for TEDs and  
45 to do it in compliance with NOAA's checklist, it's a very time-  
46 consuming thing, and we checked about a hundred TEDs, and that  
47 was also with Dale Stevens from NOAA to check these TEDs.

1 We found no major violations, and so I think two things. One is  
2 I think that's a result of good outreach with our partners in  
3 the commercial industry as well as time and effort of being out  
4 there and making sure that everybody understands that we're out  
5 there to enforce these laws.

6  
7 We do, however, come across some violations. This is one of the  
8 bigger ones that we had. One of our main checkpoints is the  
9 angle of the TEDs, and, every once in a while, and I can tell  
10 you that this is less and less an issue, and certainly the sewn-  
11 up TEDs are certainly less, but this is one of the atypical  
12 violations that we have had this year.

13  
14 We continue to work with our biologists in other divisions in  
15 protecting our resources, such as the endangered species, the  
16 turtles and the marine mammals, as well as the red snapper. We  
17 did have -- In Texas, we don't have it very cold, but  
18 occasionally we do, we do have these issues, and we assist our  
19 other divisions in protecting these resources.

20  
21 The U.S./Mexico border presents a unique problem for us. Mexico  
22 has enough problems as it is, and protecting our natural  
23 resources is not very high on their list, but we do have these  
24 fishermen that come across. They will set these nets, and  
25 thousands of sharks get caught, as well as other fish, and we  
26 spend a tremendous amount of time collecting -- This was one  
27 mile.

28  
29 I have seen them as far as six-mile nets, and so it's a  
30 tremendous issue, and we continue to deal with it, and it's  
31 almost impossible to catch them. By the time that you see them  
32 and you identify them and you come at them, they have already  
33 crossed back into Mexico, and, of course, we can't enter another  
34 country.

35  
36 These guys are extremely mobile and agile with these boats, the  
37 lanchas. When we're able to board and arrest these individuals,  
38 we destroy the boats, and this is maybe six months' worth, and  
39 so this is a constant problem.

40  
41 We continue to patrol all up and down the coast in regards to  
42 red snapper and the violations. I will say it's gotten a lot  
43 better in the fourteen years that I've been here, in regards to  
44 these violations, and they're less and less. What we tend to  
45 see now are these violations are, in terms of the fishermen,  
46 less and less. We do find these pockets of big ones, and we do  
47 investigate those, and I will cover one of those here in a  
48 second.

1  
2 We had a total of 137 red snapper violations this year. That  
3 number is a little deceiving, because of cases like this. This  
4 case happened on the evening before Easter in 2016. When I say  
5 137 cases, a lot of the cases that we make are cases of this  
6 nature, where multiple citations were given.

7  
8 This particular one, fifty-four were given, and, of course, the  
9 fifty-four didn't -- That's not this year, and so that's not in  
10 that 137. We have had a couple of those this year. In this  
11 particular case, and I will just run this down without the  
12 specifics, in terms of names, but 642 red snapper were seized,  
13 and I want to say something about how law enforcement works.

14  
15 We're a brotherhood, and this is a good example of multiple  
16 agencies coming together and working together. Had it not been  
17 for the Coast Guard, this boat would have not been caught, and  
18 so the Coast Guard actually boarded and caught this boat.  
19 National Marine Fisheries, as well as Parks and Wildlife, worked  
20 together on this, in terms of the law enforcement action that  
21 was taken in regards to charges filed and this and that, and so  
22 this is a good case. We've had several more of those in the  
23 last year or so.

24  
25 There were four main players in this case. The first two got  
26 federal felonies filed by National Marine Fisheries. The third  
27 actor on the vessel was charged with fifty-four counts, and he  
28 was charged \$27,000 in fines. Then the fourth subject, which  
29 was the purchaser of these fish and a restaurant owner, was  
30 charged seventy citations, and that is pending right now.

31  
32 This type of issue right here brought light to a lot of things.  
33 Number one was legislators got involved and understood that the  
34 penalties for some of these crimes don't necessarily fit what  
35 they're doing, and, in terms of just the sheer money involved  
36 here, the penalties didn't mesh, and so we're looking at getting  
37 some of that taken care of, and we've got movement from  
38 legislators, which is a very positive thing.

39  
40 The other thing that I would like to add in regards to this is  
41 this opened the door, and we have pursued this very  
42 aggressively, and there are many more cases coming that look  
43 like this, in terms of restaurants, and we're also talking about  
44 crossing state lines, and so that's a whole other ballgame.  
45 This is an eye-opener for a lot of folks. This is egregious,  
46 and so this is the kind of stuff that we are working at trying  
47 to resolve in regards to this.

48

1 We have many other hats that we wear, and just the sheer  
2 numbers, in terms of square miles, the sheer number of people,  
3 and so we do a lot of other things. JEA is one of the things  
4 that we do, but it only represents 6 percent of our operating  
5 budget, and, to give you a look at that, RBS, recreational  
6 boating money, is 40 percent of our operating budget, and so,  
7 when you start looking and you start weighing a lot of things,  
8 those are things that we do.

9  
10 In addition, we all understand that homeland security has become  
11 a huge thing. The Port of Houston is the second-largest port in  
12 the United States, in terms of tonnage, and then, when you start  
13 looking at petroleum and a variety of other things, it's a huge  
14 thing. We spend a great amount of time augmenting the other  
15 agencies in that area, in terms of port security, and that's  
16 Brownsville, that's Corpus, Victoria, Freeport, and Houston, and  
17 so we spend a lot of time with that, and as well as the other  
18 fisheries, the oyster fishery, et cetera.

19  
20 When you put eighty game wardens that are in charge of the  
21 marine enforcement, and then you put all of those other things,  
22 they're tasked, and so we do the best that we can with those  
23 efforts.

24  
25 In addition, being in Texas, we have 365 days a year that we are  
26 participating in Operation Secure Texas, and our department has  
27 diversified quite a bit. We have gunboats with 240 Golfs, which  
28 is a full machine gun, and we spend a lot of time right up on  
29 the border, and our mission there is the interdiction of  
30 contraband coming into the United States and into Texas as well  
31 as undocumented aliens, and so we spend a lot of time doing a  
32 lot of things.

33  
34 Being the Captain in Galveston, I spend my share of time on the  
35 border. We all do, every game warden in the state, and I will  
36 tell you that I love the coast. I love what I do, and I take  
37 very seriously the enforcement of red snapper and fishing, all  
38 the commercial stuff as well as the recreational stuff. I will  
39 tell you that we have seen the success of the IFQ system. It  
40 has put a responsibility and accountability to the commercial  
41 fishermen, but it has also been an extremely useful tool for law  
42 enforcement.

43  
44 I remember sleeping on the boats at the jetties, trying to find  
45 boats coming in over their limit or out of season, and the IFQ  
46 has provided -- A lot of that has gone away, and so we continue  
47 to work with other divisions, the Coastal Fisheries, Robin and  
48 his guys, in making sure that we have a consistent effort, and



1 so, for me, there is four components of that.

2  
3 One is working with Coastal Fisheries and getting the good  
4 science involved with that, and two is our enforcement efforts,  
5 making sure that we're putting the people in the right places to  
6 be effective. I can't put people out there 24/7, but, if we can  
7 be smart about how we do it and use our money wisely, we can  
8 maximize that effort.

9  
10 Three is the outreach. We have many communities here in Texas,  
11 and we have a Vietnamese community, and we have a large Hispanic  
12 community, and we have the white community, and we work very  
13 closely with all three communities, to make sure that we are  
14 providing the outreach that reaches them to make sure that  
15 they're in compliance with TEDs and with a variety of the  
16 fisheries.

17  
18 The last one is the administrative part, and that is making sure  
19 that we are in-step with the rule makers, in that we try to make  
20 sure that we are enforcing rules and enforcing rules that meet  
21 the intention of what the rules and the laws are, and so those  
22 are our goals. Barring any questions, that's all I have. Thank  
23 you very much.

24  
25 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Anson.

26  
27 **MR. ANSON:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Captain Ruiz, thank you for  
28 coming today, and thank you for your service as a peace officer  
29 and for your prior military service, and so thank you.

30  
31 **CAPTAIN RUIZ:** Yes, sir.

32  
33 **MR. ANSON:** I had a question about the slide that you were  
34 discussing with the seizure of the fish that were going through  
35 the restaurant. You said that it had opened doors, and I'm just  
36 curious. The open doors was in reference to some other cases  
37 that you mentioned, and was that directly involved with the  
38 case, or was that because members of the public were exposed to  
39 that and maybe you had some informants come out and maybe gave  
40 you some other -- Just if you can elaborate, please.

41  
42 **CAPTAIN RUIZ:** Sure. With any of these cases, there is so many  
43 tentacles that end up coming out, and what we found is we  
44 started to investigate this, and we would find another name.  
45 Then we would investigate that, and then we would find another  
46 name, and then we would find another boat, and then we would  
47 find a variety of things. Then we would catch a boat, and then  
48 somehow that was entangled into this community, and so it has

1 spiraled in so many different directions.  
2  
3 We're working multiple fronts with that. We're also working  
4 with the Coast Guard investigators, and we're working with  
5 National Marine Fisheries investigators, and, when people do  
6 things wrong, criminals don't just -- They don't enterprise in  
7 just one thing, and so you will find that we've got HPD  
8 involved, because there is a prostitution ring involved, and so  
9 multiple things come of this, but, yes, it just spirals out into  
10 different areas.

11  
12 **MR. ANSON:** Thank you.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Riechers.

15  
16 **MR. RIECHERS:** Fred, I just want to say thank you, and thanks to  
17 your division. Obviously, as you suggested, we work closely  
18 with you all. You guys do a great job out there every day, and  
19 it's a big task, from Brownsville to Port Arthur, and we know  
20 that, but thank you all for what you all do.

21  
22 **CAPTAIN RUIZ:** Thank you, sir.

23  
24 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Walker.

25  
26 **MR. WALKER:** I would just thank you as well. I appreciate all  
27 the hard work you're doing, but I had a question here about this  
28 mile of gillnet. Did you catch the vessel? What size of vessel  
29 might it have been and so forth that launched this mile of  
30 gillnet?

31  
32 **CAPTAIN RUIZ:** These individuals are extremely -- You talk about  
33 maximizing their resources, and it doesn't -- They will go out  
34 and put parts of it together and then string it together, and  
35 they use these lanchas, and they're extremely good at piloting a  
36 boat, for sure, but they are -- They're constantly working.

37  
38 They understand, and it's part of their operation that they  
39 understand, that a certain part of it is going to get  
40 confiscated, and so they're constantly working, and so we're  
41 constantly finding them, and so, for me, I work Fish and Game,  
42 and so, when people set nets, they set them underneath the  
43 water. It's not like we roll up and we see it.

44  
45 They will have rebar, or a weight of some sort, and the net will  
46 be about three feet under the water, and so there's certain  
47 things that we look for that would indicate where that net is,  
48 and, of course, intel, but there is miles and miles of it out

1 there.

2  
3 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. It was an excellent  
4 presentation, and David asked my question. I was wondering  
5 about that mile of net. I am also, since I come from the shrimp  
6 industry, excited to hear that you had no major TED violations.  
7 I am proud of my industry for that, and so I have to give them a  
8 kudos. Thank you for all the outreach and education that goes  
9 into that, because, as you said, it is extremely complicated to  
10 get a TED just right, so that you're in compliance. It's not an  
11 easy task, and so thank you, sir, and we appreciate all your  
12 efforts.

13  
14 If there are no other questions for Captain Ruiz, I will recess  
15 us in just a moment. Before we go to lunch, I would like to  
16 recognize Mr. David Walker, if you will come upfront and see  
17 Doug and I, please, sir.

18  
19 (Whereupon, Mr. Walker was recognized for his service on the  
20 council.)

21  
22 **MR. WALKER:** Thank you. I appreciate it. I appreciate the  
23 opportunity to serve on the council as a member, and I will  
24 still be here. I may be in the audience, but I will still be  
25 around. Thank you.

26  
27 **MR. GREGORY:** Don't forget to tell us which APs you want to be  
28 on, either the ones we've got or the ones we're going to create.

29  
30 **MR. WALKER:** Thank you.

31  
32 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Now we will recess for lunch, and  
33 we are going to return at 1:30, where we will pick up with  
34 Public Comment. Thank you.

35  
36 (Whereupon, the meeting recessed for lunch on August 9, 2017.)

37  
38 - - -

39  
40 August 9, 2017

41  
42 WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

43  
44 - - -

45  
46 The Full Council of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management  
47 Council reconvened at the Marriott Plaza, San Antonio, Texas,  
48 Wednesday afternoon, August 9, 2017, and was called to order by

1 Chairman Leann Bosarge.

2  
3 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Good afternoon, everyone. On our agenda next  
4 is our Public Testimony, and it looks like we do have a lot of  
5 our stakeholders in the room, and I'm glad to see that. First,  
6 we will read our statement, and then we will commence.

7  
8 Public input is a vital part of the council's deliberative  
9 process, and comments, both oral and written, are accepted and  
10 considered by the council throughout the process.

11  
12 The Sustainable Fisheries Act requires that all statements  
13 include a brief description of the background and interest of  
14 the person in the subject of the statement. All written  
15 information shall include a statement of the source and date of  
16 such information.

17  
18 Oral or written communications provided to the council, its  
19 members, or its staff, that relate to matters within the  
20 council's purview are public in nature. Please give any written  
21 comments to the staff, as well as all written comments will also  
22 be posted on the council's website for viewing by council  
23 members and the public, and it will be maintained by the council  
24 as part of the permanent record.

25  
26 Knowingly and willfully submitting false information to the  
27 council is a violation of federal law. If you plan to speak and  
28 haven't already done so, please sign in at the iPad registration  
29 station located at the entrance to the meeting room. We do  
30 accept only one registration per person.

31  
32 Each speaker is allowed three minutes for their testimony.  
33 Please note the timer lights on the podium, as they will be  
34 green for the first two minutes and yellow for the final minute  
35 of testimony. At three minutes, the red light will blink, and a  
36 buzzer may be enacted. Time allowed to dignitaries providing  
37 testimony is extended at the discretion of the Chair. Thank you  
38 all for being here with us this afternoon. First up for public  
39 testimony, we're going to have Ms. Pam Anderson, followed by Mr.  
40 Ken Haddad.

41  
42 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

43  
44 **MS. PAM ANDERSON:** Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Dr. Crabtree,  
45 and council members. I am Pam Anderson, Operations Manager of  
46 Captain Anderson's Marina in Panama City Beach, celebrating our  
47 sixtieth anniversary there on the beach, and I am the fishery  
48 rep on the Bay County Chamber of Commerce.

1  
2 First, I would like to say that we are still opposed to any  
3 catch share program in the recreational sectors. As far as  
4 commenting on the referendum eligibility for Amendment 42, we  
5 are one of the largest operators of headboats in the Gulf, and  
6 we believe each permit holder who has been in the Southeast  
7 Regional Headboat Survey who sells per person, by the head, to  
8 their customers should be included in this referendum's  
9 criteria.

10  
11 Those few who have not reported harvest need to be handled  
12 individually. Did they close their business, was their boat  
13 unable to run, did they have family issues that prevented them  
14 from operating? Large or small operators, they should have a  
15 say in their business's future. This referendum should not be  
16 about winners and losers. For the referendum for Amendment 42,  
17 we prefer Alternative 2, Option b, if we are going to continue  
18 down that road.

19  
20 I take exception to the statement on page 4 though, under  
21 business activity in the referendum, that basically says, if  
22 anglers don't have opportunity to fish, that they will spend  
23 money elsewhere in the community. Some do, but many do not come  
24 to the coast unless their opportunity to fish is available. As  
25 we have experienced short or closed seasons, anglers, regular  
26 customers from all over the U.S., have canceled trips to Panama  
27 City if their access and opportunity to harvest fish has been  
28 closed.

29  
30 Businesses in the Grand Lagoon area, hotels and large and small  
31 restaurants, and especially shops, all feel the negative  
32 economic impacts when opportunities to fish are reduced.

33  
34 There seems to be an anomaly in the private rec harvest for  
35 amberjack on page 5 of the document that we have been looking  
36 at. It is two-and-a-half times more in 2016 than in 2015, but  
37 the charter and headboats are down. Most of our locals will not  
38 even venture out until mid-March, which is about when the season  
39 closed this year. Our charter guys really need a spring and  
40 fall season for amberjack.

41  
42 Customers come to Panama City in the spring specifically to  
43 catch them. Because of the recent regulations, our guys have  
44 worked hard to offer amberjack in the spring and fall, in order  
45 to keep their customer base. You are taking away their ability  
46 to pay their bills.

47  
48 Our seafood market processes the fish for customers. Their

1 staff triples in the spring, as the boats begin to fish. Those  
2 jobs, and others, would be detrimentally affected. Anglers  
3 bring their families down on spring break so the family can take  
4 advantage of other activities if the fishing opportunity is  
5 there.

6  
7 The bottom line is every decision you make, whether MSST, OY, or  
8 just setting seasons in general, it affects tourism in Panama  
9 City one way or the other. It affects our ability to operate  
10 our businesses in a profitable manner, and we want healthy,  
11 robust fisheries. They are the bread-and-butter, but we must  
12 have fair seasons with species available that our customers  
13 want. Thank you.

14  
15 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, Ms. Pam. Next, we have Mr. Ken  
16 Haddad, followed by Mr. Jason Delacruz.

17  
18 **MR. KEN HADDAD:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm Ken Haddad with  
19 the American Sportfishing Association, a trade organization for  
20 the sportfishing world. I am going to speak on the  
21 determination criteria and OY, briefly.

22  
23 I think this is a hidden jewel for this council, and it needs to  
24 be looked at very tightly. I think it's going to give the  
25 ability for the council to have a bit more flexibility than  
26 under what you're currently operating, by giving you a wider  
27 range of standards to work within, and, with the OY, we  
28 encourage OY to be thought about separately from MSY.

29  
30 It is where you're allowed to bring in the social and economic  
31 and ecological thinking into your numbers, and it may not work  
32 for most reef fish, but there are species, such as king  
33 mackerel, that we think something, looking at OY for the  
34 recreational sector at least, should be revisited.

35  
36 With that said, for Action 1, we think Alternative 2 or 3 will  
37 give additional flexibility for Action 2. Alternative 6, which  
38 is the 0.5 number that I know there was some debate about, but  
39 keeping in mind that this is not something you manage to. It's  
40 something you manage away from, and it gives you the ability to  
41 do that, but more flexibility in how you do your management.

42  
43 For Action 3, Alternative 2 or 3. We think MFMT should be  
44 looked at again for just about every species in the reef fish  
45 complex. For Action 4, we think the decision-making tool might  
46 be a good approach to take to look at Alternative 3, and so  
47 that's comments on that.

48

1 The other is on state management. I think the discussion around  
2 allocation, of course, is the hairiest part of all of this, and  
3 I am not sure how the council process can work in this manner,  
4 but I would like to see the state folks locked in a room for as  
5 long as it takes to come up with an allocation across each  
6 state. I think they can figure it out, if given the right  
7 forum, even if it's outside of the council meeting.

8  
9 I know, the last time they attempted to do that, they got  
10 labeled as meeting behind closed doors and so forth, and so  
11 hopefully the council can give the states an opening on how to  
12 best work on their allocation. Thank you.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Jason  
15 Delacruz, followed by Mr. Steve Tomeny.

16  
17 **MR. JASON DELACRUZ:** Good afternoon. Thank you for this  
18 opportunity. First, before I forget, I want to take the  
19 opportunity to thank our departing council members. Pam, one,  
20 for being an excellent council member. She would reach out to  
21 me when it was an issue that she thought was important to me,  
22 and she always looked for that, and that's just the type of  
23 council member that we should have, and we're going to miss you.  
24 I am very sorry to see you go.

25  
26 David is a true commercial fisherman on this council, and I  
27 think that's something that we always need, and hopefully we can  
28 get that addressed one day. We're going to miss you  
29 desperately, man, and I'm sorry to see you leave.

30  
31 I wanted to start off today with something just kind of simple.  
32 I am going to rattle off three or four names, and you guys  
33 probably don't know who they are, but I think it's useful. The  
34 Calvert Foundation, the Forge Foundation, the Phil Stephens  
35 Foundation, the Fink Family Foundation, and the Woodcock  
36 Foundation. These people actually have the same interest that  
37 you have, believe it or not.

38  
39 They are interested in the next generation of fishermen and  
40 trying to help them. They are people that us, as a quota bank,  
41 have identified as people that can help transition some of our  
42 retiring fishermen and buy from them, and they want to help  
43 finance that. They are what they call impact investing groups,  
44 and so they are willing to finance, at a very low interest rate,  
45 knowing that the return is going to be minimal, but they can do  
46 good with it and put the quota and ownership of quota in young  
47 fishermen's hands.

48

1 Unfortunately, they are very successful in -- Well, fortunately,  
2 they are successful in the scallop fishery in New England, but  
3 they won't touch us, because of you guys, I'm sorry to say,  
4 because of the instability that you give to our IFQ. We have  
5 talked to these people, and they're interested, but they won't  
6 do it, because there is no certainty in what we do.

7  
8 I think that's really important, as we talk about 30B and what  
9 we're going to do with 36B, in undermining the way this economic  
10 system works. I don't really want to pound on this, but I think  
11 it's important that you guys heard those names and kind of  
12 understand that, because we've started this process in our quota  
13 bank and really put energy in. Even last year, when we had Paul  
14 Parker, who has helped us do that, who has these relationships,  
15 and he came and gave a presentation to you, and so we are  
16 trying, as an industry, to solve this problem, and please don't  
17 make it more complicated and far less effective.

18  
19 Then one quick, short, personal note to me, and I would really  
20 like to see a commercial amberjack 500-pound trip limit, and, at  
21 about 75 percent of the catch, drop to 250. The guys that I do  
22 have, and myself personally, when I get to go spearfishing these  
23 days, it's just those fish are never there, and my longline  
24 boats are consistently throwing 150 or 200 pounds a trip back  
25 for no reason. If we lowered the trip limit and just got it  
26 down to where we can keep that season open longer, it would make  
27 better sense. Thank you.

28  
29 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Steve  
30 Tomeny, followed by Mr. Jim Zurbrick.

31  
32 **MR. STEVE TOMENY:** Good afternoon. My name is Steve Tomeny. I  
33 operate two charter/headboats, private charter boats, out of  
34 Port Fourchon, Louisiana. We also commercial fish, and I'm an  
35 IFQ shareholder. I also wanted to thank David and Pam for your  
36 time and efforts. It's been good to have you on the council.

37  
38 I was just briefly going to hit a couple of things. The  
39 amberjack, we did not land one at all recreationally this year  
40 on our boats. By the time we started our charter season, the  
41 quota had been caught, and I mentioned this last time I was at  
42 one of the meetings, that I didn't think we would, but we did  
43 not catch one. We caught some, but we just couldn't bring them  
44 in.

45  
46 I am hoping that we can move away from this January 1 season.  
47 It has turned into a quick derby, and those of us that don't  
48 particularly want to fight the January weather off of Louisiana



1 would like to see them later in the year.  
2  
3 I also believe -- I personally have been okay with the spring  
4 openings. It has suited my needs more, but, every time we have  
5 these discussions, it was always that they spawn in March,  
6 April, and May, and we were closing the commercial season then.  
7 If this is what it's got to take to rebuild these fish, let's  
8 close them when they're spawning, and let's open it up after red  
9 snapper. I don't think we're going to have a very long season  
10 anyway, but let's not have this January derby, where the western  
11 Gulf doesn't get to have any fish.  
12  
13 I am also a very strong advocate for catch share programs, and  
14 this is a prime example of an allocation that could be passed on  
15 to the individual fishermen, and we wouldn't have this race to  
16 catch them.  
17  
18 Saying that, I also would like to see the electronic logbooks  
19 that's been passed by this council proceed as quickly as we can  
20 get that on the water. I think it's really important to have  
21 this program implemented as quick as we can and get good data,  
22 better data, quicker, more timely. It's a logical thing to do,  
23 and I know it's in the works, but let's just do everything we  
24 can to keep it moving.  
25  
26 The 36B Amendment that Jason was just talking about, there's a  
27 lot of tough issues in there, and some of them don't seem like  
28 big problems to me. I think an advisory panel down the line  
29 could straighten out some of that and come back to the council  
30 with some recommendations. Some of it is little thorny things  
31 that just don't have a good answer, and let the guys that are in  
32 the business work it out and we'll get back to it, and so thank  
33 you, and I will see you next time.  
34  
35 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Jim  
36 Zurbrick, followed by Chad Haggert.  
37  
38 **MR. JIM ZURBRICK:** Thank you, council, for allowing me to be  
39 here today. I'm Jim Zurbrick from Steinhatchee, Florida. I'm  
40 an active reef fisherman, and I am one of the directors of Fish  
41 for America USA, and, like everybody is chiming in, we have two  
42 council members that did a great job, Pam and David. They've  
43 done a great job. Sitting back here, they didn't draw a lot of  
44 lines in the sand. I think a lot of folks here could probably  
45 learn from the way they conducted their business while they were  
46 council members.  
47  
48 I want to talk about 36B and my story, my wife, Patty, and my

1 story, who many of you have met my wife, Patty, and I. She  
2 fishes with me for about half the year, and thank God for those  
3 guys that own snapper shares that lease them. If I didn't have  
4 those relationships with those people to lease those snappers,  
5 and you can look at my records. If you're able to open them up  
6 and look at my accounts, I lease around 25,000 pounds of  
7 snapper, and not to resell for profit to somebody else, but  
8 those are fish that I catch. I am glad to have them. I am  
9 making money.

10  
11 If you were to restrict leasing to where somebody could not  
12 lease me those snappers, for one thing, what do I do about all  
13 of those snappers that I am catching? The other thing is you're  
14 taking -- My business plan doesn't work. I count on them.  
15 Grouper fishing has -- It's got some problems. I think anyone  
16 who has been paying attention realizes that, and snapper has  
17 filled a void for the Zurbrick's.

18  
19 Also, this referendum, I don't know what everybody is so scared  
20 about as far as this. All it is is it's one aspect. It's  
21 moving something forward. When you're sitting back in this  
22 audience and you see how we can't move anything forward, even a  
23 little incremental part of 41 and 42, moving it forward, is  
24 essential for public opinion, for one thing. It makes people  
25 believe in the process that something gets moved forward, and so  
26 I would ask that you would go forward.

27  
28 The quota bank, I lease snapper, and so I don't need the quota  
29 bank. I am fortunate, but, boy, they do a great job. I know  
30 three or four people who I have sent to them, and they cover  
31 their dead discards. It's not a targeted quota bank, where you  
32 get snapper so you can go out and target them, but they are for  
33 the dead discards, the ones that you can net back up and put on  
34 the boat.

35  
36 Unlike in the recreational fishery, where you can't even have  
37 them, but, at least in the commercial fishery, we have made an  
38 allotment, so that we can pick up those dead ones if you have  
39 the quota. It was a great job, and, when they formulated the  
40 IFQ, it was a very important part. The leasing was the most  
41 important part of our IFQ, actually.

42  
43 Amberjack, let's not fool ourselves. Commercially, none of what  
44 you were talking about the other day had anything to do with  
45 commercial amberjack except for raising or lowering the quota.  
46 Let's go to a 500-pound trip limit. It is a bycatch fishery for  
47 90 percent of everybody who has a reef permit in the Gulf.  
48 There are a few people, but I have never seen somebody come up

1 here who is an amberjack fisherman and argue about that trip  
2 limit, where we went from anything to 2,000 to 1,500.

3  
4 I would say let's go to 500 and stretch this out so restaurants  
5 and fishermen, who might kill an amberjack while they're trying  
6 to fish for other things, can retain them. That's the best  
7 thing for the resource. Lastly, if I might --

8  
9 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Jim, are you just about done?

10  
11 **MR. ZURBRICK:** Yes, and I just want to mention this. Regional  
12 management. You know how good things always rear their head  
13 again? Thank God that regional management is now coming up  
14 again, and thank you.

15  
16 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. We have a question from Mr.  
17 Walker.

18  
19 **MR. WALKER:** Thank you, Jim, for coming to the meeting. I was  
20 just going to ask you -- You mentioned the 500-pound trip limit  
21 of amberjack. How did this year's amberjack season and other  
22 years, with the higher trip limit, how would a 500-pound trip  
23 limit -- What would it mean to your business?

24  
25 **MR. ZURBRICK:** Well, I have to discard every -- After January or  
26 February, those are rough months to go fishing. You know, a lot  
27 of people at the dock, but, when we finally get to fish for  
28 amberjack again in June, maybe there is something left and maybe  
29 there isn't.

30  
31 This year, there were some weeks left, and it would impact me to  
32 where I think, personally, with a 500-pound, and it's only my  
33 observation, having been in the business for almost thirty  
34 years, that we could probably go until October, where  
35 restaurants could trickle in a supply of amberjack, because  
36 there are many restaurants that serve amberjack, but the supply  
37 isn't there, and so let's best utilize that, plus the dead  
38 discards. It's terrible to be snapper fishing and get an  
39 amberjack, and mostly they have a great ability to live, because  
40 most of them are on the surface if they grab bait, but at least  
41 I'm able to harvest them and do something with the resource.

42  
43 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Chad  
44 Haggert, followed by Mr. Clarence Seymour.

45  
46 **MR. CHAD HAGGERT:** Good afternoon, council members. I'm Chad  
47 Haggert, owner and operator and general manager of our family  
48 fishing business headboats, the Double Eagle Fishing Fleet, in

1 Clearwater, Florida.

2  
3 I am here mainly to speak on Amendments 41 and 42. Some of you  
4 here on the council know me. I haven't been to a lot of  
5 meetings in the last couple of years, and so some of you might  
6 not be familiar, and so I will give you a little background on  
7 myself.

8  
9 I took over the family headboat business in June of 2008. I  
10 wanted to become more involved with the process of managing the  
11 fishery, and I thought I had some good ideas, and I later found  
12 that there were several stakeholders in the industry that had  
13 similar or even better ideas than what I was thinking. I  
14 started attending these meetings in January of 2009, and I  
15 worked diligently with fellow charter and headboat captains and  
16 owners. We were trying to think outside the box and come up  
17 with ideas for a modern way to manage this shrinking fishery.

18  
19 The council process was a bit overwhelming at first, but I have  
20 met a lot of great people during these years that are very  
21 passionate about this industry, me being one of them. We  
22 successfully got the headboat EFP to pass the council process, a  
23 very successful program. During the EFP, we took less fish than  
24 what we could have caught during the recreational season, and we  
25 stretched them out and used them throughout the year, at  
26 opportune times for our customers and our businesses.

27  
28 This year, I harvested almost 2,000 red snapper. During the  
29 EFP, I had less than 800 for those two years, and I made that  
30 work and was very successful with it. The EFP provided  
31 overwhelming data that this type of management could not only be  
32 successful for our businesses, but also to accomplish what I  
33 believe the Magnuson Act requires and what I feel that this  
34 council is striving for, but now here we are postponing it again  
35 and kicking the can down the road.

36  
37 It seems to me that there is an overwhelming sense that we need  
38 to wait for new council members. How many council members have  
39 we had during this eight-year process that we've been working on  
40 this, and are the next council appointees supposed to provide a  
41 more friendly decision for those that are opposed to these  
42 amendments? I am not sure of the answer to that.

43  
44 With Amendment 42, we are offering a solution to have another  
45 fraction of fishery participants be 100 percent accountable and,  
46 therefore, easier to manage. You have that ability with the  
47 commercial sector, and let's get the headboats and charter boats  
48 into this category.

1  
2 The private recs need a better way to manage theirs and have  
3 more access, and I don't know what the solutions are to provide  
4 this, but at least there seems to be some vigorous discussion on  
5 possibilities. Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing to have 100  
6 percent of all people fishing in this industry or in this  
7 fishery and be 100 percent accountable and be able to use the  
8 best science and data to manage our stocks instead of the best  
9 available that we're using right now?

10  
11 Maybe these amendments wouldn't pass a referendum vote, and  
12 maybe they will. Either way, at least we know where we stand  
13 and we can move forward with perfecting these amendments or  
14 start from scratch yet again.

15  
16 Your issues with amberjack going on now could be solved with a  
17 quota-based fishery. Boats that need them in the spring can  
18 catch them in the spring, and others that want them in the fall  
19 can have them, and so on with every other species. For example,  
20 I don't need to have red snapper in June to make my business  
21 work. During the EFP, I used them in May, September, and  
22 October.

23  
24 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Haggert, are you just about done?

25  
26 **MR. HAGGERT:** I am just about done. Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

27  
28 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir.

29  
30 **MR. HAGGERT:** I know the council had no part in the decision on  
31 this year's extended season, but the concerns that this raises  
32 are staggering. A short or possible no season next year, after  
33 the charter/for-hire sector came in under quota three years in a  
34 row, is unacceptable. Please move forward with Amendments 41  
35 and 42 and a much better way to manage an already accountable  
36 industry. Thank you.

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Clarence  
39 Seymour, followed by Mr. Tom Hilton.

40  
41 **MR. CLARENCE SEYMOUR:** Hello. I'm Clarence Seymour from Biloxi,  
42 Mississippi. I own the Charter Boat S Y L, and I'm here to  
43 basically represent some folks that asked me to come to applaud  
44 the council's decision on Amendment 40, back a couple of years  
45 ago. It was for a climb of -- We're probably up about 100  
46 percent, and we're adding more passenger rates, and the catch  
47 rate is still decently on our efficiency of the way we're  
48 catching red snapper in Mississippi.

1  
2 Last year's numbers, with Mississippi's Tails and Scales, gave  
3 me an estimate of somewhere around 8,400 pounds for the for-hire  
4 federally-permitted industry, and so, being that said, because I  
5 had discussions with some folks about the ACL at 70 percent, and  
6 8,400 for for-hire, with sector separation, is fairly low  
7 numbers, which would give everybody -- There is still 10 percent  
8 of the fish on the table, and I guarantee you that we're leaving  
9 at least 15 or 20 percent on the table in Mississippi, because  
10 of the way our effort goes.

11  
12 We just don't have that much effort with twenty-eight federally-  
13 permitted charter boats in Mississippi, and so it takes a lot of  
14 -- I understand the different regions have more effort than we  
15 do, but it's still a special place.

16  
17 One thing about sector separation is we went through Katrina and  
18 an oil spill, and so you go to -- They ask you how were you  
19 economically damaged like that, and we've got you in the same  
20 category as a beach vendor. Well, sector separation is the same  
21 thing. We're not beach vendors. We take passengers for-hire,  
22 like taxi cabs, to the federal fishery.

23  
24 We always get tangled up in some other category that's not  
25 necessary, and our passengers is the ones that's taking the  
26 brunt of not having any type of sector separation, and so they  
27 asked me to applaud the council for that decision a couple of  
28 years ago.

29  
30 The other thing is 30B still affects us in Mississippi with the  
31 special season. I have guys that called us on Sunday, two weeks  
32 ago, and said, hey, you got any numbers for Fish Haven 13.  
33 Well, it's past the nine-mile boundary. They're not doing  
34 right. Plus, they're supposed to be within the nine-mile  
35 boundary as a state guide, and so there's a lot of issues going  
36 on right now with state guides and federal permits in our state,  
37 and we have a small area to fish, and so it's not really like  
38 we've got an oil rigs left, because they've yanked half of them  
39 up, and so the fish have got to be somewhat jurisdictioned by  
40 the state guides somehow or another, and I hope the folks in our  
41 state can handle that, but that's about all I've got. Thank  
42 you, all.

43  
44 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Tom  
45 Hilton, followed by Mr. Steven Briggs.

46  
47 **MR. TOM HILTON:** Hi, council. I'm Tom Hilton, and I'm a private  
48 rec, and I'm here to speak for myself and, more importantly, my

1 children and their fishing future, which I see at stake here  
2 with the proliferation of catch shares.

3  
4 I am also on the board of a new 501(c)(3) called  
5 freedomtofish.org, and we're here to help with the good fight on  
6 getting better access for all recreational fishermen, regardless  
7 of what platform that they're fishing on.

8  
9 I would like to thank Dr. Crabtree and this council on the  
10 decision to defer any vote on Amendment 41 and 42 until the next  
11 council meeting in Biloxi. It exposes the intent to push this  
12 vote through at this meeting by certain interests, even though  
13 it has not been properly vetted or reviewed.

14  
15 I would recommend, at the next council, to allow Amendments 41  
16 and 42 to die, as pushing for further privatization of our fish  
17 through IFQs and PFQs is unacceptable. You do not have the  
18 power to levy ownership to any individual or corporation of what  
19 we all own. Those fish are our public trust resources, and you  
20 simply do not have the power to give that away.

21  
22 I would also like to know why this council has decided not to  
23 levy royalties on the IFQ shareholders when the Magnuson clearly  
24 states that that's allowed to happen. Why are you allowing  
25 hundreds of millions of dollars to be diverted away from the  
26 nation's treasury and/or our fisheries and left in private bank  
27 accounts? I want an answer to this very simple question.

28  
29 I would like to see Amendment 30B rescinded, as well as allowing  
30 Amendment 40 to sunset later this year, if possible. There is  
31 no excuse for implementing rules that unfairly discriminate  
32 against recreational anglers based on arbitrary parameters such  
33 as where their feet are standing upon. A recreational angler is  
34 a recreational angler, regardless if he's standing on a pier or  
35 on a jetty or on his own boat or on a charter boat. Enough is  
36 enough. Thank you for your time.

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Steven  
39 Briggs, followed by Mr. Mike Osgood.

40  
41 **MR. STEVEN BRIGGS:** Good afternoon, council. My name is Steven  
42 Briggs, and I too am a private recreational fisherman. I am new  
43 to the council. This is my first trip here, and I represent a  
44 lot of private recreational fishermen who do not have the time  
45 or the ability to come to these council meetings. They have  
46 work commitments and jobs. They are not full-time fishermen.  
47 They are not on a fluid employment base. Many of them have day  
48 jobs and they can't go out, and so, again, I represent myself,

1 but I also feel like I represent those folks as well.  
2  
3 I would like to reiterate what Mr. Hilton said in supporting the  
4 decision to defer Amendments 41 and 42 to the next council  
5 meeting. Let the new council shape take place and get a fair  
6 look at that, to benefit the recreational fishermen.  
7  
8 I would also recommend, like Mr. Hilton did, to allow those  
9 amendments to die in the next council meeting, and so I'm happy  
10 that we are taking the step to move those to the next meeting,  
11 but I would also like to see those die.  
12  
13 Also, I just want to take and elaborate a little bit more from  
14 my perspective. I'm a fisherman, and I have a full-time job. I  
15 am not in the full-time industry of fishing. I fish because  
16 it's a passion of mine, since I was a young child, and I suspect  
17 many people here in this room share that same sentiment.  
18  
19 I do not fish for economic gain or economic value. I never,  
20 ever fish based on poundage, and, to me, a recreational fishery  
21 should be managed in that manner. We are not an economic  
22 business, and, therefore, one of the things that I really am  
23 strongly passionate about is the purpose of the IFQ applying to  
24 the commercial fishery and not the recreational fishery.  
25  
26 I also agree that the recreational fishermen are recreational  
27 fishermen regardless of what platform they're on. Whether I go  
28 with friends on mine on their charter boat or whether I'm on my  
29 own private boat, I'm a recreational fisherman, and so I just  
30 want to reiterate also that the enjoyment of those fish that are  
31 out there. They belong to all of us. They do not belong to  
32 special interests, and they do not belong to individuals who  
33 were gifted access to a fishery and were gifted an economic  
34 benefit to their personal gain.  
35  
36 Just like Theodore Roosevelt put up on the entrance to  
37 Yellowstone -- If you have ever been to the Yellowstone  
38 entrance, he has a big marquee right there that says for the  
39 benefit and enjoyment of the people. It's not for the benefit  
40 and enjoyment of special interests or folks who are gifted  
41 access. It would be no different, from my perspective, that  
42 someone is given the access to Yellowstone and then turn around  
43 and sell it back to me, or, worse yet, prohibit me from entering  
44 it because that's their park and not mine.  
45  
46 With that being said, again, I want to thank the council for  
47 this time. I am really looking forward to changes in the  
48 recreational fisheries, and let's get this fixed, and so thank



1 you again for your time.

2  
3 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Mike  
4 Osgood, followed by Mr. John Graham.

5  
6 **MR. MIKE OSGOOD:** Hi. I'm Mike Osgood, and I'm a recreational  
7 fisherman. I've been fishing the Gulf for about thirty years.  
8 I have no commercial interest, and I'm just a guy that likes to  
9 fish.

10  
11 I would also like to recommend that the council allow the 41 and  
12 42 amendments to die. Further privatization of our fish is not  
13 the answer. My dad is a retired Gulf shrimper, and he would  
14 love the opportunity to sit at home and collect royalties or  
15 collect basically a free gift of a quota from the government to  
16 supplement his retirement income, but he didn't have that  
17 chance. I guess he should have took up snapper fishing.

18  
19 To me, the data collection is at the heart of a lot of this. I  
20 mean, I have been fishing for thirty years, and I have never  
21 been surveyed, not one time, and I think we need to take another  
22 look at how the recreational data is collected and maybe  
23 consider some other alternatives, like a snapper stamp, with a  
24 meaningful fee attached that can help fund further data  
25 collection efforts, maybe mandatory iSnapper accountability,  
26 something like that system.

27  
28 To me, the poundage quotas that are expressed as being caught on  
29 the recreational side are unrealistic. We got three days this  
30 year, and thankfully that was expanded to thirty-nine. I still  
31 think that's inequitable. I mean, there's a lot of days that we  
32 can't fish, guys in small boats. I mean, we just -- There's  
33 been a couple of days this year that -- I've actually only gone  
34 out a handful of days.

35  
36 There has been a couple of days that I shouldn't have been out  
37 there. I'm in a fairly small boat, and I think limiting the  
38 number of days in this manner, restricting the number of days,  
39 puts a lot of recreational fishermen in harm's way.

40  
41 Just looking at some of the social media out there, there's been  
42 a lot of recreational guys that have lost their boats out there  
43 by just being out there in weather they shouldn't have, but,  
44 just because they feel pushed that, if I'm going to fish for  
45 snapper, this is when I can go, and so, again, I would also like  
46 to see 30B rescinded and allow 40 to sunset as well.

47  
48 One other thing that you may want to consider would be managing

1 the Gulf Coast by different ecosystems. To me, Texas fishermen  
2 shouldn't be held accountable for what's going on in Florida and  
3 vice versa. It's a different ecosystem and different fish and  
4 different environments, and you may want to look at that. Thank  
5 you for your time.

6  
7 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. We have one question for  
8 you, Mr. Mike. Mr. Swindell right here has a question for you.

9  
10 **MR. SWINDELL:** Mike, I assume you own your own boat. Is that  
11 correct?

12  
13 **MR. OSGOOD:** Yes, sir.

14  
15 **MR. SWINDELL:** Would you have any objection, as a recreational  
16 fisherman, to be the reporting person for what is caught with  
17 other fishermen on your boat? How many people do you take out  
18 with you at a time?

19  
20 **MR. OSGOOD:** Two or three people at a time.

21  
22 **MR. SWINDELL:** Would you have any objection to you being the  
23 responsible person to report on what you've caught, what the  
24 boat caught, rather than just the individual fishermen having to  
25 be surveyed?

26  
27 **MR. OSGOOD:** I would absolutely enjoy that. Yes, I would be  
28 happy to do that. Absolutely.

29  
30 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Next, we have Mr. John Graham, followed by  
31 Captain Dylan Hubbard. Mr. John? All right. We will circle  
32 back around to you at the end, sir, in case he is out of the  
33 room. Next, we will have Captain Dylan Hubbard, followed by  
34 Conner Cochrane.

35  
36 **MR. DYLAN HUBBARD:** All right. My name is Captain Dylan  
37 Hubbard, and I'm the vice president and co-owner of Hubbard's  
38 Marina, and also the offshore director for the Florida Guides  
39 Association.

40  
41 My family business, Hubbard's Marina, has been fishing local  
42 waters in central west Florida for nearly ninety years and four  
43 generations. Today, we operate six federally-permitted vessels  
44 made up of two six-pack charter boats, two multi-passenger U.S.  
45 Coast Guard-inspected charter vessels, and then two fifty-plus-  
46 passenger headboats, which are both in the headboat survey  
47 process.

48

1 On top of these permits, I am also here today to represent the  
2 Florida Guides Association as their offshore director. At the  
3 Florida Guides Association, we have over 250 guide members, and  
4 a third of those hold federal permits. Also, the FGA is the  
5 largest organization inside NACO, or the National Association of  
6 Charterboat Operators, and one of our members is the president  
7 of that organization. Finally, I am also a CCA life member, and  
8 I'm active in the Pinellas County, Florida chapter.

9  
10 As far as the final action for the framework for the amberjack  
11 ACL and management measures, we would have liked to see the  
12 council wait on amberjack final action until the next meeting in  
13 Biloxi. That is way more centrally located and easily reached  
14 by more anglers and more stakeholders, while allowing new  
15 members to weigh in, since this isn't too much of a rushed  
16 issue.

17  
18 However, we are happy to see the ACL set to the ABC recommended  
19 by the Scientific and Statistical Committee. The season  
20 discussion for amberjack was a little worrisome, however. We  
21 feel a spring season would highly be recommended and appreciated  
22 and greatly needed. Many of the Gulf of Mexico anglers and  
23 traveling anglers enjoy visiting the Gulf of Mexico for  
24 amberjack fishing in the spring, and they have been made used to  
25 an amberjack fishery in the spring.

26  
27 We feel, at the very least, a May season would be enough to ease  
28 this expectation, but, even better, April and May, or, at the  
29 worst, maybe mid-April through May. That would allow a short  
30 spring season while still allowing for a fall season that the  
31 western Gulf is pushing for.

32  
33 The decision tool being used to make these season decisions is  
34 not taking into account the changes made to the ACL at this  
35 meeting. I would urge the council to direct staff to make  
36 changes to the decision tool before the October meeting. This  
37 would allow us to use a more complete and effective tool to make  
38 a decision, come the October meeting in Biloxi.

39  
40 Also, in summary, the most important comment is that the spring  
41 season is mandatory, even if it ends up to be a brief thirty,  
42 forty, or fifty-day season in the spring, behind the spring  
43 spawning season. We understand the discussion and rationale for  
44 not having any open season in the spring, since it has to do  
45 with the alleged spawning season.

46  
47 As we well know, these months were established as a closure for  
48 the commercial sector many years ago. Apparently there has been

1 little, if any, biomass benefit, due to the commercial closure  
2 in the spring, around the spawn, since it's obviously not  
3 reflected in the stock assessments.

4  
5 To project that it will make any difference closing the  
6 recreational season over this time is much like how, two years  
7 ago, moving to a thirty-four-inch minimum size limit would  
8 ensure a year-round fishing season. We all know how that worked  
9 out.

10  
11 Once again, the commercial fishery is nothing similar to the  
12 recreational fishery, and it should never be managed as such.  
13 Finally, the most important and disturbing thing to address,  
14 before season decisions are made, is to reevaluate the spike in  
15 the MRIP survey in the 2016 landings.

16  
17 A 135 percent spike in private recreational landings is  
18 definitely an anomaly to me. Being a simple fisherman and not a  
19 scientist, that spiked my eyebrows, and it definitely seems like  
20 a problem, and it needs to be addressed, especially before more  
21 decisions are made.

22  
23 As far as Amendment 41 and 42, we still hold to the fact that we  
24 would demand not to see this type of allocation-based management  
25 in the for-hire sector in any way. It is overwhelmingly opposed  
26 by the nearly eighty federal permits I am here to represent, as  
27 we have stated in previous public comment.

28  
29 We really need updated data for the for-hire and private rec  
30 sector, charter/for-hire sector. We feel we could easily  
31 improve data collection in the charter/for-hire and private  
32 recreational sector by providing a Gulf of Mexico-wide accepted  
33 ELB app without VMS. That would make it possibly for all reef  
34 fish anglers patronizing the Gulf of Mexico to report their  
35 catch timely and accurately, and they would be held accountable  
36 by dockside intercepts.

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Captain Dylan, are you just about done?

39  
40 **MR. HUBBARD:** Yes, just about.

41  
42 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir.

43  
44 **MR. HUBBARD:** MRIP phone surveys are outdated, and the Senate  
45 has mandated it to be updated. It is time to do away with these  
46 phone surveys. No one even has a home phone anymore. I don't,  
47 and I haven't for many years. In 2017, we need to utilize the  
48 technology in our pockets and collect real-time, accountable

1 data, through something like the iSnapper app.

2  
3 The IFQ and PFQ systems would be irresponsible and impossible to  
4 manage or do with in our companies or across the Gulf as a for-  
5 hire sector. We need longer seasons, by better data, and a  
6 lower buffer thanks to that better data, and I will wrap up  
7 there, even though I've got more to say.

8  
9 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. We appreciate it. Thank  
10 you.

11  
12 **MR. HUBBARD:** Thank you, council.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Next, we have Mr. Conner  
15 Cochrane, followed by Mr. Bubba Cochrane. We are pretty light  
16 on our attendance today; hence, the reason I am letting you run  
17 over just a hair, but just try not to take advantage of me,  
18 okay? When I ask you if you're almost done, try your best to  
19 wrap it up, but I want to give you as much time as I can,  
20 because I know you all come from a long, long way away, and  
21 three minutes is awful tough when you travel five states over,  
22 and so thanks.

23  
24 **MR. CONNER COCHRANE:** Good afternoon, council members. I am  
25 Conner Cochrane, and I'm thirteen years old, from Galveston,  
26 Texas. My dad is a commercial red snapper fisherman, and I  
27 don't only think of the commercial red snapper industry as a  
28 great job, but I think of it as a way of life, and I would love  
29 to see the industry keep going in a great way, so I can do it  
30 when I'm older. Getting to go to council meetings like this and  
31 go with my dad, it means the world to me to get to learn about  
32 this stuff and be involved in an industry that's pretty much my  
33 dream job.

34  
35 I would love to see the commercial red snapper industry keep  
36 going in a good way, so that one day I can follow in my father's  
37 footsteps and be a successful commercial fisherman just like  
38 him. Thank you for your time, council members.

39  
40 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Bubba  
41 Cochrane, followed by Mr. Steven Rash.

42  
43 **MR. BUBBA COCHRANE:** Thank you, council. I'm Bubba Cochrane  
44 from Galveston, Texas, commercial fisherman, and also charter  
45 boat fisherman. I believe the current IFQ is working fine. It  
46 seems that the leasing component is a big problem. I'm not sure  
47 why that is, but the ability for fishermen to lease snapper from  
48 shareholders was a key flexibility component of the IFQ

1 management system from the beginning.  
2  
3 The fishermen I know have already started businesses based on  
4 leasing quota. To restrict or eliminate that ability will put  
5 these fishermen out of business. I don't lease out any of my  
6 quota. I catch it all on my boat, and I had planned on my son  
7 taking my place when I retire, as he just said.  
8  
9 The next generation of fishermen need to know that there is  
10 stability in the red snapper IFQ. The consistent threat of  
11 reallocation or getting rid of the IFQ system altogether makes  
12 it hard for new entrants to find ways to get loans to buy their  
13 own shares. I hope this council keeps this in mind when moving  
14 forward with Amendment 36B.  
15  
16 On Amendments 41 and 42, I hope the council will continue to  
17 work out details and let the charter/for-hire guys, through  
18 referendum, vote for what is best for their businesses. I also  
19 hope the council acts sooner than later on assessing the effects  
20 of the extended recreational season on the next stock  
21 assessment. Thank you.  
22  
23 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Steven  
24 Rash, followed by Mr. David Krebs.  
25  
26 **MR. STEVEN RASH:** Hello. My name is Steven Rash, and I own  
27 Water Street Seafood in Apalachicola, Florida. I've been there  
28 for over thirty-four years in the commercial fishing and  
29 processing business. I am a member and director of Southeastern  
30 Fisheries, and I'm a member of GSI.  
31  
32 Commercial fishing is a very difficult, risky business, and, as  
33 staff said yesterday, it's the second-most dangerous occupation  
34 in this country. In spite of these adversities, we provide our  
35 nation with a very valuable food source.  
36  
37 We do harvest a public resource, but that's not uncommon.  
38 People harvest mining and timber and oil. The oil industry --  
39 The co-founder of CCA made billions of dollars harvesting oil  
40 out of public lands in the Gulf of Mexico, and so it's not  
41 unusual for people to do that. Who is going to provide the  
42 seafood if we don't have fishermen to catch it?  
43  
44 Effort is actually declining in the commercial sector. We have  
45 been fishing responsibly and sustainably for years. The IFQ  
46 program is working. Please don't mess with the IFQ program.  
47 It's working. Commercial fishermen adapt to all kinds of  
48 situations. Unfortunately, extreme pressure from the

1 recreational sector has kind of paralyzed this council to  
2 develop accountability measures and fishery management plans  
3 that have to do with the recreational sector.

4  
5 I am not against recreational fishing at all. I support  
6 recreational fishing. I think recreational fishermen should be  
7 able to catch more fish than what they're allowed to catch now,  
8 but I do think that the management practices that we had in  
9 place should have been upheld. The federal government should  
10 preempt the state, and the federal government should manage the  
11 stock.

12  
13 Standard 3 of the Magnuson-Stevens requires that stocks be  
14 managed over their entire range, and scientists had science, of  
15 the Southeast Science Center, among others, state that they  
16 can't manage snapper based on state boundaries.

17  
18 One of the biggest problems in the sector is recreational  
19 discard mortality. The recreational discard mortality is  
20 probably larger than the entire TAC is. We are probably killing  
21 more fish than what are being brought to the dock. It's human  
22 nature. There are so many fish out there, and they're so quick  
23 to catch and easy to catch. The little ones bite first, and the  
24 high-grading is the norm. It's not the exception.

25  
26 I hear stories of people catching twenty-five fish and throwing  
27 twenty-five fish back to keep one fish. A guy from Texas just  
28 told me the same thing here just a few minutes ago, and so,  
29 unless this council is ready to address that issue -- It needs  
30 to address it at the federal level and address it Gulf-wide, and  
31 that's the biggest issue there is, and so there is a lot of  
32 things that we can do to address recreational discards.

33  
34 We have a quota system based on pounds, but the recreational  
35 keep two fish, and so they want to keep the two biggest fish.  
36 Why not let them keep a certain amount of fish, whether they're  
37 little or big, and you could do it by measurement, by poundage.  
38 Three five-pound fish is as good as one fifteen-pound fish, if  
39 you're taking some home to eat, and so there's a lot of actions  
40 that can be taken that in the real world that work that the  
41 people that have experience, that know fishing and know  
42 fisheries, can help out with, and so, with that, I will wrap it  
43 up. Thank you.

44  
45 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. I think we have a question  
46 for you from Mr. Walker.

47  
48 **MR. WALKER:** Thank you, Steve, for coming and being part of the

1 public process.

2

3 **MR. RASH:** Thank you.

4

5 **MR. WALKER:** I've seen your trucks all over Alabama and the  
6 Panhandle, and I appreciate you getting seafood out to folks.

7

8 **MR. RASH:** Thank you.

9

10 **MR. WALKER:** Just kind of one question is, in the IFQ, how is  
11 that working in your area for discards?

12

13 **MR. RASH:** Luckily, the industry works together. I lease a lot  
14 of IFQ red snapper from David Krebs, who has a lot, and he  
15 leases those to me below market value so the boats that fish in  
16 my area that don't have red snapper can -- I can, in turn, lease  
17 them to my boats. I don't make any money on them. I don't mark  
18 them up, but it's so that they can keep red snapper and they're  
19 not discarding red snapper.

20

21 I do the same thing to him with grouper, because he doesn't have  
22 much grouper, and I have grouper, and so the industry works it  
23 out. We can solve some problems, and we don't want to waste  
24 fish, and we don't want to discard fish, and so we all work  
25 together on that.

26

27 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. David  
28 Krebs, followed by Mr. Russell Underwood.

29

30 **MR. DAVID KREBS:** Good afternoon, council. David Krebs, owner  
31 of Ariel Seafoods in Destin, Florida and Sebastian, Florida. I  
32 am buying seafood from Daytona all the way around to Louisiana.  
33 Sitting here yesterday and listening to the discussions about  
34 Amendment 36B, modifications to the IFQ, the fact that the  
35 discussion was led at the council level by Mr. Anson of Alabama,  
36 a recreational representative, and Mr. Riechers from Texas, a  
37 recreational representative, and some chiming in by other  
38 recreational representatives, I find appalling.

39

40 We didn't ask for any modifications. The commercial industry  
41 has always been the first one to come to this council when we've  
42 had a problem, whether it was size limits, discards, closed  
43 seasons, open seasons. Anything that we felt that we were doing  
44 wrong, we have come right to you. Just like Mr. Rash said, we  
45 have a history of fighting it out amongst ourselves to find a  
46 solution.

47

48 One of the things that came up yesterday in the discussion I



1 heard was purpose and need. Well, if we can redistribute and  
2 reallocate some of the red snapper IFQ, we could increase effort  
3 and decrease discards. I'm sorry, but can anybody make sense  
4 out of that? If you're going to put more people on the water,  
5 you're going to have more interaction with fish you can't keep,  
6 regardless of how much snapper quota you give to somebody. Mr.  
7 Walker stated that properly yesterday.

8  
9 We've all been in the situation that -- My fish house, anybody's  
10 fish house, if I have a boat that comes to me and says, hey, I'm  
11 a b-liner boat, and I need 5,000 pounds of snapper for the year,  
12 the exact story that Mr. Walker said, because that boat, or  
13 maybe one just like it, fishes for me. The first trip, I had a  
14 problem and I caught my fish, and we have X amount of fish to  
15 work with.

16  
17 Now, if the council wants to double the quotas and give us more  
18 fish to work with, we can address things differently, but to go  
19 under the assumption that you can put more people into this  
20 fishery, after all the fighting we did in the 1990s when you  
21 told us to reduce our footprint and consolidate our fleet -- You  
22 told us to do that.

23  
24 Now you're telling us, because everybody is running up against a  
25 barrier, that we want to increase effort again, and that makes  
26 no sense. Please keep your eye on the prize. What is the real  
27 prize, recreational representatives? It's how do you get  
28 flexibility and a longer season for your private anglers, and  
29 running a discard fishery is not the solution. Dr. Ponwith will  
30 tell you that.

31  
32 You can't keep discarding fish at ten or fifteen or twenty to  
33 one and expect to have a vibrant fishery in the future. Let's  
34 become accountable, and let's quit pretending that we're not on  
35 the same team. We're all benefiting from this resource, whether  
36 you're a commercial representative or a recreational  
37 representative or a charter industry. We all live in the same  
38 water. Thank you very much.

39  
40 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Russell  
41 Underwood, followed by Mr. Eric Brazer.

42  
43 **MR. RUSSELL UNDERWOOD:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. I am Russell  
44 Underwood from Panama City, Florida. I have fished out of  
45 Leesville, Louisiana, and I've been coming to these meetings for  
46 about thirty-five years, and I've been fishing for about fifty.

47  
48 The first thing I want to do is thank David, David Walker, and

1 Pam, Dr. Dana, for her time and her effort. These two people  
2 are the people that you all need to keep coming to these council  
3 meetings and working with. They have showed great respect to  
4 fellow fishermen, both commercial and recreational, and these  
5 two people are what they should be, representatives of the  
6 fishery council. Thank you.

7  
8 In respect to fishing, the commercial sector is doing very well  
9 on the IFQ. It is a good program. I was part of that system  
10 ten years ago, and we worked real hard to get what we've got,  
11 and, as far as fishermen, I don't quite remember that I have  
12 been given anything in my life. Thank the Lord that he's been  
13 good to me, but I have always worked, worked and worked and  
14 worked, and I wound up being a good fisherman and a dad and all  
15 that, and so it's been good for me.

16  
17 The problems we have in the fishery, we can work these things  
18 out amongst ourselves. I am still waiting for somebody to  
19 complain about things in the IFQ system, like 36B. We need  
20 leasing. I listened the other day to the people up there  
21 talking to Washington, D.C., and I heard this gentleman talk  
22 about flexibility, and that man was Mr. Oliver, and here he is  
23 today sitting here listening to this council, and he was here  
24 yesterday hearing comments.

25  
26 What we need is people like him to consider everybody in this  
27 fishery, commercial and recreational, and we all have some  
28 flexibility. Trying to talk about taking 36B and talking about  
29 reallocation on leasing and stop this on caps. We have caps,  
30 and so I think a lot of that stuff is uncalled for. We need to  
31 set up another committee, snapper and grouper ad hoc committee  
32 together, to work out some of these problems that people are so-  
33 called complaining about, and I think it's a great program, this  
34 IFQ, and you all should pat yourselves on the back for bringing  
35 these red snapper back.

36  
37 Now, the IFQ has been part of bringing this fishery and resource  
38 back, and so I appreciate the opportunity to speak, and I just  
39 want to -- I wish that we could continue having a good resource  
40 and a good fishery for both recreational and commercial. Thank  
41 you.

42  
43 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Eric  
44 Brazer, followed by Mr. Johnny Williams.

45  
46 **MR. ERIC BRAZER:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. My name is  
47 Eric Brazer, and I'm the Deputy Director of the Gulf of Mexico  
48 Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance. Thank you for the opportunity

1 to speak.

2  
3 I'm going to speak on two items today. Number one is the SEDAR  
4 process. Forgive me if I wax poetic for a second, but  
5 everything we do is built on the foundation of strong science,  
6 and, without data, assumptions need to be made. Sometimes  
7 they're accurate and sometimes they're not.

8  
9 We, as a body, should prioritize real data whenever we can, and  
10 we think you have the opportunity to do this by making the  
11 terminal year in SEDAR 52 2017. Dr. Ponwith did a great job  
12 outlining the pros and cons the other day, and, to us, we feel  
13 that the benefits outweigh the risks.

14  
15 Put it this way. If we wait a year and we're wrong, we're  
16 looking at a couple more years of status quo allocation. Yes,  
17 we may not get a bump, but we're also probably not going to get  
18 a reduction, but, if we're right, we could be facing a pivotal  
19 and potentially devastating event in the history of red snapper  
20 management, and we don't want to regret missing this opportunity  
21 to get out in front of this. Waiting four or five years is  
22 pretty risky.

23  
24 This is especially true because we already know that the eastern  
25 Gulf is sensitive to higher levels of discard mortality. We  
26 know this from the stock assessment process, and this conclusion  
27 was also drawn in the work of Jacob Tetzloff, who performed some  
28 alternative stock status projections using different assumptions  
29 about recreational mortality rates and size selectivity, and I  
30 believe that he submitted this to the SSC, but I don't know if  
31 it made it in on time, at the last meeting.

32  
33 He concluded that the last -- Excuse me. The last stock  
34 assessment assumed recreational discard mortality at 10 percent.  
35 Excuse me. The discard mortality rate was 10 percent, but there  
36 are a number of recent studies that estimate recreational  
37 discard mortality at more than 21 percent. He ran the  
38 projections at 21 percent, and he observed that, quote, the  
39 eastern Gulf stock is eventually fished to extinction when  
40 following the yield streams from the SEDAR 31 base model.

41  
42 We would really love to see the SSC evaluate this at their next  
43 meeting, and, if they concur, ensure that this is incorporated  
44 into SEDAR 52 as well as the 2017 data.

45  
46 I had a lot to say on Amendment 36B, but a number of the  
47 fishermen who came before me spoke pretty well on this. I guess  
48 all I'm going to say to you guys is -- It's in the form of a

1 question. What do you want this fishery to look like in five  
2 years? What do you want this fishery to look like in ten years?  
3  
4 If you can't answer that question, then 36B is going to be  
5 perpetual challenge, and so, please, kick this back to the AP,  
6 and let's get this in front of the stakeholders that are being  
7 impacted by this, and let's start to figure out a real solution  
8 for moving forward. Finally, thank you, Captain Walker, and  
9 thank you, Dr. Dana. We're going to miss you. Thank you.  
10  
11 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. I think we have a question  
12 from Captain Walker.  
13  
14 **MR. WALKER:** Thank you, Eric. The quota bank has come up quite  
15 a bit, and I hate to put you on the spot here, but could you  
16 just kind of bring us a little short summary of how it's going  
17 in the quota bank and so forth with the shareholders?  
18  
19 **MR. BRAZER:** Sure thing, and I think Ava mentioned that she  
20 would be happy to add the presentation that I made last year to  
21 the briefing book, but, just to remind you guys, the quota bank  
22 is a program that the Shareholders Alliance put together. Right  
23 now, we're the only operational quota bank in the Gulf of  
24 Mexico.  
25  
26 What we're talking about really is a community of fishermen  
27 coming together and using allocation to solve problems. The  
28 folks in Alaska have used it very well, and there is four or  
29 five quota banks in New England. We started this in the Gulf in  
30 2015 to start to address the bycatch issue, the red snapper  
31 bycatch issue, in the grouper-tilefish fishery.  
32  
33 We have since started to expand the scope of the program, and  
34 we're starting to look at how this could help the next-  
35 generation fishermen and young entrants into the fishery. We  
36 work with twenty to thirty fishermen each year with 50,000 to  
37 60,000 pounds of red snapper allocation that we lease, that we  
38 have to go out into the open market and find and pay for and  
39 provide to the fishermen who are part of this program.  
40  
41 We are susceptible to a lot of the risk that is showing up in  
42 this fishery because of the instability here at the council. We  
43 find it's a great model, and we're looking for ways to expand  
44 it, and, if there are any specific questions, I'm happy to  
45 answer those, but that's it, in a nutshell.  
46  
47 We also have a page up on our website that outlines it in a  
48 little more -- It shows our application process, our ops plan

1 process, and how we're using this to reduce discards, but also  
2 effect greater change in the fishery.

3  
4 **MR. WALKER:** Thank you, Eric.

5  
6 **MR. BRAZER:** Thank you.

7  
8 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Banks has a question for you as well.

9  
10 **MR. BANKS:** Thanks, Eric, for your comments. I am interested in  
11 36B, mostly for my concern over how to make sure we enable new  
12 entrants to come into the fishery. I hear a lot of complaints  
13 about the IFQ system from the recreational side of things, and  
14 the only part of it that really rings true to me is the claim  
15 that it doesn't allow for new entrants or there is people out  
16 there that aren't happy with the IFQ in the commercial fishery  
17 because they can't get into the system.

18  
19 Can you explain to me how your scenario helps -- I heard you say  
20 new entrants, and so it sparked the question of how do you help  
21 folks get into the industry through your quota bank, or are you  
22 largely leasing for discards for people already in the industry?

23  
24 **MR. BRAZER:** It's primarily focused on bycatch reduction, but we  
25 do have a few young guys that we're working with. These are the  
26 fishermen that have either bought a reef fish permit or who are  
27 leasing reef fish permits from existing fishermen, and they are  
28 starting to capitalize their business, and they are starting to  
29 find ways to go out and buy shares.

30  
31 Many of them can't afford to buy shares right up front, and so  
32 the only way for them to enter this fishery is through the  
33 leasing program, and so we provide them a small amount of  
34 allocation that we lease to them in exchange for a better  
35 understanding for what they are trying to do to improve their  
36 businesses. We want to help them improve their businesses.

37  
38 Down the road, our five-year plan includes education and  
39 outreach for business planning, and it includes -- Maybe it  
40 includes low-interest loans, if we can find access to capital  
41 and make this happen, but to start to address, on an individual  
42 level, some of the challenges we see, cost of entry and access  
43 to allocation, but we're doing this through the existing system,  
44 and that's an important point to make.

45  
46 There are young fishermen out there that are getting in here,  
47 getting into the fishery. You're starting to see them come to  
48 these meetings. It's a challenge. It's expensive. Nobody is

1 contesting that, but the irony is that, because the red snapper  
2 population is recovering so quickly and so effectively, that is  
3 what is making it expensive to join this fishery.

4  
5 If you go up to New England -- I came from New England, and I  
6 can get you a million pounds of pollock quota at a third-of-a-  
7 cent a pound, because the quotas are set incorrectly and because  
8 it's hard to catch pollock, and so the fact is that this fishery  
9 is being well-managed. There is a lot of red snapper out there,  
10 and there's a success story here, and that is part of the reason  
11 why it's challenging, but not impossible, for new entrants to  
12 enter this fishery.

13  
14 **MR. BANKS:** One other question. When you help a new entrant,  
15 are you putting them together with somebody who is willing to  
16 lease, or are you guys the ones that are leasing it, or both?

17  
18 **MR. BRAZER:** Actually, it's both, primarily. At this point,  
19 we're only able to lease a certain amount of allocation on the  
20 open market each year, and so we do what we can, and, if there  
21 are needs of the young fishermen that we can't meet, then we're  
22 going out and we're looking for existing fishermen, older  
23 fishermen, older businesses, to partner them with.

24  
25 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. We have a question from the  
26 South Atlantic and Mr. Chester.

27  
28 **MR. BREWER:** When we're talking about the younger fishermen that  
29 you're leasing quota to, or allocation, whichever, what is the  
30 going rate? What are you leasing it to them for, what price per  
31 pound?

32  
33 **MR. BRAZER:** We lease it at fair market value. Other quota  
34 banks have approached it differently, but we've decided that,  
35 because our primary purpose is bycatch reduction, we take a look  
36 at what the fair market is, and we provide a good-faith  
37 estimate, and we lease it to them at the fair market.

38  
39 **MR. BREWER:** What is fair market value, currently?

40  
41 **MR. BRAZER:** I haven't checked in the last few weeks, but  
42 somewhere between I would say \$3.35 to \$3.50 a pound. That's my  
43 best guess, but the fishermen may know better.

44  
45 **MR. BREWER:** Thank you.

46  
47 **MR. BRAZER:** You're welcome.

48

1 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir.  
2  
3 **MR. BRAZER:** Thank you.  
4  
5 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Next, we have Mr. Johnny Williams, followed  
6 by Mr. Tom Wheatley.  
7  
8 **MR. JOHNNY WILLIAMS:** Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.  
9 Johnny Williams from Williams Partyboats, Incorporated. I'm a  
10 third-generation partyboat operator out of Galveston, Texas. I  
11 want to welcome all of you all to Texas, and I want to tell you  
12 all a little bit about Texas history.  
13  
14 We had a gentleman that died last Saturday, and his name was  
15 Mark White, and he was a Governor of the great State of Texas in  
16 the early 1980s. Mark White was a Democrat. I'm a  
17 conservative, and so I tend to vote, about 99.9 percent of the  
18 time, for Republicans.  
19  
20 Mark White was elected. When he got into office, our school  
21 system was in very bad shape. The first thing that he did was  
22 initiate a no-pass-no-play rule, and this irritated a lot of  
23 people that had voted for him, because a lot of their children  
24 were no longer allowed to participate in sports or band or stuff  
25 like that at school, because their grades weren't sufficient.  
26  
27 Then he came up with this program to require all the teachers to  
28 take a test to show that they were competent, and many of the  
29 teachers were upset, because they thought that it insulted their  
30 intelligence. Others were upset because they couldn't pass the  
31 test. Needless to say, Mark White didn't get reelected, because  
32 he had alienated his base.  
33  
34 Now, the way I'm trying to bring this into this fishery is Mark  
35 White did the right thing. He did the right thing, and he had  
36 courage. He had a backbone, and he did what was right, what he  
37 thought was right in his heart, even though it cost him his  
38 political career.  
39  
40 We're faced right now with -- We're at a breaking point here.  
41 We really need to get Amendment 42 and 41 going down the road.  
42 Now, I have heard the talk about delaying the vote on this until  
43 the next meeting for some new council members that are coming  
44 in. That's unprecedented here. I have been around this  
45 council, dealing with you all, for thirty years, and I have  
46 never heard of anything like that. Maybe it was at one of the  
47 meetings that I didn't know about, but, gee whiz, why are these  
48 people here if they're not going to be able to vote on something

1 that's so important to our industry?

2  
3 The right thing to do is let the industry try to determine  
4 what's right for themselves, and this program that we had worked  
5 very well in the pilot. It serves the Magnuson Act, and it  
6 serves the fishermen, and it serves the partyboat operators.

7  
8 You heard today someone from the Parks and Wildlife, a gentleman  
9 from the Parks and Wildlife, that said that the IFQ system is  
10 very easy to regulate compared to what they had before. I mean,  
11 it's a win-win for everybody, and so why aren't we voting for  
12 this?

13  
14 I mean, anybody can come up here and somebody makes a motion of,  
15 well, let's have two fish and thirty-seven days next year or  
16 something like that. I mean, doggone, my eleven-year-old  
17 grandson could do that and vote for it, but this is an  
18 opportunity for you all to do something for the industry that is  
19 desperately needed. Please someone make a motion for the 42  
20 referendum and somebody second it and you all vote on it. Thank  
21 you very much.

22  
23 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Tom  
24 Wheatley, followed by Michael Short.

25  
26 **MR. TOM WHEATLEY:** Good afternoon. My name is Tom Wheatley, and  
27 I'm with the Pew Charitable Trusts. I live, work, and fish out  
28 of Tampa, Florida. We want to thank the council for discussing  
29 the timing of the next red snapper stock assessment on Monday  
30 during the SEDAR Committee in a very informative and thorough  
31 way,

32  
33 Dr. Ponwith shared both the pros and the cons for delaying the  
34 assessment versus continuing as scheduled. On balance, we  
35 believe the pros for holding off until the 2017 data is  
36 available outweigh the cons, for a couple of reasons.

37  
38 First, the 2017 recreational season really is unprecedented. As  
39 described in the Federal Register notice for the extended red  
40 snapper season, it could lead to high overages, potentially  
41 exceeding the overfishing level, and delay the rebuilding plan  
42 for up to six years.

43  
44 Although preliminary reporting from states indicates lower catch  
45 rates than projected, we do think it's prudent to wait until the  
46 official data is available for the entire 2017 season, so it can  
47 be evaluated together with all the other information that goes  
48 into a full stock assessment.



1  
2 Second, as noted during the committee discussion, delaying will  
3 allow recalibrated MRIP data to be included in this assessment,  
4 and we believe this creates a major efficiency in the system, as  
5 noted by Dr. Ponwith.

6  
7 Doing an assessment this year, without the 2017 landings or  
8 recalibrated data, would likely require a rerun of the  
9 assessment very soon after it's completed. Not only is that  
10 inefficient, but it wouldn't provide a comprehensive snapshot of  
11 the health of the red snapper population, and so, weighing the  
12 pros and the cons, we do think that holding off the start of the  
13 red snapper assessment until next year does provide the best  
14 possible information to the public and also, obviously, to the  
15 council to make decisions. Thank you.

16  
17 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Michael  
18 Short, followed by Mr. Michael Regan.

19  
20 **MR. MICHAEL SHORT:** Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. First  
21 off, I would like to thank Pam and David for you all's service,  
22 and we need to move forward with the charter/for-hire referendum  
23 requirement motion. Lower the charter/for-hire buffer. We have  
24 stayed under it since sector separation was implemented.

25  
26 Open up the amberjack season August 1, and, as far as the  
27 electronic logbook goes, we've been doing a program with CLS,  
28 the pilot program, and it's been working great. It's easy to  
29 do, and we need to have a logbook program on the water as soon  
30 as possible, and, guys, you all are looking at the future of the  
31 charter/for-hire industry right here. Give them something to  
32 work with, and not just us, and them. That's it. Thanks.

33  
34 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Michael  
35 Regan, followed by Greg Ball.

36  
37 **MR. MICHAEL REGAN:** Good afternoon. My name is Michael Regan,  
38 and I operate Line Check Charters out of Galveston, Texas. I am  
39 here in front of you today to hopefully keep our businesses  
40 growing and keep everything going in the right direction. Dr.  
41 Dana, I appreciate your service. Mr. David, same with you.

42  
43 We're having a big problem with some of these seasons, the way  
44 they've been laid out. I'm a young angler. Mr. Short has been  
45 in the business for a little while longer than I have, and it's  
46 hard for us to get moving when we keep having these seasons get  
47 closed off before we get to get rolling.

48

1 The eastern Gulf and the western Gulf have two different areas  
2 we get to fish. They are ecologically different from each  
3 other. When we have the early seasons for these amberjack and  
4 then they get closed off, my seasons get shorter and shorter and  
5 shorter every year.

6  
7 I have taken a leap of faith this year. I have quit my full-  
8 time job, and I have run for my dream. This is a big step, and  
9 I've got a lot invested in it, and, every time we turn around,  
10 we're getting things taken away from us. It's really hard to  
11 keep that growing when the future gets shorter and shorter when  
12 we're looking forward.

13  
14 We definitely need to move forward with a referendum. It's been  
15 a long time coming, and let's push it. We don't need to wait.  
16 Delaying the vote is just going to delay the future, and let's  
17 make the future now. Logbook programs are working. They are  
18 easy. You come in from your trip and, while a deckhand is  
19 cleaning the boat, you can sit back and say, hey, guys, we  
20 caught this and we caught this and we caught this. We get to  
21 show you how healthy this program is, and we get to show you how  
22 healthy the stocks are out there.

23  
24 There is a lot of fish to be caught at the moment. The  
25 amberjack in the western Gulf, I have spots that I used to catch  
26 vermilion on and grouper. They're gone. All I have now are  
27 amberjack, because we have no season to catch them, and so we're  
28 affecting the ecology on our side by helping the eastern side.  
29 If we get a chance to get catch our fish again, we get to get  
30 the species back that we rely on when those other seasons are  
31 closed.

32  
33 We get to offer our customers a greater availability of time on  
34 the water. If it's not red snapper, we get to prove to them  
35 that, hey, the Gulf is full of amazing and tasty fish and let's  
36 go get them. It's not just what everybody has to sell you of,  
37 oh, man, this is the best fish and it's the only thing that we  
38 can catch, but, if the seasons keep getting shorter or, as we  
39 try to save one species, if we're pushing another species  
40 further out or into an area that we can't get to on a normal  
41 basis, because of due to weather or distance traveled, that  
42 doesn't really help anything.

43  
44 You're saving one and kicking one down the road, and that is  
45 really not a benefit either way, and so let's go ahead and get  
46 this vote done, and let's help the charter/for-hire fleet. The  
47 guys that don't have boats, that need us to get on the water,  
48 let's keep them coming to us, and let's get them on the water,

1 helping everybody all at the same time. I appreciate you guys,  
2 and thank you very much for your time.

3

4 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you. I think we have a question for  
5 you, sir, from Mr. Banks.

6

7 **MR. BANKS:** I was just interested -- You were talking about how  
8 easy the electronic logbook was when you get back to the dock.  
9 What kind of boat do you run? Are you in a cabin boat or are  
10 you --

11

12 **MR. REGAN:** I've got a thirty-six-foot center console.

13

14 **MR. BANKS:** Center console? Okay. Thank you.

15

16 **MR. REGAN:** Yes, sir.

17

18 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Next, we have Mr. Greg Ball,  
19 followed by Ms. Lisa Schmidt.

20

21 **MR. GREG BALL:** Good evening. I am Greg Ball from Galveston,  
22 Texas. Thank you, all, for the opportunity to come and speak  
23 this evening. I want to thank you all for being here. We need  
24 to move forward with Amendments 41 and 42. It's like the last  
25 few charter guys have said. I run a few charter boats out of  
26 Galveston, and two of them are permitted, but we've finally got  
27 a system that's working.

28

29 The stocks are growing, and we've been under our catch target  
30 for ever since sector separation started, and so we need to move  
31 forward with 41 and 42. I would like to see an August opening  
32 for the amberjack and just have an August through December  
33 season, and I think that would work great for all of us.

34

35 Also, we need to get the electronic logbooks on the water as  
36 quick as we can. It's working great. We haven't had any  
37 problem with it. We're in the pilot program as well, with CLS,  
38 and it's a great program, and it works good. That's really  
39 about all I have. I appreciate it.

40

41 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Ms. Lisa  
42 Schmidt, followed by Mr. Troy Frady.

43

44 **MS. LISA SCHMIDT:** Hi. My name is Lisa Schmidt, and I am the  
45 owner of the three commercial longline vessels in Madeira Beach.  
46 I also spearfish and hook-and-line redfish and snook  
47 recreationally.

48

1 First, I would like to speak to the discards. My boats are  
2 grouper boats, and we're seeing more red snapper than we ever  
3 have in years, maybe ever, and thank you to National Marine  
4 Fisheries for rebuilding that fishery. We are working with the  
5 Shareholders Alliance quota bank to get the allocation to reduce  
6 our discards.

7  
8 We're trying to avoid red snapper as well, but I don't think  
9 that the council should be taking red snapper from other  
10 fishermen to give to me. I am willing to pay for it, and I'm  
11 not expecting any kind of handouts.

12  
13 Secondly, every time you change the IFQ program, it's going to  
14 affect the fishermen who have already invested in it and also  
15 have a negative impact on the younger, new fishermen going into  
16 this industry. We're all businessmen and businesswomen. Start  
17 talking about reallocating or restricting or redistributing, and  
18 you're making it very hard to put together a business plan.  
19 Think about it. If you were wanting to go into the commercial  
20 fishing industry and you came to this meeting, would you want to  
21 go into the commercial fishing industry?

22  
23 Third, give the stakeholders in this fishery a chance to work  
24 through Amendment 36B. I am not on the IFQ Advisory Panel, but  
25 I think these men and women who have the expertise needed to  
26 start to work through some of these ideas -- Please send this  
27 back to them for more feedback.

28  
29 Finally, I want to show my appreciation for Dr. Pam Dana and  
30 Captain David Walker for their service. They have done a great  
31 job representing their constituencies on this council, and I  
32 have been very impressed with their commitment to, very  
33 importantly, fairness. Fairness, accountability, and  
34 sustainable fisheries. Thank you for your service.

35  
36 I just finished the science class in the MREP program, and I  
37 learned so much about it. I have a lot of respect for all the  
38 science that goes into the fisheries. Nursing is my background,  
39 and I love science. I haven't taken the management class, and I  
40 think that's the frustrating part of this whole process. I hope  
41 Bubba Cochrane's son has a chance to stay in the commercial  
42 fishing industry in the United States. I hope he has a chance  
43 to do that. Thank you for your service.

44  
45 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, Ms. Lisa. Next, we have Mr. Troy  
46 Frady, followed by Mr. Blake Osgood.

47  
48 **MR. TROY FRADY:** Good afternoon. I am Troy Frady from Orange

1 Beach, Alabama. I'm a charter fisherman, and I've been in  
2 business for fifteen years over there. I want to thank you for  
3 the opportunity to speak, and I really want to start out by  
4 talking about business this year.

5  
6 The economy has been kind of interesting, to say the least, in  
7 Baldwin County, Alabama, and we started off the spring and we  
8 had so much bad weather. For some reason, people weren't  
9 spending a lot of money this year when they were starting off,  
10 and what we found out was a lot of the spring-breakers that we  
11 interviewed who were wanting to go deep-sea fishing just simply  
12 have not budgeted for spring deep-sea fishing.

13  
14 They save their money for better weather in the summer, more  
15 predictable weather in the summer, and so, knowing that, when it  
16 comes down to setting the amberjack season this year, I am kind  
17 of torn here, because I know I want to have something to catch  
18 in the spring, and then I want to have something in the fall,  
19 because the fall tends to be a little bit more predictable  
20 weather for me, because that's the dry season for us.

21  
22 If we're not having a tropical storm, it's usually pretty nice  
23 out there, and we can all get out there and go, and depending on  
24 how the Southeastern Conference is doing in football, it really  
25 affects the participation, but a lot of people do have the  
26 amenities onboard where they can watch a football game and go  
27 reel in a fish.

28  
29 I have been thinking a little bit about the amberjack season,  
30 and it's come to my attention that there's a possibility that we  
31 could try to appease more people than just one special group  
32 like myself who wants only the fall for amberjack, but I'm  
33 thinking about everybody. There are a lot of people that could  
34 use amberjack in the spring.

35  
36 If there were a way to compromise and we were to get probably  
37 April for amberjack and still open amberjack up in September and  
38 October, and they were to remain open during those three months,  
39 I would say, yes, let's go for it, but, if we can't have  
40 something in the spring, then I would rather have amberjack in  
41 the fall, because, like I said, the predictability of the  
42 weather is a lot better for me, and the people have more budget  
43 for then. The spring-breakers, historically, like I said, just  
44 haven't budgeted for it.

45  
46 My biggest thing is we need as many fish to catch as we can  
47 during the summertime. That's when I generate 90 percent of my  
48 revenue, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, and I need to be

1 able to continue to do that. I've had like eight days of  
2 weather. We got blown out last week, and I actually took two  
3 days off this week just so I could come here and talk to you,  
4 not because I really wanted to, but I needed to be generating  
5 some more revenue.

6  
7 I guess what I'm saying is let's show some compromise. Let's  
8 get this council rolling on doing something, and let's keep up  
9 with accountability with logbooks or anything we can do to make  
10 people feel a little bit more comfortable in their business  
11 model. Recreational, charter/for-hire, everybody needs access  
12 to these fish, but with accountability.

13  
14 I also want to thank Dr. Dana for your years of service here.  
15 Mr. Walker, thank you. I want to welcome Mr. Oliver. Thank  
16 you, and welcome to the madhouse. Anyway, that's pretty much  
17 it, and thank you so much for allowing me to speak. I  
18 appreciate it.

19  
20 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have a question for you from Dr. Crabtree.

21  
22 **DR. CRABTREE:** Hi, Troy. Thanks for being here. I appreciate  
23 your comments on amberjack, especially with trying to find some  
24 compromise there, and I hope you will make sure, when you go  
25 back to the dock, to let everyone know that I think the council  
26 commitment right now is to revisit the amberjack season at the  
27 October meeting and try to do just what you're suggesting, which  
28 is find some sort of compromise, and then be able to get that in  
29 place in time for next year, and so it's not done yet.

30  
31 **MR. FRADY:** Dr. Crabtree, thank you so much, and I will tell  
32 them that, but the biggest thing that I've seen around this  
33 council in the past year is there has been so much -- What do  
34 you call that, the internet, the media, the mainstream media,  
35 and local media and social networks, and there is so many people  
36 doing so many harsh things on there and bashing each other in  
37 trying to talk about me, me, me, me and my plight to get access  
38 to fish.

39  
40 I want what's better for private recreational anglers and  
41 charter/for-hire anglers, but I want us to use commonsense and  
42 use some flexibility and some courtesy towards each other, and  
43 so thanks. I will tell them that. Thank you.

44  
45 **DR. CRABTREE:** Thank you, Troy.

46  
47 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Blake  
48 Osgood, followed by Mr. David Brown.

1  
2 **MR. BLAKE OSGOOD:** I would like to thank the council for giving  
3 me the ability to speak. I'm a private recreational fisherman,  
4 and I got started when my dad introduced me to offshore fishing  
5 at age twelve. Back then, we had so many more days that we  
6 could fish for not just snapper, but for -- You all know there  
7 is other species out there, and, each year that has gone by,  
8 we've gotten less and less days to fish, and it's kind of  
9 getting unsafe, because we would like to be able to fish,  
10 because we bought a boat, and it's just meant to go offshore,  
11 and it's getting to the point where we can't do that anymore,  
12 because the weather is usually rough in June, and, this year, we  
13 got three days, and we never went once, because there was -- I  
14 think they said five-footers every day and thunderstorms, and so  
15 I was thankful that we got an extra extension.

16  
17 Like my dad said earlier, we've gone twice, and, one of those  
18 days, we had no business being out there, but we felt like we  
19 were being forced to do so, because we wanted to utilize our  
20 equipment.

21  
22 It's been said that recreational fishermen have a high mortality  
23 rate, but I would be more concerned with the commercial sector's  
24 mortality rate. There has been pictures circulated on the  
25 internet of commercial boats being out there and hundreds of  
26 fish floating on the surface that died for no reason. I mean,  
27 it just seems like a shame, to me.

28  
29 Recreational anglers support the economy in a lot of ways.  
30 We've got to buy bait, tackle, fuel, and equipment. It's the  
31 same thing they have to buy, but I think there is lots more of  
32 us than there is of them.

33  
34 These half-million-dollar yellowfin boats that are for sale,  
35 somebody has to buy them, and somebody has to keep them in  
36 business, and so the recreational sector, I feel, needs more  
37 days to fish and utilize the things we buy.

38  
39 I would like to suggest maybe check-in stations instead of  
40 guessing how many fish we catch each year. Why not make check-  
41 in stations available to everyone and make it mandatory, so that  
42 we can show you exactly how many fish we're catching, instead of  
43 guessing by poundage and numbers and all of that? It's hard to  
44 guess, but it would be easy for us to self-report, and I think  
45 you all could come up with some pretty unique ways to give us  
46 the ability to show that.

47  
48 What I'm worried about most, and I know it's going to be a long

1 way away, but, when I have children, I want to be able to take  
2 them red snapper fishing too, just like my dad introduced me,  
3 but, at the same time, we're getting less and less days, and I  
4 am pretty worried that I won't have any days, when I'm older and  
5 have kids, to be able to take them, and so I guess that's it.  
6 Thank you for your time.

7  
8 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. I think we have a question  
9 for you, Mr. Blake, from Mr. Banks.

10  
11 **MR. BANKS:** Blake, thanks for your comments. I can't say it's  
12 something good to me after you made a comment that says -- When  
13 a fellow that young is talking about the good old days, you know  
14 we have a problem.

15  
16 You were talking about reporting and how important that you felt  
17 reporting was, and I'm thrilled to hear that, and how willing  
18 you are to do it. Do you think a smartphone app and being  
19 required to report every time you go offshore, is that feasible  
20 for you or for your segment of the industry?

21  
22 **MR. B. OSGOOD:** I believe so. Everybody I know that fishes  
23 offshore thinks that we need better data and better ways to  
24 collect the data, and they all agree that they would be more  
25 than willing to self-report and use the iPhone, like you said,  
26 and I think most people have them nowadays, and so I think that  
27 would be a very good idea.

28  
29 **MR. BANKS:** Thank you.

30  
31 **MR. B. OSGOOD:** Thank you.

32  
33 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. David  
34 Brown, followed by Mr. Donald Jackson.

35  
36 **MR. DAVID BROWN:** My name is David Brown. Welcome to Texas.  
37 Texas is a good place for you all to be, because our Parks and  
38 Wildlife people know how to manage a resource. You see, we're  
39 open seven days a week, 365 days a year, and our sportsmen can  
40 go out and take four snapper within the nine-mile limit whenever  
41 they want to, and we don't have any problem at all, because we  
42 don't have false numbers being fed to us by somebody.

43  
44 Now, you guys, I understand you're about to have your budget  
45 cut, and so it's going to be important how you spend your money  
46 and getting resource counting. I assure you that they're lying  
47 to you. Anybody here, any day of the week, that's blowing less  
48 than twenty knots, I will take you out and show you more snapper



1 than you've ever seen, inshore or offshore. We can't get to the  
2 bottom to fish for grouper, because the snapper tear us up on  
3 the way down.

4  
5 Now, there is a reason why you all are here, and it's not for  
6 the industry, it's not for the recs, and it's not for anybody.  
7 It's for the public resource, and each and every one of you has  
8 the same vote, the same weight, as the person sitting next to  
9 you. It doesn't matter if you have letters after your name or  
10 if you're Dr. Brown, like myself, or Dr. Crabtree. You know  
11 what's right, and the reason you're here is to do the right  
12 thing. It's not a hard thing to do, is it?

13  
14 You represent the public. People have got to fish. People also  
15 ought to be able to go to Gaidos and buy a red snapper sandwich,  
16 shouldn't they? It's not hard if you have the proper data, and  
17 you are being fed a bill of goods on what the data is. I can  
18 show you. Any fisherman up and down the coast can show you.

19  
20 If what they say is true, why can I take you out, 365 days a  
21 year, in Texas waters, and catch a snapper? Would you like to  
22 go this afternoon, Dr. Crabtree, or tomorrow, possibly? I would  
23 love for you to be my guest, and I can show you. Your own vote,  
24 your own vote.

25  
26 Now, I heard Captain Williams a while ago trying to push a vote  
27 on something. I wonder why he's so excited about having that  
28 vote now? Is somebody counting votes? Does that seem  
29 reasonable? I also saw this gentleman on the end, Mr. Brewer,  
30 and you asked a question a while ago of somebody, and they gave  
31 you a runaround. You said, how much is it worth, and they said,  
32 well, it's the -- What did he say it was? He didn't give you a  
33 number at first.

34  
35 **MR. BREWER:** His answer was market value.

36  
37 **MR. BROWN:** Yes, and you had to push for that, right, and he  
38 finally told you, \$3.30 or \$3.50. Guys, you're going to have to  
39 push and -- Pardon me?

40  
41 **UNIDENTIFIED:** (The comment is not audible on the recording.)

42  
43 **MR. BROWN:** Well, I do, too. I am a divorce lawyer. Can I be  
44 of service to anybody? Okay. You all want to go, (713)222-  
45 2500, and I will show you how you're being lied to. Thank you,  
46 all.

47  
48 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Donald

1 Jackson, followed by Mr. Joey Lenderman.

2  
3 **MR. DONALD JACKSON:** Good afternoon. My name is Don Jackson,  
4 and I'm a retired judge from Harris County. I am here to speak  
5 for recreational fishermen. I fish out of Freeport, with Mr.  
6 Brown, by the way, and I fish out of Ocean Springs, Mississippi,  
7 with my brother, Dr. Jackson, and so I have two different  
8 aspects of this that I have looked at.

9  
10 I have been listening to people talk about the industry, the  
11 industry, the industry, and it's a public resource. You people  
12 are charged with the administration of a public resource, and  
13 it's not for the benefit of somebody who makes a living catching  
14 fish. It's for everybody, and the recreational fishermen should  
15 not be put at a disadvantage just because that's what they are,  
16 that they don't make a living catching fish.

17  
18 Rules and regulations that impinge upon their ability to take  
19 their family out and fish are just manifestly wrong, and so I  
20 would ask you to keep in mind the recreational fishermen and the  
21 generations that follow and the kids that want to fish and catch  
22 snappers. They don't want to have to live with the snapper  
23 depletion, whether it's done by the dead bycatch or whatever we  
24 were talking about a minute ago, how many fish die.

25  
26 I have witnessed pulling up on a big boat and seeing the fish  
27 floating away from it, and you don't see that with recreational  
28 fishermen. I thank you for your time today.

29  
30 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Joey  
31 Lenderman, followed by Mr. Richard Fischer.

32  
33 **MR. JOEY LENDERMAN:** Good afternoon, folks. I'm Joey Lenderman,  
34 and I'm from Richmond, Texas. I'm a recreational fisherman.  
35 I'm not here for myself, but I'm here for my family and my kids  
36 and my kids' friends and my friends and co-workers, everybody  
37 else that loves to go fishing with us, along with all the other  
38 recreational guys that couldn't make it today, thousands and  
39 thousands along the Gulf coast that don't know about this  
40 meeting, can't come, don't have time to come, whatever it is.

41  
42 I would like to thank the council for delaying their vote until  
43 the next meeting in Biloxi on Amendment 41 and 42, and, speaking  
44 of those, I would like to see them die at the next meeting. I  
45 don't really see anything, long-term, good coming out of it for  
46 any of the groups involved, and that's long-term. I know  
47 everybody sees it right now and thinks that one way or another  
48 is good, and I don't know, and I don't know that any of us know,

1 but I know that what's going on right now is not working for the  
2 majority.

3  
4 I would also like to encourage the council to weigh the pros and  
5 cons for some sort of royalty for the IFQ shareholders. There  
6 is lots of money slipping through the fingers that could be put  
7 back into the fishery, into reefing or some sort of educational  
8 program or enforcement.

9  
10 I would also like to see Amendment 30B rescinded as well as  
11 allowing the Amendment 40 to sunset by the end of the year. I  
12 just don't see that it's right for recreational fishermen,  
13 depending on where they are, who they are, who they are fishing  
14 with on a certain day, to judge whether they can keep fish or  
15 what fish they can keep. I appreciate you all listening to me.

16  
17 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Richard  
18 Fischer, followed by Ms. Susan Boggs.

19  
20 **MR. RICHARD FISCHER:** Good afternoon, and thanks for having me  
21 speak here today. I'm here representing the Louisiana Charter  
22 Boat Association. I'm Richard Fischer, Communications Manager.  
23 I'm going to address several topics here, and so I'm going to  
24 kind of breeze through them, and, if you all have any questions  
25 and you all would like me to elaborate on any of them, I would  
26 be happy to go ahead and do so after.

27  
28 I will begin with amberjack. I want to mention that our fleet  
29 is almost entirely unanimously against fractional amberjack. We  
30 don't want fractional bag limits. I wish that I could come up  
31 here and tell you all that our fleet wants the season to open in  
32 the summer and then be closed all the way through the summer,  
33 but, after polling our members, we do have quite a bunch of  
34 members who really rely on that spring season, and so that's  
35 kind of a tough situation right there, where we think Louisiana  
36 would bring in a greater harvest of amberjack if we waited until  
37 the summer to be able to catch them, but we also have members  
38 who want the spring season.

39  
40 I think Martha brought up a really good point yesterday, a  
41 really good idea, that I would like you all to look into about  
42 having not only a split season, but a split quota, too. That  
43 seems like that could be a pretty good compromise here, where  
44 you're going to have both a spring and a summer season, and  
45 maybe we'll come back and see those numbers in October and not  
46 like it whatsoever, but I do think it's something that we all  
47 should look into, and, also, thanks for closing the amberjack  
48 season for January and February of next year.

1  
2 I will move on to Amendment 41 now, the referendum. Our six-  
3 pack boats remain overwhelmingly against 41. We're glad that it  
4 looks like nothing is going to get determined on that referendum  
5 this week.

6  
7 In Biloxi, in two months, captains are going to have a better  
8 opportunity to not only be informed on what's going on, but it's  
9 not during the summer fishing season, and it's closer to the  
10 coast, and so we expect to have much better input from captains  
11 at that meeting.

12  
13 We want one vote per entity. One thing that we would like to  
14 say about this is you vote for mayor, you vote for governor, you  
15 vote for president, and you get one vote. It doesn't matter if  
16 you're Bill Gates or Billy Wells. You get one vote, and so we  
17 would like it if that was the procedure for that, and we  
18 absolutely do not want passenger capacity to be used, and we're  
19 also going to ask that there's a pretty close to date to control  
20 date, in the fear that some owners of multiple permits might  
21 take their permits and split them up among different people and  
22 then get multiple votes, when they really only should get one.

23  
24 As for the Louisiana plan that was mentioned a couple of hours  
25 ago, our six-pack boats remain very much in favor of being  
26 included in that. By a ten-to-one margin, our six-pack boats  
27 are in favor of state management. Compromise is going to be the  
28 key word there. Everybody wants a little bit more allotment  
29 than they deserve, and I think we should all do what's best for  
30 the entire industry. Let's not let good be the enemy of great,  
31 and let's come up with a fair allotment for everybody and just  
32 give us the state management that we desperately want.

33  
34 The last thing, and I see I'm out of time, is this Louisiana  
35 plan actually has become much more important to us now that  
36 we're seeing that the Gulf charter fleet has not been included  
37 in the Red Snapper Act of 2017 at the U.S. Congress, and so, now  
38 that we're seeing that we're not going to be included in that,  
39 and, of course, we're trying to make our inroads to get that  
40 changed, but, seeing that we're not in that, that makes this  
41 plan very, very important to us, and that's all I've got for you  
42 all. Any questions?

43  
44 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. I think Mr. Sanchez has a  
45 question for you.

46  
47 **MR. SANCHEZ:** Thank you. Thank you for coming. I'm not a fan  
48 of fractional bag limits either. Somebody is going to end up

1 with a fish head and somebody with a tail, and it's not going to  
2 work, but, that said, what would you think -- I mean, do you  
3 have any thoughts on a vessel trip limit for amberjack that's  
4 appropriate, with the mindset that we're trying to stretch the  
5 season until this rebuilds and get more fishing days and what  
6 have you?

7  
8 **MR. FISCHER:** The vast majority of the captains that I have  
9 spoke to, they are willing to have a slightly shorter season to  
10 not have to tell their customers that, well, you get to catch  
11 amberjack, but, sorry, you don't. That, at least in Louisiana,  
12 is the opinion that I've been hearing, for the most part.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir.

15  
16 **MR. FISCHER:** All right. Thank you.

17  
18 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Next, we have Ms. Susan Boggs, followed by  
19 Mr. Jim Green.

20  
21 **MS. SUSAN BOGGS:** Good afternoon. My name is Susan Boggs from  
22 Orange Beach, Alabama. I attended a tourism board retreat last  
23 year, and one of the questions the facilitator asked what was  
24 keeps you up at night, and my answer was, and still is, red  
25 snapper.

26  
27 The charter/for-hire and headboat stakeholders, along with this  
28 council, have tools to allow small business owners like myself  
29 to sleep at night. In 2014 and 2015, a total of nineteen  
30 headboats had the opportunity to participate in the Gulf  
31 Headboat Collaborative EFP.

32  
33 These owners invested their money in a VMS system, plus the  
34 monthly fee for monitoring. These owners and their operators  
35 faced much criticism from those docked around them. During this  
36 two-year EFP, these boats fished over 200,000 recreational  
37 anglers, of which over 120,000 fished for gag grouper and red  
38 snapper, from forty-eight states. Their discards were down by  
39 approximately half, and now there are referendum procedures  
40 before this council for approval for similar programs.

41  
42 This EFP was widely viewed as a success, even by many of you.  
43 We have been asked for years to participate in this process to  
44 come up with solutions, and we found one that allows us to  
45 operate our businesses, while adding accountability and  
46 sustainability.

47  
48 This winter, Reel Surprise Charters fished several hundred

1 recreational anglers, who we, finally, refer to as snowbirds.  
2 They are always upset that they cannot catch a red snapper, but  
3 they were even more upset to find out that they could not keep  
4 triggerfish this year.

5  
6 Some of you might find these names of Steve Perkins, Jeff  
7 Cingari, Rusty Reardon, and Gary Bond familiar, and the reason  
8 is we printed business cards with the council's information for  
9 them to contact you and become involved.

10  
11 About three weeks ago, I was in a meeting with Herb Malone, the  
12 President and CEO of Gulf Shores/Orange Beach Tourism. He  
13 stated to me, and I am paraphrasing, that he had received a few  
14 emails from snowbirds who wanted to know, since the red snapper  
15 season was reopened for recreational anglers, if the season  
16 would be reopened for them. This is a valid question from these  
17 part-time residents, since the fishery is also theirs.

18  
19 My husband, Randy, and I find ourselves in a peculiar situation  
20 this year. We own a charter booking service and a fuel dock.  
21 The thirty-nine-day extension of the red snapper season has  
22 confused many of our charter customers as to when the charter  
23 boats and headboats can fish for red snapper.

24  
25 This year, one of our corporate customers cancelled one of three  
26 boats chartered, due to lack of sponsorship, because of the past  
27 several years and not being able to keep red snapper. Another  
28 corporate trip went from sixty passengers to thirty-four  
29 passengers, because they could not keep red snapper, and we had  
30 one corporate trip cancel altogether.

31  
32 On the other hand, our fuel dock has been busy, especially on  
33 Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, but, if we have no red snapper  
34 season next year, due to the overfishing that will occur this  
35 year, both sides of our businesses will suffer.

36  
37 I know that this council was not responsible for the thirty-  
38 nine-day extension of the red snapper season, but it is due  
39 partly to the lack of action on the part of this council that I  
40 believe led to it. What is shameful is to know that those of us  
41 who have been working through the council process these past  
42 several years to develop amendments, such as Amendment 41 and  
43 Amendment 42, will yet again be walking away and asking why have  
44 I wasted my time?

45  
46 I ask this council to vote for the referendum for Amendment 42  
47 up or down and not delay until the October council meeting. Our  
48 industry deserves this vote, and the recreational fishermen that

1 access the fishery through our small businesses deserve this  
2 vote. Do your job and have this vote.

3  
4 I would also like for the council to know that I support Action  
5 2, Alternative 5, for the modification of greater amberjack  
6 allowable harvest and rebuilding plan, and I have also spoken,  
7 or texted, in the last thirty minutes, six of our charter boat  
8 captains in Orange Beach that agree to this.

9  
10 Lastly, I would like to thank Pam and David for their service on  
11 this council. You both will be greatly missed, as your both  
12 brought balance to this council, which is something that will be  
13 lost after this meeting. Madam Chair, thank you.

14  
15 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, Ms. Boggs. Next, we have Captain  
16 Jim Green, followed by Mr. Mark Kelley.

17  
18 **MR. JIM GREEN:** Hello. Thank you, Chairwoman and council  
19 members. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name  
20 is Captain Jim Green. I'm the Vice President of the Destin  
21 Charter Boat Association and the Charter Fishermen's  
22 Association. Today, I will be speaking on behalf of DCBA.

23  
24 Concerning amberjack, we agree that it should not be reopened in  
25 January, but the DCBA does support a split season. Along with a  
26 split season, we would also like a reduction in catch, to extend  
27 angling opportunities. Our proposed catch reduction would be to  
28 keep it at a one-fish per person bag limit, but apply a four-  
29 fish vessel limit. Our preferred split season would be April  
30 through May and September and October, and, if there is more  
31 opportunity for harvest, then we would like to add March and  
32 August to that.

33  
34 One thing we did not discuss in our meeting here recently was  
35 the size limit. We know that the thirty-four-inch attempt,  
36 while moved with good intentions, did not produce the desired  
37 result, leading us to catch our projected harvest in less than  
38 half the time. This was hard on our fleet, and it removed the  
39 access from the anglers that planned their trips around this and  
40 were counting on that access. It also proves to us that this  
41 fishery is in far better shape than the stock assessment shows.

42  
43 One thing that I would like to see the council do is discuss  
44 removing the thirty-four-inch size limit and going back to a  
45 thirty or thirty-two-inch fish, providing more angling  
46 opportunity under the same amount of quota.

47  
48 This is the Destin fleet's preferred seasons and bag limits, and

1 it pertains to our port and our local economy. It is important  
2 to us to have the ability to offer a fish to harvest, and we're  
3 willing to take reductions, such as vessel limits, to provide  
4 that access. These reductions do not just help our Gulf-wide  
5 charter fleet, but they also help the recreational sector.

6  
7 Concerning Amendment 41 and 42, I feel it's a bit disingenuous  
8 to delay these items. This is an official meeting, and, as for  
9 the members of the council that are departing, they still are  
10 active members of this body, and they should be allowed to  
11 continue their work and move forward the work that this council  
12 has done for the stakeholders.

13  
14 If the new makeup of the council doesn't want to move it  
15 forward, then that's their prerogative, and that body can decide  
16 where to go from there at that time. The departing members  
17 should have the right to exercise their appointed powers  
18 respectively until their term is complete.

19  
20 Yesterday, I heard some discussion on the position of voters  
21 during this referendum, and, at a minimum, it should be one vote  
22 per permit. To remove the position of a person or entity that  
23 owns multiple permits is wrong. Anyone that has invested into  
24 this fishery should have a vote, and anyone who has invested  
25 multiple times should have those votes. It's not a fair  
26 decision to give someone that has acquired multiple positions in  
27 the fishery the same vote as someone who only holds one.

28  
29 Concerning our Gulf for-hire red snapper season, the Gulf-wide  
30 charter fleet has the ability, for-hire fleet has the ability,  
31 to catch the sub-sector allocation of red snapper, but they're  
32 only limited by the season set forth. Estimations of harvest  
33 are just that, and they continue to underestimate us, and our  
34 underestimation should be addressed.

35  
36 We now have a pattern of overestimation, and extending our sub-  
37 sector season within a reasonable amount should be imperative.  
38 This is not a question of the ability to harvest, but more has  
39 to do with the time to do it within. Please extend our season  
40 and allow us to harvest our reduced historical level of quota  
41 that we accepted to have stability, and I'm going to wrap it up,  
42 Madam Chairwoman.

43  
44 Electronic logbooks, that's a decade-long desire of our  
45 industry, and we want to see it moved forward. Good, bad, or  
46 indifferent, we need this data, and I just want to thank Dr.  
47 Dana and Captain Walker for their service. We greatly  
48 appreciate the sacrifice and willingness to work with all



1 stakeholders and your fair representation through your terms.

2  
3 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. We have a couple of  
4 questions. Dr. Dana.

5  
6 **DR. DANA:** Thank you, Chairwoman, and thank you for the kind  
7 words, Captain Green. Yesterday, when we were discussing the  
8 amberjack, and there was a lot of not necessarily pushback, but  
9 there was more support for a fall opening, or actually a July  
10 opening, going into the fall, and not having a spring season.  
11 The reason for that, of course, is the western Gulf not having  
12 the opportunity to fish.

13  
14 There was brought up a motion for the staff to bring back in  
15 October not a full spring timeframe, but an April opening. I  
16 know the Destin fleet has voted on a March, April, and May and  
17 also a preferred reduction of the number of amberjack on the  
18 vessel, but how would -- Can you speak to an April only?

19  
20 **MR. GREEN:** Like I said, what I described was our preferred.  
21 That's what we would like to see. If we only get one month in  
22 the spring and we get a fall season, I don't think that we would  
23 be extremely upset about it.

24  
25 I think, as long as you do something in some manner to ensure  
26 that we have that fall season and we can have that stability and  
27 tell our customers that this is when it's going to be open, I  
28 think that's something that -- That carries a lot of weight,  
29 just as much as having the access. It's having the stability of  
30 it, and so I think -- What they said at our meeting was April  
31 and May and September and October are very imperative to us, and  
32 so, if they get all fall and April on top of that, then I would  
33 say that that's better than what we've got right now.

34  
35 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Walker.

36  
37 **MR. WALKER:** My question was on amberjack too, and Pam covered  
38 most of it, and I think there was some discussion, and maybe it  
39 was Dr. Frazer or someone, that had brought up maybe the  
40 possibility of May, April and May, and maybe kind of find out a  
41 preference from your group for, if there is some kind of spring  
42 opening, would April or May work better, and May might work  
43 better, since it's before snapper season, but just something to  
44 think about.

45  
46 **MR. GREEN:** Yes, sir.

47  
48 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Dana. You're a popular man, Captain

1 Green.

2  
3 **DR. DANA:** I wasn't done before. Thanks, Captain Green. If  
4 there was a spring opening in April and May, or April, and if  
5 there was an overabundance of amberjack caught, and then it  
6 impacted the fall, obviously if there was no fall opening for  
7 anyone, is there a preference there then from --

8  
9 **MR. GREEN:** I would say that we don't want to jeopardize the  
10 rest of the Gulf fleet by doing that, by having a month season  
11 and, like I said, the stability, to us, is what's important.  
12 That's really why we want to add a vessel limit of some kind.  
13 They agreed on four, and we talked about two or three fish.

14  
15 We talked about a fractional bag limit, and we felt that a  
16 vessel limit of some sort of will help reduce, in some manner,  
17 to where we don't have -- If we do open in the spring, we  
18 wouldn't have this huge harvest and it would affect the fall,  
19 and that was kind of the line of our thinking.

20  
21 If they project that -- If they keep the bag limit the same as  
22 it is right now, and they open it up in April and project a  
23 detriment to the fall season, then I would just say, just  
24 speaking to what I would think that my fleet would say, it would  
25 be that they wouldn't want to lose that.

26  
27 September and October is very important in Destin. We have our  
28 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Destin Fishing Rodeo, which is a month-long fishing  
29 tournament, and we haven't been able to catch amberjacks in a  
30 couple of years in it, and that's a really good time to catch  
31 them, and so we weren't opposed to just a fall season, but, as  
32 far as business-wise goes, we would like to have that offering  
33 for our customers in the spring, and we feel that a reduced  
34 vessel limit would allow us to have the best of both worlds, was  
35 our thinking. Thank you, Dr. Dana.

36  
37 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir.

38  
39 **MR. GREEN:** Thank you, council.

40  
41 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Next, we have Mr. Mark Kelley, followed by  
42 Mr. Hughes Andry.

43  
44 **MR. MARK KELLEY:** My name is Mark Kelley, and I've got two  
45 charter boats, and I'm from Panama City. Both boats can carry  
46 up to twenty passengers, and I am also dually-permitted on both  
47 vessels and highly invested in the IFQ system, and I am not one  
48 that's been gifted. I have worked hard for everything I have,

1 and so I take a lot of offense when people get up here and say  
2 that everybody has been gifted. I have done what I have been  
3 asked to do, and I have fully invested my life into this  
4 business. I love what I do, and I am grateful that the Lord has  
5 given me the ability to do it.

6  
7 My main concern today is, and I'm speaking for about half of  
8 Panama City, and I might be speaking for all of Panama City, is  
9 this amberjack, and so, in the committee yesterday, we said that  
10 everybody talked about putting it off until the fall. Well,  
11 maybe you talked about putting it off until the fall, but, from  
12 what Ava told, the majority of the letters sent in wanted a  
13 spring season, and so I got to looking, and we say that, the  
14 spring season, that all the fish are caught during the spawn,  
15 but, if you look at your chart, it spikes March 1.

16  
17 That's kind of amazing to me, how we go from about 50,000 pounds  
18 in January and February and then we spike. Well, why we do  
19 spike? We spike because spring break starts. Everybody is not  
20 fishing in January and February, and the fleet starts fishing.  
21 It's the reason why it spikes, because we're out there. Then it  
22 gradually goes down and we have a fall season.

23  
24 Do I want it all? No, but I do think, seeing how in history  
25 that Florida and Alabama has caught 90 percent of the jack  
26 quota, we are entitled to a spring season. Now, what is that?  
27 April and May or May or April, and I don't know what it is, but  
28 you're going to -- Just because half of the Gulf wants a fall  
29 season, you're going to take what it's taken us thirty-five  
30 years to build and we're going to throw it out the window.

31  
32 If we're going to talk fair is fair, I think I could live with  
33 April and May. Could I live with May? I would have to think  
34 long and hard about it. How about April and May it's closed?  
35 We definitely don't need it in June and July. June and July, we  
36 have red snapper, and we need nothing else to go.

37  
38 How about let's open it September and October? That would give  
39 the wave time to be evaluated, and we would know exactly what's  
40 been caught. Then we open the season and say, hey, you're going  
41 to get September and October and the first fifteen days of  
42 November. We don't overfish the quota, and we don't have no  
43 payback measures, and I think that would be a good thing.

44  
45 Another thing that concerns me is the thirty-four-inch size  
46 limit that we was pushed into and promised all kinds of things.  
47 We were going to have a ten-month season and all, and the  
48 thirty-four-inch fish is not even considered in the equation at

1 the time, and so we do everything you ask, and we still get  
2 penalized.

3  
4 Another thing that concerns me is on the chart of the landings.  
5 We have the charter boats that caught 200,000 pounds less of  
6 jacks, and the headboats caught 40,000 pounds less, but the  
7 recreational for-hire tripled or doubled. It was about double.  
8 It was two-and-a-half times, and that number gravely concerns  
9 me, because there is a reason we're not out there catching them,  
10 and it's because of the weather, but all of these boats that are  
11 smaller than us, they're out there catching their limit every  
12 day, and I have a hard time with that. The fractional, I am not  
13 crazy about fractional, but, if that gets us more days, it's  
14 about having something to sell. Thank you.

15  
16 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. I think we have a question  
17 from Ms. Guyas.

18  
19 **MS. GUYAS:** I hear you on fractional bag limits, but what do you  
20 all think about a vessel limit, and what do you think we should  
21 look at with that, if that's something to look at? We've got  
22 four that somebody threw out here.

23  
24 **MR. KELLEY:** The fractional, fractional works, in my opinion,  
25 better than a vessel limit, unless you're going to give -- I  
26 mean, you're going to group me in with a six-passenger boat, and  
27 I ain't got nothing against six-passenger boats, but I do have  
28 more people on there, and so, if you're putting me in the same  
29 category as a six-passenger boat, I might have problems with it.

30  
31 Fractional probably works better, but, yesterday, they said that  
32 was a law enforcement issue, but, if a law enforcement guy can't  
33 say there is six people on that boat and divide it in half and  
34 come up with three, he might need to find a new occupation. I  
35 mean, that's pretty simple math, and he had to know a little bit  
36 of math to get there, and so that's my feelings on that.

37  
38 I am for anything that keeps us open. I can't believe that I'm  
39 up here bargaining for a half of a fish for my industry, but, by  
40 God, we've got to have something to catch. I mean, this is  
41 terrible, what we're under right now. I mean, we have nothing.

42  
43 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir.

44  
45 **MR. KELLEY:** Thank you, Pam and David. I appreciate you all.

46  
47 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Next, we have Mr. Hughes Andry, followed by  
48 Mr. Brad Gorst.

1  
2 **MR. HUGHES ANDRY:** Good afternoon. I wanted to thank the  
3 council for having me here this afternoon. My name is Hughes  
4 Andry, and I with Sportco Marketing. We're a sales and  
5 marketing agency that supplies fishing tackle to tackle stores  
6 and fishing dealers, fishing tackle dealers, all throughout the  
7 Gulf south.

8  
9 I wasn't able to make it to this meeting until earlier today,  
10 and so I missed yesterday's meeting, but I did want to thank the  
11 council for deferring on 41 and 42 until the Biloxi meeting. I  
12 really wanted to share an observation with everybody here that I  
13 picked up on over the last four or six weeks in talking with  
14 fishing tackle dealers and store owners.

15  
16 The last several years, certain categories of tackle sales have  
17 been really bad, and, due to economic problems this year, gas  
18 and oil, fishing tackle sales haven't been very good at all.  
19 Well, what has occurred here, over the last thirty to forty  
20 days, is a spike in business, in certain categories, and we have  
21 seen dealers that are witnessing double-digit percentage  
22 increases due to this extended federal red snapper season.

23  
24 Now, weather is always an issue, but, as I have talked to  
25 dealers from south Mississippi to Louisiana to Texas, all the  
26 way down to the valley, all of them are saying that our business  
27 is up double-digits because we have the extended days for our  
28 recreational community to fish.

29  
30 I won't take up too much more time, but I just wanted to urge  
31 the council to look for management processes that allow more  
32 access for the recreational community to get out on the water  
33 and enjoy the resource. Thank you.

34  
35 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Brad  
36 Gorst, followed by Mr. Scott Hickman.

37  
38 **MR. BRAD GORST:** Hello. My name is Brad Gorst, and I have come  
39 from Clearwater, Florida. I manage three federally-permitted  
40 boats, and two of them are dual-permitted. I would kind of like  
41 to say thank you to David and Pam for their service and the time  
42 that they've been here and their fairness and being able to see  
43 both sides of the arguments, and I hope that their replacements  
44 can fill their shoes.

45  
46 With that being said, I would like to move on to -- Like I said,  
47 we're a dual-permitted boat, and I would like to see 36B kicked  
48 back to the AP for review and to refine the amendment and clean

1 it up, to where it's a little bit -- To where it doesn't lose  
2 traction and it will move forward and go.

3  
4 Commercial amberjack, Alternative 2, Option b, is the preferred  
5 alternative. Action 2, Alternative 5, maintain the January  
6 through July 1 closure and open on August 1, and the rationale  
7 being that the fish are going to be roed-up in the summertime.  
8 They are finishing their roe in July, and so why harvest them  
9 pre-spawn? Let them drop their eggs and then go get them. If  
10 you go beforehand, you're killing a lot more fish than just what  
11 you harvested. You are actually killing your next harvest, and  
12 so you're shooting yourself in the foot.

13  
14 Include the 2017 data in the previous stock assessment to make  
15 good science, due to the special circumstances of this thirty-  
16 nine days. We're already at August, and what's another few more  
17 months? Let it ride.

18  
19 Maintain the science as the leading source of all management  
20 decisions. You can't have knee-jerk reactions and just say,  
21 well, I feel like this needs to happen or that needs to happen.  
22 The science staff and the council staff do a phenomenal job at  
23 what they do, and I've got to thank them, too.

24  
25 Let's keep the logbooks moving forward to the Secretary of  
26 Commerce to be signed off. The for-hire screams for  
27 accountability. As a charter/for-hire operator, we're treated  
28 as second-class citizens, with the commercial having its catches  
29 counted after every trip, and the Beaufort survey on the  
30 headboats. We demand to be counted. It's simple.

31  
32 To stop the Amendments 41 and 42 progress is a travesty. We  
33 provide access to the majority of people of forty-five states.  
34 That's their access. That's what we supply, is their access,  
35 for forty-five states, to the minority of a few citizen that  
36 live in five Gulf states, and so forty-five versus five. I  
37 mean, come on. Really?

38  
39 Privatization of the resource was brought up earlier, and the  
40 charter boats and commercial fishermen are exactly the opposite,  
41 being that people travel from out of town and do not put boats  
42 in their suitcase when they want to go fishing. They buy  
43 snapper in Kansas. Aunt Mary goes down to her local fish market  
44 in Ohio and wants a fresh fish, and that's the commercial  
45 access. They're not going to come drive to the coast and bring  
46 their boat just to get a fish, and so that's that side of it.

47  
48 By diminishing the charter boat and headboat access, you are

1 removing the majority of the population's access, and I stress  
2 the word "access". Once you do that, you're jeopardizing small  
3 business, and that's what the charter fleet and commercial  
4 operators are, is small business. Small enterprise. That's  
5 what this country is about.

6

7 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Brad, are you just about done?

8

9 **MR. GORST:** Yes, ma'am. The southeast Gulf -- My notes are  
10 done. Thank you.

11

12 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Scott  
13 Hickman, followed by Mr. Scott Robson.

14

15 **MR. SCOTT HICKMAN:** Good afternoon, Madam Chair and esteemed  
16 members of the Gulf Council, Shepherd Grimes. First off, I  
17 would like to thank Captain Walker and Dr. Dana on their  
18 service. It's been a pleasure to work with you all over these  
19 last few years, and, David, good luck with your professional  
20 wrestling career after you leave the council.

21

22 The recreational extended season, I told Mr. Riechers the other  
23 day that I was going to eat a little crow on this, because I  
24 really thought that we would see a huge amount of effort in  
25 Texas. I hear that there's a lot in Florida, but I have  
26 actually experienced less effort, and Shane and I were talking  
27 about that earlier, in Galveston. We haven't seen the big push  
28 like we expected, and so we may be surprised in the western  
29 Gulf.

30

31 Greater amberjack opener, my guys back in Galveston, of course,  
32 they're going to want an August 1 opener. They keep gobbling  
33 these fish up in the eastern Gulf, but, regardless of that, I  
34 have spent a lot of time in the last couple of years with  
35 researchers on my boat, and this body has done everything it  
36 could on amberjacks. Let's raise the size limit to reach sexual  
37 maturity. They've got thirty-five or thirty-six inches to reach  
38 sexual maturity, and so it makes a lot of sense to not harvest  
39 these fish right prior to the spawn.

40

41 These fish that we're getting in the Gulf during these research  
42 trips, I never knew what ripe and running meant, but I've seen a  
43 lot of that, and I have learned more about fish gonads than I  
44 ever wanted to know, but an August 1 opener, or a late July  
45 opener, would keep us from killing fish before they can at least  
46 replicate themselves in the fishery, and so think about the  
47 biological aspects of it before we start making these decisions  
48 on these fisheries.

1  
2 I like that the council talked today about a biomass component  
3 to the fishery. That has needed to be talked about for a long  
4 time, especially in the western Gulf.

5  
6 I would like to see the charter/for-hire buffer revisited. We  
7 are a defined universe now. For the first time in a long time,  
8 we have stayed below our quota every year, and we would like to  
9 be able to use that for the fishing public that accessing it  
10 through the charter boats.

11  
12 I would like to see the Charter/For-Hire AP reconvened this  
13 year. Some other people have been talking about the commercial  
14 IFQ program today. I would like to make it real clear that the  
15 IFQ system is a privilege to harvest. It's not ownership. In  
16 Alaska, they've got, I think, one species where you can own  
17 those shares.

18  
19 I am a new shareholder in this fishery. It's a great system.  
20 It's a very accountable, conservation-based system that is  
21 working. I have a privilege to harvest those fish. I paid to  
22 be able to do that. I bought into it. I understand that those  
23 fish could be taken away. The program could fail. The fishery  
24 could collapse, but I paid for a privilege to be able to  
25 harvest. I don't own those fish.

26  
27 That is basically all I've got today, and the motion for the  
28 referendum requirement, I would agree with some of my captains  
29 from my homeport. You all have been working on this, and I  
30 don't get why we have to move it to the next meeting. You all  
31 are the ones that know about it. You sit on this council. Take  
32 a vote. It's not the final action. It's not the final program.  
33 It's a referendum requirement. That's it. Thank you all very  
34 much, and have a good evening.

35  
36 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Scott  
37 Robson, followed by Mr. Tony Bess.

38  
39 **MR. SCOTT ROBSON:** Good afternoon, Gulf Council. My name is  
40 Scott Robson, and I run a charter boat in Destin, Florida, and I  
41 have been in the fisheries for over forty years, and I represent  
42 thousands of fishermen.

43  
44 I am here to talk about amberjacks today. Opportunity,  
45 opportunity, opportunity for fishermen. That's what we're  
46 looking for here, and that's what we should be looking for as we  
47 should be achieving as the Gulf Council, science staff, and  
48 stakeholders. We should be achieving this all together, and we



1 should come together.

2  
3 I am afraid though what we're looking at here, with a six-month  
4 closure and a July opening for a month or two, falls way short  
5 of this. This will do nothing more than direct effort into  
6 July, and then overfishing begins. It does nothing to control  
7 landings, and then back to overharvest and closed seasons for  
8 all recreational fishermen.

9  
10 I also understand that a little bit of this has been based on  
11 the spring spawning, but I am a bit surprised that we're basing  
12 this -- Because we opened red snapper during the peak of its  
13 spawning, and we have no concerns about that.

14  
15 Another thing that I question is, if we've been overfished with  
16 amberjack in 2016 with a thirty-four-inch amberjack, by roughly  
17 a million pounds halfway through the spring season, I question  
18 whether this stock is in trouble or not.

19  
20 I would like to present an option for a spring and fall season  
21 for the entire Gulf. One fish per two people will give us a 45  
22 percent reduction in landings across the board, private,  
23 charter/for-hire, and headboat. A vessel limit of six fish will  
24 give us another 8 percent in charter and 39 percent in headboat.  
25 A season opening in April through May and August through October  
26 will give us some more reduction. With approximately a 60  
27 percent reduction or greater in all, that should give us a  
28 season that all fishermen can count on and depend on.

29  
30 I would also add that the increased size limit from thirty to  
31 thirty-four inches was a disaster. It did not extend the season  
32 in any way. It sent the fish into being overharvested with a  
33 payback, creating the first time ever of almost a complete  
34 season closure. I would suggest that we go back to a thirty-  
35 inch fish. Increasing the size limit is not always what is best  
36 for the fish and the anglers.

37  
38 In closing, I hope the council moves forward in not opening the  
39 amberjacks in January and yet allow for some spring fishing,  
40 whatever it takes to have a dependable season for all fishermen,  
41 and, once again, I would like to thank Pam Dana and David Walker  
42 for all your hard work and representation on the council. Thank  
43 you very much.

44  
45 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. We have a question from  
46 Captain Walker.

47  
48 **MR. WALKER:** Thank you, Scott, for coming and participating in

1 this process. In the discussion yesterday, because I won't be  
2 on the council at the next meeting, but some of the discussion  
3 was maybe a one-month opening in the spring, and I didn't know  
4 if you had a preference of April or May, but that's just  
5 something to think about for the next meeting, or maybe you had  
6 some comments on it now.

7  
8 **MR. ROBSON:** Right, and, here again, I guess, if I had a  
9 preference, it would be May, but, here again, my point here, and  
10 I don't want to go too much, is just this little moving these  
11 seasons into a fall, and you have done nothing about a thirty-  
12 four-inch fish. You're not taking into consideration much on  
13 vessel limits, and that would help a little bit, but, really and  
14 truly, and I have heard some comments of how do you do  
15 fractional, but, to me, that's the biggest thing that's going to  
16 give us a reduction.

17  
18 If this fleet, or this fishery, wants to see any recovery and  
19 really see a season, because you're just moving it into July,  
20 what a spike in effort then. If you don't think that April and  
21 May was, open it up in July, or even August. It shows on the  
22 graph that there's a big percentage caught then, and you're just  
23 going to move everything down the road. Then, in 2018, or 2019,  
24 we'll be having a closed season again and let's start all over  
25 again, and where do we go from here?

26  
27 That's why I think bag limit reductions, and I know it's down to  
28 one, and the only other option is one per two people, but it  
29 gives you such a good reduction that there's a chance for a  
30 longer season that will benefit all.

31  
32 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Crabtree.

33  
34 **DR. CRABTREE:** Hi, Scott. Jim Green, I think, mentioned a four-  
35 fish vessel limit.

36  
37 **MR. ROBSON:** We did, when we were voting, and we would, but,  
38 when they took that vote -- First, we kind of voted on what I  
39 was presenting, and a lot of people liked it. Then somebody  
40 brought up of, well, what if you're six-passenger boat. Then  
41 four would work better for me.

42  
43 The only problem, if you do just the vessel limit reduction  
44 alone, at least according to the data that I've gotten, and this  
45 is in Amendment 35, in Table 2.1 and Table 2.1.2, it only gives  
46 you a 25 percent reduction in charter/for-hire and a 2 percent  
47 reduction, according to the graph, in private rec, and so, here  
48 again, we might get a 25 percent reduction, and I'm just

1 concerned -- Is 25 percent enough to give you a good, long  
2 season with this fish?

3

4 **DR. CRABTREE:** But, in terms of business, four fish per vessel  
5 wouldn't hurt you?

6

7 **MR. ROBSON:** Yes, if you could get a complete season. The  
8 biggest fear is what we're trying to stop from happening, and  
9 that's your -- Let's say we do open in May. Come August, there  
10 you go. The quota has been caught again, and I'm trying to look  
11 for an answer that you can have some spring and you can have  
12 some fall that should benefit everybody. Yes, there is going to  
13 be some give-and-take in it. How do you do two people and, if  
14 you've got two people on your boat, I guess you keep one fish.

15

16 The opportunity is there. They're going to get to keep it, and  
17 it sure would be nice, is what we're really looking for, is  
18 being allowed to -- At least when you go and fish, you're able  
19 to take a couple of fish home. Nothing by law says that you  
20 have to take six in every day, but we're just trying to break it  
21 down to what's the best benefit to the fishery and to the  
22 fishermen.

23

24 **DR. CRABTREE:** Well, we'll come back to it in October in Biloxi.

25

26 **MR. ROBSON:** I will be there.

27

28 **DR. CRABTREE:** We'll look forward to hearing from you.

29

30 **MR. ROBSON:** All right. Thank you.

31

32 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Any other questions? We have one more from  
33 Mr. Sanchez.

34

35 **MR. SANCHEZ:** It's more of a comment. Thanks. You have changed  
36 my view on fractional fish, and I really appreciate you going  
37 through the work and getting together with your group and trying  
38 to bring something right along the lines of, I think, what we're  
39 looking at, because I think our goal is the same, to try to  
40 extend the season, keep it open as long as possible, and these  
41 are some of the things we've got to look at and put some  
42 analysis to, so we can hopefully move forward in October, and so  
43 thank you.

44

45 **MR. ROBSON:** Thank you.

46

47 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** I think you're free now, sir. Thank you.  
48 Next, we have Mr. B.J. Burkett, followed by Mr. Jason

1 Klosterman.

2

3 **UNIDENTIFIED:** You skipped Tony.

4

5 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** I am so sorry. I checked him out earlier.  
6 Okay. Mr. Tony Bess, followed by Mr. B.J. Burkett. I  
7 apologize, Mr. Tony.

8

9 **MR. TONY BESS:** That's all right. My name is Tony Bess, and I'm  
10 from Alvin, Texas. I am a recreational fisherman, and I've been  
11 fishing for forty-plus years. I, three years ago, moved my boat  
12 from the Galveston Yacht Basin down to Matagorda, to take  
13 advantage of the near-shore Texas red snapper. It has worked  
14 out great for me and my family.

15

16 I have seen it when it was really, really good fishing, to when  
17 it was not so good fishing, and now somebody has referred to it  
18 as the biomass is just out of this world, as far as I am  
19 concerned. I can't hardly get a bait down to catch an amberjack  
20 or a grouper, and I am not really complaining too much about the  
21 amberjacks, but I would like to catch a grouper now and then.

22

23 Currently, here in Texas, we're allocated three days in June  
24 again, and that, historically, is our windiest month. I am  
25 physically handicapped, and I couldn't justify jeopardizing my  
26 safety or my boat to go out for the three days.

27

28 TP&W and the rest of the Gulf states got together and talked  
29 about extended seasons, and I was only okay giving up my state  
30 days to be able to participate in more federal days. I can  
31 catch fish in Texas waters all year long, as somebody else has  
32 said.

33

34 I disagree with the federal government, and I hate to use the  
35 word, and a gentleman was here speaking about it earlier, but  
36 generally the word used is "gifting" the snapper to a select few  
37 groups, corporations, or individuals resources that belong to  
38 all of us in the United States.

39

40 I appreciate the tabling, which it appears to be a tabling, on  
41 the Amendment 41 and 42 until the new council members take their  
42 seats. I would like to see Amendment 30B rescinded as well as  
43 allowing Amendment 40 to sunset by the end of the year.

44

45 I totally disagree with a comment that I've heard several times  
46 about the mortality rate that recreational fishermen come up  
47 with. I have heard somebody say twenty-to-one that we're  
48 upgrading our fish, and that don't happen on my boat, and it

1 don't happen on a lot of my friends' boats. We get what we get.  
2 If it's sixteen inches, then we're going to go with it.

3  
4 I have been behind headboats, and I have seen a lot of floaties,  
5 and that just becomes -- That's a waste for everybody, and that  
6 just becomes porpoise and shark bait, and so, as I said, I  
7 disagree with that.

8  
9 I think the data is suspect and outdated, and I would like to  
10 see that improved on, so we could get a better idea of what we  
11 actually have out there in the Gulf, and I would prefer my state  
12 to handle its own fish. Thank you.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. B.J.  
15 Burkett, followed by Mr. Jason Klosterman.

16  
17 **MR. B.J. BURKETT:** My name is B.J. Burkett, owner and operator  
18 of Hook'em Up Charters in Panama City Beach, Florida. I have  
19 been in business for thirteen years. Also, a dual-permitted and  
20 an IFQ holder and a commercial fishing boat based out of  
21 Apalachicola.

22  
23 The charter fishing, for us, in our area, has been the worst I  
24 have ever seen. Like I said, for thirteen years, this season  
25 was the absolute worst for the spring, mainly because of  
26 amberjack. The carpet got pulled out from under us, and we lost  
27 a pile of trips because of it.

28  
29 I have a hard time with the fall season. I know there's a big  
30 westerly push for it. It really bothers me, because,  
31 historically, all the fish have come from the eastern Gulf, by  
32 you all's records, from what you all show in all of these papers  
33 you all put out. It's not just close. It's way off. It's like  
34 90/10, and that's a very close guess on that.

35  
36 A harvest shift for these jacks is not going to change the  
37 overfishing problem you all have. A few years back, you all  
38 failed us, when you all promised us ten months and a two-month  
39 closure if we went to thirty-four inches. You miserably failed  
40 on that one. I mean, the fish are bigger than we've ever seen,  
41 and our customers can't hardly catch them now, they're so big,  
42 and the smaller fish will do fine. Going back to a thirty-inch  
43 size limit would work way better. There would be a lot more  
44 fish for everybody to catch.

45  
46 That graph you all have in the handout, on page 100, I would  
47 appreciate the council looking at that graph a little bit  
48 closer. It shows a massive harvest in June and July, when it's

1 been closed for the last several years in June and July, and how  
2 can we harvest a massive amount of fish when it's closed, and so  
3 please reevaluate that, if you all will.

4  
5 We need a spring season. April 1 would be a good opening for  
6 us, April and May, and close it in June and July. We do not  
7 need them in June and July. Then reopen it in the fall and let  
8 it go as long as it will.

9  
10 Everyone needs the opportunity. To keep my business afloat, I  
11 need the opportunity. I don't need a closed season. A closed  
12 season is closed for business, and we need the opportunity, and  
13 the spring is when we need our amberjacks. We have always  
14 caught them in the spring.

15  
16 Red snapper, the sector separation by itself has been working  
17 pretty good. We have been staying in our guidelines, and there  
18 is no need for an IFQ or a PFQ. Leave it alone. It's working.  
19 Just leave it alone. It's working great right now. Each year,  
20 we get more and more days. We can get closer to our buffers,  
21 and let it ride.

22  
23 Another thing that nobody has brought up, and I bring it up  
24 every time I come up here, and it happened a year or two back,  
25 is the red grouper IFQ. That has been -- It has hit me kind of  
26 hard, because of the marine fisheries increased it 30 percent,  
27 and the commercial sector hasn't even come within 30 percent of  
28 catching the initial quota, and why do we add more? That just  
29 seems like a horrible way to conserve the fishery, and that's  
30 pretty much all I've got.

31  
32 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir.

33  
34 **MR. BURKETT:** Thank you.

35  
36 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Next, we have Mr. Jason Klosterman, followed  
37 by Mr. Buddy Guindon.

38  
39 **MR. JASON KLOSTERMAN:** Good afternoon, council. Thank you for  
40 giving me the opportunity to speak in front of you all today.  
41 My name is Jason Klosterman, and I'm a second-generation charter  
42 fisherman from Destin, Florida, the owner and operator of a six-  
43 pack charter service, and I would like to talk to you all  
44 briefly about the amberjack season.

45  
46 I do not see an August 1 opening for those of us on the Gulf  
47 coast of Florida. I would like the council to consider other  
48 options before making a ruling. I would be in support of a

1 reduction in the bag limit of one-fish per person or a four-fish  
2 per vessel limit, to allow an April and May season and a  
3 September through October fall season.

4  
5 I would also like to see the council consider exploring lowering  
6 the size limit from thirty-four to thirty, or even thirty-two  
7 inches, so that we do not catch our quota as quickly.

8  
9 For us, I see an amberjack spring season as important to our  
10 business. Summers for us, regardless of what we're catching --  
11 It seems to me, even when we had a nine-day snapper season, we  
12 catch -- We have a lot of customers during the summer. For us,  
13 spring and fall is a time where the fish that we can bring back  
14 seem to be more important to our customers that come that time  
15 of year.

16  
17 We discussed this a lot at our last Destin Charter Boat  
18 Association meeting, and the one per person and four-fish per  
19 vessel limit was one of a popular choice, and there was also a  
20 one per every other person, six max, and that was somewhat more  
21 popular among our over-six charter operators. I think either or  
22 would be a good option for the council to consider to help us  
23 move forward on this.

24  
25 Concerning Amendment 41, I would like to continue to see the  
26 council move forward with this. I certainly don't want to see  
27 it die off, as some fishermen have mentioned here today. I  
28 think anything that is a value to us for our resource,  
29 especially for longevity and stability, and for somebody like  
30 me. I am twenty-nine years old, and I've been a charter captain  
31 for ten years, and I just purchased my own vessel about a month  
32 ago.

33  
34 I can tell you, personally, that it's not cheap to get into  
35 nowadays, but I would never invest less money in something that  
36 I felt was going to fail instead of investing more money in  
37 something that I thought was going to succeed, and so I  
38 definitely think that is very important for us to move forward  
39 on. Thank you.

40  
41 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Buddy  
42 Guindon, followed by Mr. Shane Cantrell.

43  
44 **MR. BUDDY GUINDON:** Hello. I'm Buddy Guindon, a commercial  
45 fisherman in the Gulf of Mexico and many other things to many  
46 people. Pam, thanks for your service here. You've been a  
47 wonderful asset to this council. I hope the people that replace  
48 you can do the same thing.

1  
2 The only commercial red snapper fisherman in the history of the  
3 council, that spends 90 percent of its time on red snapper,  
4 David Walker, thanks for your service. Sorry it was so short.

5  
6 I have a question for Kevin, and I hope he will answer it at  
7 Full Council, on Amendment 36B. At what point did the goal of  
8 reducing capacity in the red snapper fishery get reached,  
9 because we're talking about redistribution of quota to new  
10 entrants. If we are looking for new entrants, we must have  
11 reached this reduction of our capacity, and I would like to know  
12 what that number was, and then I would like to know what the  
13 number will be when we reach overcapacity again, so I understand  
14 the goal that Kevin has in the amendment that he brought up.

15  
16 When you implement a market-based management system, it's just  
17 that. It's a market-based system. The market drives the  
18 pricing, and the new entrants coming in drive the market,  
19 because they're the ones buying, and the older guys are selling.

20  
21 When we attempt to do this, I hope that General Counsel fully  
22 examines that significant change to our management system and  
23 requires a referendum, so that we can vote on that, because it's  
24 not what we signed up for. We signed up for a market-based  
25 system that was based on people coming in buying in and the  
26 people going out selling out, and I think that's the fair way to  
27 look at it, not that I will ever sell out. I will die with  
28 mine, and my kids will get it, unless you can change that  
29 somehow.

30  
31 Amendment 36, to me, it seems like a way to devalue the IFQ  
32 system. When we have a group of businessmen, fishermen, who are  
33 not up here at the podium complaining about leasing of fish and  
34 price the fish cost, I don't understand why non-commercial-  
35 representing council members are worried about that. I think  
36 that what they should be worried about -- If you're a commercial  
37 representative, you should be bringing up commercial points. If  
38 you're a recreational representative, you should be working on  
39 the recreational problems in this fishery and trying to solve  
40 them.

41  
42 I hope that, when David and Pam's replacements come in, they can  
43 bring a new way of thinking to the council about maybe trying to  
44 solve those problems, rather than attacking a management system  
45 that's working for the folks that are in it and it's working for  
46 the public.

47  
48 I think that, if you could get us down to a limit in amberjack



1 that eliminates a directed fishery, whether that be 1,000 pounds  
2 or 500 pounds or 750 pounds or 300, and I don't know what it is,  
3 but we can then spread that catch out and reduce discard  
4 mortality in the amberjack fishery. See you at the party.

5  
6 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Shane  
7 Cantrell, followed by Mr. Mike Colby.

8  
9 **MR. SHANE CANTRELL:** Good afternoon. I would first like to  
10 recognize a couple of members of this council. First, Dr. Dana,  
11 thank you for your years of service on this council, and we  
12 appreciate everything you've done. You've been a fair and  
13 balanced council member.

14  
15 Second, Mr. Walker, we appreciate your short term here on the  
16 council. You've done an excellent job for commercial, and  
17 you've really been there for the other professional fishermen,  
18 as we've seen our industry come under attack.

19  
20 The third person that I would like to recognize is Mr. Johnny  
21 Greene. You're the last charter boat on this council, man. To  
22 my knowledge, you're the last professional fisherman making a  
23 living on the water on this council. I'm seeing a lot of  
24 imbalance, and that really worries me, as somebody who has got a  
25 future in the charter boat industry and a future in the  
26 commercial fishing industry. We're seeing the only commercial  
27 reef fish fisherman go away.

28  
29 We don't have a lot of professional fishermen on this council.  
30 We have a lot of recreational interest, and we have a lot of  
31 recreational advocates, and I feel like the charter boat voice  
32 is going away, and I feel like the commercial voice is also  
33 going away, and so that's very troubling.

34  
35 Electronic logbooks, to my knowledge, that has been passed by  
36 the council, and it has not been transmitted to the Secretary.  
37 This is something that the charter boats really need. This is  
38 desperately needed. We need to get this on the water and get  
39 this done and get this finished.

40  
41 In terms of accountability, we need to be supporting science-  
42 based catch limits in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and the  
43 charter/for-hire sector, sub-sector, has consistently stayed  
44 within its quota. This could be further cemented with  
45 electronic logbooks and also by adjusting the buffer  
46 appropriately, as we have seen with the successful  
47 implementation of Amendment 40.

48

1 I am concerned of the impact that a thirty-nine-day season could  
2 have on this resource. As Scott Hickman mentioned earlier,  
3 there is -- It's an interesting dynamic of what I've seen on the  
4 water every day on the weekends out of Texas. I have different  
5 stories out of Florida, but that's anecdotal evidence, and I am  
6 interested to see what this may have.

7  
8 On amberjacks, I would like to see you finalize this ACL, and  
9 the January closure, so we can get this figured out. There is a  
10 lot of opportunities to get this worked on. I believe we can  
11 find something and a compromise and be able to move forward on  
12 this.

13  
14 Amendment 41 and 42 offer a stable and flexible management plan,  
15 and it's interesting to hear such harsh attacks now that the  
16 council balance is looking differently. It's a very interesting  
17 dynamic there.

18  
19 On SEDAR for red snapper, the council is approaching a dangerous  
20 situation. We just lowered the MSST significantly, which is  
21 increased opportunity for exploitation, and an unprecedented  
22 thirty-nine-day season for the only open access, uncapped  
23 sector, uncapped sub-sector of this, and to not incorporate this  
24 season data and landings data just seems reckless to me. That's  
25 all I've got for today, and, if you all had any questions, I  
26 would feel free to answer them.

27  
28 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have a question from Captain Walker.

29  
30 **MR. WALKER:** Thank you, Shane. I just had a question on  
31 amberjack and how you felt about maybe spring seasons and  
32 splitting and then the trip limits for commercial.

33  
34 **MR. CANTRELL:** On the commercial trip limit, I use it as a  
35 bycatch on my trips. I caught two this year commercially, and I  
36 was pretty happy with that. I got one day of good weather, and  
37 I was really busy in the beginning of the year, and so I don't  
38 make my living on amberjacks, but I don't have a problem with  
39 the reduction in trip limit.

40  
41 For recreationally and on the charter boats, there is some  
42 outside-the-box ideas that are going to be brought up, and it  
43 could be worked on in October. For my fleet in Galveston, a  
44 split season, at least to how we've seen it, is a closure for  
45 the western Gulf of Mexico.

46  
47 A spring season, a January 1 opening, we've seen it close early,  
48 and we've watched it. That's a split season. Open it in

1 January and close it for the spawning and open it back up and it  
2 doesn't open back up. At some point, these boats in the western  
3 Gulf have got to be recognized. It's like we need to do  
4 something. We talk about compromise, and we need to find some  
5 compromise. I am not seeing a compromise with a split yet. I  
6 mean, I'm open to ideas, and I would like to talk about this  
7 stuff, but that doesn't show me a compromise yet.

8

9 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** A question from Mr. Banks.

10

11 **MR. BANKS:** Shane, thank you for your testimony. You had  
12 mentioned about using some quota that you had for commercial for  
13 your bycatch, and you're a fairly young man. One of the  
14 concerns that I have expressed is trying to encourage new  
15 entrants into this program and making sure that we modify the  
16 program such that we encourage new entrants.

17

18 Can you explain a little bit about the existing program and how  
19 it helped you come into the commercial industry or maybe, in a  
20 way, really made it very difficult for you to come into the -- I  
21 guess give us a little idea of how we can help encourage new  
22 entrants, because I just don't want this IFQ program to be  
23 discouraging new entrants. Thank you.

24

25 **MR. CANTRELL:** The greatest benefits of the red snapper and  
26 grouper-tilefish IFQ program are the stability and the certainty  
27 that they've got, in terms of ability to go harvest and the time  
28 of year that you get to do it. The flexibility that you've got  
29 to go do this -- The benefits of the program are there.

30

31 That is the value of the program. The uncertainty around it  
32 makes it harder for new entrants and not easier. Stuff like  
33 Amendment 36B that are attacking the IFQ system and undermining  
34 the successes are not helping new fishermen. They are hurting  
35 new fishermen.

36

37 My personal story, I bought a boat, and I have invested in the  
38 IFQ system, and I am now an IFQ shareholder. I'm a small  
39 shareholder. I bought my first amount of shares here about a  
40 month ago. I am investing in this fishery, and I have a future  
41 in it, and I see a great opportunity. I lease a lot of fish.  
42 The majority of my fish are leased, and, as I continue to run a  
43 business and I continue to build into this fishery, and I intend  
44 to have a future in it, I invest in my business.

45

46 That's what you do when you run a business. You don't wait for  
47 somebody to gift it to you. I have all the gains to be made  
48 from a cyclical redistribution standpoint, but that's not the

1 solution. The guys that are in it built the system, and they  
2 worked so hard to protect it, and they worked to further it, and  
3 they put together a quota bank, and they're doing the right  
4 thing for their industry, and we don't need to make it harder  
5 for them, and we don't need to make it harder for me. I am  
6 living the American dream to be able to do this, and I want to  
7 continue to do that.

8  
9 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Mike  
10 Colby, followed by Mr. David Briggs.

11  
12 **MR. MIKE COLBY:** Thank you, Council Chairwoman, and, Mr. Anson,  
13 I just couldn't help myself. I just had to do it. The first  
14 comment, again, Dr. Dana and David, thank you. I am Mike Colby,  
15 the President of the Clearwater Marine Association out of  
16 Clearwater, Florida.

17  
18 I always want to try to be helpful and give you something to  
19 chew on, and I think, last time I testified, I gave you some  
20 updates on ELB. We're closer to getting some more units, in  
21 addition to about thirty or forty more training sessions, around  
22 the Gulf. Those were talked about last week, and this is the  
23 NFWF and CLS and Gulf Seafood Institute Program.

24  
25 We have looked at some of the bumps in the road in it, and, in  
26 the last two or three weeks, we've identified simple things like  
27 more intercepts, and I don't think there's a state survey or any  
28 survey that wouldn't benefit from more intercepts.

29  
30 One of the more obvious things would be density of participation  
31 in some of the port locations, and that hopefully will solve  
32 that as we move forward with some additional units, and so I am  
33 kind of excited about that, and I will know a lot more about  
34 that even next week.

35  
36 On a broader note, one of the previous speakers made an  
37 interesting statement that this 41 and 42 vote is an eligibility  
38 requirement. I mean, I think any council has the ability to  
39 move something forward or back-burner it, but it simply seems to  
40 me that this is really about making a determination on  
41 participants.

42  
43 It's not a final action, and it doesn't necessarily mean the sky  
44 is falling, but it's just simply trying to make an  
45 identification of how we determine what an eligible participant  
46 is, and I -- Oftentimes, when I think back on this Headboat  
47 Collaborative and what Amendment 41 and 42 propose to do, it's  
48 very similar.

1  
2 I have always got the idea that the alter that a fisheries  
3 scientist would like to worship at would be to have effort  
4 distributed evenly around the Gulf and, in some ways, in some  
5 fisheries, constrain harvest, and that gets you two things.  
6 That gets you a sustainable fishery, and it also gets you access  
7 for everybody, and I can still, under constraint of harvest,  
8 like you just heard a captain say an hour ago, his participation  
9 in the Headboat Collaborative -- They caught less fish, and they  
10 had a wider participation of recreational fishermen in it,  
11 because they offered it at a time that was beneficial for his  
12 fishery.

13  
14 It's kind of interesting that you can get as granular as you  
15 want to about why 41 or 42 would be bad or good, but, if you  
16 kind of step back a minute and look at it, it actually offers a  
17 platform that puts fishery managers kind of where they would  
18 like to be, where you can have a better determination of your  
19 landings, and you have a constraint on harvest. You have  
20 distributed your effort around, and, at least in terms of a for-  
21 hire fisherman, from Corpus Christi to Key West, Florida, that  
22 might be a really good thing. Thank you.

23  
24 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. We have a question from Mr.  
25 Anson.

26  
27 **MR. ANSON:** Hi, Mike. Thanks for providing your testimony, even  
28 though you kind of reneged on your deal earlier, but you  
29 mentioned the thirty to forty training sessions, and I assume  
30 those are going to be one-on-one training sessions associated  
31 with each of the units that you're going to be installing, and  
32 is that correct?

33  
34 **MR. COLBY:** The way they were put together a year-and-a-half ago  
35 was at different port locations and come one and come all, and  
36 so it's a presentation. I think we generally got fifteen to  
37 thirty operators, and you bring in some PCs, and you set up a  
38 show, and everybody -- You have a tablet, and you walk through  
39 the process, and so it's not one-on-one, but it's a group of two  
40 or three people, the two engineers from CLS, a GSI  
41 representative, myself, and some others that are familiar with  
42 that platform.

43  
44 **MR. ANSON:** We have had some issues, I think, in the Orange  
45 Beach area with some of the platforms, and so this is going to  
46 be an another open group training session, these, again, thirty  
47 or so training sessions that will be open to multiple captains,  
48 and I guess, from your perspective, if you can put the word out

1 to certainly encourage captains to attend, because some captains  
2 -- I think they think that they're reporting the right way, but  
3 I don't know if that's quite happening 100 percent of the time,  
4 and so maybe a retraining session might be stressed for folks.  
5 They might learn something new about the system and its  
6 capabilities, and that might help them to come on out. Thank  
7 you.

8  
9 **MR. COLBY:** Kevin, I have seen that in our marine association in  
10 Clearwater, where I have walked the dock, and I've been down in  
11 St. Pete and other port locations, and, many times, you're just  
12 -- You've got to be an ambassador for what you're doing, and  
13 that's going to help, particularly as we roll out a directive to  
14 have the entire for-hire fleet report on electronic logbooks.  
15 You're going to need ambassadors.

16  
17 There is no way that -- I mean, I don't know that there is  
18 enough training sessions without the help of captains that can  
19 answer questions right there. I have gone up to boats where  
20 it's simply, well, my time and position froze on the tablet and  
21 what do I do, and, well, let me show you how to reboot it and  
22 re-pair it to your Wi-Fi or to your junction box. Ten minutes  
23 later, they're going, wow, and so you really get down to ground-  
24 zero when you're talking about using a new technology.

25  
26 Like I have mentioned before, to be fair, there are some guys  
27 out there in this federal for-hire fishery that still use flip  
28 phones, and they're just going to freak out, and so there's got  
29 to be a way to hand-carry and hold these people and give them  
30 the care and attention they need to bring them into a different  
31 reporting environment.

32  
33 That's a mouthful, but I think, with the ambassadors and other  
34 captains that are fired up and get onboard and get the training  
35 and understand the training -- They're the ones that trickle  
36 out, and they're the ones that get the process moving.

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. All right. Next, we have  
39 Mr. David Briggs, followed by Mr. Michael Brown.

40  
41 **MR. DAVID BRIGGS:** Thanks, council. I appreciate you guys  
42 giving me the time to be here. It's probably going to be a  
43 little hard to speak, because I just flew in from Angola this  
44 morning, and I'm a little bit sleep deprived, but I'm a  
45 recreational fisherman, but, at the same time, I was a deckhand  
46 on the charter boats, and I fished with some of the captains in  
47 here back in the 1990s, putting myself through A&M.

48

1 We've got a mess on our hands, we really do, but, at the end of  
2 the day, it's about money. Everybody is talking about the IFQ  
3 and they don't pay any royalties. Well, I work for Exxon-Mobil,  
4 and we pay royalties, and why doesn't everybody? That's a  
5 sticky point.

6  
7 I understand the charter guys. They're just trying to make a  
8 living. I tried to do it, and it just wasn't for me.  
9 Commercial fishermen, I learned my lesson on that one, but I  
10 give you guys all the best in world. It's not easy. It's not  
11 easy to hear both sides of the same story, and everybody just  
12 wants to go fishing. That's all it's about, is just going  
13 fishing.

14  
15 When I signed on the dotted line and I went into the United  
16 States Army to serve this country, nobody asked me. Everybody  
17 said, go, go do it and take off. Okay. I tried to take my son  
18 fishing, and I can't go. I can't go because of this, and I  
19 can't go because of that, and so that's why I'm saying that it  
20 can't be easy, and I've seen all three sides of it. I have  
21 lived it. I did it.

22  
23 Back to the amendments. Now I'm a recreational fisherman, and I  
24 see postponing 40 and 41 and doing this with that and the IFQs  
25 and everything else, and I'm glad it's you all and not me. I  
26 did my duty, and just do what you can for everybody. Everybody  
27 has got a dog in this fight, and it's not easy, because some  
28 dogs are bigger and other dogs are smaller, and so I thank you,  
29 and I appreciate it, and good luck, guys.

30  
31 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Michael  
32 Brown, followed by Mr. Terrell Miller.

33  
34 **MR. MICHAEL BROWN:** How are you all today? I'm a recreational  
35 guy, and I captain a charter boat on the side, and I run cattle  
36 for a living. I'm out of Port O'Connor, Texas, and we fish out  
37 of there quite a bit. The fishing is a little tougher now that  
38 all the rigs are disappearing. From the cattle business side of  
39 it, if you don't have the pasture, you can't have the cows, and  
40 it's the same thing with the rigs. That's kind of hurting us  
41 there.

42  
43 I just really wanted to push that it's scary going down to so  
44 many short days on the fishing, the same as the last guy said.  
45 It's hard wanting to take your kids out and not being able to do  
46 it, because, if you get ten days, realistically, nine of those  
47 are too rough to actually go out. The ten-day season is hard to  
48 shoot for. It's hard to plan it out so far ahead, and it's

1 tough, but I do want to be able to say that, before it's all  
2 said and done, that I did do something to be able to try to take  
3 my kids out later on. Thank you, all.

4  
5 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Next, we have Mr. Terrell  
6 Miller, and, if Mr. John Graham is in the room now, he'll be  
7 last, but not least.

8  
9 **MR. TERRELL MILLER:** Good afternoon, council. My name is  
10 Terrell Miller, and I'm a native of San Antonio. I live a far  
11 rifle shot from the Alamo. I am pretty heavily invested as a  
12 recreational fisherman in Port Aransas, Texas, and, these last  
13 few weekends, you would not believe the uptick in the boats  
14 leaving from the boat ramp.

15  
16 My place is right there by the boat ramp, and you would not  
17 believe the gas and the bait that's being bought there and the  
18 tackle. You can definitely notice the influx, and I would like  
19 to -- I guess I would like to thank the Secretary of Commerce  
20 for making that possible, and perhaps the new administration.

21  
22 I would like to thank Dr. Crabtree and this Gulf Council for the  
23 decision to defer any vote on Amendments 41 and 42 until the  
24 next Gulf Council meeting in Biloxi. That exposed the intent to  
25 push this vote through at this meeting by commercial and enviro  
26 interests, even though it has not been properly vetted or  
27 reviewed.

28  
29 I would also recommend that the next Gulf Council allow  
30 Amendments 41 and 42 to die, as pushing for further  
31 privatization of our fish, through IFQs or PFQs, is  
32 unacceptable. I would also like to see Amendment 30B rescinded,  
33 as well as allowing Amendment 40 to sunset by the end of this  
34 year.

35  
36 There is really no excuse for implementing rules that unfairly  
37 discriminate against recreational anglers based on the platform  
38 that their feet are standing on. A recreational fisherman is a  
39 recreational fisherman, regardless of whether they stand on my  
40 boat, a jetty, a dock, another private boat, or a for-hire boat.  
41 Enough is enough. Thank you.

42  
43 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Sir, we have a question for you from Mr.  
44 Sanchez.

45  
46 **MR. SANCHEZ:** Hi, and thank you for coming. I wanted to ask you  
47 -- I have heard several times today to allow Amendment 40 to  
48 sunset within a year. Where is this year timeframe coming from?



1 Who came up with that?

2

3 **MR. MILLER:** I am not certain, to be honest with you.

4

5 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have one more.

6

7 **MR. BANKS:** I appreciate you being here and bringing your  
8 comments, and it's going to be the same question that I've asked  
9 several of you. Your ideas on electronic reporting as a  
10 recreational angler, would you be willing and do you think that  
11 your friends and the folks that you know in the industry would  
12 be willing to do that on every trip?

13

14 **MR. MILLER:** Yes, sir. I'm a younger-generation fisherman, and  
15 we've got the iPhone or the Android stuff and any type of  
16 accountability. I don't mind being accountable for what I  
17 catch, because I have got a full-time job, but, every once in a  
18 while, I do get to see the numbers that come out, and they do  
19 seem inflated to me, as far as the recreational side numbers.

20

21 I think that, if there was accountability for the recreational  
22 side, I think that you would find that those numbers are being  
23 overstated drastically. The weather down by us, it gets  
24 rougher, as you get down south to Brownsville, and, the three  
25 days that you all did give us, there was no way that I could go  
26 out in those seas and not endanger myself, my family, or my  
27 friends.

28

29 There is just no absolutely no way that I could have got out  
30 there, and so I do appreciate the opportunity to go out and  
31 catch some fish. Red snapper fishing is fun. Fishing is fun,  
32 and I enjoy it, and so that's why I'm here, and you all want to  
33 sustain the fishery, and I applaud you all for that, and I  
34 appreciate that. Thank you.

35

36 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. It's 4:31. We've got some  
37 early flights on Thursday, and we're going to knock one more  
38 easy thing out this afternoon. It won't be too tough. We're  
39 probably going to do one committee report, and you will still  
40 get out early, I promise, as long as you don't ask too many  
41 questions. Mr. Swindell, if you're ready, we'll do our Outreach  
42 and Education Committee Report.

43

44

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

45

#### OUTREACH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

46

47 **MR. SWINDELL:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The Outreach and  
48 Education Committee met yesterday. Staff provided a

1 presentation of communications analytics in the last three  
2 years, which is Tab O, Number 4. Next, staff reviewed a summary  
3 of the Outreach and Education Technical Committee meeting held  
4 on August 1, 2017 in Tampa, Florida, which is Tab O, Number 5.

5  
6 The committee discussed the use of proxy attendees in place of  
7 named Technical Committee members that cannot attend meetings.  
8 **Without opposition, the committee recommends, and I so move,**  
9 **that the O&E Technical Committee allow the use of proxy**  
10 **attendees subject to the approval by council staff.**

11  
12 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. We have a committee motion. Mr.  
13 Boyd.

14  
15 **MR. BOYD:** I will start the questioning that you didn't want.

16  
17 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** That's all right. Go ahead.

18  
19 **MR. BOYD:** I am little bit confused about this, because usually  
20 a proxy is a preassigned person, or someone who can stand in for  
21 you at a meeting. The states have people who can stand in, but  
22 they are pre-named. Is that what we're saying here, is that  
23 each member is going to have a person who will stand in for them  
24 at that meeting as preapproved by staff, or are we just saying  
25 that anybody at any time can stand in for somebody?

26  
27 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Gregory, we had a little discussion on  
28 this during the committee, and would you like to elaborate?

29  
30 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** It will be on an as-needed basis.  
31 We won't have designees named ahead of time and a list of them.  
32 It would be if the main person can't make it from a state agency  
33 or a Sea Grant agency. Then they can have a colleague sit in  
34 for them, and the staff approval part was there to just kind of  
35 keep a handle on how it works and making sure that it doesn't  
36 get out of line.

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** The question was actually good. It gave us  
39 time to get the motion on the board. The motion is on the  
40 board, and this is a committee motion. Ms. Guyas.

41  
42 **MS. GUYAS:** Just one comment on this. I think this makes sense,  
43 and I will give you an example. We have a team, of course, that  
44 does our outreach and education and does all of our social media  
45 and all that stuff. Depending on what's on the agenda, it may  
46 make sense to send one of our social media experts, as opposed  
47 to the people that are working at fishing shows, and so just to  
48 throw that out there as why this probably is a good thing.

1  
2 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, Ms. Guyas. Any other discussion  
3 on the motion? **All those in favor of the motion, signify by**  
4 **saying aye; all those opposed same sign. The motion carries.**  
5  
6 **MR. SWINDELL:** The Committee addressed the collection of  
7 anecdotal angler-reported data. The committee emphasized the  
8 importance of angler-reported information and agreed that data  
9 collection must be done intentionally and the information  
10 collected must be used and reported to the appropriate  
11 scientists.  
12  
13 **Without opposition, the committee recommends, and I so move, to**  
14 **direct staff to develop a data portal to collect public**  
15 **anecdotal information regarding council-managed species.**  
16  
17 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have a committee motion. Camp.  
18  
19 **MR. MATENS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I get this, and I see  
20 what's going on, and I would be -- I am uncomfortable that a lot  
21 of this anecdotal information comes and you don't know who it's  
22 coming from. I am okay with this kind of stuff if you put your  
23 name and address, and I would like to see that somehow included  
24 in this, and I would support this.  
25  
26 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, Mr. Matens, and we're going to  
27 wait just a second, until we get the current motion on the  
28 board, so we all know exactly what we're voting on here. Mr.  
29 Riechers.  
30  
31 **MR. RIECHERS:** Do we have some sort of email inbox that's  
32 questions and comments that comes for just general purpose stuff  
33 at the council, as opposed to for particular amendments,  
34 already?  
35  
36 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** I see Ms. Emily shaking her head, and I'm  
37 going to let her respond.  
38  
39 **MS. EMILY MUEHLSTEIN:** Yes, we do. Currently, we use  
40 [gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org), and that's kind of the catch-all,  
41 not only for question answering, but also where people send  
42 their general public comments.  
43  
44 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Riechers.  
45  
46 **MR. RIECHERS:** Well, and I mean I'm looking at this, and I  
47 remember some of the discussion in committee, and I don't know  
48 what we want to get out of this, is part of my issue, and, when

1 you set up something like this, it takes someone to manage it,  
2 and you've got to go out there and grab it at some point and try  
3 to summarize it in some way, if it's going to be useful to you,  
4 and so I guess -- If it's a place where people can go and make  
5 comments, I am kind of wondering if we already have that, number  
6 one, and, if it's more than that, it seems to me that we need to  
7 maybe have someone come back with a plan of what that's going to  
8 look like, and that's just kind of my general thought at the  
9 moment.

10  
11 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** I agree, and I think that was the discussion  
12 during committee, that staff would begin to flesh out what this  
13 would look like and then bring it back to us to vet it and tell  
14 them how to proceed forward and how to tweak it and such.

15  
16 Mr. Matens, most definitely the name, what type of fishery, some  
17 location and gear types, all kinds of information like that.  
18 That would be helpful to the scientists to understand who gave  
19 them this information and where is it coming from, because it is  
20 designed to go to the scientists at some point. Mr. Banks.

21  
22 **MR. BANKS:** This may be a question for Emily, and I see where  
23 Camp is going, and I agree to try to understand who is sending  
24 it in and if it's legitimate or not, but I don't know how you  
25 would -- Just because you make somebody put their name and  
26 address in there -- I mean, I can say that I'm John Q. Public  
27 from Bozeman, Montana, and how would you know? I guess that's  
28 my point, and so I didn't know if there was a way that we were  
29 able to make sure that it's a legitimate person, or at least a  
30 legitimate email address. I don't know.

31  
32 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Ms. Emily.

33  
34 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** We don't currently have a validation mechanism  
35 for any of our public comments or anything like that, and so the  
36 honest truth is I'm not sure how we would go about verifying  
37 that these people were actual people.

38  
39 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Riechers.

40  
41 **MR. RIECHERS:** When this first started, I really thought we were  
42 going down a citizen science road, where they were going to come  
43 in and report some specific sighting or something like that, and  
44 that was some of the examples I think that were used, and  
45 certainly most of our agencies have used those or have different  
46 aspects of those. I guess let me try to create a substitute  
47 motion, if you're ready for that.

48

1 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** I think we have the actual original motion on  
2 the board now, which is the correct one, and so, yes, sir, if  
3 you would like to make a substitute.

4  
5 **MR. RIECHERS:** I am going to say to direct staff to develop a  
6 plan that would create a data portal to collect public anecdotal  
7 information regarding council-managed species and bring that  
8 back to the council for approval, so that we can see what kind  
9 of resources we're talking about here, because I mean this is  
10 going to -- If it's no more than the email box you already have,  
11 then let's not duplicate that again.

12  
13 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. We have a substitute motion on the  
14 board. Do we have a second for the substitute? It's seconded  
15 by Dr. Frazer. Is there discussion on the motion? Mr. Chester.

16  
17 **MR. BREWER:** I have violated my rule twice today. The South  
18 Atlantic Council is working on this right now and has made some  
19 progress. I think we've gotten some funding in. Really, what  
20 you're looking for is that you're not just getting random input,  
21 but rather you're getting directed input and the input that  
22 you're getting is in a format that is going to be useful to  
23 Bonnie and her folks, and so that's being worked on right now,  
24 and it might well be -- I am not saying that the South Atlantic  
25 Council is the be-all-end-all, but it might be that we can  
26 intermesh and work together on doing that.

27  
28 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Anson.

29  
30 **MR. ANSON:** Just to carry upon that thought that Chester just  
31 brought up, and I briefly discussed it during the committee  
32 meeting, the idea that was discussed at a prior council meeting  
33 regarding MREP and that someone, in order to supply comments,  
34 would have to go through some sort of similar program, an  
35 abbreviated program, so that you can, you know, kind of educate  
36 the person that we want to get the information from, and I know  
37 that might be outside the bounds of what the technical committee  
38 had thought of, but, you know, along the lines that we also  
39 discussed, that Chester just brought up, was that you want to  
40 probably ask specific questions that might be timed to an  
41 assessment, so it provides the most utility, and maybe that  
42 would help in the assessment process, as it goes through a data  
43 review and workshops and such that they do, and so just, with  
44 that in mind, I guess for the plan, and keep that in mind.

45  
46 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** That sounds good, and I think, if they bring  
47 us back some sort of plan, it kind of -- It sounds like maybe I  
48 had one idea for what kind of information I was hoping to garner

1 from the fishermen.

2  
3 I am not trying to educate the fishermen. I am trying to have  
4 the fishermen educate us, right, educate the scientists, and  
5 have that direct communication with the scientists, but not on a  
6 trip-level basis. It's not, hey, I see more red snapper than  
7 I've ever seen before, but something that maybe the scientists  
8 are not teasing out of the data, right, some things, like Dr.  
9 Dana mentioned, when we were in the committee, but, if we bring  
10 this plan back -- I mean, if you all are wanting to go to  
11 something that's much broader than that, which is kind of what  
12 I'm hearing, and you want trip-level data from anglers, I guess  
13 we could go there, but whatever you want. I guess the plan can  
14 have some options.

15  
16 **MR. RIECHERS:** I don't think we're wanting more trip-level data.  
17 I think, and I would be interested in seeing it, and certainly  
18 our staff should probably talk with the South Atlantic, since  
19 they've already gone down this road a little bit, but I will be  
20 interested to see what headway they've made and how they're  
21 trying to frame that to come back to the science folks, but we  
22 have already got different trip-level systems in place, and we  
23 don't need to recreate that wheel either. We need people to  
24 remember to go report, but we don't need to create another place  
25 they need to go report.

26  
27 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Any further discussion on the  
28 motion? All right. **Seeing none, all in favor of the motion,**  
29 **signify by saying aye; all opposed, same sign. The motion**  
30 **carries.**

31  
32 **MR. SWINDELL:** Finally, the committee discussed allowing  
33 Outreach and Education Technical Committee members to  
34 participate in meetings via webinar, if necessary.

35  
36 **Without opposition, the committee recommends, and I so move,**  
37 **that the O&E Technical Committee members be allowed to**  
38 **participate via webinar, with approval by council staff.**

39  
40 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. We have a committee motion on the  
41 board. Is there discussion on the motion? Mr. Matens.

42  
43 **MR. MATENS:** I am just curious. How many members of this  
44 committee are there?

45  
46 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Thirteen.

47  
48 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thirteen, Mr. Gregory says.

1  
2 **MR. MATENS:** Thank you.

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Is there further discussion on the motion?  
5 **Seeing none, all those in favor of the motion, signify by saying**  
6 **aye; all those opposed same sign. The motion carries.**

7  
8 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** I will add that's a perfect size.

9  
10 **MR. MATENS:** It depends on what you're doing.

11  
12 **MR. SWINDELL:** That concludes my report, Madam Chair.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We were just on the idea of the data and the  
15 portal and such as that, and I just wanted to take a second.  
16 For several meetings, probably for several years now, I have  
17 heard the recreational anglers, and you see it in everything.  
18 You can see it in the bills going through Congress and such.

19  
20 They don't have the faith in the data at all that's being used  
21 to manage them, and there seems to be a willingness to report,  
22 and I hope that, one day in the future, this council will look  
23 at that as something that we may want to take up. I realize  
24 that we have some state initiatives, and you know that I'm  
25 excited and completely supportive of the state initiatives.

26  
27 There is no doubt about that, but, if they want to report and  
28 it's something that we can do, and have a mandatory reporting  
29 platform for them, I hope it's something that we'll entertain in  
30 the future, because I don't know if they will ever trust their  
31 management system if they don't trust their data, and I think  
32 it's important for the fishermen to trust their management  
33 system and their data, and so that's my two-cents for that.

34  
35 Now, I saw some people perked up to do one more committee  
36 report, which I was surprised about, but, if you all want to  
37 continue on, we can. I see some thumbs-up. All right. We're  
38 going to go to the Administrative/Budget Committee Report. Mr.  
39 Riechers, I will turn it over to you.

40  
41 **ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT**

42  
43 **MR. RIECHERS:** The Administrative/Budget Committee Report will  
44 follow. Our meeting was called to order on August 7, 2017, and  
45 all members were present. The committee adopted the agenda and  
46 minutes of the June 2017 Administrative/Budget Committee meeting  
47 as written.

1 Council staff then reviewed the 2017 proposed budget, with  
2 expenditures through June, Tab G Number 4(a). Staff stated they  
3 were notified in July that the final funding for 2017 should be  
4 \$3,681,000 for the administrative award.

5  
6 Staff provided a revised 2018 and 2019 budget that included  
7 carryover projections through the end of the five-year grant.  
8 The 2018 and 2019 projections are estimated based on a possible  
9 1 percent increase in funding each year.

10  
11 The final budgets will be impacted by likely increases in health  
12 insurance costs, meeting activities, and the necessary  
13 relocation of the council office space. Relocation of the  
14 council office in Tampa was unexpected, but will be needed  
15 before July 2018, because the building has changed ownership.

16  
17 The new owners have proposed a rent increase at the lease  
18 renewal of over \$140,000 per year, which is approximately an 82  
19 percent increase. The committee requested an update on the  
20 office space search at the October meeting and revision of the  
21 2018-2019 projections as more information is available.

22  
23 **By a unanimous vote, the committee recommends, and I so move, to**  
24 **approve the budget as shown in Tab G, Number 4(a), and remember**  
25 **that was the budget for the year 2017.**

26  
27 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you. We have a committee motion on the  
28 board. Any discussion on the motion? **Seeing none, any**  
29 **opposition to the motion? The motion carries.**

30  
31 **MR. RIECHERS:** Next, we moved on to staff requesting  
32 clarification of verbiage in our SOPPs, Statement of  
33 Organization Policies and Practices, relating to advisory panel  
34 appointments and whether the verbiage in the SOPPs should  
35 indicate if violations associated with reporting requirements  
36 are to be considered serious enough to disqualify an AP  
37 applicant and if the violations to be considered for AP  
38 appointments include species managed, and there are three  
39 categories of only by a regional fishery management council; all  
40 federally-managed species, and that would include HMS species;  
41 and then both state and federally-managed marine species.

42  
43 No committee motions relevant to this request were made.  
44 Consequently, the status quo of considering violations on Item b  
45 would remain in effect, and Item b there is all federally-  
46 managed species, and that would include HMS. That will be  
47 considered when we're considering AP applications.



1 Under Other Business, staff requested guidance from the  
2 committee on specific verbiage in the SOPPs in Sections 3.2.2,  
3 and that's on pages 12 and 13, regarding council Members  
4 participating or voting at meetings via webinar.

5  
6 **The committee recommends, and I so move, to modify the SOPPs so**  
7 **that council members must be physically present to participate,**  
8 **motion, or vote.**

9  
10 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. We have a motion on the board. Is  
11 there discussion on the motion? Mr. Diaz.

12  
13 **MR. DIAZ:** Yes, ma'am. Thank you, Madam Chair. I thought about  
14 this while the discussion was going on, and I wasn't on the  
15 committee, and I thought that Mr. Walker made a good point. The  
16 state representatives, you all have back-ups, but the rest of  
17 the council members do not have back-ups. If, for some reason,  
18 we can't make a council meeting, then nobody is voting or making  
19 motions or participating in our place.

20  
21 I'm okay if the council doesn't want people to vote. It would  
22 not bother me if somebody participated via phone or webinar, for  
23 sure participated. If you're a council members and you're not  
24 here, especially for a family emergency. A couple of years ago,  
25 I had a death in the family, and I couldn't make a meeting. At  
26 that time, I was a state rep, and I had a back-up, and so it  
27 wasn't a big problem, and we discussed what was going on, and  
28 nothing skipped a beat.

29  
30 Where I sit now, that's not the case. If there's something that  
31 is important to me, and I might have some vital information that  
32 might influence some people and how they think about something,  
33 under this motion, I can't even participate, and I just think  
34 that's too harsh.

35  
36 **I would be willing to make a substitute motion, and I would like**  
37 **the substitute motion to be to modify the SOPPs so that council**  
38 **members must be physically present to vote.**

39  
40 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. We have a substitute motion on the  
41 board. Do we have a second for the substitute? It's seconded  
42 by Mr. Sanchez. Is there discussion on the motion? Mr. Grimes.

43  
44 **MR. GRIMES:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to clarify  
45 one thing that I raised in committee, that you're always free,  
46 as any member of the public is, to submit information to the  
47 council via writing or email or however you want, and so, if you  
48 do have that vital piece of information, anyone can submit that

1 in, and it would be before the body as part of the written  
2 record of the meeting and whatever subsequent decision.

3

4 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Diaz.

5

6 **MR. DIAZ:** Right, and I agree with what Mr. Grimes is saying,  
7 and I do understand that, but I mean, the people that are  
8 sitting around this table, the governors took the time to  
9 recommend these people to the Secretary of Commerce, and we were  
10 put on this council. We are deeply involved in these issues,  
11 and we keep up on them, and I don't think anybody is going to  
12 use this unless there is an emergency, and there is -- I just  
13 would hate to see people not be able to participate at a pretty  
14 high level if there is an emergency, and I just think this is  
15 too harsh.

16

17 There was another topic that was brought up in committee, which  
18 I don't really care about one way or the other, whether or not  
19 to pay council members if they're participating, and that  
20 doesn't bother me however we handle that, and so the part I am  
21 concerned about is being able to at least participate in the  
22 meeting. Thank you, ma'am.

23

24 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Sanchez.

25

26 **MR. SANCHEZ:** Just as part of the discussion on this, I agree.  
27 If you're an appointed person and these issues -- You're here  
28 for a reason, and these are important issues to you and to the  
29 public, and, if some unforeseen reason presents itself, where  
30 you can't be here, I think you should be able to participate,  
31 but with the exception of voting, and I get that.

32

33 While we're on that subject, for discussion, maybe you shouldn't  
34 make motions either and then not be able to vote on them, but  
35 you certainly should be able to chime in and give your comments  
36 and this and that, having been a part of this process.

37

38 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Boyd.

39

40 **MR. BOYD:** I can't support this motion as it is, because I don't  
41 feel that, if you're not present, that you should be able to  
42 make motions. Dale, if you -- I do feel that you could  
43 participate. I don't have any problem with that at all. If you  
44 could modify your motion to have to be physically present to  
45 motion or vote, I could support it.

46

47 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Is there further discussion? Mr. Diaz.

48

1 **MR. DIAZ:** Mr. Boyd, I kind of went back and forth on that, and,  
2 if this motion fails, I might make another motion to that.  
3 That's not a good way to handle council business, is it? I do  
4 understand the vote thing, but, I mean, I don't see a reason why  
5 a person couldn't make a motion from a webinar.

6  
7 If I happen to have a good idea that might be something that  
8 would lead the council in a good direction, I don't know why we  
9 would stop somebody from doing that on a webinar. We're all  
10 legitimate council members, and so I would rather proceed like  
11 it's written, but thank you for the comment.

12  
13 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Swindell.

14  
15 **MR. SWINDELL:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Doug, I see that, if  
16 you're online talking and so forth, all you have to do is ask if  
17 someone will make a motion to so-and-so, and one of us probably  
18 would do it. I mean, I don't see a real big problem with that,  
19 making a motion, and it's really up to the rest of the council  
20 whether to vote on it or now, and so I don't think that's a big  
21 deal. Thank you.

22  
23 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Matens.

24  
25 **MR. MATENS:** In the spirit of compromise, let me offer a second  
26 substitute motion to modify the SOPPs so that council members  
27 must be physically present to motion or vote.

28  
29 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have a substitute motion on the board. Do  
30 we have a second for the motion? It's seconded by Mr. Boyd.  
31 Mr. Swindell.

32  
33 **MR. SWINDELL:** I assume then that this doesn't prevent a council  
34 member who is attending by webinar from suggesting to someone.  
35 I mean, he can still do that. Thank you.

36  
37 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Sanchez.

38  
39 **MR. SANCHEZ:** This cat is flat, and I don't want to keep going  
40 with this, but, after thinking about it, really, I'm the one who  
41 brought it up, and, if you make a motion, it's not a big deal,  
42 because, really, in the real world, I will text somebody and  
43 say, hey, could you do this for me, and they probably would.

44  
45 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Greene.

46  
47 **MR. GREENE:** Let me make sure that I understand. This is for an  
48 extenuating circumstance, such as Dale mentioned of a death in

1 the family, or this is something that is absolutely  
2 unprecedented, or this is just for anytime that I don't feel  
3 like going to a meeting and so I'm just going to call into a  
4 webinar? I mean, that's two vastly different things, in my  
5 mind, and could someone speak to that, please?

6

7 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Riechers.

8

9 **MR. RIECHERS:** I will try to capture a little bit of the  
10 committee discussion. The committee discussion was surrounding  
11 the notion of it being an exceptional kind of event that came up  
12 or some situation that you really couldn't predict in some way,  
13 as opposed to I don't think I want to really spend my time going  
14 to Texas and I think I will stay here in Alabama and just call  
15 in.

16

17 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Greene.

18

19 **MR. GREENE:** To that point, and I apologize for not keeping up  
20 very well in this committee. I was kind of doing some Reef Fish  
21 stuff at that time, and so my apologies, but would that require  
22 approval ahead of time?

23

24 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Yes, and we had that discussion during  
25 committee as well, that it would have to be approved by the  
26 Chair or Executive Director, and help me remember.

27

28 **MR. RIECHERS:** It was actually "and", and I think that's the  
29 formality, and the reason there was the "and" is because Doug  
30 then has to set up two different webinars, or two different  
31 systems. We have the webinar system for that public, but, if  
32 you're going to allow someone to actually voice in, you've got  
33 make sure that you have the appropriate opportunity for that as  
34 well.

35

36 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** That's easy enough to do. It's the  
37 category you put the person in on the webinar.

38

39 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Diaz.

40

41 **MR. DIAZ:** I just want to say that I have changed my mind, and  
42 I'm going to support the substitute motion. The wisdom of the  
43 council has twisted my arm.

44

45 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Any further discussion? **The**  
46 **second substitute motion that we will vote on is to modify the**  
47 **SOPPs so that council members must be physically present to**  
48 **motion or vote. All those in favor, signify by raising your**

1 hand; all those opposed, same sign. The motion carries.  
2  
3 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** It was sixteen to zero.  
4  
5 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** It was sixteen to zero with one abstention.  
6  
7 **MR. RIECHERS:** Madam Chair, that concludes my report.  
8  
9 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. It's five o'clock. Are you all  
10 wanting to continue on? Mr. Gregory does.  
11  
12 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** At this point in time, I assume  
13 that whoever does this is eligible for salary pay. The criteria  
14 for salary pay is that the meeting or whatever you're doing for  
15 the council prevents you from conducting your normal work.  
16 We'll have the person fill out the form that confirms that they  
17 were not able to conduct their normal work, and so they will get  
18 paid the full salary.  
19  
20 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Do you all want to make that decision today,  
21 or do you want to have this on an agenda for a later discussion?  
22 Mr. Boyd.  
23  
24 **MR. BOYD:** I was just going to say that I think that's more of a  
25 Shep question, because, if I remember correctly, when he read  
26 the regulations to us the other day, this particular motion we  
27 just passed wouldn't allow you to get paid, if I remember right,  
28 but I don't know if I do.  
29  
30 **MR. RIECHERS:** Shep will answer, but I think, when he read the  
31 regulations, that's what's led us to the first motion, because,  
32 under this motion -- Doug, I think, according to how Shep read  
33 it before, you're exactly correct.  
34  
35 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. I am going to let Shep research that,  
36 and I'm going to let him get back to us on that. Mr. Sanchez.  
37  
38 **MR. SANCHEZ:** Could I finish my contributions to this discussion  
39 via webinar?  
40  
41 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** No.  
42  
43 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Grimes.  
44  
45 **MR. GRIMES:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I would just note that the  
46 language in the statute, and I did read from the regulations  
47 earlier, but the statute says the voting members of each council  
48 who are not appointed -- Let's see. Shall receive compensation

1 at a specified rate when engaged in the actual performance of  
2 duties for the council, and we discussed sort of issues with  
3 that, but I think the substitute motion -- If you're not  
4 physically present and you're not allowed to vote or make  
5 motions, then that doesn't sound like the actual performance of  
6 the duties of the council members, because the rest of you are  
7 doing just that, and I think I would be comfortable with that  
8 position, the position being that you were not engaged in those  
9 actual duties and didn't need to receive the salary.

10  
11 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** I concur, if it means anything.

12  
13 **MR. GRIMES:** I sincerely appreciate that.

14  
15 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. I was going to let you all out of  
16 here early, and I just wanted you to know that. Are we done,  
17 Mr. Gregory? Are you done?

18  
19 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** I will let you go.

20  
21 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Don't forget that we have a  
22 social this evening at Southerly Restaurant, and it starts at  
23 6:30. I am not sure how far away it is.

24  
25 **UNIDENTIFIED:** Three-and-a-half miles.

26  
27 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Three-and-a-half miles. If you're feeling  
28 healthy, you can walk. See you all there.

29  
30 (Whereupon, the meeting recessed on August 9, 2017.)

31  
32 - - -

33  
34 August 10, 2017

35  
36 THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

37  
38 - - -

39  
40 The Full Council of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management  
41 Council reconvened at the Marriott Plaza, San Antonio, Texas,  
42 Thursday morning, August 10, 2017, and was called to order by  
43 Chairman Leann Bosarge.

44  
45 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Welcome back to the last day of our meeting.  
46 I am glad to see everybody here, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed,  
47 again. We are going to continue on with our committee reports  
48 this morning. First on our agenda is our Reef Fish Committee

1 Report, and I believe it was just emailed out to everybody here  
2 maybe ten minutes ago at the most. Thank you, staff, for  
3 getting that edited and back out to everyone so quickly.  
4 Chairman Greene, I am going to turn it back over to you, sir.

5  
6 **REEF FISH COMMITTEE REPORT**

7  
8 **MR. GREENE:** Thank you. Good morning. The Reef Fish Committee  
9 Report of August 8 and 9, 2017. The agenda was approved as  
10 written, and the minutes of the June 5 and 6, 2017 committee  
11 meeting were approved as written.

12  
13 Final Action, Framework Action, Greater Amberjack ACL Management  
14 Measures, Tab B, Number 4a, the committee reviewed the draft  
15 framework action that considers changes to greater amberjack  
16 management measures. The committee reviewed alternatives in  
17 Action 1 that would modify the greater amberjack rebuilding  
18 time, annual catch limits, and annual catch targets.

19  
20 **Without opposition, the committee recommends, and I so move, in**  
21 **Action 1, to make Alternative 2, Option a, the preferred**  
22 **alternative. Alternative 2 is set the ACL equal to the ABC**  
23 **recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee from**  
24 **2018 through 2020-plus, based upon the Southeast Data,**  
25 **Assessment, and Review 33 Update Assessment in 2016. This**  
26 **alternative is projected to rebuild the stock by 2027. Option a**  
27 **is apply the ACL/ACT Control Rule, landings from 2013 through**  
28 **2016, to establish a 13 percent buffer to the commercial sector**  
29 **and a 17 percent buffer to the recreational sector. The graph**  
30 **is also included in here for your review.**

31  
32 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you. We have a committee motion. Is  
33 there any discussion on the motion? **Seeing none, is there any**  
34 **opposition to the motion? The motion carries.**

35  
36 **MR. GREENE:** The committee also discussed Action 2 that would  
37 modify the fixed recreational closed season. The committee  
38 discussed that modifying greater amberjack recreational season  
39 could provide additionally flexibility to management, provide  
40 additional protection during spawning, or improve access to  
41 specific regions in the Gulf. However, the committee determined  
42 that additional analyses and further consideration of the  
43 alternatives are necessary, but did not wish to delay action on  
44 adjusting the ACL to rebuild the stock.

45  
46 As an interim decision, the committee passed the following  
47 motion. **Without opposition, the committee recommends, and I so**  
48 **move, in Action 2, to make Alternative 4 the preferred**

1 alternative. Alternative 4 is modify the recreational closed  
2 season to be January 1 through June 30.

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have a committee motion. Is there any  
5 discussion on the motion? Dr. Crabtree.

6  
7 **DR. CRABTREE:** I just want to reiterate for people listening and  
8 whoever may look at the records that we're putting this as sort  
9 of an interim step, and our plan is to come back at the October  
10 meeting and revisit the seasons for next year and take some sort  
11 of action then to decide what we want to do, but we're trying to  
12 find some sort of way to balance the differing needs of the  
13 various regions in the Gulf, and I guess get to some grand  
14 compromise.

15  
16 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you. Any further discussion? Mr.  
17 Greene.

18  
19 **MR. GREENE:** I thought about this in great detail, and obviously  
20 amberjack is an important fishery to the northern Gulf of Mexico  
21 and several of the states that are in that region. We've had a  
22 lot of letters that have been emailed to us from a couple of  
23 specific areas up there, and so one of the things I've thought  
24 about that might be something to really consider is the fact  
25 that we have a lot of fisheries that seem like they open on  
26 January 1, and the fishing year runs from January 1 through  
27 December 31.

28  
29 January and February are not ideal times of the year to fish in  
30 all areas throughout the Gulf, and so one thing that might be a  
31 very simple solution here would be to change the fishing year  
32 from January 1 through December 31 and have it open somewhere  
33 like August 1.

34  
35 Then it would close the following year on July 31, and so,  
36 potentially, you could open a season in August, September, and  
37 October and then close it and have some time to assess some data  
38 and then potentially reopen like in April. If you have time to  
39 do that, and, in an ideal world, you could analyze the catch  
40 from August, September, and October. Then, if you have time to  
41 look at it and say, okay, we didn't reach our quota and so let's  
42 reopen in April, then potentially you could.

43  
44 However, if you did reach your quota, then you would shut it  
45 down, and that fishery, the next year, would be closed  
46 throughout the peak spawning months, which is something that's  
47 really huge to me.



1 I have to admit that I'm not real keen at this time on opening  
2 the fishery at all during the spring. It doesn't seem like  
3 anything we do to this fishery makes it respond at all. Now, I  
4 don't know that it really got a fair shake with thirty-four  
5 inches, and this past year was kind of an anomaly, because we  
6 had an overage from the year before, and we had an increased  
7 size limit, and we just had all of these things that just kind  
8 of was the perfect storm for amberjacks and kind of fell in  
9 there, and so, as we move into October, that's something I  
10 really want you to consider.

11  
12 Now, I could make that as a motion, to add that into the  
13 document, or I can just take this discussion and let them go  
14 with it, however you guys would prefer that to be.

15  
16 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. I think what we'll do is we'll  
17 vote this motion up or down, because I don't think your  
18 discussion really changes this motion. This is speaking to  
19 something that would come back to us in October, and so we'll  
20 vote this up or down, and, while we're doing that, you'll have  
21 about three seconds to figure out a motion. Then maybe somebody  
22 around the table can help you some, and then we will make that  
23 motion and have that discussion and vote that one, although in  
24 committee, when we threw out ideas to staff to give them  
25 seasons, I don't think we made motions. We just tried to give  
26 them some options to bring back to us, and so let me think about  
27 it. All right.

28  
29 **The motion on the board is, in Action 2, to make Alternative 4**  
30 **the preferred. Alternative 4 is modify the recreational closed**  
31 **season to be January 1 through June 30. Is there any further**  
32 **discussion on this motion? Seeing none, all those in favor of**  
33 **the motion, signify by saying aye; all those opposed, same sign.**  
34 **The motion carries.**

35  
36 Since we didn't make motions in committee when we threw out  
37 ideas for staff to bring for us, is everyone comfortable with  
38 Johnny's idea also going to staff without a motion? I feel  
39 comfortable with it, because it would be pretty long-winded.

40  
41 **MR. RIECHERS:** I was approached with that notion as well,  
42 Johnny, by someone, and I think it bears looking at as we move  
43 forward, but the only way that works is, at some point, someone  
44 has to give up from January to August to make that work. That's  
45 the kicker with that whole notion of, at some point when you  
46 make that switch, and if you're going to start then, then what  
47 do you do with the previous eight months of landings that have  
48 occurred? Either you've got to keep it closed until then and

1 then start or you've got to figure out how to account for that  
2 somehow.

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Yes, I see what you're saying, just during  
5 that first year, I guess. Dr. Crabtree.

6  
7 **DR. CRABTREE:** We have done a good bit of this in the South  
8 Atlantic, moving fishing years around, and what we usually do  
9 is, if the previous year's quota is caught up, we start on the  
10 new quota when this is effective on August 1, and so what you're  
11 really doing here is -- Right now, the way it's set up, we have  
12 that seasonal closure, and we potentially have a spring season  
13 and a fall season, but the spring season is sort of given  
14 priority, because it's first, and, if you run out of fish,  
15 that's it. By making this change, you're sort of giving the  
16 priority to the fall season if catch rates are higher than we  
17 think.

18  
19 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right, Chairman Greene, I will turn it  
20 back over to you.

21  
22 **MR. GREENE:** The committee emphasized that this would be an  
23 interim decision that would allow the implementation of the new  
24 ACL while providing additional time to evaluate the recreational  
25 closed season.

26  
27 The council will evaluate alternatives to modify the  
28 recreational closed season and consider implementing vessel  
29 limits in a subsequent management action. The objectives of the  
30 additional recreational management measures are to constrain  
31 harvest to the management target and extend the fishing season.

32  
33 **Without opposition, the committee recommends, and I so move, to**  
34 **approve the Greater Amberjack ACL and Management Measures and**  
35 **that it be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review and**  
36 **implementation and deem the codified text as necessary and**  
37 **appropriate, giving staff editorial license to make the**  
38 **necessary changes in the document. The Council Chair is given**  
39 **the authority to deem any changes to the codified text as**  
40 **necessary and appropriate.**

41  
42 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. We have a committee motion on the  
43 board. This will be a roll call vote, and so I will turn it  
44 over to Mr. Gregory.

45  
46 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Mr. Riechers.

47  
48 **MR. RIECHERS:** Yes.

1  
2 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Hold on.  
3  
4 **MR. STEVEN ATRAN:** I just wanted to let people know, if they  
5 didn't notice it, that we did receive modified codified  
6 regulations yesterday, and so I haven't looked them over, but  
7 they should reflect the preferred alternatives.  
8  
9 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir.  
10  
11 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Mr. Riechers.  
12  
13 **MR. RIECHERS:** Yes again.  
14  
15 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Captain Greene.  
16  
17 **MR. GREENE:** Yes.  
18  
19 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Mr. Sanchez.  
20  
21 **MR. SANCHEZ:** Yes.  
22  
23 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Dr. Stunz.  
24  
25 **DR. STUNZ:** Yes.  
26  
27 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Dr. Crabtree.  
28  
29 **DR. CRABTREE:** Yes.  
30  
31 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Mr. Diaz.  
32  
33 **MR. DIAZ:** Yes.  
34  
35 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Captain Walker.  
36  
37 **MR. WALKER:** Yes.  
38  
39 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Dr. Dana.  
40  
41 **DR. DANA:** Yes.  
42  
43 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Dr. Mickle.  
44  
45 **DR. MICKLE:** Yes.  
46  
47 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Dr. Frazer.  
48

1 DR. FRAZER: Yes.  
2  
3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Mr. Swindell.  
4  
5 MR. SWINDELL: Yes.  
6  
7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Ms. Guyas.  
8  
9 MS. GUYAS: Yes.  
10  
11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Mr. Boyd.  
12  
13 MR. BOYD: Yes.  
14  
15 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Mr. Anson.  
16  
17 MR. ANSON: Yes.  
18  
19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Mr. Matens.  
20  
21 MR. MATENS: Yes.  
22  
23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Mr. Banks.  
24  
25 MR. BANKS: Yes.  
26  
27 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Ms. Bosarge.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Yes.  
30  
31 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Seventeen, and it's unanimous.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Dr. Crabtree.  
34  
35 DR. CRABTREE: I have one question, back to Johnny's idea on the  
36 fishing year. Are you talking only changing the recreational,  
37 or would we change the commercial and recreational fishing  
38 years?  
39  
40 MR. GREENE: I didn't think that far through it, Dr. Crabtree,  
41 to be honest with you. It seems like the commercial has a  
42 closure in place that kind of fits the spawn. I don't know if  
43 there's any market issues for them to change the season.  
44  
45 DR. CRABTREE: Let me suggest, Doug, that staff brings in an  
46 option to change it to August 1 just recreational and August 1  
47 just commercial. We ought to think about does getting the  
48 fishing years offset, commercial one way and recreational

1 another way, is that going to create problems for us somehow or  
2 other?

3  
4 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** We need to get this on the board in  
5 writing, either as a motion or in writing for everybody to see  
6 and agree.

7  
8 **DR. CRABTREE:** All right. I would like to make a motion if I  
9 could, Ms. Bosarge.

10  
11 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Yes, sir. Go ahead.

12  
13 **DR. CRABTREE:** That the amberjack framework that's brought to us  
14 at the October meeting include an action to change the fishing  
15 year for greater amberjack to begin on August 1 and that it have  
16 two options, 1)to only change the recreational fishing year and  
17 2) to change both the recreational and commercial fishing year.

18  
19 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. I think your motion is just about on  
20 the board. Your motion is the amberjack framework would include  
21 an action to change the fishing year for greater amberjack to  
22 begin on August 1 and that it contain two options: 1)change only  
23 the recreational fishing year; 2)change both the recreational  
24 and commercial fishing years. Is that your motion, Dr.  
25 Crabtree?

26  
27 **DR. CRABTREE:** Yes.

28  
29 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right, and we have a second by Mr.  
30 Greene. Any further discussion on the motion? All right. **All**  
31 **those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye; all those**  
32 **opposed same sign. The motion carries.**

33  
34 Since we put this in the form of a motion, Mr. Greene, does that  
35 encompass everything that you were wanting to see in the  
36 document concerning a change in the opening date of the season?  
37 All right. Then I will turn it back over to you, sir. Mr.  
38 Grimes.

39  
40 **MR. GRIMES:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Did the first motion  
41 include the codified text? Sorry that I wasn't --

42  
43 **DR. CRABTREE:** Yes, it did.

44  
45 **MR. GRIMES:** Thank you.

46  
47 **MR. GREENE:** The committee requested additional options to  
48 modify the recreational closed season and vessel limits that

1 would reduce recreational catch per trip below one fish per  
2 person per vessel per trip: modify the recreational closed  
3 season to be January 1 through March 31 and reopen August 1 and  
4 remain open until ACT is harvested; modify the recreational  
5 closed season to be January 1 through April 30 and reopen August  
6 1 and remain open until ACT is harvested; modify the  
7 recreational closed season to be January 1 through April 30 and  
8 reopen September 1 and remain open until ACT is harvested.

9  
10 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Gregory, did you have a question?

11  
12 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** I just want to point out that the  
13 staff had different notes. Somebody suggested the September 1  
14 reopening and then added or changed it to August 1, and so some  
15 of us have it as two different options. Others of us, staff,  
16 had it as a correction from September to August, and that's why  
17 it's important we get motions, to avoid confusion like this.  
18 Are these three correct of what people want, or was August 1  
19 supposed to replace September 1 as an option?

20  
21 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Anson.

22  
23 **MR. ANSON:** There was one that I brought up regarding just  
24 having it open for the month of April, and so that first one  
25 kind of captures that, but it looks like it also includes May,  
26 and May -- If you add May, as I recall, when I did the number  
27 crunching with the decision tool, it would kind of curtail a lot  
28 of the fall season, particularly if you had an August 1 opening,  
29 and so, you know, I realize that we want to try to push this  
30 through relatively quickly, and, if we have a whole bunch of  
31 things in there, it's a lot of staff time, and it's a lot to  
32 discuss, but I don't know. I guess I will leave it up to the  
33 rest of the council members to weigh in.

34  
35 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Ms. Guyas.

36  
37 **MS. GUYAS:** The options that are in this committee report are  
38 kind of confusing, because they identify the beginning closed  
39 season, January 1 through March 31, or at least first as an  
40 example, and then it -- It's assuming, in that example, to open  
41 on April 1, and then it reopens August 1. It doesn't explicitly  
42 say like how long it's open, and so can we just like scratch  
43 these and start over?

44  
45 I think, to throw out some ideas, I think some of the things  
46 that people seem to be rallying around yesterday is I heard May,  
47 and I heard April and May, or just April. Everybody kind of  
48 seemed to be onboard with September and October, and so it seems

1 like we would want to evaluate one month in the spring, whether  
2 it's April or May, two months in the spring, April and May, and  
3 then September and October. I will just put those out there as  
4 options, and, if we need to, we can make them a motion.

5  
6 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** What's missing from these three  
7 items is it's only supposed to be open one month in the spring,  
8 according to the discussion we have, and so the season would be  
9 closed, in the first bullet, from May 1 through the end of July,  
10 and, in the second and third bullets, the season would be closed  
11 from June 1 through the end of July or the end of August. Those  
12 phrases are missing from here.

13  
14 Again, it points out the importance of having motions, but  
15 that's the understanding, is that these were supposed to be one-  
16 month spring openings and not two months, but one-month spring  
17 openings, with a closure during the summer and a reopening in  
18 late summer.

19  
20 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** I am going to get Dr. Froeschke real quick.  
21 He's been waiting.

22  
23 **DR. JOHN FROESCHKE:** So, on my notes on this, the discussion was  
24 that the months open -- The action is the months closed, and so  
25 I tried to reconfigure that, and I think I may have done that  
26 incorrectly, but one thing I think is confusing is were the  
27 months that you discussed meant to be in addition to the  
28 existing June/July closures or replace them, because it almost  
29 seems like that was with the understanding that the current  
30 June/July closure would remain in place.

31  
32 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. We're going to need to put some  
33 motions up on the board, and this is kind of strange, because we  
34 want to have this document in October, and possibly take some  
35 final action in October, and so for some alternatives that you  
36 want to see in this document and some sort of brief analysis on  
37 them, possibly, let's get your motions on the board for what you  
38 want to see. We have the one from Dr. Crabtree regarding a  
39 change in the opening date of the season, generally speaking,  
40 and what else do we want to see in this document? Mr. Riechers.

41  
42 **MR. RIECHERS:** Just as a point of order then, are we assuming  
43 these stay -- That the three bullets stay here, based on John's  
44 and Doug's explanations, because, as I'm understanding -- Go  
45 ahead.

46  
47 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** No, I want to see motions for what we want to  
48 see in the document.

1  
2 **MR. RIECHERS:** Okay, and so all of these are going away?  
3  
4 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Those are in the committee report, but, no,  
5 they're not going to be in the document until we make a motion,  
6 because I want to get them just right for staff, so there is no  
7 confusion.  
8  
9 **MR. RIECHERS:** Okay, because, as I understand it, that bullet  
10 one was one of the ones that Martha wanted, which was an April  
11 opening and then reopen the season in August, and it will go as  
12 long as it goes, but she had said August and September or  
13 September and October, but I am fine, but just so we know how we  
14 have to proceed and we don't get ourselves tripped up.  
15  
16 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Ms. Martha, if you want that to be one of the  
17 options in the document in October, we need to make that motion.  
18 Once Martha makes that motion, that's going to two alternatives  
19 in the document, two options. We had a lot of discussion, and  
20 so what are the other options that you all want to see in that  
21 document?  
22  
23 **MR. GREENE:** Thank you, Madam Chair. They're putting up the  
24 motion. Madam Chair, I would make a motion, whenever they're  
25 ready.  
26  
27 **DR. CARRIE SIMMONS:** Staff was trying to assist with what we  
28 heard, and I started getting some stuff up on the board, if that  
29 helps. If it doesn't, we'll just take it down.  
30  
31 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. No, Johnny has got his own motion that  
32 he is about to make, and so thank you.  
33  
34 **MR. GREENE:** In the spirit of what we talked about earlier of  
35 potentially moving the opening date, my motion would be that the  
36 recreational season for greater amberjack would be open from  
37 August 1 until October 31 and then closed until March 31, open  
38 the month of April, and then remain closed from May 1 until July  
39 31.  
40  
41 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right, Chairman Greene, is that your  
42 motion? Do we have a second for the motion? It's seconded by  
43 Dr. Dana. Is there discussion on the motion? Mr. Riechers.  
44  
45 **MR. RIECHERS:** I thought we had talked about a change of season  
46 coming forward and had a motion for that. Didn't we, Doug?  
47 Okay. So that's going to analyze the notion of the change of  
48 season, but, right now, the season is starting January 1, and



1 so, at least from my perspective, as we talk about what we're  
2 seeing in October, since that's not going to take effect until  
3 sometime after January 1, and we're closed in that period, based  
4 on what we just did, but we still have to deal with that April  
5 and May, unless we're going to say that's closed now. Is that  
6 what you're assuming here, Johnny?

7  
8 **MR. GREENE:** It's almost like we're doing two different things  
9 at once here. We're trying to say, okay, well, through the  
10 greater amberjack fishery, we're going to change the fishing  
11 year, is what we're considering, and it's going to open August  
12 1, and we're going to look at these months of open and closures  
13 that we have laid out in this motion.

14  
15 However, on the interim side, that we talked about earlier, we  
16 may have to have a separate motion that would just open the  
17 month of April and then close and then presume the start of the  
18 new year would be August 1. I think it's going to have to be  
19 two different things, if that makes sense to you, Robin. I am  
20 trying. I am scratching, and I'm trying to find some  
21 compromise.

22  
23 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. I am going to read the motion on  
24 the board, to make sure that we do have it correct. The  
25 recreational season for greater amberjack be open from August 1  
26 through October 31, closed November 1 through March 31, and then  
27 open the month of April, and then closes from May 1 through July  
28 31. It's a mouthful, but I think we understand it. All right.  
29 We did have a second for the motion. Is there any further  
30 discussion on the motion? **Seeing none, the motion carries.** Dr.  
31 Froeschke.

32  
33 **DR. FROESCHKE:** If you did that for this calendar year, it would  
34 only be open three months, August through October. Is that --

35  
36 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** I think that's what Mr. Greene was just  
37 speaking to, that this has to do with that change in the opening  
38 date of the season, but then a separate issue that we're going  
39 to have to look at in that document is what to do in the  
40 interim. Now, that's assuming that we actually change the  
41 opening date of the season to August. Ms. Guyas, are you ready  
42 with your motion yet?

43  
44 **MS. GUYAS:** Yes, and I just emailed some in, and they're not  
45 quite structured the same way as Johnny's, but hopefully they're  
46 straightforward.

47  
48 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you very much.

1  
2 **MS. GUYAS:** Let me read it. Evaluate the following options for  
3 the recreational greater amberjack season, and we've got a  
4 couple of bullets here. Number one is open for the months of  
5 April, September, and October, which would mean that it would be  
6 closed January through March, May through August, and November  
7 and December. I don't know if that needs to be written here,  
8 but just for clarification. The other option would be open for  
9 the months of May, September, and October and closed January  
10 through April, June through August, and November and December.  
11 Johnny's motion already had the August in there.

12  
13 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Is that the end of your motion, Ms. Guyas?  
14 Mr. Diaz.

15  
16 **MR. DIAZ:** Before I second your motion, Martha, I just want to  
17 ask, if we have not caught the ACT by the end of October, would  
18 it remain closed?

19  
20 **MS. GUYAS:** If we can run it later into the end of the year,  
21 that's fine, but these seem to be the months that people  
22 prioritized for opening, and so I just wanted to be clear that  
23 those were evaluated, and so, if it turns out that we can extend  
24 farther into the fall, I think I would be fine with that.

25  
26 **MR. DIAZ:** Based on Martha's comments, I would like to second  
27 her motion.

28  
29 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Is there further discussion  
30 on the motion? Captain Greene.

31  
32 **MR. GREENE:** Again, to Ms. Guyas, your motion doesn't  
33 specifically speak to the month of August being closed, because,  
34 in a previous motion, it talked about it being open, correct?

35  
36 **MS. GUYAS:** Yes, August is closed here, and so it's just another  
37 option to look at, because yours had August open, right?

38  
39 **MR. GREENE:** Okay. I just wanted to make sure, for the record.  
40 Thank you, ma'am.

41  
42 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Froeschke.

43  
44 **DR. FROESCHKE:** I just wanted to clarify if this motion is  
45 hinged upon changing the fishing year or not, because, if you  
46 change the fishing year, you would essentially extend the season  
47 into the spring, if you went over, or if you had remaining  
48 quota.

1  
2 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Ms. Guyas.  
3  
4 **MS. GUYAS:** Mine is not hinged on changing the fishing year. I  
5 think we could try to figure out a way to make it work with the  
6 change in the fishing year, but, no matter what we do with the  
7 fishing year, I think this is what we need to look at.  
8  
9 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Crabtree.  
10  
11 **DR. CRABTREE:** I think you could probably just put some language  
12 in the document that gives the RA authority to let the fishery  
13 run longer if it's determined there is quota leftover, and that  
14 would happen -- If you don't change the fishing year, that would  
15 happen in the fall. If you do change the fishing year, then  
16 that would happen in the spring/summer, I guess, but it would  
17 happen at the end of the fishing year.  
18  
19 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, by the way, Martha. All right.  
20 Any further discussion on this? **Seeing none, all in favor of**  
21 **the motion, signify by saying aye; all opposed same sign. The**  
22 **motion carries.**  
23  
24 Do we have everything in the form of a motion now that we want  
25 to see in the document? Okay.  
26  
27 **MR. GREENE:** Before we move on, we talked about going into  
28 October and having to do something on an interim for the coming  
29 season. I think everybody kind of understands what we're doing,  
30 but, if we need to do something specific to the 2018 fishing  
31 season for the month of say April, then we can do that, in the  
32 form of a motion, but I think everybody kind of understands what  
33 we're trying to do. I just wanted to make sure that everybody  
34 is kind of clear on that.  
35  
36 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Anson.  
37  
38 **MR. ANSON:** Well, to the last, I guess, little discussion, and  
39 Dr. Crabtree brought it up, and Martha kind of alluded to it, in  
40 my mind, I guess, is Doug and staff clear on at least what the  
41 discussion will be related to the motion, or motions, that were  
42 passed relative to the season and the fishing year change,  
43 because you will need to write two -- At least in the  
44 discussion, describe, okay, if the normal January 1 to December  
45 31 fishing year is retained, then this is how this is going to  
46 operate, and it will be, under that situation, the fall, as Dr.  
47 Crabtree alluded to, the fall would be where they would extend  
48 out, and then the spring would be a set date, whereas, if it was

1 the August 1 through July 31 fishing year, then it would be the  
2 spring that would be extended, potentially the extended, and so  
3 you would end up with kind of spring and a fall quota type  
4 situation, but it wouldn't be based on quota. It would just be  
5 based on dates, and so just make sure that kind of that  
6 discussion is discussed, at least a little bit, and brought  
7 forward.

8  
9 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Right. Yes, we understand that,  
10 that the season will go until the quota is reached, and the  
11 different starting years have an impact, because, if you have an  
12 August 1 starting date, and you're not catching the fish by the  
13 end of April, you're allowing more fishing to occur in the  
14 spring, during the spawning season, and so that's a negative for  
15 an August 1 opening date, and so we have that, and we'll put  
16 that in the discussion.

17  
18 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Froeschke.

19  
20 **DR. FROESCHKE:** So, for 2018 only, if we went with Johnny's  
21 motion, in April of 2018, are you anticipating the fishery would  
22 be open for that month or closed? To me, it would depend on --  
23 If you left the fishing season as it is now, the motion, to me,  
24 would imply that it's open, but, if you changed it to what Roy  
25 suggested, it implies that it would be closed, and, based on the  
26 decision tool, we would be quite a bit under the ACT for that.

27  
28 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** My understanding of the three  
29 motions, or the two motions, from Captain Greene and Ms. Guyas  
30 are not dependent on a fishing year, but that's a complicating  
31 factor that we can build into the discussion, as John is  
32 pointing out.

33  
34 **DR. FROESCHKE:** I guess I'm just trying to figure out -- Since  
35 we're going to try to bring this for final action in October,  
36 what do we want to do -- I am just trying to understand that  
37 April of 2018 and whether it would be open or closed, so we can  
38 estimate the landings and all that kind of stuff, and it really  
39 depends on what you do with the fishing year, and so I guess  
40 we'll try to do it both ways, but is it clear, if you left the  
41 fishing year as it is now, that you would intend it to be open  
42 next April?

43  
44 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Riechers.

45  
46 **MR. RIECHERS:** Certainly by the discussions about trying to find  
47 a way to have a spring and fall season yesterday, I'm assuming  
48 that, yes, that there would be some period of time in the spring

1 that we're looking to have open.

2

3 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Crabtree.

4

5 **DR. CRABTREE:** I think our intent is that we will start a new  
6 fishing year on January 1. If we change the fishing year to  
7 August 1, then, when we get to August 1 of 2018, then we will  
8 then start a new fishing year, but we won't retroactively back  
9 up the fishing year that way.

10

11 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Good work, everybody. I'm glad we got all  
12 that clarified. I feel like we just wrote the document for  
13 October. I am going to let Chairman Greene continue.

14

15 **MR. GREENE:** Thank you, guys. The council previously considered  
16 vessel limits for greater amberjack in Amendment 30A that would  
17 have reduced recreational catch per trip below one fish per  
18 person per vessel per trip. Based on the analysis in that  
19 amendment, vessel limits could have reduced the rate of harvest,  
20 but may have had disproportionate effects on anglers fishing on  
21 headboats, charter boats, or private vessels.

22

23 Based on the previous analyses in Amendment 30A, a bag limit of  
24 one fish per three anglers, with no allowance for fewer anglers,  
25 would be required to reduce harvest by at least 32 percent. See  
26 summary table below, which is provided in the document for you.

27

28 **Without opposition, the committee recommends, and I so move, to**  
29 **have staff develop a framework action for greater amberjack**  
30 **management measures dealing with seasons and vessel bag limits.**

31

32 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Diaz.

33

34 **MR. DIAZ:** Yes, ma'am. I think this might be a good place. I  
35 was wanting to offer a motion, if I could, before we take this  
36 next vote, or should we take this vote?

37

38 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Well, we have a motion on the board, and so  
39 I'm not sure what your motion is in reference to, but, if it  
40 would be suitable as a substitute motion, you could do that.

41

42 **MR. DIAZ:** No, it would add something to this document here. I  
43 want to add something to that management measure document that  
44 we're fixing to vote on. I think it should go before this  
45 motion.

46

47 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** The motion on the board is to have staff  
48 develop a framework action for greater amberjack management

1 measures dealing with seasons and bag limits.  
2  
3 **MR. DIAZ:** I would like to add something to that document, and  
4 so, before people vote, we could vote my motion up or down, and  
5 then we could handle it all at one time.  
6  
7 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Well, we have this one on the board, and so  
8 we need to vote this one up or down, but then you could have a  
9 motion that adds something into that document.  
10  
11 **MR. DIAZ:** Okay.  
12  
13 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Will that work? I have no idea what your  
14 motion is, or what your subject is. Okay. Is there discussion  
15 on the motion? Dale, do you want to have some discussion?  
16  
17 **MR. DIAZ:** I will just let you know what I wanted to add in.  
18 There was public testimony yesterday from several commercial  
19 fishermen saying that a trip limit might be something that would  
20 be beneficial to the fishery, and I was just going to throw that  
21 out, based on public testimony yesterday.  
22  
23 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Ms. Guyas.  
24  
25 **MS. GUYAS:** Yes, I heard that as well, and I'm okay with adding  
26 that here, as long as we can continue moving forward with this  
27 in October by adding that. I don't want to add too much to this  
28 document, so that it slows it down.  
29  
30 I also just wanted to throw out some of the vessel limit options  
31 that I heard yesterday that people seemed to be interested in.  
32 One was four fish per vessel and then another was six fish.  
33 That six fish was paired with a one fish per two people, but, I  
34 guess, if the analysis that occurred in 2005 or whenever this  
35 was, is still valid, then maybe that would not work, but we may  
36 need to rerun those numbers, and I don't know.  
37  
38 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Gregory.  
39  
40 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** I welcome staff to correct me, but  
41 my impression is that you're asking us to write a framework  
42 action within the next eight weeks to bring back to you as a  
43 final document with all these actions in it. I don't think  
44 that's possible, and I mentioned this yesterday.  
45  
46 We can do two different framework actions, or we can do our best  
47 putting this together, but then you only have to divide it in  
48 October. It would be simpler, to me, if we said do two

1 framework actions, one to get the season done and get it done in  
2 October, and then another one for us to work on vessel limits  
3 and trip limits, and that may take a little longer.

4  
5 I know we have a good staff, and I appreciate the faith and  
6 trust you all have in them, but, if we can get all this done for  
7 October, to take final action, I am welcome to be corrected,  
8 Carrie or John.

9  
10 **DR. FROESCHKE:** I like that plan.

11  
12 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Okay. So I'm guessing right then.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Anson.

15  
16 **MR. ANSON:** Doug, that's kind of where I was, and that was the  
17 reason for us to split those kind of two actions out, is to kind  
18 of address the seasons, because there is more of a need, or at  
19 least certainly we got a lot of testimony and emails from folks,  
20 to provide a little bit more relief and spread the fish out, and  
21 that this action, changing vessel limits, particularly when you  
22 start talking potentially fractional bag limits, which may apply  
23 just with the vessel limit, I think that would be a little bit  
24 more -- Much more -- I wouldn't say contentious, but, you know,  
25 I think the angling public would need a little bit more time to  
26 digest that and, to try to put it on a fast track, I don't  
27 think, would be very good, and I think it would kind of confuse  
28 the public a little bit more. Then, in regards to staff time,  
29 they would probably need a little bit more time to get that, you  
30 know, in a form that would be good for us to discuss.

31  
32 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Ms. Guyas.

33  
34 **MS. GUYAS:** Well, if that's what we need to do, then I guess  
35 that's what we need to do, but I think, when we come back and  
36 look at these vessel limits, we're going to end up looking at  
37 the season again, because, again, the whole point of doing the  
38 vessel limit thing is to have a longer season, and so I just --  
39 I feel like we'll end up doing the same work twice, which, I  
40 guess if the tool is already built and we're just adding vessel  
41 limits to it, then that's fine, but, I mean, we need to do  
42 something in October, and so, if that is that we just tinker  
43 with the fishing year and the seasons again, then I guess that's  
44 okay, but that's what I have to say about that.

45  
46 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Greene.

47  
48 **MR. GREENE:** It's going to be a long week next week, but I'm

1 going to just kind of go out on a limb here and say that I don't  
2 think that we're quite to the vessel limit stage yet. I think  
3 we're kind of throwing a couple of tools out of the toolbox  
4 overboard at this point, and I don't think we're quite there.

5  
6 I know we had public testimony for this, and I know there's some  
7 people that want to do this, and I understand opportunity. It's  
8 a very difficult thing when you're sitting here realizing that,  
9 well, if we open up a season in April, that I could personally  
10 book every one of those days, but I'm going to tell you that the  
11 right thing to do is keep it closed. That's a very difficult  
12 thing for anybody to do.

13  
14 If you back up to the thing that I just read to you in the  
15 committee report, this kind of bothers me a little bit, and I'm  
16 going to reread that last sentence, and let's think about this  
17 for a second. Based on previous analysis in Amendment 30A, a  
18 bag limit of one fish per three anglers, with no allowance for  
19 fewer anglers, would be required to reduce harvest by at least  
20 32 percent.

21  
22 Yes, it would. However, that means, if you're on a center  
23 console outboard boat and there's three people on a boat, you  
24 don't get to keep one. That doesn't make any sense, and so I  
25 appreciate the spirit of what we're trying to do, and while this  
26 may not be an issue for the for-hire industry, I feel like it's  
27 going to have a big impact on the recreational guys, and so I  
28 think that we need to do is let's just stick to the season stuff  
29 right now.

30  
31 If we don't accomplish what we're trying to do and we just can't  
32 get enough open days, then we'll come back at a subsequent  
33 meeting, somewhere down the road, hopefully when I'm gone and  
34 you guys are here, and you all can handle that, because that's  
35 going to be a burdensome thing, and so just something for you to  
36 think about.

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Crabtree.

39  
40 **DR. CRABTREE:** Some of those scenarios, like the one Johnny just  
41 brought up, if there are fewer than three onboard the boat that  
42 you can't keep one, we'll never do that, and so I hate to see us  
43 spin our wheels on things that I don't think we would ever do,  
44 but splitting it is fine, and I get Martha's thing about maybe  
45 it's extra work, but it does seem to me that we have put  
46 ourselves in a position where we have to change the season thing  
47 in October, and, if staff can get something where we can deal  
48 with the bag limits, that's great, but I think the priority has



1 to be to be able to take action on the seasons and do the best  
2 you can on the bag limit.

3

4 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Gregory.

5

6 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** If I may, like I said yesterday, we  
7 can do as much as we can get done, and, if we have the leeway of  
8 saying, well, the trip limit will have to wait for a second  
9 framework and advise you of that in October, let us make that  
10 decision, or, if the vessel limits -- We'll bring whatever we  
11 can with that, because it's understandable how that affects a  
12 potential season, and so we'll do the best we can, and, if we  
13 need to shorten it so that you can take final action -- Because  
14 we understand the most important thing is to take final action  
15 on the season for next year, and that gives us another year to  
16 tweak it for the following years also.

17

18 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. The question at hand is, because  
19 there's a motion on the board to direct staff to develop a  
20 framework action for greater amberjack measures dealing with  
21 seasons and vessel bag limits.

22

23 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** That's fine.

24

25 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** So we can vote that motion up or down and  
26 leave everything in one document, or we can have a substitute  
27 motion that will develop two separate framework actions. You  
28 can take final action on the season document in October, and  
29 we'll keep -- We could possibly see the other one in October,  
30 maybe, the bag limit document, but you could definitely take  
31 final action on seasons in October, and I am leaving it up to  
32 you all. Dr. Crabtree.

33

34 **DR. CRABTREE:** Okay. I offer a substitute motion to have staff  
35 develop a framework action for greater amberjack management  
36 measures dealing with seasons and a separate framework action  
37 dealing with vessel bag limits.

38

39 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** In your second framework action, do you also  
40 want to see some commercial trip limits in there?

41

42 **DR. CRABTREE:** If that's what folks want to see, yes. **Bag**  
43 **limits and commercial trip limit for the second one.** Does that  
44 get you what you want, Doug?

45

46 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dale, I think that will encompass kind of the  
47 comments that you were making earlier. All right.

48

1 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** At the end of the substitute  
2 motion, we can add "and commercial trip limits"?  
3  
4 **DR. CRABTREE:** Yes, at the end, "and commercial trip limits".  
5  
6 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Now, again, if we get halfway  
7 through September and we think we can get it all done in one  
8 document and it's clean and it's something that you all can  
9 approve, we will bring it back that way, if we think it's more  
10 efficient, but we can handle this in two separate documents just  
11 as easy.  
12  
13 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. The motion has been seconded.  
14 Any further discussion on the motion? Captain Walker.  
15  
16 **MR. WALKER:** I was just going to add that I think the most  
17 consistent testimony I heard yesterday for the commercial trip  
18 limit was 500 pounds, and then I did hear someone say 300, 500,  
19 and 1,000 or whatever, and they wanted a lower trip limit to  
20 address discards and extend the season.  
21  
22 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Any further discussion?  
23 Seeing none, all those in favor of the substitute motion on the  
24 board to have staff develop a framework action for greater  
25 amberjack management measures dealing with seasons and develop a  
26 separate framework action dealing with vessel bag limits and  
27 commercial trip limits, all in favor signify by saying aye; all  
28 opposed same sign.  
29  
30 **MS. GUYAS:** Just real quick, before we leave amberjack, and so  
31 not a motion and just a question. A couple of folks yesterday  
32 brought this up, and I've gotten a few email messages asking  
33 about it, and so, if you look at page 5 of the document that has  
34 the landings, in 2016, there is a huge spike in I think the  
35 private angler portion of those landings. I guess for NOAA, do  
36 you all know what's driving that? It just seems kind of out of  
37 -- It looks a little bit different than -- I can't tell, and  
38 it's by wave. I think this is annual, but, I mean, it was 1.4  
39 million pounds of fish caught, which is more than double what  
40 was caught the year before, and if we just had any idea about  
41 what's driving that.  
42  
43 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Can you give us the page number again,  
44 Martha?  
45  
46 **MS. GUYAS:** Page 5, the bottom of page 5.  
47  
48 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** While they're pulling that up, we're going to

1 look to the NMFS side of the house here. Dr. Ponwith and Dr.  
2 Crabtree, do we have an answer to Martha's question about the  
3 million-plus pounds? Martha, do you want to repeat your  
4 question, please?

5  
6 **MS. GUYAS:** Yes, and, I mean, a bunch of people pointed this  
7 out, but, in 2016, the private angler portion of the fishery  
8 caught more than twice what they have caught in previous years,  
9 and I think it just has a lot of people scratching their heads  
10 and trying to understand why or what drove that. Any insight?

11  
12 **DR. CRABTREE:** All I can tell you is it's not unprecedented, if  
13 you look back in 2003 and 2004 and 2005. They caught a lot  
14 there, and, no, I have no explanation as to what caused that.

15  
16 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you. Anything else on amberjack? All  
17 right, Chairman Greene.

18  
19 **MR. GREENE:** Amendment 42, Reef Fish Management for Headboat  
20 Survey Vessels, Tab B, Numbers 5(a) 5(b), staff summarized the  
21 referendum eligibility requirements for Reef Fish Amendment 42,  
22 Tab B, Number 5(b). Committee members discussed the alternative  
23 eligibility criteria for participation in the referendum and  
24 approved the following motion.

25  
26 **By voice vote without opposition, the committee recommends, and**  
27 **I so move, to select Alternative 2, Option b as the preferred**  
28 **alternative and option.**

29  
30 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have a committee motion on the board to  
31 **select Alternative 2, Option b as the preferred alternative and**  
32 **option. Any discussion on the motion? Seeing none, any**  
33 **opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.**

34  
35 **MR. GREENE:** Staff noted that approval of a referendum  
36 initiation letter would be needed. Roy Crabtree indicated that,  
37 if the council wanted to send referendum requirements to the  
38 Secretary, members could approve a motion to that effect. Dr.  
39 Crabtree recommended that the council postpone discussions  
40 relative to sending referendum requirements to the Secretary  
41 until October. A motion to send the referendum eligibility  
42 requirement to the Secretary of Commerce for review and  
43 implementation failed.

44  
45 The committee requested that staff bring back the referendum  
46 eligibility requirements in October. Committee members  
47 requested staff expand the section on the Next Steps, Chapter 5,  
48 to detail all the steps included in the referendum process and

1 discuss the information provided to eligible voters before they  
2 cast their referendum ballots.

3  
4  
5 Amendment 41, Allocation-Based Management for Federally  
6 Permitted Charter Vessels, Tab B, Numbers 6(a) and (b), staff  
7 gave an overview of the updates to Amendment 41 since the June  
8 council meeting and noted the preferred alternatives selected at  
9 that meeting.

10  
11 Staff then noted the request made during the committee's  
12 discussion of Amendment 42's referendum eligibility requirements  
13 to update the Next Steps Section with a more detailed timeline  
14 in the referendums for both Amendment 41 and 42.

15  
16 Staff discussed the referendum eligibility requirements for  
17 Amendment 41. The committee asked for additional information  
18 regarding unique permit holders with multiple permits. Dr.  
19 Stephen explained that, as currently written, unique permit  
20 holders would have one vote for each permit held.

21  
22 **The committee then made the following motion. Without**  
23 **opposition, the committee recommends, and I so move, to include**  
24 **in the Amendment 41 eligibility requirements an option that**  
25 **would create the voting interest by unique number of permit**  
26 **holders and also by a weighted option by unique permit holders**  
27 **and total permits held.**

28  
29 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you. We have a committee motion on the  
30 board. Is there any discussion on the motion? **Seeing none, is**  
31 **there any opposition to the motion? The motion carries.**

32  
33 **MR. GREENE:** Staff will present an updated referendum  
34 eligibility requirements document at the October council  
35 meeting. Review of For-hire Permit Moratorium and Transfers,  
36 Tab B, Numbers 7(a) and (b), staff gave a presentation on the  
37 review of the for-hire permit moratorium and transfers.

38  
39 Staff noted that the limited-access program appears to have met  
40 its objectives. Committee members expressed concern that some  
41 for-hire reef-fish-permitted vessels may transfer permits on and  
42 off a vessel to take advantage of state and federal red snapper  
43 seasons. Staff indicated that the review of for-hire reef fish  
44 permit transfers does not indicate unusual reef fish permit  
45 transfer behavior.

46  
47 Jessica Stephen added that, based on their examination of the  
48 data, there appear to be only a handful of vessels with transfer

1 behavior that could potentially suggest attempts to take  
2 advantage of both seasons. Charles Tyre explained that law  
3 enforcement views a vessel as for-hire vessel once it is  
4 associated with a permit, even if that permit is removed later  
5 in the year. As such, the vessel cannot fish in state waters or  
6 possess red snapper outside the federal season.

7

8 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Anson.

9

10 **MR. ANSON:** I am wondering -- Shep, were you able to find out  
11 any more information about that, the permit, when they sell the  
12 permit and it's off the vessel and whether or not that vessel is  
13 still regarded as a charter boat?

14

15 **MR. GRIMES:** Well, so we had guidance from OLE during the  
16 committee session, and I have been going back and forth with  
17 people at home, and we will provide additional guidance, but I'm  
18 not ready to do it at this meeting. I want to get everybody  
19 together and talk about it.

20

21 I didn't work on the sector separation stuff, and I'm not  
22 familiar enough with it, and I don't want to do it on the fly  
23 here at the meeting, and so, once everybody gets together, we  
24 will provide guidance. I don't think that should be a problem  
25 for you, because you don't have anything pushing forward  
26 relative to this amendment, but I would rather make sure that  
27 we've got everybody that we needed together and gave you a well-  
28 conceived, definitive response.

29

30 **MR. ANSON:** Thank you.

31

32 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Greene.

33

34 **MR. GREENE:** One thing I brought up the other day, when we were  
35 in committee about this, and I know it was a long committee day  
36 and everything else that goes along with that, but, you know,  
37 although they talk about it's not unusual, the number of  
38 transfers going back and forth and everything, there are -- It  
39 is something that is happening, and how those fish are counted,  
40 whether those -- If a charter boat takes a permit off and he  
41 fishes in state waters, does that count against the recreational  
42 quota or the for-hire quota?

43

44 One thing that does bother me is I have seen a number of private  
45 recreational individuals buy a permit and put it on their boat  
46 to take advantage of the charter boat season that are not aware  
47 of that. For example, once you're designated as a charter boat,  
48 I can't take my family out on a fishing trip on my boat. Once

1 you're a charter boat, you're a charter boat.

2  
3 You have to carry all the turtle equipment, and there's a lot of  
4 things that I don't think that people understand that, once  
5 you're designated as a charter boat, you give up a lot of  
6 things, and so, while maybe it's not such a big deal about,  
7 well, these few snapper are being caught here instead of here  
8 and everything else, there is other implications that are out  
9 there, and I think that we need to move forward.

10  
11 As Shep suggested, they will come back, I guess, at some point  
12 with some determination with that, and I don't know that we  
13 really need to move forward on this document right now. I don't  
14 want this document to just be pushed aside, because it's  
15 something I feel like we need to look at and make sure that the  
16 word gets passed, so that people understand that, once you  
17 transfer this permit, this is -- From this point forward, this  
18 is where you are.

19  
20 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Shep.

21  
22 **MR. GRIMES:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Just put on the agenda for  
23 your next meeting some discussion of it, so the agency can come  
24 back to you and give you that guidance and you can discuss how  
25 you want to move forward, if at all.

26  
27 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Will do.

28  
29 **MR. GREENE:** Draft Framework Action to Modify the ACT for Red  
30 Snapper Federal For-Hire and Private Angler Components, Tab B,  
31 Number 8, staff reviewed the framework action to modify the  
32 recreational red snapper ACT buffers with the committee.

33  
34 New alternatives were presented in a component-specific manner,  
35 as per the council's previous request. Committee members stated  
36 that the federal for-hire component was regularly underfishing  
37 its ACL, which seemed to be more a function of the length of the  
38 season, as determined by National Marine Fisheries Service,  
39 rather than a lack of effort by that component.

40  
41 Dr. Crabtree noted that Section 407(d) states that the  
42 recreational sector for red snapper must be managed using annual  
43 catch limits and refers to this requirement for the recreational  
44 sector as a whole. Further, increasing the buffer on the  
45 private angler component beyond 20 percent may eliminate the  
46 federal-water fishing season for recreational red snapper for  
47 that component, since approximately 80 percent of the landings  
48 of red snapper by private anglers come from state waters fishing

1 seasons. The committee determined that further clarification on  
2 the proposed alternatives was necessary.

3  
4 **Without opposition, the committee recommends, and I so move, to**  
5 **ask the SSC to review the alternatives in the Framework Action**  
6 **to Modify the ACT for Red Snapper Federal For-Hire and Private**  
7 **Angler Components document and provide their recommendations.**

8  
9 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have a committee motion. Is there any  
10 discussion on the motion? **Seeing none, is there any opposition**  
11 **to the motion? The motion carries.**

12  
13 **MR. GREENE:** Presentation on the Grouper-Tilefish IFQ Five-Year  
14 Program Review, Tab B, Number 9, staff gave a presentation on  
15 the five-year review of the grouper-tilefish individual fishing  
16 quota program.

17  
18 The presentation included an overview of the IFQ program and  
19 discussed several items. Items discussed included share and  
20 allocation ownership and transfers, the influence of the IFQ  
21 program on ex-vessel prices, technical efficiency and safety at  
22 sea.

23  
24 Committee members discussed price fluctuations and noted the  
25 negative influence of the 2010 oil spill on the grouper-tilefish  
26 harvests and ex-vessel prices. Staff noted that a draft review  
27 document will be discussed by the SSC. Committee members  
28 inquired about providing the appropriate AP an opportunity to  
29 comment on the five-year review. Staff indicated that the five-  
30 year review will be presented to the appropriate AP.

31  
32 Revised Options Paper, Amendment 36B, Modifications to  
33 Commercial IFQ Programs, Tab B, Number 10, staff noted that the  
34 legal determination previously requested by the council  
35 regarding auctions was under review and not yet available.  
36 Staff noted that the committee could provide new program goals  
37 and objectives to support the potential actions in the document.  
38 Staff then reviewed the options paper. The committee discussed  
39 their intended purpose for Action 2.3, quota redistribution or  
40 set-asides.

41  
42 **With one opposed, the committee recommends, and I so move, to**  
43 **identify quota set asides to address and assist small**  
44 **participants and new entrants and to reduce discards.**

45  
46 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have a committee motion. Is there any  
47 discussion on the motion? Dr. Crabtree.

1 **DR. CRABTREE:** There was some discussion in public testimony  
2 about the new entrants, and, if you look through the document,  
3 what it really talks about are next-generation participants and  
4 vessels and that kind of thing, and so it's not like we're  
5 trying to build up additional capacity in the fishery, but, as  
6 we all grow old, there has got to be some way for young folks to  
7 get in and participate, and so I think, by new entrants, that's  
8 what we're really talking about, is the next generation.

9  
10 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Like replacement fishermen. That's a heck of  
11 a word, huh?

12  
13 **DR. CRABTREE:** That seems a little harsh though.

14  
15 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** I agree. Any further discussion on the  
16 motion? All right. **Any opposition to the motion? Seeing none,**  
17 **the motion carries.**

18  
19 **MR. GREENE:** The committee discussed Action 2.4, distributing  
20 shares from non-activated accounts, which was moved to this  
21 document from Amendment 36A. Noting the small amount of total  
22 quota held in the accounts, the committee expressed interest in  
23 adding this quota to the quota set-aside being considered in  
24 Action 2.3. **With no opposition, the committee recommends, and I**  
25 **so move, to combine Action 2.4 into Action 2.3.**

26  
27 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have a committee motion. Is there any  
28 discussion on the motion? **Seeing none, is there any opposition**  
29 **to the motion? The motion carries.** Dr. Crabtree.

30  
31 **DR. CRABTREE:** Before we get away from this one, this is where  
32 we talked about quota banks, and one of the things was recall we  
33 have those inactive accounts that we got rid of in 36A, and it  
34 was putting those in it.

35  
36 **I would like to make a motion that we also put in there an**  
37 **option for accounts that become inactive in the future and that**  
38 **that quota would automatically go into the quota bank and that**  
39 **the option look at how to define inactive accounts, for example,**  
40 **inactive for three years or inactive for five years or something**  
41 **like that.**

42  
43 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have a motion on the board to add an  
44 option for accounts that become inactive in the future -- That  
45 quota would go automatically -- It would automatically go into  
46 the quota bank. Let me read it one more time. To add an option  
47 for accounts that become inactive in the future, so that quota  
48 would automatically go into the quota bank. Is that your



1 motion, sir?

2

3 **DR. CRABTREE:** Yes, ma'am.

4

5 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. Do we have a second for the motion?  
6 It is seconded by Dr. Mickle. Any further discussion on the  
7 motion? Okay. **Seeing none, is there any opposition to the**  
8 **motion? The motion carries.**

9

10 **MR. GREENE:** In Action 2.5, restrictions on share and allocation  
11 transfers, staff asked whether the committee's intent of the  
12 action is addressed in other actions in the document. By  
13 consensus, the committee removed Section 2.5 from the document.

14

15 In Action 2.6, allocation caps, Dr. Crabtree asked the committee  
16 whether the action was necessary or should be removed. The  
17 committee decided to resume discussion after hearing public  
18 testimony.

19

20 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Crabtree.

21

22 **DR. CRABTREE:** Based on everything I have heard, I have not -- I  
23 **see no reason that we need allocation caps, and so I would like**  
24 **to make a motion to remove Action 2.6, Allocation Caps, from the**  
25 **document.**

26

27 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. We have a motion on the board to  
28 remove Action 2.6, Allocation Caps, from the document. Is that  
29 your motion, Dr. Crabtree?

30

31 **DR. CRABTREE:** Yes, ma'am.

32

33 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. Do we have a second for the motion?  
34 It's seconded by Mr. Walker. Do we have discussion on the  
35 motion? No discussion on the motion? Mr. Anson.

36

37 **MR. ANSON:** Well, if Dr. Crabtree can summarize his comments,  
38 and he made have brought it up or explained the detail  
39 yesterday, but rationale for the motion.

40

41 **DR. CRABTREE:** Yes, and so we aren't required to have allocation  
42 caps in red snapper, and I just don't see that there's a problem  
43 here that allocation caps -- I don't see anything that makes me  
44 think that we need them, and so it seems to me just to be that  
45 it would just be an unnecessary constraint that we put on the  
46 fishery, and I am open if somebody can show me some problem  
47 that's being caused by not having them, but, of all the issues  
48 and things and concerns I have heard raised over the last few

1 years about the fishery, this has never been one of them, and so  
2 I just don't see a need for them.

3

4 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Swindell.

5

6 **MR. SWINDELL:** I am reading in the document, and also  
7 remembering yesterday or whenever it was that we discussed this  
8 whole program, and we were searching for an advisory panel that  
9 maybe could address some of these issues. Do we not want to  
10 take it to the Ad Hoc Red Snapper IFQ Advisory Panel and let  
11 them give us some information? We have only had public  
12 testimony, and how about letting the AP come back and give us a  
13 recommendation of what to do? That's why we have APs.

14

15 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Captain Walker.

16

17 **MR. WALKER:** That might be something to consider, and I think we  
18 would like to convene the AP that we find appropriate. You  
19 know, when I first heard about this discussion of allocation  
20 caps, I thought that it could probably potentially be a problem,  
21 but then remember that reduction of the fleet was one of the  
22 goals, and so the industry, for the most part, is not asking for  
23 any type of allocation cap, but I am sure -- There is always  
24 more discussion, and the advisory panel could be good as well.

25

26 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Crabtree.

27

28 **DR. CRABTREE:** Do we know when the advisory panel -- I mean, we  
29 still have to constitute it and things and so --

30

31 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Well, that is coming further in this  
32 committee report, because we had that discussion a little bit  
33 during committee, but, yes, we will have to take some action  
34 there.

35

36 **DR. CRABTREE:** Ed, I guess, if the AP is convened and they come  
37 in saying, oh, man, we've really got to have allocation caps,  
38 then we'll revive the action and put it back in, but I just  
39 haven't heard it come up, and so I'm not expecting that is going  
40 to happen.

41

42 **MR. SWINDELL:** Madam Chair, I think that's fine, just as long as  
43 we make sure that we ask this advisory panel to review that  
44 issue.

45

46 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Crabtree.

47

48 **DR. CRABTREE:** I think staff can go over that these are the

1 things that were in the amendment that the council has taken  
2 out, so they're aware that we talked about them, and, if they  
3 disagree with it, then they can let us know.

4  
5 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Is there further discussion?  
6 That is the motion. **All those in favor, signify by saying aye;**  
7 **all those opposed same sign. The motion carries.**

8  
9 **MR. GREENE:** The committee asked whether there is an existing  
10 advisory panel that includes representation by participants of  
11 both the red snapper and grouper-tilefish IFQ programs. There  
12 is currently an Ad Hoc Red Snapper IFQ AP, which was last  
13 convened in 2013. The committee decided to resume discussion on  
14 the appropriate AP to review this document following public  
15 testimony.

16  
17 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Gregory.

18  
19 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Yes, and we have a Reef Fish  
20 Advisory Panel, and then we have an Ad Hoc Red Snapper IFQ  
21 Panel. Then there was some discussion of maybe we should have a  
22 combined red snapper and grouper IFQ panel or a grouper IFQ  
23 panel, and so what I have done is -- Just to put it out there,  
24 my philosophy is that we create these AP panels, our regular AP  
25 panels, to be diverse and to provide us with input from the  
26 diverse group, and I am philosophically bothered by the ad hocs  
27 we've been creating, because what we're doing is we're  
28 subsetting the Reef Fish AP and creating the ad hocs, and the  
29 potential that we saw with the for-hire and the headboat is then  
30 they go off in different directions, and then they come back to  
31 us and we've got to reconcile them.

32  
33 If they had all been discussed jointly in the AP, that might not  
34 have happened, and so I just want to put that out there, that I  
35 am bothered by creating ad hocs, and so here is what I found  
36 out.

37  
38 The Red Snapper Ad Hoc IFQ has seventeen members, and the Reef  
39 Fish AP has twenty-two. Nine members are on both panels, and so  
40 half of the IFQ panel is on the Reef Fish AP panel. Then, on  
41 the Ad Hoc Red Snapper Panel, to get at do we need another IFQ  
42 panel or do we need to re-advertise, eleven out of the seventeen  
43 members of the current Red Snapper IFQ Panel have shares in both  
44 red snapper and grouper-tilefish.

45  
46 To me, that seems like that panel, even though we call it the  
47 red snapper panel, is already diversified between the two  
48 fisheries, but, again, I am a lumpner and not a splitter, and so

1 I'm just putting that up there.

2  
3 On the Reef Fish AP, seven out of twenty-one members have shares  
4 in both fisheries, and so a third of our regular Reef Fish AP  
5 has shares in both fisheries, red snapper and grouper-tilefish.  
6 Two of the AP members only have snapper shares, and two only  
7 have grouper shares, and so, again, I would argue that the Reef  
8 Fish AP is sufficiently diversified and can provide us the input  
9 we need for these items, but I am just -- I'm not trying to lead  
10 the council too much, but that's what we have, and so the  
11 question is do you want to create another ad hoc for grouper, or  
12 do you want to re-advertise -- Disband the red snapper and re-  
13 advertise and have a combined one, or just rename the Red  
14 Snapper IFQ Panel to be red snapper and grouper-tilefish, since  
15 eleven of the seventeen members have shares in both fisheries?

16  
17 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Captain Walker.

18  
19 **MR. WALKER:** I was just going to make the point that I think the  
20 Red Snapper IFQ Panel, as Doug mentioned, has both red snapper  
21 and grouper, and I think there's enough grouper members on that  
22 panel that could probably serve both, and I think it would be  
23 more representative of the industry if you stuck with the ad hoc  
24 panel for the IFQ, and it's mostly IFQ-related folks in the  
25 industry, with getting their input in, and so maybe -- I have  
26 heard a lot of people supporting that we just use the existing  
27 red snapper ad hoc panel, because it's thought that there was a  
28 sufficient number of grouper IFQ holders on that panel as well,  
29 and so that's what my recommendation would be, is just, maybe,  
30 as Doug said, rename the ad hoc, but I don't think -- Doug, I  
31 disagree with you, for I think the first time in three years,  
32 but I don't think it should -- I think it would be better to  
33 stick with the ad hoc panel for the IFQ.

34  
35 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Crabtree.

36  
37 **DR. CRABTREE:** Well, the one concern I would have is I would  
38 like to see some small participants and folks who maybe aren't  
39 shareholders, but lease, on the panel. I don't have the panel  
40 in front of me, but I wouldn't want to see a panel that just was  
41 essentially made up of the high-liners. I think we need some of  
42 the -- Some folks that represent some of the small participants,  
43 and I can't -- In just looking at that, I can't tell you if  
44 that's -- I mean, I know a lot of those names, and there are  
45 certainly some high-liners on there, but do we have any small  
46 participants on there and people who lease?

47  
48 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Gregory.

1  
2 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Based on the testimony we heard  
3 yesterday, I know of one person that is a lessee only.

4  
5 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Captain Walker.

6  
7 **MR. WALKER:** Just looking at the list, I see a few up there that  
8 are small shareholders, and they may be small in snapper, or  
9 they may be small in grouper, but some guys might be a little  
10 heavy in snapper, and some of the other guys might be a little  
11 heavy in grouper, and so there's a pretty good representation.

12  
13 One problem we had with the grouper IFQ panel when they  
14 developed it is I think everybody on the grouper panel was from  
15 the State of Florida. I don't remember anybody from Alabama or  
16 Mississippi or Louisiana or Texas that was on that panel when  
17 they developed that profile, and so I see a lot of these folks  
18 are from all over, and I even see Troy Williamson, and Dean Cox  
19 is small. I just see a lot of smaller guys, like Mike Eller and  
20 Gary Jarvis.

21  
22 Of course, you've got Jeff Barger, and he's a very small  
23 shareholder. I don't think he has any, but there's some medium-  
24 sized folks, and there are some people who are vested in the  
25 industry, and I see Bob Gill. I think it's a pretty good group  
26 of folks.

27  
28 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Martha.

29  
30 **MS. GUYAS:** I think I agree with Roy here, and I think would  
31 lean towards doing -- I guess re-advertising for a joint IFQ AP.  
32 I would want to include some of the smaller folks, or just  
33 provide another opportunity for some of these people maybe that  
34 are focused on grouper to apply and get involved here, since  
35 they will be going through the five-year review of that as well.  
36 I think that one of the tasks that we were going to put before  
37 this group.

38  
39 I appreciate, Doug, what you did in trying to maybe just go with  
40 the Reef Fish AP, but my concern with this particular issue is  
41 that, you know, with a large percentage of that group not  
42 engaged in the fishery, that maybe we wouldn't be able to get  
43 the technical expertise that I would like to see from this group  
44 by using the Reef Fish AP.

45  
46 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Martha, that was my concern, too. It is a  
47 pretty complicated system. If we re-advertise, I think this ad  
48 hoc AP, if it was re-advertised, should be structured similar to

1 the private angler AP that we did, in the sense that you don't  
2 have to be an IFQ shareholder, but you have to have some sort of  
3 commercial permits.

4  
5 This really needs to be someone that understands the commercial  
6 system to tell us what we are missing as we look through the  
7 document and make choices and maybe what unintended consequences  
8 we're not realizing are out there or maybe a better way to get  
9 about it, because they're familiar with it. I think we do need  
10 that technical expertise, and so I would hope that that would be  
11 the way that it would be advertised, if we re-advertise. Mr.  
12 Diaz.

13  
14 **MR. DIAZ:** I just want to say that I remember reading a document  
15 that Dr. Keithly put together, and it's been a long time since I  
16 read it, but he did -- I guess it was an economic analysis or a  
17 study or something, but he did this thing with small, medium,  
18 and large class holders, and I don't remember what the dividing  
19 line, if we got official definitions for those, but, from  
20 reading that paper, definitely there was a difference in opinion  
21 on the system based on where those folks fell out, and so I  
22 definitely agree with the idea of having a diverse group on the  
23 panel.

24  
25 Is there an official definition, and I don't know off the top of  
26 my head, of small, medium, and large shareholders, because,  
27 sitting around the table, my perception of one or the other may  
28 be very different than other council members' perceptions.

29  
30 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Gregory.

31  
32 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** I assume that the Regional Office  
33 can provide us with a classification of applicants as to whether  
34 they are leasing or own shares or both. That would be the only  
35 way to identify those that just lease.

36  
37 Now, that is one question, and the other thing that we have run  
38 into, with our public hearings and in talking to people, is,  
39 yes, the lessees may have a different opinion on how to manage  
40 this fishery, but they -- Some of them have told us that they're  
41 afraid to speak out, and that concern may still exist in an AP,  
42 that they're afraid to speak out or against something that the  
43 majority of the shareholders may like, because they're afraid  
44 they may be cut out of getting shares.

45  
46 How serious of a problem that is, from their perspective, I  
47 don't know, but it's possible that we could end up with a  
48 committee pretty much like we've got now. I think it's worth a

1 try, particularly if we can identify the lessees from the  
2 applicants without them saying they are.

3  
4 **DR. CRABTREE:** If I could, I think that we could provide you  
5 some sort of information that classifies folks in tiers somehow  
6 or another. I don't know what to do -- **If people don't want to**  
7 **speak out, they're presumably not going to apply to be on the**  
8 **AP, but I guess I would make a motion that we formulate a new ad**  
9 **hoc joint grouper/red snapper AP to work on this.** If I get a  
10 second, I can --

11  
12 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. Mr. Anson is going to second the  
13 motion that we're working on getting on the board. Mr. Anson.

14  
15 **MR. ANSON:** Just ad hoc membership, they can be unlimited, and  
16 there's no limit on those, correct, and it's just on APs, and  
17 they're limited, I believe, to two? Okay. Thank you.

18  
19 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Captain Walker.

20  
21 **MR. WALKER:** I was just going to add that when we spoke about  
22 people who were heavy or light in the industry, but, when we --  
23 The original red snapper IFQ people, we had Class 1 and Class 2  
24 permits at the time, and we had representation of the Class 1  
25 permits who had participated, and we also had Class 2, and we  
26 also had I think what was called non-voting members.

27  
28 We had an environmentalist on there, and we had a member on  
29 there that was from enforcement, and I thought it was a very  
30 good panel. Everyone listened to everyone's ideas, and we all  
31 worked together, and so it was folks from small shareholders to  
32 large shareholders.

33  
34 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Crabtree.

35  
36 **DR. CRABTREE:** Yes, and I'm kind of thinking along the lines  
37 that Leann brought up, that I want a diverse group here, but I  
38 think they should be participants in the fishery, basically.

39  
40 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Boyd.

41  
42 **MR. BOYD:** I have a question for Roy. Roy, do you want to go as  
43 far as defining the percentage by small, medium, large, and  
44 other, or do you just want to leave it open like this for staff  
45 to decide who is small, medium, and large?

46  
47 **DR. CRABTREE:** Well, I mean, we're going to have to come up with  
48 something to indicate how we would break that down and all,

1 whether you want to advertise it and then we look at the  
2 applicants and do something with it, and I leave that up to you.

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** I'm thinking that's something we may want to  
5 look after we get the applicant pool in, just because, even if  
6 you look at maybe some of the 36B documents, the way they  
7 defined different categories was a little different than what I  
8 thought, but it's all dependent on that group of individuals and  
9 how it falls out, and so I think we better maybe wait and see  
10 what we're working with before we try and define too much of  
11 that. Mr. Gregory, you've been waiting patiently, and go ahead.

12  
13 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** I've never been accused of being  
14 patient. Based on what Roy said, and I want it to be clear for  
15 the whole council, the advertisement will be for participants in  
16 the commercial red snapper or grouper-tilefish IFQ fishery, so  
17 that we don't get applicants from NGOs or private recreational  
18 anglers and mislead them that they might be eligible for the  
19 panel, and that would cut down on the potential number of  
20 applicants we get.

21  
22 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Yes, that's one way to do it. I was thinking  
23 if you hold a commercial permit, but I guess if you do it the  
24 way -- I wasn't going to be specific to the commercial permit  
25 that you hold, but that would be another way of doing it, and  
26 that would probably narrow it down a little bit farther. You  
27 would essentially have to hold some sort of commercial reef fish  
28 permit, not necessarily have a share in anything, but at least  
29 hold a permit is what you're saying? Mr. Anson.

30  
31 **MR. ANSON:** Well, you brought up another point, and so I will  
32 touch on that too, but the first thing that I wanted to make  
33 sure is, in the announcement that, yes, it's people involved in  
34 the IFQ fishery for red snapper or grouper, but to make sure  
35 that it includes references to non-shareholders, lessees  
36 basically, and make sure that we get that in the language, so it  
37 is clear.

38  
39 I don't know about having a commercial reef fish permit,  
40 because, currently, we allow them to have shares and not have a  
41 reef fish permit, and so I don't know if we want to go down that  
42 far.

43  
44 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Captain Walker and then Ms. Guyas.

45  
46 **MR. WALKER:** I was just going to add what I mentioned earlier.  
47 When it was a Class 1 and a Class 2 -- At one time, to qualify  
48 for a Class 1, there were numbers as high as you hand to land



1 25,000 or 30,000 pounds of snapper a year to be considered for  
2 Class 1, and then it was actually lowered to 5,000 pounds, which  
3 wasn't a lot of fish, and so it was pretty lenient on someone  
4 who could qualify for a Class 1, and, like I said, we had Class  
5 2, and I think Bob Zales was on the panel at the time, when he  
6 had some permits, and Bill Tucker.

7  
8 We had a really good group of folks, and, just like it is with  
9 the state management, when it came to the allocation issue, it  
10 was the hardest thing to get through, but we worked together,  
11 and we got through it. It took a little time and a lot of hard  
12 work, but we got through, and so I would just try to get folks  
13 that are -- Keep in mind to get folks that are participants in  
14 this industry and are dependent upon this industry, because that  
15 was the problem we had. We had too many folks, and I think  
16 Leann said that her dad says too many hooks in the water at one  
17 time, and everyone was hurting. There was a lot of folks  
18 falling out, and it was hard to survive as a commercial  
19 fisherman at the time, and it was also very hard on the  
20 resource, and so we addressed a lot of our problems, and we had  
21 a really good group that helped develop those profiles.

22  
23 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Ms. Guyas.

24  
25 **MS. GUYAS:** Just a clarification thing. Can we get "IFQ"  
26 actually in the motion, and so "joint ad hoc red snapper/grouper  
27 IFQ advisory panel"? Thanks.

28  
29 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Crabtree.

30  
31 **DR. CRABTREE:** That is exactly why I had my hand up. I would  
32 like that to be explicit in the motion.

33  
34 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** The seconder is okay with that?

35  
36 **MR. ANSON:** Yes.

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Mr. Gregory, and then let's vote  
39 this up or down.

40  
41 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** One last thing. We will notify the  
42 current members of the Red Snapper IFQ Advisory Panel that that  
43 advisory panel is being disbanded and we're creating a new joint  
44 advisory panel and encourage them to reapply, just like we do  
45 with our regular advisory panels when we advertise.

46  
47 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Understood. Any further discussion on the  
48 motion? Dr. Frazer.

1  
2 **DR. FRAZER:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Just real quick, I just  
3 want to make sure that the participants might include people  
4 like seafood dealers, for example, that are participating in the  
5 industry. That wasn't clear, based on Doug's definition.

6  
7 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** If I may, many of them are  
8 shareholders or lessees of some extent. For example, a fish  
9 dealer -- Let's say he's not a shareholder, but he will lease  
10 shares that he can then turn around and give to his boats or  
11 provide for his boats to unload. I have heard that in the  
12 grouper fishery.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Captain Walker.

15  
16 **MR. WALKER:** I was just going to add one thing. I like that  
17 adding the fish dealers. A lot of this, when it began, there  
18 was a lot of fish dealers who didn't like this. They were  
19 afraid that they were going to lose control of the fishermen,  
20 and they were arguing against it, and, later on, they were very  
21 apologetic about how it ended up, and it worked out really well  
22 and they were happy with it, and I think you heard a lot of  
23 testimony from fish dealers over the years about how successful  
24 it's been in running their operation and allowing them to  
25 provide access for the nation's seafood consumers year-round.

26  
27 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. **All those in favor of the motion**  
28 **on the board, signify by saying aye; all those opposed same**  
29 **sign. The motion carries.** Mr. Greene. Wait a minute. Mr.  
30 Anson.

31  
32 **MR. ANSON:** If Mr. Greene was going to proceed to the next  
33 section, I just wanted to bring up one item. During public  
34 testimony yesterday, there was expressed some concerns about the  
35 direction of the council, and some of the concerns were directed  
36 at me, and so I will respond to those.

37  
38 Personally, it's not a vendetta that I have against the IFQ  
39 fishery. I believe the IFQ fishery has performed well, for red  
40 snapper particularly, and that it's in the bounds of the council  
41 to look at all the programs that we oversee, and it's within our  
42 authority and prerogative to make changes if this body deems  
43 that it's time to make some change, and it may cause some  
44 disruption, and it may cause some angst amongst those that are  
45 actively engaged in the fishery and some uncertainty, and I  
46 think that's part of what we do and just part of the process, if  
47 you will, and that this process will proceed as the votes will  
48 pan out for the specific motions, but, again, I just wanted to

1 make sure that it was stated that I don't have any problems with  
2 it, but certainly there has been people that have expressed some  
3 concerns about how the fishery has progressed and that we have  
4 an opportunity, or an obligation, to at least review those and  
5 try to come to some consensus through the voting process, and  
6 that's all. Thank you.

7  
8 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, Mr. Anson. Appreciate it. Mr.  
9 Greene.

10  
11 **MR. GREENE:** Options Paper, Status Determination Criteria and  
12 OY, Tab B, Numbers 11(a) and 11(b), staff presented a review of  
13 the biological reference points discussed in the options paper  
14 for setting status determination criteria and optimum yield for  
15 reef fish and red snapper.

16  
17 Committee members asked if there were any issues with including  
18 red drum, which makes the amendment a joint Reef Fish/Red Drum  
19 FMP amendment. Staff responded that there were no issues with  
20 including red drum, other than there has been no recent red drum  
21 assessment.

22  
23 A committee member asked is staff was coordinating with  
24 scientific agencies and other councils. Staff responded that it  
25 would seek guidance from the SSC. Staff noted that the South  
26 Atlantic Council had already addressed its status determination  
27 criteria issues. Other councils were not addressing these  
28 issues at this time.

29  
30 For Action 2, MSST, staff asked for guidance on simplifying the  
31 range of alternatives. Staff suggested that Alternative 3, MSST  
32 equals one minus M times BMSY or 0.75 times BMSY, was  
33 unnecessarily complex. Also, Alternative 4, MSST equals 0.85  
34 times BMSY, produced results similar to Alternative 2, MSST  
35 equals one minus M times BMSY, and did not appear to add  
36 anything. Removing these alternatives would still leave a full  
37 range of alternatives.

38  
39 **Without opposition, the committee recommends, and I so move, in**  
40 **Action 2 to remove Alternatives 3 and 4.**

41  
42 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have a committee motion. Is there any  
43 discussion on the motion? Mr. Riechers.

44  
45 **MR. RIECHERS:** Just because of the way this was worded, I want  
46 to clarify. I don't think we meant to suggest that those  
47 alternatives didn't add anything, but they were bounded by the  
48 other alternatives that were included in the document already,

1 and so that we don't necessarily have to have those as  
2 alternatives, because we still have that range, if we chose to  
3 go select them for some reason.

4  
5 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you. Any further discussion? **Any**  
6 **opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.**

7  
8 **MR. GREENE:** Drafts, State Management of Recreational Red  
9 Snapper, Tag B, Numbers 12(a), 12(b), 12(c), and 12(d), staff  
10 explained the structure of the four documents. The State  
11 Management Program for Recreational Red Snapper Document  
12 contains actions that affect all states, regardless of  
13 participation in state management. Action 1 addresses the  
14 components of the recreational sector to include in state  
15 management programs.

16  
17 **By a voice vote with no opposition, the committee recommends,**  
18 **and I so move, in Action 1, to make Alternative 4 the preferred**  
19 **alternative.**

20  
21 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have a committee motion on the board. Any  
22 discussion on the motion? **Seeing none, any opposition to the**  
23 **motion? The motion carries.**

24  
25 **MR. GREENE:** In Action 2, the committee discussed the range of  
26 alternatives for apportioning the recreational sector ACL among  
27 the states. The committee would like to consider alternative  
28 approaches to allocating among the states and passed the  
29 following motions.

30  
31 **By a vote with one opposed, the committee recommends, and I so**  
32 **move, to direct staff to construct allocation alternatives that**  
33 **reflect spatial patterns in biomass and recreational trips with**  
34 **options for weighting the two.**

35  
36 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have a committee motion. Any discussion  
37 on the motion? Ms. Guyas.

38  
39 **MS. GUYAS:** Just one thing. I think Dr. Frazer brought up  
40 another idea that we discussed, but I don't think it made it  
41 into a motion yesterday, and that was somehow looking at  
42 licensed anglers, and was that right? Is that something that  
43 you would want to intertwine into this motion or see separately  
44 or what do you envision?

45  
46 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Frazer.

47  
48 **DR. FRAZER:** Thank you. I mean, if possible, if we could modify

1 that motion there that says, "reflect spatial patterns in  
2 biomass and recreational trips and licensed anglers", for  
3 example.

4  
5 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Well, we would have to do a substitute motion  
6 if you want to do that, or we can vote this up or down and then  
7 have a subsequent motion. Dr. Crabtree.

8  
9 **DR. CRABTREE:** We can get trips from the MRIP data source, but  
10 it's just trips, and we won't know if it -- I can't tell you if  
11 -- I mean, in theory, they are licensed anglers, but it's just  
12 trips. Now, we can ask for the trips to be EEZ trips, or we can  
13 have it broken down by wave, and then you could look at what you  
14 want to do, but maybe Dave can comment, but I don't know if you  
15 can get into just who is licensed and who is not, because it's  
16 just trips.

17  
18 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Mickle.

19  
20 **DR. MICKLE:** Roy addressed it pretty much exactly what I was  
21 going to say. I was going to refer to Dave and see how  
22 difficult that is. I know, in my state, getting license  
23 information is in a sister agency within my state borders, and  
24 so it would be a three-step process to even get these data to  
25 address that, and so just the difficulty in it could take quite  
26 a bit of time, and that's just to think about that.

27  
28 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Riechers.

29  
30 **MR. RIECHERS:** As I understood it, it was just another thought  
31 of a weighting factor that, when you talk about -- You don't  
32 know how many of them are EEZ anglers, but it does give you some  
33 reference point of total anglers. Certainly, from a Texas  
34 perspective, we can give you a time series of basically  
35 saltwater anglers, and so that's not an issue.

36  
37 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. I have Dr. Frazer and then Dr.  
38 Ponwith.

39  
40 **DR. FRAZER:** Thank you again. I think that data is available,  
41 actually, and I think you can get it from Census Bureau data,  
42 and there is some recent reports that were put out by a number  
43 of organizations that have that breakdown, and so I think the  
44 data are available. Whether or not we want to use it or not is  
45 another question.

46  
47 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Ponwith.

48

1 **DR. PONWITH:** Just two aspects on that. I think, based on what  
2 we have in hand, the recreational saltwater trips is a fairly  
3 firm number that then MRIP post-processes to a state level. For  
4 the spatial patterns in biomass, just to reiterate the most  
5 refined information that we have on biomass estimates is on an  
6 east-west basis, the east of the Mississippi and west of the  
7 Mississippi, and one methodology to get at further refinements  
8 from that is to prorate that coarse biomass across the finer-  
9 scale state-by-state.

10  
11 There is a paper that is out that looks at productivity and  
12 distribution of red snapper relative to natural habitats and  
13 artificial reefs. That is kind of a comparison of those two  
14 types of habitats more than an actual quantitative analysis of  
15 the full habitat characterized across the Gulf of Mexico, in  
16 terms of densities of red snapper and productivity there. Those  
17 are a couple of ways to look at that, but, again, just getting  
18 at the most refined information we have, it's an east-west split  
19 on the biomass.

20  
21 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Diaz.

22  
23 **MR. DIAZ:** I was just going to weigh in. I like the idea of  
24 using trips better, and my rationale for that is each state has  
25 their own specific laws on how to handle licensing in each  
26 state, and it's not uniform across all states.

27  
28 States typically want to get their license numbers up, because  
29 the volume of licenses that you have has some impact on getting  
30 some monies coming back to your state, and so it's just not  
31 equal across the board.

32  
33 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. We have a motion on the board. Any  
34 further discussion on this motion? All right. **All those in  
35 favor, signify by saying aye; all those opposed same sign. The  
36 motion carries.** Chairman Greene.

37  
38 **MR. GREENE:** By a vote with four opposed, the committee  
39 recommends, and I so move, to reconstruct the allocation tables  
40 and truncate the landing series through 2009.

41  
42 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. We have a committee motion on the  
43 board. Is there discussion on the motion? Mr. Banks.

44  
45 **MR. BANKS:** I just have a question, just for clarity. Was this  
46 in order to have an option for us to look at, or was it just to  
47 reconstruct the data tables?

48

1 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Riechers, I think that was your motion.  
2 Do you want to speak to that?

3  
4 **MR. RIECHERS:** Yes, and, I mean, I think in all of this, we were  
5 looking at options and alternatives, if they can get that far by  
6 October, but, if it can't be in the true form of an alternative  
7 written in, at least have the data there, so that we can start  
8 looking at it.

9  
10 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. I think this won't truncate every  
11 table that we have in the document. This is for a specific  
12 option to be looked at. Okay. I think that's the question.  
13 All right. Any further discussion on the motion? **All those in**  
14 **favor of the motion, signify by saying aye; all those opposed**  
15 **same sign. The motion carries.**

16  
17 **MR. GREENE:** By a vote with no opposition, the committee  
18 recommends, and I so move, that the allocation table include a  
19 formula that looks at the percentages, for the best ten years  
20 for each state, from the series 1986 through 2015, as the  
21 percentage of allocation.

22  
23 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have a committee motion. Is there any  
24 discussion on the motion? Captain Greene.

25  
26 **MR. GREENE:** Just a question. In the past, we had used a series  
27 of 1986 through 2015, where we used some weighting of some years  
28 and of other years, and it seemed like we had used that, and it  
29 was pretty close to our allocation policy, and is that the  
30 intent of this motion, or is this just strictly the years from  
31 here to there?

32  
33 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Riechers.

34  
35 **MR. RIECHERS:** You are kind of looking at me, and I didn't make  
36 this motion, but I will try to answer. What I understood it to  
37 be is, from 1986 to 2015, each state's top ten will be chosen  
38 out of that timeframe. All of those will be added up, and  
39 you'll end up with a new total across all the five states and a  
40 percentage thereof.

41  
42 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Yes, and that's my understanding of how I  
43 remembered it, too. I think David brought it up, and I thought  
44 it was a good suggestion, and it mirrors the way you did it back  
45 when we had to do that allocation decision when we were trying  
46 to develop a different program, and so any further discussion on  
47 the motion? **All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying**  
48 **aye; all those opposed same sign. The motion carries.**

1  
2 **MR. GREENE:** In Action 3, staff noted that an approved state  
3 management program would require the state to adopt a minimum  
4 size limit consistent with the federal minimum size limit.  
5 Therefore, staff asked if the committee was interested in  
6 changing the federal minimum size limit.

7  
8 **By a vote with no opposition, the committee recommends and I so**  
9 **move, to remove Action 3, Modify the Federal Recreational**  
10 **Minimum Size Limit from the document.**

11  
12 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have a committee motion. Any discussion  
13 on the motion? **Seeing none, any opposition to the motion? The**  
14 **motion carries.**

15  
16 **MR. GREENE:** Due to time constraints, staff will review the  
17 individual state amendments during Full Council.

18  
19 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Dr. Lassetter, that takes us back  
20 over to you.

21  
22 **DR. AVA LASSETER:** Thank you. Let's take a look at Tab B,  
23 Number 12(b), and so we're going to let Louisiana's document  
24 come up. The three tabs, (b), (c), and (d), you have Louisiana,  
25 Mississippi, and Alabama as separate documents.

26  
27 They are identical, except for the name of the state is replaced  
28 in each one, and so I'm using Louisiana's right now, unless you  
29 feel the need to have state-specific discussions, which I think  
30 could still fall into this one document, we'll just use this  
31 one, for the purpose of discussion.

32  
33 Let's take a look at the table of contents, and so we reviewed  
34 this in committee, the structure of the two documents, and so  
35 the IPT -- In identifying the actions that could go here, it was  
36 attempting to give the most flexibility to the individual states  
37 in determining which discussions could possibly vary by state,  
38 but, again, keep in mind that if your decision -- For a decision  
39 that might be different for each of the states, if at all that  
40 decision could be made through either your delegation or your  
41 CEP, which we'll get to in a moment, it might be preferable to  
42 not have a council action for that, because, in order to modify  
43 it, it would require the council process again.

44  
45 If at all possible, and I will get to that with the sunset  
46 provision, if it's not something that the council is interested  
47 in restricting the states to, then it might be preferable to not  
48 have those as council actions.



1  
2 Also, in the interest of time, because I am noticing that we  
3 have time constraints at Full Council as well, I think we're  
4 going to spend the most time talking on the first action.  
5 Action 1 addresses the authority structure for state management,  
6 and then Action 2 is the sunset provision and Action 3 will be  
7 post-season accountability measures.

8  
9 Let's go to Action 1, and, by authority structure, we mean how  
10 would the federal regulations be changed to allow the states to  
11 manage -- I'm sorry. Just a moment.

12  
13 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Ms. Guyas.

14  
15 **MS. GUYAS:** Before we go into these actions, I want to make a  
16 motion, just to get things rolling here. **That motion would be**  
17 **to start two separate amendments for state management of**  
18 **recreational red snapper off of Florida and Texas.** It was  
19 emailed in.

20  
21 **MR. RIECHERS:** Second.

22  
23 **MS. GUYAS:** I am just trying to put these in a logical order,  
24 and that's all.

25  
26 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Let's get your motion on the board.

27  
28 **MS. GUYAS:** State management of recreational red snapper off of  
29 Florida and Texas, and I'm just trying to be efficient here.  
30 Robin seconded, and so I'm not trying to throw Texas into  
31 something they're not ready for.

32  
33 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Should we call that Amendment 39?

34  
35 **MS. GUYAS:** Well, I don't know about that. Let me just explain  
36 why I'm putting this out there. Obviously the actions that are  
37 in the amendment we just went through will affect both of our  
38 states, and so it kind of just seems logical to have this, to  
39 look at doing state management in our states as well at this  
40 point, if we're going to go down this road, but I will let Robin  
41 chime in.

42  
43 **MR. RIECHERS:** I mean, I think we all knew this was coming.  
44 This should come as no shock to anyone, that, if any of this  
45 started to gain traction again, that we would be there with you  
46 all trying to move this forward, and, again, call it what you  
47 will, 12(a), 12(b), 12(c), and I don't care, or 39. It doesn't  
48 matter.

1  
2 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have a motion on the board to begin two  
3 separate amendments for the state management of recreational red  
4 snapper for Florida and Texas. That would obviously be one  
5 amendment for Florida and one amendment for Texas. All right.  
6 Do we have a second to the motion? Robin seconded it. Dr.  
7 Crabtree.  
8  
9 **DR. CRABTREE:** I am pondering making a substitute motion to  
10 start work on a new amendment that would be called the Move  
11 Forward with Flexible State Recreational Red Snapper Management  
12 Amendment and give it some new number, a lucky number, like 777,  
13 but do you all really want to keep these as five separate  
14 amendments, or do we want to bring them together into one, or do  
15 you want to just pass this motion and worry about that at the  
16 next meeting? I like that though, the Move Forward with  
17 Flexible State Recreational Red Snapper Management Amendment.  
18  
19 **UNIDENTIFIED:** What's the acronym for that?  
20  
21 **DR. CRABTREE:** It's obscene, and I can't say it on the record.  
22  
23 **MS. GUYAS:** We may have to come up with the acronym first.  
24  
25 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Well, I'm glad we all still have a sense of  
26 humor on Thursday. Not to state the obvious, but we haven't  
27 actually been through the individual plans yet at all, and so we  
28 haven't done that as a group yet.  
29  
30 Let's vote on this motion, assuming it passes, and that's great,  
31 but I think we probably do need to, at least one time, give them  
32 one pass through the three documents that staff created for us  
33 to review at this meeting, and then maybe we can make some  
34 decisions going forward. All right. Is there any further  
35 discussion on this motion? **Seeing none, all those in favor of**  
36 **the motion, signify by saying aye; all those opposed same sign.**  
37 **The motion carries.** Ms. Guyas, can we go through our documents  
38 now, are you good? Okay.  
39  
40 **DR. LASSETER:** Thank you. We will take a look at Action 1.  
41 This is the authority structure for state management. Of  
42 course, Alternative 1 is no action. Current federal regulations  
43 for management of recreational red snapper in federal waters is  
44 consistent across the Gulf, federal waters. Alternative 2 is  
45 one approach, delegation, and 3 and 4 are more similar, and  
46 that's another approach, conservation equivalency, CEPs.  
47  
48 Let's start with Alternative 2. Alternative 2 would use the

1 provision in the Magnuson-Steven Act for delegation, and so the  
2 management program -- NMFS would delegate some management  
3 authority, which would be specified in the regulations.  
4 Particular regulations would be removed, and that authority  
5 would be delegated to the states, and it's primarily bag limits  
6 and seasons.

7  
8 The state, and I'm going to be generic here, must establish the  
9 red snapper season structure, therefore, and bag limit, because  
10 those have been removed and now delegated to you, for the  
11 harvest of the respective state's assigned portion of the red  
12 snapper ACL, recreational ACL.

13  
14 The Appendix A in the document provides you the text, the  
15 language, from the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the delegation  
16 provision, and so there's not as much information in the text  
17 here as the remaining alternatives, because we have provided you  
18 the entire delegation provision. Now, the important part about  
19 delegation that is different from the other alternative for you  
20 is that, to pass delegation, it requires a three-quarter  
21 majority vote amongst the voting members of the council,  
22 whereas, if you pursue the other avenue, a simple majority, and  
23 so that is one thing to keep in mind. Let me pause there for a  
24 moment.

25  
26 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Banks.

27  
28 **MR. BANKS:** I just want some clarity on the vote situation, and  
29 so it would take three-quarters of a vote for anything to do  
30 with delegation, and so including to make a preferred  
31 alternative, to make that preferred, and then also a three-  
32 quarter majority for the entire amendment, once we get to the  
33 end, if it included a delegation preferred?

34  
35 **DR. LASSETER:** I am going to request that NOAA GC provide a  
36 definitive answer on that.

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. We're going to let Shep look that up,  
39 and we'll let Dr. Lasseter keep moving forward. Just let us  
40 know when you're ready, Shep.

41  
42 **DR. LASSETER:** Okay. Thank you very much. Good question. Back  
43 to my alternatives. Alternative 3 --

44  
45 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Martha has a question, before we move on.

46  
47 **MS. GUYAS:** With Alternative 2, now that we have taken the size  
48 limit option out of the previous document, it seems to me that

1 it would make sense to add the size limit in here, right, in  
2 Alternative 2? Otherwise, no one is setting the size limit,  
3 right?

4  
5 **DR. LASSETER:** The alternatives are quite wordy and have some  
6 information that's required, but there is, of course, additional  
7 requirements that is laid out more in the discussion, and it's  
8 written in the discussion that, to have an approved management  
9 plan, you must adopt the size limit that's consistent with the  
10 federal season, and, under both delegation and conservation  
11 equivalency, part of the requirement is that your plan, to be an  
12 approved state management plan, must be consistent with the FMP.

13  
14 It's slightly different language for each of them, and so I'm  
15 happy to add that, if you would like. However, the size limit  
16 has to be exactly the same as the federal, whereas you would  
17 have the freedom to establish your own bag limit and season  
18 structure.

19  
20 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Riechers.

21  
22 **MR. RIECHERS:** As I understood the size limit discussion  
23 yesterday, by removing it, we basically have taken away any need  
24 -- Well, we're not establishing a complete consistent federal  
25 size limit by doing that, and each state is going to still have  
26 the option to do their own. Isn't that what you were trying to  
27 do, Patrick, or am I confused with when you removed it?

28  
29 **MR. BANKS:** No, when I -- As I understood it around the table,  
30 we were all okay with keeping the size limit at sixteen inches  
31 in federal waters. What was surrounding my discussion yesterday  
32 was I was wanting to make sure that it didn't impede your  
33 ability to keep your state-water size limit at fifteen, and I  
34 don't think it did, but Ava might need to clarify for us.

35  
36 **DR. LASSETER:** As of yesterday, we did not have the motion for  
37 developing Florida and Texas state management documents, and so,  
38 at the time, with just the three central states, they were not  
39 concerned with changing the size limit.

40  
41 In Amendment 39, because Texas was going to be participating in  
42 state management, that is why we had that action to modify the  
43 minimum size limit, and your preferred alternative at that time  
44 was to decrease it to fifteen inches, which would be consistent  
45 with Texas's state water minimum size limit, and all of the  
46 states were going to agree to then adopt fifteen inches, and the  
47 federal minimum size limit would also be fifteen, and so then  
48 everything would have been consistent. I think, going forward,

1 if Texas is going to want to pursue state management, we may  
2 want to reconsider that action.

3

4 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Riechers.

5

6 **MR. RIECHERS:** We're beyond that action today, and I think we've  
7 got bigger fish to fry, so to speak, as far as going forward,  
8 but I think we will need to come back to that at the next  
9 meeting.

10

11 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Diaz.

12

13 **MR. DIAZ:** One of the things that I've been talking with Stacy  
14 about is whether or not the Coast Guard will be able to enforce  
15 these regulations, and I was going to ask Shep -- I know Shep is  
16 busy, and I'm so sorry, Shep, but is there a particular  
17 alternative that leaves the Coast Guard in the loop for  
18 enforcement, and can you shed any light on that?

19

20 **MR. GRIMES:** I would say that you would have to ask the Coast  
21 Guard. I am not familiar enough with the issues to tell you.

22

23 **MR. DIAZ:** I'm not going to put him on the spot right now, but,  
24 at the next meeting, when we discuss this, I would like to get  
25 to the point of just to know, when we vote on which way, but I  
26 don't want to slow this down. If it's obvious the 75 percent  
27 benchmark can't be had, that's a big consideration too to  
28 consider on what to do with these different options here. Thank  
29 you, Madam Chair.

30

31 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** So noted. Thank you, Dale. Any further  
32 discussion before Dr. Lasseter continues? Dr. Lasseter, go  
33 ahead.

34

35 **DR. LASSETER:** Okay. Thank you. Alternatives 3 and 4 both  
36 employ this conservation equivalency concept, and so Alternative  
37 3, the difference is these plans, which I will describe, will go  
38 straight to NMFS, and Alternative 4 adds an additional step,  
39 where a review committee would address the plans first before  
40 forwarding to NMFS. That's the only difference.

41

42 Alternative 3 is establish a management program in which the  
43 respective state will submit a plan to NMFS describing the  
44 conservation equivalency measures the state will adopt for the  
45 management of its portion of the recreational ACL. To be a  
46 conservation equivalency plan, and there is additional  
47 requirements further in the document, but the plan must be  
48 reasonably expected to limit the harvest of red snapper to the

1 state's assigned portion of the recreational sector ACL, and,  
2 again, having to go through that review process, your state  
3 management could not be approved unless it has met all of the  
4 requirements.

5  
6 If your plan is -- If your conservation equivalency requirements  
7 are not met, then the recreational harvest of red snapper in the  
8 federal waters adjacent to the respective state will be subject  
9 to the default federal regulations for red snapper. Now, that  
10 concept of default federal regulations refers to what we  
11 currently have, your sixteen-inch total length minimum size  
12 limit, two-fish bag limit, a season that starts on June 1 and  
13 ends, as estimated by NMFS, when the ACT is estimated to be met.

14  
15 Alternative 4, before NMFS reviews that plan, those conservation  
16 equivalency plans, what we're calling CEPs, a technical review  
17 committee reviews the plans.

18  
19 Each state would submit it to this technical review committee,  
20 which approves or returns the plan to the state for revision,  
21 and it would come back to the technical review committee, and  
22 then it gets forwarded to NMFS again, and so you have an extra  
23 level of review. During 39, the council had determined that  
24 this technical review committee would be made up of a  
25 representative from each of the five Gulf states.

26  
27 I have noted that the delegation provision is provided in the  
28 appendix, and so that's really where the specifics are there,  
29 and a little more about the requirements of conservation  
30 equivalency are provided on pages 9 and 10.

31  
32 Specifically, on page 10, we have a table, Table 2.1.1, which  
33 provides an outline, a timeline, for how the process would work.  
34 Then, at the bottom, there is a bulleted list of items and  
35 information that will need to be included as part of your plan.  
36 I am not wanting to, in the interest of time, not wanting to  
37 really read through all of this. I just really want to  
38 highlight that it's here, and I think I'm just going to turn it  
39 over to questions.

40  
41 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. Is there discussion? Mr. Banks.

42  
43 **MR. BANKS:** I would like to make a motion to have Alternative 2  
44 be the preferred. I would just remind you guys that I'm from  
45 the government and I'm here to help, and so trust me.

46  
47 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. We are in the Louisiana document right  
48 now.

1  
2 **MR. RIECHERS:** Martha has a question, and then I will have a  
3 question about that.

4  
5 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. So let me clarify that we are in the  
6 Louisiana document right now, and so, Patrick, you are making a  
7 motion in Action 1 of the Louisiana state document to have  
8 Louisiana's preferred alternative -- To make Alternative 2 the  
9 preferred alternative for Louisiana's state management. Okay.  
10 I wanted to be clear about that. All right. First, do we have  
11 a second to the motion? The motion is seconded by Mr. Matens.  
12 Is there discussion on the motion? I had Ms. Guyas's hand.

13  
14 **MS. GUYAS:** That was my question, was to just clarify that that  
15 was for Louisiana only.

16  
17 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Then Mr. Riechers.

18  
19 **MR. RIECHERS:** That's why I'm trying think about efficiencies  
20 here around the table a little bit. Are we going to step  
21 through every plan, next Alabama and then next Mississippi, and  
22 do this, or is there a way we can be a little more efficient and  
23 either just say let's make this -- Let's make it Alternative 2  
24 for the two other plans that you have before you today and the  
25 plans that will be coming before you in October.

26  
27 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** I guess that depends on if we have that  
28 consensus or not. If it's split down the middle, then I don't  
29 know that you want to combine them all, but, if you all have a  
30 consensus, then that's a little different. Dr. Crabtree.

31  
32 **DR. CRABTREE:** I will start out by saying that I certainly think  
33 that delegation is the preferred way to go on this. We do have  
34 the overarching amendment that was put together, and, if we took  
35 this motion out of each specific state one and put it in the  
36 overarching, then we would make it for all of them. I actually  
37 think what we will ultimately end up with is pulling all of this  
38 into one amendment.

39  
40 I think it would be an overly cumbersome and difficult process  
41 to imagine if two states had delegations, but two states did it  
42 differently, and so I would much rather have it be consistent,  
43 and the other thing I would point out, of course, too is the  
44 delegation, when we actually vote to approve it, requires a  
45 three-quarters vote of the council to do it, and so we can come  
46 back and deal with where this goes at the next meeting, whatever  
47 you all want to do, but I certainly think our goal should be to  
48 work this out in a way that all the states are onboard with it

1 and that we, I hope, could pass all of this with a unanimous  
2 vote of the council at some point and do it through a  
3 delegation.

4

5 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Mr. Riechers.

6

7 **MR. RIECHERS:** I agree with what Roy is suggesting, because the  
8 other thing that's going to happen here, guys, if we keep them  
9 all separate, is, at the end of the day, we're going to be  
10 making one gigantic motion sending them all to the Secretary of  
11 Commerce at the same time, unless you all want to use a reverse  
12 alphabetical system and let Texas go first, because I think  
13 we're going to all want to get ours passed at the same time, if  
14 we were to try to go forward with these separately.

15

16 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Ms. Guyas.

17

18 **MS. GUYAS:** In terms of trying to make this the preferred for  
19 all the states, I am not in favor of that at this time. I  
20 actually was going to offer a motion. There's been some  
21 discussion of that, well, if everybody can rally around the same  
22 thing, but I'm not there with this one. I actually was going to  
23 offer another motion, which I will do after this, that provides  
24 another option, or another alternative, and so I just wanted to  
25 put that out there.

26

27 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. It sounds like Louisiana, at this  
28 point, is in favor of delegation. What you're saying, Martha,  
29 is that maybe Florida is not going the delegation route?

30

31 **MS. GUYAS:** Not as it is written in this document currently.

32

33 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** I guess that's my hesitation about putting  
34 them all together, because then you put them all together and we  
35 lose the flexibility to let each state kind of -- I realize that  
36 may be a huge headache for NMFS, if some states go delegation  
37 and some want some sort of CEP.

38

39 The delegation seems like it would be the easiest, because you  
40 kind of set it and forget it, almost, but the CEP has to be --  
41 It maybe provides a little more flexibility to some states that  
42 want to manage more under some bag limit situations and size  
43 limits, but we've got a motion on the board. That's a  
44 discussion for another day. For right now, we're voting to make  
45 the Louisiana preferred the delegation alternative, which is  
46 Alternative 2. Shep, do you have some insight for us, sir?

47

48 **MR. GRIMES:** I was going to answer your question from earlier.



1 The statute says that the delegation is an option only if the  
2 council approves the delegation of management authority, or  
3 management of the fishery, to a state by a three-quarters  
4 majority vote of the voting members of the council, and so I  
5 would say approval of the delegation -- A reasonable read of  
6 that is approval of the amendment at the time you submit it to  
7 the Secretary.

8  
9 That being said, if you can't get two-thirds majority to vote in  
10 support of that being your preferred alternative, then you're  
11 probably not going to get that majority for submitting the  
12 amendment.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Mr. Diaz.

15  
16 **MR. DIAZ:** I just want to weigh in here for just a second.  
17 Patrick, I will probably support your motion, and I'm an  
18 optimist, and I feel like there's some energy around the table,  
19 and I really hope we can keep going forward, but we've got a lot  
20 of tough issues to talk about before this is all over.

21  
22 We've got five states out there, and we've got to come up with  
23 an allocation. We've got to figure out what to do with charter  
24 boats in each state. By going with this alternative, we're  
25 setting it up for the 75 percent vote, which we might could get  
26 it today, but, after we talk through some of these tough issues  
27 that we've got to talk through for five separate states, I don't  
28 know if we'll be there.

29  
30 I am going to support your motion, but, having been through  
31 Amendment 39 and some of these tough discussions, and I know  
32 they're coming, and I just don't know if we can get three-  
33 quarters vote, and that's the only thing that bothers me. Thank  
34 you, sir.

35  
36 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Any further discussion? All  
37 right. Let's see where we stand. **All those in favor, signify  
38 by raising your hand.** Get a good count, Mr. Gregory.

39  
40 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Seventeen.

41  
42 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. **All those opposed same sign.**

43  
44 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** **The motion carries seventeen to  
45 zero.** It's slightly more than a three-quarters vote.

46  
47 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We should quit while we're ahead, huh? All  
48 right. Ms. Guyas.

1  
2 **MS. GUYAS:** I want to make a motion, and I want to at least do  
3 this for the Florida plan, and, if other states are interested  
4 in it for their plan, that's fine, too. That motion would be --  
5  
6 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Martha, let's talk about it before you make a  
7 motion, because we don't actually have a Florida plan yet in  
8 front of us.  
9  
10 **MS. GUYAS:** Well, to be added to that plan that we're making.  
11  
12 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay, and so this is to be added to the  
13 amendment that we'll come before us.  
14  
15 **MS. GUYAS:** Correct, and I'm not trying to make it a preferred,  
16 but just adding it in there.  
17  
18 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. I just wanted to make sure that we're  
19 all on the same page. Thanks.  
20  
21 **MS. GUYAS:** Add a new alternative that would delegate full  
22 management authority to the state, and so it would go beyond  
23 seasons and bag limits, but, of course, the council would still  
24 be setting the ACL.  
25  
26 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Do you mind, in your motion -- Will you  
27 clarify what document that new alternative is going to be added  
28 to, just for future reference?  
29  
30 **MS. GUYAS:** Florida. You could say "Florida" there, but I just  
31 left it "state" in case other states wanted to -- If we wanted  
32 to do this across the board.  
33  
34 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We can have some discussion about that. All  
35 right. There is a motion on the board to add a new alternative  
36 to the Florida document that would delegate full management  
37 authority to the state. Do we have a second for the motion?  
38 It's seconded for discussion by Mr. Anson. Is there discussion,  
39 Ms. Guyas?  
40  
41 **MS. GUYAS:** Yes, and so where I'm trying to go with this is  
42 providing a little bit more flexibility, but still under a  
43 delegation situation, so that, if a state sees some other way to  
44 effectively manage within their quota, other than just  
45 manipulating the bag limit and the season, this gives them a  
46 little bit more flexibility in doing that under a delegation  
47 situation. We started out with an option like this, I think in  
48 the original Amendment 39, and then it morphed into the motion

1 that we just discussed for Louisiana, and so trying to go back  
2 to that. The name of the game here is flexibility.

3

4 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Crabtree.

5

6 **DR. CRABTREE:** Well, I'm okay with the concept, but I assume  
7 you're still talking about just the recreational.

8

9 **MS. GUYAS:** Correct.

10

11 **DR. CRABTREE:** Full means that like all the permitting  
12 requirements of the charter boat permit moratorium would all go  
13 away, and all of the sea turtle release gear requirements and  
14 all of that, and I don't really think that Florida wants all of  
15 that.

16

17 I think probably a better way to come at it is to be more  
18 specific about the things that Florida does want, rather than  
19 just saying everything, because there's an awful lot of stuff in  
20 all the regulations that you may not want, and that would  
21 include like the charter boat reporting electronic logbooks and  
22 all of that, and so I think that's just some things that you  
23 ought to think about.

24

25 **MS. GUYAS:** I guess we would think about that moving forward.  
26 For now, I would want to just pass this as is, and then we can  
27 refine that in the future, but just to kind of put our intent  
28 out there of where we would be trying to go, and that, of  
29 course, would depend on whether we would be managing private  
30 recreational and charter/for-hire. I guess, in a private  
31 recreational situation, it would be a little bit simpler with  
32 some of those requirements.

33

34 **DR. CRABTREE:** Yes, and then maybe, in October, come in with a  
35 more specific --

36

37 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Swindell.

38

39 **MR. SWINDELL:** I would think that management authority delegated  
40 out to the 200-mile limit by the state then also limits the  
41 enforceability of the Coast Guard, because management does  
42 include enforcement. You cannot have management without some  
43 enforcement. Thank you.

44

45 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Riechers.

46

47 **MR. RIECHERS:** What I think Martha is trying to do here is to  
48 delegate full fishery management, or fishery management actions

1 -- Well, unless you want to call it data collection and actions,  
2 and I'm not using the appropriate terms here, but basically put  
3 all the tools in the toolbox of just -- That you can work around  
4 to constrain your harvest and have the seasons and so forth in  
5 the timeframes that you need them, with leaving data collection  
6 alone.

7  
8 Enforcement would stay the same, just like we have through  
9 current JEA agreements and that sort of stuff. Now, obviously,  
10 there has been some discussion about complications in  
11 enforcement, but that would stay the same, and so that's the  
12 intent. **With that intent, Martha, since we've been down this**  
13 **road before, I will be happy to also have that included in the**  
14 **Texas document as well, if you will accept that as a friendly**  
15 **amendment.**

16  
17 **MS. GUYAS: Sure.**

18  
19 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. We're going to get that friendly  
20 amendment on the board, and then we'll make sure that our  
21 seconder is okay with that. In the meantime, Mr. Diaz.

22  
23 **MR. DIAZ:** Well, I was just going to say -- **It would delegate**  
24 **full management authority related to harvest, and that might**  
25 **capture what you're trying to do in the motion.**

26  
27 **MS. GUYAS: Yes, that sounds good. Thanks, Dale.**

28  
29 **MR. RIECHERS:** If I may, Dale, thank you, because that at least  
30 helps with that intent as we come forward to the next meeting.

31  
32 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Yes, and I'm glad that we put some more  
33 clarification there, because "full" -- Yes, I think that's  
34 better. Mr. Anson, I think you were the seconder, were you not?  
35 No, you were not the seconder. Who was the -- Mr. Riechers was  
36 the seconder. Are you okay with our friendly amendments? Yes,  
37 and you asked for one of them. All right. Is there further  
38 discussion? Dr. Dana.

39  
40 **DR. DANA:** I just wanted to ask Roy something. Roy, as this  
41 motion is currently written, does this then -- Would this  
42 alleviate what you just brought up about the for-hire permitting  
43 and --

44  
45 **DR. CRABTREE:** Well, yes, but I mean, obviously at some point,  
46 we're going to have to define what "related to harvest" means,  
47 because you could argue that everything we have on the books is  
48 related to harvest, and so I'm okay with this, just as a concept

1 to move us forward, but understand, when we come back, we're  
2 going to need to specifically identify what exactly we're  
3 delegating.

4  
5 Otherwise, the states aren't going to be clear as to what they  
6 could do, and it would lead to confusion down the road, but at  
7 least, for right now, to direct our intentions of which way  
8 we're heading, I don't have a problem with it. I would be  
9 curious though whether Mississippi and Alabama and Louisiana  
10 want this for their states too or are we going to make five  
11 different motions?

12  
13 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Martha, can you -- Surely you must have a  
14 thought process, some sort of plan, in mind, some sort of  
15 structure, and maybe if you can elaborate a little on what  
16 Florida is possibly looking to do, and then we could make sure,  
17 when that document comes to you, that it looks like it would fit  
18 your needs.

19  
20 **MS. GUYAS:** Our commission, when we were talking about Amendment  
21 39 -- Right before we were about to get to the stage where we  
22 could take final action on that document, we presented the ins  
23 and outs of that document to our commissioners, and they felt  
24 like the options that were in that document, which are also  
25 reflected here, in terms of how this process would work, were a  
26 little bit restrictive, in terms of what they could do, and then  
27 also, particularly for the CEP options, they were very  
28 cumbersome compared to the process that we go through at the  
29 state level. It would be taking us years to implement changes  
30 to recreational red snapper regulations, whereas, now, they can  
31 do it in a meeting or two.

32  
33 With delegation, they felt like they would like to have more  
34 options other than just playing with the season and the bag  
35 limit, if this is something that we seriously were going to move  
36 forward with. I mean, the way that they operate now, they have  
37 the flexibility to do pretty much anything, short of setting  
38 fees for licenses, in managing a fishery.

39  
40 They have all the tools in the toolbox, and they felt like this  
41 was very limiting, and so this would obviously be a discussion  
42 that we would have at the state level and with our stakeholders,  
43 to figure out exactly what the best way to work within our quota  
44 is and manage so that we have a fishery that's working for  
45 everybody.

46  
47 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Sanchez.

48

1 **MR. SANCHEZ:** As a concept, I will support it, but, if it does  
2 get to, as it evolves, that it affects federal permits and  
3 moratoriums put in place and all of that, then I will bow out  
4 gracefully with my support.

5

6 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Ms. Guyas.

7

8 **MS. GUYAS:** Just to clarify, that's not my intent here, to mess  
9 with those permits, and so that's just to alleviate any fears  
10 about that.

11

12 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** My question would be what does it do to  
13 allocation? Any intentions there? I mean, do you intend to  
14 have full authority somehow over allocations between the two  
15 sectors?

16

17 **MS. GUYAS:** No, and allocation is set in that other document,  
18 right, and so --

19

20 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Shep.

21

22 **MR. GRIMES:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I have déjà vu, since this  
23 was the subject when I left. I just wanted to advise you, and I  
24 don't really -- It's not clear to me what stage we really are,  
25 and I'm sure that you're going to talk about this again, but, in  
26 terms of analyzing it, you're going to need much greater  
27 specificity as to what things are actually delegated, right?

28

29 Then, at some point -- The statute provides that the delegation  
30 is rescinded when management is no longer consistent with the  
31 FMP, and so what's going to be retained in the FMP and what  
32 precisely is going to be delegated and then some consideration  
33 of how the Secretary might later determine that what you're  
34 doing is or is not consistent with what is still in the FMP and  
35 controlling larger management. As we know from dealing with  
36 this before, this can get extremely complicated. Thank you.

37

38 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. We have a motion on the board, and  
39 we've had some good, robust discussion. Captain Walker.

40

41 **MR. WALKER:** I know that it reads "recreational", but I just  
42 want to confirm that we have no implications on the commercial  
43 industry.

44

45 **MS. GUYAS:** No.

46

47 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Any further discussion? **All**  
48 **those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye; all those**

1 **opposed same sign. The motion carries.** Are we ready for Dr.  
2 Lasseter to continue on? Okay.  
3  
4 **DR. LASSETER:** Okay. I guess we can move on from Action 1, if  
5 there's not other states that are going to make preferred  
6 alternatives. Okay. Action 2 is on page 12, and so this is a  
7 sunset provision, if the council is interested in establishing a  
8 sunset provision on, currently, each of the respective states in  
9 separate amendments.  
10  
11 Alternative 1 would not establish a provision to sunset, in this  
12 case, Louisiana's, but the respective state management program  
13 for each of the documents. Then Alternatives 2, 3, and 4  
14 provide three different time series. Alternative 2 would have  
15 the sunset occur after ten calendar years of the program.  
16 Alternative 3 is five calendar years, and Alternative 4 is three  
17 calendar years. I will stop there and see if there is any  
18 discussion.  
19  
20 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. This is our sunset provision  
21 action item. Is there any discussion? Mr. Banks.  
22  
23 **MR. BANKS:** I would make a motion to choose Alternative 1 as our  
24 preferred alternative, and I will give some rationale if I get a  
25 second.  
26  
27 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. We have a motion to choose  
28 Alternative 1 as the preferred. It's been seconded by Mr.  
29 Swindell. Mr. Banks, discussion?  
30  
31 **MR. BANKS:** Well, I'm going back to the discussion that we had  
32 with Roy about the referendum issue and me asking whether the  
33 next council could simply take a different action, make a  
34 different action, and it just seems like, to me, if that's the  
35 case, then what is the use of having a sunset, if we could come  
36 back in three years and sunset it ourselves anyway?  
37  
38 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Any further discussion on the  
39 motion? Dr. Lasseter.  
40  
41 **DR. LASSETER:** This is the first time that you have seen these  
42 documents, and so, if the council is in agreement that you would  
43 not want to put a sunset on the states, the IPT would love to  
44 just have this action removed from the document.  
45  
46 **MR. BANKS:** I will make that motion.  
47  
48 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. Well, we have a motion on the board.

1  
2 **MR. BANKS:** I will make a substitute motion, please.

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Let's have a substitute motion by someone  
5 other than Mr. Banks. Do you want to make the motion, Mr. Boyd?  
6

7 **MR. BOYD:** Sure, I would be happy to. **Substitute motion to**  
8 **remove Action 2 from this document, from all of the state**  
9 **management documents.** Do I need to list them all individually?  
10

11 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** No, you don't need to list them individually.  
12 Is there a second to that motion, which is a little different  
13 than the first one? It's seconded by Mr. Anson. Let's have  
14 some discussion on the motion.  
15

16 **MR. BOYD:** The intent of that is also to include Florida and  
17 Texas, since we don't have those documents in front of us.  
18

19 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you. Mr. Diaz.  
20

21 **MR. DIAZ:** I am just trying to think through this. These plans  
22 have -- The way we've been talking about this up until now,  
23 there is an option to include charter and not to include  
24 charter, and we haven't settled any allocations. People don't  
25 know how this could affect their recreational fishing or their  
26 livelihood and their charter business.  
27

28 I am a little reluctant to remove the sunset at this time. I  
29 don't have a preferred in mind that I want to pick. I would  
30 prefer not to pick a preferred at all and leave it in there, but  
31 those things worry me a little bit.  
32

33 I want these documents to move forward, and I want them to be  
34 successful, but I want people, whenever they examine this in the  
35 future, to decide if this is good or bad to be able to make a  
36 decision, and, if they're worried about it, a sunset might give  
37 them some comfort and say, well, look, if it doesn't go good, in  
38 X amount of years, we can sunset this thing and I can go back to  
39 making my living how I was making it under Amendment 40 or  
40 whatever the case might be, and so I'm just worried that we're  
41 premature, and, as of right now, I will speak against the  
42 motion. Thank you.  
43

44 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Anson.  
45

46 **MR. ANSON:** I can understand your concerns, Dale. I was  
47 thinking of it the other way around, and I think Patrick was  
48 getting to it previously. If we were to remove this action,



1 and, for whatever reason, a state, because of like you just  
2 described, Dale, that there might be some sector that may think  
3 that it's not working out too well for them, we would have to  
4 come back and do a framework, I guess, for that particular state  
5 to then remove, change, dropout, whatever, and so it's a little  
6 bit more cumbersome process.

7  
8 I can see both sides of it, relative to the sunset and kind of  
9 the notion that it will end and then people will have some  
10 safety or some level of safety in knowing that, but, anyways,  
11 that's all.

12  
13 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Sanchez.

14  
15 **MR. SANCHEZ:** I kind of agree with Dale, and I find it curiously  
16 interesting that you have always been a big supporter, Doug, of  
17 sunset provisions, and so, if we would consider down the road  
18 getting rid of the sunset for 40, then, hey, maybe I will see it  
19 differently, too.

20  
21 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right, and so we have a substitute motion  
22 on the board that will remove the sunset provision, in its  
23 entirety, from all five, and I'm glad we put that in there, and  
24 thank you, all five of the state management plans, and that's  
25 the three that are our agenda today and the two that are coming  
26 in the future. All those in favor of this, signify by raising  
27 your hand.

28  
29 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Ten yes.

30  
31 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All those opposed same sign.

32  
33 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Six. The motion passes ten to six.

34  
35 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Any -- Well, we don't have any further  
36 discussion on this action, because it's gone. Dr. Lasseter,  
37 continue on.

38  
39 **DR. LASSETER:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The final action in  
40 these documents is Action 3, and it begins on page 13, Post-  
41 Season Accountability Measures, and so, of course, Alternative  
42 1, our no action, retains what we currently have, which is,  
43 while red snapper are overfished, based on the most recent  
44 Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, if the combined  
45 recreational landings exceed the recreational sector ACL, reduce  
46 the recreational sector ACL and the applicable component quota  
47 in the following year by the full amount of the overage, and  
48 then the rest of the qualifying language. Of course, the

1 component ACTs, through 2022, will be adjusted to reflect the  
2 established buffer.

3  
4 Alternative 2 essentially is applying the overage adjustment to  
5 the respective state. Here, we're talking Louisiana, if they  
6 exceed their portion of the ACL. This would only apply in the  
7 event that the entire recreational sector ACL is exceeded, and  
8 so an overage adjustment does not happen if only one state goes  
9 over, but the entire recreational sector ACL is not exceeded, if  
10 the landings are still below the entire ACL.

11  
12 Alternative 2 is, while red snapper are overfished, if the  
13 combined Louisiana recreational landings exceed the Louisiana  
14 recreational ACL, or for the respective amendments, then, in  
15 following year, reduce Louisiana, or the respective states, ACLs  
16 by the amount of the ACL overage in the prior fishing year, and  
17 then here is our caveat, unless the best scientific information  
18 available determines otherwise.

19  
20 Of course, then the ACT is also adjusted to reflect the buffer,  
21 and I have two options here, and it's whether -- It also depends  
22 on which alternative is selected in the program amendment, which  
23 currently it is that you could choose to manage one or both of  
24 the components.

25  
26 Option 2a is, if Louisiana has both the private angling and  
27 federal for-hire ACL, the reduction would be applied just to the  
28 component that exceeded the applicable ACL. If Louisiana, or  
29 the respective state, has, again, both of the ACLs, Option 2b  
30 would reduce it equally to both components. I will pause there  
31 for those alternatives and turn it over for discussion.

32  
33 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Captain Greene.

34  
35 **MR. GREENE:** Well, I'm not going where you think I'm going, but  
36 I do have a question. Alternative 2, while red snapper are  
37 overfished, why does it matter if they're overfished or not?

38  
39 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Lasseter.

40  
41 **DR. LASSETER:** My understanding is that there is a requirement  
42 in Magnuson -- Sue is shaking her head. Maybe I should turn  
43 this over for NMFS staff to answer.

44  
45 **MS. GERHART:** The council just has chosen, in the past, to have  
46 that overfished condition for the payback. You can have a  
47 payback even if it's not overfished. That's your choice.

48

1 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** I thought that, in the past, our document  
2 said if it's in a rebuilding plan. Then, when that got codified  
3 into the regulations, somehow that was changed, and so I think  
4 the council's position in the past has been, if it's a  
5 rebuilding plan, there's a payback, because, otherwise, if you  
6 overfish -- If you overshoot your quota, you don't meet your  
7 rebuilding plan goals, and then you have to go back and revise  
8 rebuilding plans, and so I will open it up for discussion. That  
9 is one thing that I was going to ask.

10  
11 The other question, while I've got the mic for a second here, is  
12 I was thinking about the ACT and ACL, the buffer, and I don't  
13 know if this is doable or not, but a lot of our uncertainty in  
14 the past has to do with what the state season would be and  
15 trying to buffer to account for that with a federal season, and  
16 so, if we go down this route, and I don't know if this would be  
17 something that's actually in these alternatives or if this is  
18 just a separate discussion for a later point in time, a later  
19 document, but can that have some bearing on what the buffers  
20 are? If you're going to have some certainty, and you would  
21 still maybe have uncertainties about catch rates for the first  
22 couple of years or something like that, but I would just open it  
23 up for thoughts. Dr. Crabtree.

24  
25 **DR. CRABTREE:** Well, it seems to me, if we're delegating this to  
26 the states, then it's the states' responsibility to stay below  
27 their catch level, and, if they can do it without a buffer, more  
28 power to them, but I suspect, in order for them to have  
29 assurance that it's going to work, they will likely need a  
30 buffer, but I think that's something that we could let them  
31 figure out, if that's the path we're going down.

32  
33 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Ponwith.

34  
35 **DR. PONWITH:** Yes, and that makes good sense to me. I think the  
36 states would want to build that buffer commensurate with their  
37 level of confidence in the landings, basically the confidence  
38 intervals around their landings and their ability to be able to  
39 project what their landings can be and what management measures  
40 it takes to stay within them, and that number might be different  
41 from state to state, based on their understanding of their burn  
42 rate through that allocation.

43  
44 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Captain Greene.

45  
46 **MR. GREENE:** In the past, we've had a 20 percent buffer that  
47 we've had to deal with, and so that buffer would come off the  
48 top, and then the remaining balance would be delegated to the

1 states, correct?

2  
3 **DR. CRABTREE:** I would say that's to be determined at this  
4 point. I am thinking that we tell each state that here's what  
5 you have to stay under and then it's their job to figure out how  
6 to do it. In that case, the states would figure out what their  
7 buffer needs to be, but I think, a lot of this, we're going to  
8 see how the whole package develops and figure it out.

9  
10 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Matens.

11  
12 **MR. MATENS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Roy and Bonnie, I am with  
13 you on that. We think, in Louisiana, we have a pretty good  
14 system, but who knows what another couple of years brings. My  
15 personal preference would be to just give us the whole thing and  
16 let us live with it, and, if we don't live up to it, we pay it  
17 back. When there is an appropriate time here, I would like to  
18 make a motion vis-a-vis a preferred option. Thank you.

19  
20 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Given the discussion around the table, my  
21 first comment is this document -- I am not sure why it changed  
22 to overfished instead of rebuilding, maybe because the codified  
23 regulations got changed some years ago, but this council has  
24 always said, in our amendments that we approved, in a rebuilding  
25 plan.

26  
27 That's when the accountability measures and the paybacks kick  
28 in, and especially if we're going to give the whole ACL over,  
29 and we just changed that overfishing, that MSST, to 50 percent  
30 of BMSY, which is where you get to fishing on the recruitment  
31 and you're next to stock failure. This needs to say in a  
32 rebuilding plan. I don't want to wait until we get it down to  
33 50 percent of BMSY and have a real issue to start looking at  
34 accountability measures kicking in with paybacks. Dr. Crabtree.

35  
36 **DR. CRABTREE:** Well, I mean, what is in the regulations and what  
37 applies now is overfished, and those regulations were put in  
38 front of the council, and the council deemed them, and so I  
39 assume -- I don't know why that inconsistency is there, and that  
40 is the way that I would prefer to keep it.

41  
42 I don't agree with you that it ought to be with a stock in a  
43 rebuilding plan, and I also don't agree that it means that you  
44 won't rebuild, because we do periodic assessments on all of  
45 these stocks, and we make course corrections and things to  
46 ensure that we do rebuild, but I think all of us, over the past  
47 years, have seen how difficult and disruptive paybacks can be.

48

1 I think, if we're going to continue with paybacks, we need to  
2 put some constraints on how much and how big the payback can  
3 actually be, because it seems to me, in some cases, like gray  
4 triggerfish, where it leaves you in a situation where the  
5 fishery has been closed for the entire year, and I could be  
6 proven wrong, but I suspect, when we get the stock assessment,  
7 we're going to see that we've had tremendous improvement in gray  
8 triggerfish, and so I think we need to be cautious about  
9 paybacks, because they tend to be very disruptive.

10  
11 The way we are managing the fishery now, without any carry  
12 forward of underages, over a period of years -- If you look at  
13 the last few years, discounting this year with red snapper,  
14 we've had million-and-a-half-pound underages, but we didn't do  
15 any carry forward of that, and so I just think we need to be  
16 cautious with it.

17  
18 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Shep.

19  
20 **MR. GRIMES:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to  
21 elaborate, notwithstanding I guess what you just heard, the  
22 National Standard Guidelines for National Standard 1 state that,  
23 for stocks or stock complexes in rebuilding plans, the AMS  
24 should include overage adjustments that reduce the ACLs in the  
25 next fishing year by the full amount of the overage unless the  
26 best scientific information available shows that a reduced  
27 overage adjustment or no adjustment is needed to mitigate the  
28 effects of the overage.

29  
30 It is "should" and not "shall". The regulations, earlier, state  
31 that "should" is used to indicate that an action or  
32 consideration is strongly recommended to fulfill the Secretary's  
33 interpretation of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Thank you.

34  
35 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** I am just trying to prevent us from getting  
36 into a situation where we are now, where we have some  
37 overfishing and some overshooting of some quotas, and I am not  
38 sure what the incentives are not to at this point. There is not  
39 a payback.

40  
41 If there was a payback, that would probably be an incentive not  
42 to do it, and so I just don't want to get into a situation where  
43 there is really not a lot of teeth in overrunning something, and  
44 so we'll leave it like it is for now, but it does not run -- It  
45 runs contrary to how we have written all of our other  
46 amendments, and so we can have some more discussion about it  
47 later. All right. Back to what is on the board. Do we want to  
48 have some discussion about specific alternatives and options in

1 here? Dr. Frazer.

2  
3 **DR. FRAZER:** Thank you. I just wanted to clarify, in both of  
4 these alternatives, there is the best scientific information  
5 available kind of language, and I want to know -- Determined by  
6 who? I am assuming, because it relates to the ACL, that it's  
7 the council.

8  
9 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Crabtree.

10  
11 **DR. CRABTREE:** That would normally be determined by the  
12 Secretary, who executes the AMs. That would be my read of it.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. Is there further discussion? Some  
15 things go probably all the way to the Secretary, but, a lot of  
16 times, our SSC hands us the best scientific information  
17 available.

18  
19 **DR. CRABTREE:** Well, that's true. It's just normally we have to  
20 do Federal Register notices and put this in, and it may or may  
21 not be able to come back before the council, and so, by the time  
22 you get the landings in, so you know what has happened, you have  
23 to do something, because you're already in the next fishing  
24 year, and there is just not time to go through all those  
25 processes to do it.

26  
27 When I say the Secretary, I mean as delegated down to the  
28 Fisheries Service, from a practical standpoint, but you could  
29 set it up to have more procedural things to review it, but just  
30 remember that these things have to happen fairly quickly, or you  
31 get so far in the fishing year that it's too late to make course  
32 corrections.

33  
34 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Matens.

35  
36 **MR. MATENS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I certainly don't want to  
37 cut off any conversation about this, but it looks like we've  
38 kind of reached a dead-end. **Accordingly, I make a motion that**  
39 **the preferred alternative be Alternative 2a.**

40  
41 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. We have a motion for Alternative 2,  
42 Option 2a, to be the preferred alternative, and we have a second  
43 by Mr. Banks. While staff is getting that motion on the board,  
44 is there any further discussion? Well, let's back up. This is  
45 for the Louisiana only amendment. All right. Let's be clear  
46 about that. Okay. Now, is there any further discussion on the  
47 motion?

48

1 We have a motion on the board, in Action 3 of the Louisiana  
2 state document, to make Alternative 2, Option 2a, the preferred.  
3 There is no further discussion? **Is there any opposition to the**  
4 **motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.**

5  
6 Any other discussion on this section by any of the other states  
7 for their respective state documents? All right. Dr. Lasseter,  
8 does that bring you to the end of the document?

9  
10 **DR. LASSETER:** That is, but I just wanted to make sure that --  
11 That was the Louisiana one. Did Mississippi or Alabama want  
12 anything specific or different in there? Are we good? Okay.  
13 That concludes me.

14  
15 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Mickle.

16  
17 **DR. MICKLE:** At this stage, we have nothing further to add.  
18 Thank you.

19  
20 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. The other two states that  
21 actually have real documents that are on the agenda at this  
22 point don't have anything that they want to add to their  
23 document nor pick any preferreds at this time? I just want to  
24 make sure, before we move on in the committee report. All  
25 right. I see no motion in any direction, and so, Chairman  
26 Greene, I am going to turn it back over to you.

27  
28 **MR. GREENE:** Other Business, Yellowtail Snapper, the council  
29 recently received a letter from the South Atlantic Fishery  
30 Management Council Chair, Michelle Duval, discussing ongoing  
31 issues due to the ACL closure of the commercial yellowtail  
32 snapper closures in the South Atlantic.

33  
34 The letter asked for input on the development of a joint  
35 amendment to combine the jurisdictional ABCs and ACLs for  
36 yellowtail snapper. Doug Gregory explained that the letter  
37 arrived too late to include in the agenda for this meeting, but  
38 it would be on the agenda for the October council meeting.

39  
40 Extension of state waters to nine nautical miles for reef fish  
41 management purposes, Roy Crabtree noted that the extension of  
42 state management jurisdiction for reef fish to nine nautical  
43 miles off Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama had originally  
44 been part of the 2016 budget act and had then been extended.

45  
46 National Marine Fisheries Service has concluded that this  
47 extension is permanent. This will affect several fishing  
48 boundaries that are now inside the new state jurisdictional,

1 including the stressed area and longline boundary. National  
2 Marine Fisheries Service is working with General Counsel to  
3 determine whether they can modify the boundaries on their own  
4 authority or whether council action is needed.

5

6 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Sanchez.

7

8 **MR. SANCHEZ:** Before we leave this committee, I just have a  
9 question. I guess, in committee of the whole earlier, we had  
10 discussed maybe convening the APs for the charter/for-hire and  
11 headboat to discuss Amendment 41 and 42, and I just want  
12 clarification as to is that going to happen before the end of  
13 the year or do we need a motion or where are we at, if I can get  
14 some instruction.

15

16 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Why don't you give us a motion? We were  
17 trying to work on schedules, but, I mean, if you have a specific  
18 time that you really want it done by, go ahead and give us a  
19 motion, and we will look at it and try our best to make it  
20 happen. If something goes wrong and we just can't, we will have  
21 to come back to the council, but, yes, we will do our best.

22

23 **MR. SANCHEZ:** All right. I appreciate that. **That said, I will**  
24 **make a motion that we convene the Joint Charter/For-Hire and**  
25 **Headboat AP, and I will give you latitude as to when, as long as**  
26 **I would like to see it, hopefully, done before the end of this**  
27 **calendar year.**

28

29 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Is that your motion, Mr. Sanchez?

30

31 **MR. SANCHEZ:** Yes, Madam Chair.

32

33 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. Have we got a second for the motion?  
34 Seconded by Dr. Dana. All right. The motion is to convene the  
35 Joint Charter/For-Hire and Headboat Advisory Panels before the  
36 end of 2017. I think you gave us enough latitude there that  
37 surely we should be able to make that happen. We will try and  
38 do it as expediently as possible, but giving us until the end of  
39 the year gives us a little bit of leeway, and we appreciate  
40 that. Mr. Gregory says he thinks we might even could get it  
41 done after this meeting and before the next one, but we'll just  
42 have to look at those schedules. Mr. Anson.

43

44 **MR. ANSON:** Just a point of clarification for staff and for  
45 myself, at least. John, what is it specifically that they would  
46 be discussing or meeting about?

47

48 **MR. SANCHEZ:** What I would like to see accomplished at this



1 meeting is for items that they have not already picked AP's  
2 preferred for in these two documents, Amendment 41 and 42, to  
3 come back with preferreds picked for those two documents for us.  
4

5 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Any further discussion on the  
6 motion? **Any opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the motion**  
7 **carries.** Mr. Diaz.  
8

9 **MR. DIAZ:** I lost my place a minute ago, but are we at the very  
10 end of Mr. Greene's report? I have got two quick things that I  
11 would like to -- One is a question, and one is a little short  
12 discussion item.  
13

14 I know we got our proposed action schedule that was sent out  
15 before the meeting, and we had talked just a little bit about  
16 the carryover document of harvest of uncaught quota, and we're  
17 supposed to get a revised draft in October. Anyway, I think  
18 it's important we move this document forward as quickly as we  
19 can, and I was hoping -- I guess I'm going to put Carrie on the  
20 spot a little bit, and maybe she can give us a timeline of what  
21 we actually could work through this document and get something  
22 where we could finish this document, and can you speak to that,  
23 Carrie?  
24

25 **DR. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Are you talking about the  
26 generic amendment to establish a carryover provision to the --  
27 Okay. The SSC, we have asked them to review a simulation.  
28 We've asked the Science Center to do a simulation for us, and  
29 we're waiting on that, and that's going to go to the SSC, for  
30 them to discuss and review at their September meeting.  
31

32 That will determine, I think, what goes into some of the  
33 document, and we'll try to get that incorporated for the October  
34 council meeting. From there, it's just going to be a revised  
35 draft, and so we'll have a lot of work to do, I would say  
36 several more meetings, to get it finalized. It will be April or  
37 June, depending on other priorities and how quickly the council  
38 wants to move on it.  
39

40 **MR. DIAZ:** If that got finalized in the middle of the year,  
41 would we have to deal with quotas, carryovers, that happen after  
42 that, or could we go retroactively back and deal with any  
43 carryovers that might happen this year?  
44

45 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Is that a question for Dr. Crabtree? Ms.  
46 Gerhart, yes, ma'am.  
47

48 **MS. GERHART:** Well, I would say that I think that we might be

1 able to do it retroactively, but we'll look into that and have  
2 that.

3  
4 **MR. DIAZ:** Thank you, Ms. Gerhart. The only other thing that I  
5 wanted to discuss is we generally get preliminary landings  
6 information before every meeting in our packet, and I appreciate  
7 that. I look at them every time.

8  
9 At the next meeting, I was hoping that we could talk a little  
10 bit about preliminary landings, and it's kind of an incomplete  
11 discussion if we don't have a little bit of an idea on how Texas  
12 and Louisiana is coming along with their landings, but, anyway,  
13 I would like for us to, if you could, Madam Chair, on the  
14 agenda, just to have that as an agenda item and have a short  
15 discussion on landings at the next meeting. If Louisiana and  
16 Texas, if it's possible to have anything to add to the  
17 conversation, that would be great. If it's a lot of work, then  
18 I am not asking you to do that. Thank you.

19  
20 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Yes, sir. Most certainly we will do that,  
21 and we'll make a note to reach out to Louisiana and Texas and  
22 ask them if they have any preliminary landings that they could  
23 bring with them that that would be wonderful. Okay. Mr. Banks.

24  
25 **MR. BANKS:** I will encourage you guys to go to our website. We  
26 have weekly updates on our landings posted on our website. We  
27 usually post them about late Wednesday or early Thursday of  
28 every week.

29  
30 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Mr. Greene does still have  
31 one more paragraph in his committee report. I tried to cut him  
32 short.

33  
34 **MR. GREENE:** Okay. Reconvene APs, committee members asked that  
35 several APs be reconvened, including the Private Recreational AP  
36 and the Ad Hoc Joint For-Hire AP. Staff noted that several AP  
37 meetings were under consideration, but, currently, only the Reef  
38 Fish AP was definitely planned. Staff and the Council Chair  
39 will evaluate budget and scheduling issues to determine if other  
40 APs can be scheduled. Madam Chair, this concludes my report.

41  
42 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. I just want to clarify one more thing,  
43 because we did have some discussion around the table. As it  
44 stands right now, Doug, we're bringing back five state documents  
45 next time, which, I guess at this point, it would have to be,  
46 because two of the documents are going to be a little different  
47 than the other three, and so we'll have five state plans that  
48 come back to the council at the next meeting, plus the summary

1 document. Okay. Shep is raising his hand, and it's like we  
2 have more than five states around the table, and so I was  
3 confused for a minute, and so that will be back on our agenda to  
4 look at again.

5  
6 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Right, and we're waiting for the  
7 council to make some progress on the state plans to take back to  
8 the Private Angler AP, and so they will probably be held, if  
9 they're held this year, it would be after the October meeting  
10 and not before.

11  
12 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** That makes sense, because you want to have  
13 the plan for all five states if you reconvene that. All right.  
14 That sounds great. Are you done with your committee report, Mr.  
15 Greene? Anything else before we leave Reef Fish, ladies and  
16 gentlemen? Dr. Simmons.

17  
18 **DR. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I did confer with Sue  
19 Gerhart and Jessica about the umbrella plans regarding the state  
20 management, and we do have some concerns about being able to  
21 incorporate those new allocation alternatives that reflect the  
22 spatial patterns in biomass in the recreational trips.

23  
24 We will do the best we can, but we don't know if we can get that  
25 ready for the SSC, to have them look at that before it comes  
26 back to the council in October, and so we can definitely get  
27 those others options that you asked for in the amendment, but  
28 that one may be difficult to have ready by the October council  
29 meeting. Thank you.

30  
31 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** So noted. Thank you. Next on our agenda --  
32 Let's see. What time is it? It's 11:30. Is there anybody that  
33 needs to check-out real fast? Otherwise, we can cruise right  
34 through SEDAR and Sustainable Fisheries. If you need to check-  
35 out, it's fine. Just tell me. We can take a quick, ten-minute  
36 break. Okay. We have at least one that needs to check-out.  
37 Let's take a fifteen-minute break. You all get checked out, and  
38 we will pick back up with SEDAR.

39  
40 (Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)

41  
42 **GULF SEDAR COMMITTEE REPORT**

43  
44 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Expanded 2017 Red Snapper Season for Private  
45 Anglers, Dr. Crabtree summarized the Secretary of Commerce  
46 determination that extending the red snapper season for private  
47 recreational anglers would also extend the rebuilding timeline  
48 by as many as six years, or to 2038.

1  
2 The extension would also result in a more modest pace of  
3 rebuilding. Despite these effects, the Secretary concluded that  
4 the costs of extending the private recreational angler season  
5 were outweighed by the benefits to the angling public.  
6

7 State representatives from Louisiana, Alabama, Texas, and  
8 Mississippi commented on observed effort during the extended  
9 portion of the season, with most noting a decrease in CPUE per  
10 day during the extended portion of the season compared to the  
11 initial three-day season.  
12

13 A committee member commented on input received by a commercial  
14 fisherman from Mississippi, who noted a drop in the catch rate  
15 of red snapper. In addition to seeing red snapper displaced by  
16 lane snapper, the fisherman also claimed to witness discards of  
17 legal-sized red snapper by private recreational vessels.  
18

19 The committee member supported consistency in regulations, a  
20 need to resolve recreational data collection issues, and the  
21 fact that the circumvention of the council process by the  
22 Department of Commerce does not absolve the council from dealing  
23 with any potential effects of such decisions.  
24

25 A council member asked NOAA General Counsel about the legal  
26 basis for the action taken by the Department of Commerce. The  
27 NOAA GC noted that the Federal Register notice announcing the  
28 expanded recreational red snapper fishing season for private  
29 anglers cites several provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Act.  
30

31 The committee postulated on the basis for the decision to extend  
32 the season, including economic drivers, and noted that these  
33 alone could not form the basis of a fisheries management  
34 decision.  
35

36 Staff from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center presented data  
37 on simulations used to estimate the effect of an extension of  
38 the recreational red snapper fishing season for private anglers  
39 if the three-day season was extended to forty-five days, which  
40 also assumed that commercial landings would be equivalent to  
41 approximately 99 percent of the commercial ACL.  
42

43 The main points of the presentation were that a forty-five-day  
44 season was projected to land over 2.1 million fish, compared to  
45 over 800,000 in the three-day season. The forty-five-day season  
46 would land approximately 20.1 million pounds of red snapper  
47 across all sectors, or 8.3 million pounds more than the three-  
48 day season, and 6 million pounds more than the allowed yield in

1 the current rebuilding plan. The forty-five-day season would  
2 extend the rebuilding timeline by four years, to 2036.

3  
4 Council members noted that a great deal of uncertainty is  
5 present in projections, especially those which are carried out  
6 fifteen years into the future. Further, the models presented  
7 represent landings estimates, and it was noted that  
8 incorporation of actual landings data are the best way to  
9 determine the effects of the season extension on the rebuilding  
10 plan for red snapper.

11  
12 Staff added that a plan amendment may be necessary to address F  
13 rebuild, in order to make sure we rebuild by 2032, which is the  
14 maximum amount of time allowed for red snapper to rebuild, in  
15 accordance with the National Standard Guidelines.

16  
17 Committee members discussed delaying the SEDAR 52 assessment of  
18 red snapper until 2018, in order for the 2017 harvest data to be  
19 incorporated in the SEDAR 52 standard assessment. Staff from  
20 the SEFSC noted costs in doing so, such as having to move other  
21 assessments, that data preparation was already underway, and  
22 that hotel cancellation costs would be likely.

23  
24 Benefits may include incorporation of MRIP calibration updates,  
25 2017 data, and more realistic projections. One council member  
26 expressed concern about constantly postponing the assessment to  
27 include more data and the delivery timeline for the completed  
28 assessment.

29  
30 **The committee recommends, and I so move, to delay the current**  
31 **red snapper standard assessment to 2018 and to make 2017 the**  
32 **terminal year.** We have a committee motion. Is there any  
33 discussion on the motion? Shep.

34  
35 **MR. GRIMES:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Not specific to the  
36 motion, but I just -- In the report, preceding that, I wanted to  
37 clarify that -- I know it's a touchy subject, and so I want to  
38 make it clear, and I'm sure that minutes reflect this, but the  
39 Federal Register notice announcing the extended season does not  
40 cite several provisions of the statute. It just cites the  
41 statute generally as the source of authority. In committee, I  
42 said it does that, and obviously we all know that there are many  
43 provisions in the statute, and so thank you.

44  
45 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** So noted. Dr. Frazer.

46  
47 **DR. FRAZER:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and I know that the board  
48 suggests, or it would like us to move the assessment to 2018,

1 but I think there is some value in keeping it on schedule. From  
2 my perspective, it's already initiated, has been initiated, and  
3 there is an opportunity, after listening to Dr. Ponwith, to have  
4 a lite assessment, essentially, in 2018 and a possibility of  
5 following up with another standard assessment in 2019.

6  
7 Having said all of that, the reason to move the assessment  
8 forward now is I, for one, would like to look at the data and  
9 the information that's in the assessment that should be made  
10 available to the SSC in the spring some time, because, as these  
11 state management amendments move forward, they're going to  
12 provide a fair amount of insight into how I might think about  
13 apportioning things like allocation, and so that's my rationale.

14  
15 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Ms. Guyas.

16  
17 **MS. GUYAS:** I think I'm on the same page with Dr. Frazer, and I  
18 think I would support moving forward and speak against this  
19 motion. I think it would be helpful to have an updated look  
20 about where we are, even though we know that there's this other  
21 data out there that is not going to be available, but, based on  
22 the discussion that we had earlier this week, it sounds like we  
23 could follow up, after that, and get that information in there.

24  
25 I'm also a little bit leery about holding off this assessment to  
26 get that MRIP calibration stuff in there. I just would hate, if  
27 we delayed and then it doesn't become available again, when we  
28 go to do this assessment, and so, in my mind, I think we should  
29 just proceed and follow up and plug in the information that  
30 we're missing.

31  
32 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Anson.

33  
34 **MR. ANSON:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I will just reiterate a  
35 point that was brought up during the committee meeting, in that,  
36 when it comes to data, we're always, I guess, chasing the data  
37 tail and spinning around, because we can never get the most  
38 accurate or most complete and up-to-date data, but I think I'm  
39 leaning towards continuing on as well with the schedule, but  
40 trying to look at, particularly as it relates to the 2017  
41 recreational season and the additional days that were added --  
42 Dr. Ponwith, do you think there's a possibility, and I know it  
43 might stretch out, this timeline, a little bit regarding the SSC  
44 review, but MRIP numbers, at least through October, preliminary  
45 ones, could be available mid-January, and could the assessment  
46 process go forward and all of the questions that might come up  
47 related to the data through 2016 be answered and addressed and  
48 basically the model ready to roll with just dropping in those

1 numbers, albeit preliminary, with an estimation of November and  
2 December landings included in that?

3  
4 **DR. PONWITH:** No, that wouldn't be possible. The inclusion of  
5 those data in the sort of organic estimate at the assessment  
6 process at that point really wouldn't be wise. What we can do,  
7 which would be much more sound and much more reliable, is wait  
8 until those estimates really solidify and then incorporate them  
9 into the projections after the assessment is done.

10  
11 We can look at that timing, but my sense is we're often not very  
12 well served in dropping preliminary numbers in at a very late  
13 time in the development of the assessment. I think that's the  
14 direction we would go, is to include them into the projections  
15 when the actual landings stabilize.

16  
17 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Crabtree.

18  
19 **DR. CRABTREE:** Yes, and that was going to be my comment. I  
20 don't know that you would gain much more by trying to somehow  
21 drop it into the assessment without any of the other information  
22 to go into it.

23  
24 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Ponwith, if we drop them in at the end,  
25 into the projections, do they have an effect on catch levels or  
26 not?

27  
28 **DR. PONWITH:** Essentially, for the projections, the way that  
29 works is -- We do this for every stock assessment. We do the  
30 stock assessment and complete it with the terminal year, and  
31 then we say, well, what does that mean for our future, and what  
32 we do then is hold all the rest of the parameters stable and put  
33 the actual landings for a given year in and do those  
34 projections, so that we have one year of actual and then the  
35 rest of them are assumptions about what is being caught. Then,  
36 the next year, you can put your actuals and substitute those in  
37 for the assumed catch.

38  
39 What that does is refine those projections to help you  
40 understand how well you're doing on your rebuilding plan. The  
41 farther you get out from the terminal year, the more dangerous  
42 it is to make an assumption that absolutely everything stayed  
43 the same, because nothing ever stays the same.

44  
45 The time that it's the best and the strongest indicator is the  
46 first year, which would be our ideal circumstance for this  
47 situation, where we would do the assessment with a terminal year  
48 of 2016 and then drop those actuals for 2017 into the first year

1 of the projections, and that would give us a fairly robust --  
2 It's not as good as it being an organic part of the assessment,  
3 but a fairly robust understanding of the influence of those  
4 levels of landings on our pace toward rebuilding.

5

6 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Banks.

7

8 **MR. BANKS:** I understand about the projections and then adding  
9 in the actual catch, but I guess my concern about not having  
10 those landings in the stock assessment is that we could be  
11 projecting out based on a stock status that maybe is not  
12 accurate, and is that true?

13

14 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Ponwith.

15

16 **DR. PONWITH:** The stock status would be properly captured as of  
17 2016.

18

19 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. Is there further discussion on the  
20 motion? We have a motion on the board. **All those in favor of  
21 the motion, signify by saying aye; all those opposed, same sign.  
22 I think the opposition has it, and so the motion fails.**

23

24 Dr. Ponwith, my next question -- I know you have to get on a  
25 call here, and so will you automatically incorporate the  
26 landings data, the preliminary 2017 landings data, into the  
27 projections, or do we have to pass a motion to ask you to do  
28 that? Okay. All right. That will happen automatically. Then  
29 we won't essentially incorporate and have a new stock status  
30 determination until 2021, the way this schedule looks right now.  
31 That's five years from now. Is there any willingness to move  
32 that up on the SEDAR schedule? Dr. Frazer.

33

34 **DR. FRAZER:** As was pointed out before, those are proposed  
35 schedules, right, and so there's an opportunity to move a  
36 standard assessment for red snapper into the 2019 slot, and is  
37 that correct?

38

39 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Right now, on our 2019 proposed, we have  
40 scamp in a research track, vermilion snapper standard,  
41 yellowedge grouper standard, tilefish standard, and Spanish  
42 mackerel standard. That's on 2019. Red snapper is proposed for  
43 2020, and so, essentially, if you want to move it up, we will  
44 need to take one of those species that I just called out and  
45 bump it down to 2020 and move red snapper up to 2019. Mr.  
46 Greene.

47

48 **MR. GREENE:** Well, you're correct. However, the next motion



1 about cobia being moved from 2018 to 2019 is a complicating  
2 factor.

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Right. That's right. I will tell you what.  
5 Let's address our cobia motion, and then we'll talk more about  
6 what we want to do with the schedule then. All right.

7  
8 If we get back to our committee report, SEDAR Schedule, staff  
9 reviewed the SEDAR schedule with the committee. The feasibility  
10 of assessing cobia in 2018 was discussed and determined to be  
11 unlikely, especially in light of the committee's desire to move  
12 the current red snapper assessment to 2018.

13  
14 Further, a stock identification effort is underway for cobia,  
15 from which the Gulf migratory group may benefit through the  
16 inclusion of new data. **The committee recommends, and I so move,**  
17 **to move the cobia stock assessment to 2019 with a terminal year**  
18 **of 2017.**

19  
20 There is that motion on the board. Is there any discussion on  
21 the motion? **Seeing none, is there any opposition to the motion?**  
22 **The motion carries.**

23  
24 That means that cobia moved from 2018 to 2019, and so does that  
25 leave us an open spot in 2018, is my question. Let's see. That  
26 would leave us gray snapper, our MRIP calibration updates, king  
27 mackerel research track, gray triggerfish standard, red grouper  
28 standard in 2018. Then 2019 would be a scamp research track,  
29 vermilion snapper standard, yellowedge grouper standard,  
30 tilefish standard, Spanish mackerel standard, and cobia  
31 standard. Mr. Gregory.

32  
33 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Don't forget that we also have the  
34 MRIP updates and calibrations that got postponed from 2017, and  
35 I wouldn't be surprised if there is more kind of difficulties  
36 there, and so I don't really think we have another slot in 2018.  
37 We were trying to squeeze both cobia and red grouper into 2018.

38  
39 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay.

40  
41 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** When we came to the council  
42 originally, at the last meeting, we were asking the council to  
43 choose between the two, and you chose both of them.

44  
45 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** So we sort of had 2018 overbooked, trying to  
46 be optimistic, essentially. Okay, and so it just looks more  
47 realistic at this point. All right. Mr. Riechers.

48

1 **MR. RIECHERS:** Well, and I mean this is an ongoing discussion.  
2 I know different state directors continue to have conversations  
3 with the Center, in an ability to see how we try to get more  
4 frequent assessments overall.

5  
6 We come here, and then we're kind of bound by that discussion of  
7 what we can do, but I mean this is an ongoing discussion about  
8 how do we get more assessments and how do we get the resources  
9 to do that. Do we change the way we're doing things a little  
10 bit, so that we get more assessments? I think it's a part of a  
11 bigger discussion, but, Leann, it's one we're having not only  
12 here, but elsewhere as well.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay, but, for now, we have to, at some point  
15 or another, decide where we want red snapper to be assessed on  
16 that schedule, within the constraints that we have to work. We  
17 can discuss it further today, or we can put it on the agenda for  
18 our next -- As long as you're not thinking about moving it to  
19 2018, then we should be fine. 2019 and 2020 are proposed, and  
20 it's up to you all. Do you want to make a motion to move it to  
21 2019 or do you want to -- Mr. Gregory.

22  
23 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** If we move red snapper to 2019, we  
24 would need to move vermilion snapper to 2020, because the same  
25 analyst does both, and there is not enough time to do both in  
26 the same year.

27  
28 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Riechers.

29  
30 **MR. RIECHERS:** The other -- I mean, I hate to say this, and I  
31 hope it doesn't happen, and I'm not trying to jinx the  
32 assessment, but rarely have we gotten an assessment at the exact  
33 timeframe that we thought we were going to get it, and so I  
34 think there is the opportunity here that we would just be  
35 getting the assessment and then we're starting over on a new  
36 one, and that has caused us some issues in the past as well, if  
37 you tried to put it into the front of 2019. I'm just throwing  
38 that out there, because these things seem to get to us later  
39 than expected sometimes, and I'm not saying this one will, and I  
40 hope it doesn't, but that could happen.

41  
42 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Right now, on the schedule, there is a year  
43 between -- I mean, you're looking at we're going to get the  
44 results of this one, the one that we have going on right now,  
45 that we just decided not to delay, and it started this year, and  
46 we'll have it back in the spring of 2018, which I think I saw on  
47 the schedule that I think the SSC is going to look at it in  
48 February or March of this coming up year, and so we should have

1 it back for that following meeting. If we did another one in  
2 2019, it would be a year later before they even start it. Mr.  
3 Greene.

4  
5 **MR. GREENE:** Well, Ryan Rindone had said something the other  
6 day, whenever he called in, in regards to the MRIP calibration,  
7 and they were talking about doing the MRIP calibration as each  
8 species came available. As it's listed now, it says MRIP  
9 calibration updates, and it has gag, greater amberjack, red  
10 grouper, Spanish mackerel, and cobia all listed.

11  
12 The way I kind of understood is that we would get the -- In  
13 2019, we would get all of those, but, the way it kind of sounded  
14 to me, the way Ryan laid it out, and, if he's available, maybe  
15 we could ask him, but what I understood is that maybe it's going  
16 to be the MRIP calibration will be rolled out as each of those  
17 species are brought forward in a stock assessment deal.

18  
19 If that's the case, then there should be more room, because that  
20 MRIP calibration seems like it's taking up a large portion of  
21 2018, and it may buy us some time as well. Now, I know the king  
22 mackerel stock assessment had some information that was joint  
23 with Mexico, and I don't know if that's pending Mexico data or  
24 what, but I remember something about that, but, if we could get  
25 Ryan on the phone, I would like to ask him about that.

26  
27 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** What's going to happen is -- Let's  
28 look at it. We've got now that we have added red grouper to  
29 2018, and so red grouper calibration will happen as part of the  
30 assessment. Cobia won't be done until 2019, and so the cobia  
31 calibration will still be done in 2018, as will the Spanish  
32 mackerel, greater amberjack, and gag, and so it had to do with  
33 the timing of when the assessment was scheduled, and so we can  
34 expect red grouper to be calibrated as part of the assessment,  
35 but the others will still be done in 2018, as planned.

36  
37 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Sanchez.

38  
39 **MR. SANCHEZ:** I just wanted to ask something. Every time we  
40 discuss SEDAR, it seems like we're in the same predicament.  
41 We're trading this assessment for that one, because of some  
42 inability from the Science Center to do these things, and it's  
43 just been ongoing, logbooks for ELBs that we're waiting on and  
44 things that are essential to us as fisheries managers trying to  
45 make decisions that we don't either get in a timely manner or  
46 we're having to pick and choose this one over that one. It  
47 doesn't seem like a good way to conduct business.

48

1 What is being done to address this reoccurring issue over many,  
2 many years to improve the situation there? You don't have --  
3 One person is the person to do two species, and you've got pick  
4 one, and, I mean, that just doesn't seem like a good way to do  
5 business.

6  
7 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Yes, and I think we've all had some  
8 frustrations, and so it would be my preference, and this will be  
9 a discussion around this table, to assess red snapper in 2019,  
10 to bump it up from 2020 to 2019. Now, if we do that, one of  
11 those species is going to have to get kicked down a year, to  
12 2020, and I would assume that it would either be vermilion or  
13 tilefish, and so we need to have that discussion. Dr. Mickle.

14  
15 **DR. MICKLE:** I am thinking this out loud, but, if that is the  
16 choice of going to 2019, if it's later in the year, then you  
17 capture 2018, and so, assuming that -- I'm about to make my  
18 point. When you build the model and you start finishing up and  
19 doing the projections, they do retrospective analyses and jitter  
20 analyses, and you've probably seen them at the SSC, when we talk  
21 about these things.

22  
23 So, if you have this anomaly year and then you have somewhat of  
24 stream years on both sides of it, looking at that, when you do  
25 the retrospective analysis, you're taking away the last year,  
26 and then you take away two years, and then three years, and  
27 you're testing the strength of your model.

28  
29 If you have an anomaly on the last year, the retrospective  
30 analysis is going to say the model is really bad, and so having  
31 somewhat normal years around the atypical year is going to give  
32 you a whole lot more information, and so capturing 2018 will be  
33 of large benefit. I just wanted to say that.

34  
35 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Diaz.

36  
37 **MR. DIAZ:** I think that's wonderful information, and I'm glad  
38 we've got Dr. Mickle's expertise to tell us stuff like that. It  
39 sounds to me like the person that does vermilion does red  
40 snapper, and so I think we're going to have to bump vermilion.

41  
42 When I voted a minute ago to go forward with the assessment as  
43 we're going right now, it definitely was my intention for us to  
44 move snapper up as soon as possible, and it looks to me like  
45 2019 is that time. I would like us to keep our minds on what  
46 Dr. Mickle just said and set it back far enough in the year to  
47 where we could use 2018 data.

48

1 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. Vermilion was scheduled in 2019, and  
2 it wouldn't start until fall of 2019, which is the latter part  
3 of the year, as Dr. Mickle was stating, and so I think I am  
4 following everybody's trajectory here, although stock  
5 assessments get deep quick. Dr. Frazer, did you have your hand  
6 up?

7  
8 **DR. FRAZER:** I just have -- I am trying to understand this a  
9 little bit. In 2018, where you had red snapper identified and  
10 you're removing it from there, it's not entirely clear to me why  
11 we can't move vermilion snapper back into that slot and just  
12 trade places with vermilion and red snapper between 2018 and  
13 2019.

14  
15 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Yes, I think that's what we're talking about.  
16 I think we're on the same page, yes. If we want to do that  
17 though, we're going to have to have a motion to do that, and  
18 we're going to have to think about that terminal year and put  
19 that in the motion as well, probably. One more question from  
20 Mr. Greene.

21  
22 **MR. GREENE:** This will be to Doug Gregory. Doug, when I went to  
23 the first stock assessment personally, as the council  
24 representative, you were there as part of the SSC at that time,  
25 and it was a yellowedge grouper/tilefish. On the schedule, it  
26 has two slots. Is it essentially one assessment, or are they  
27 run simultaneously, or do they have to be simultaneous, because  
28 it was being peer reviewed at that time as both.

29  
30 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Right, and I don't think it has to  
31 be run simultaneously. It was then, and we normally have five  
32 slots, and what happened a year ago is the council said that we  
33 want a list of priorities, and our priorities greatly exceed  
34 five slots a year.

35  
36 You see we're trying to slip in more here, but I am not sure if  
37 they can be separated. They're both just part of the same  
38 fishery, but I don't see why they would be the same assessment.  
39 I'm just not sure.

40  
41 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Frazer.

42  
43 **DR. FRAZER:** I am willing to make a motion, and the motion is to  
44 move -- Maybe to put a red snapper standard assessment in 2019,  
45 with a terminal year of 2019.

46  
47 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** That sounds good, and then we can follow that  
48 up with a separate motion, I'm assuming is your intention, to

1 move the vermilion to where it needs to go. Okay. All right.  
2 There is a motion on the board. Do we have a second to the  
3 motion? It's seconded by Mr. Sanchez. Is there discussion on  
4 the motion? **All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying**  
5 **aye; all those opposed same sign. The motion carries.** Dr.  
6 Frazer.

7  
8 **DR. FRAZER:** The next motion would be to move the vermilion  
9 snapper standard assessment to 2018.

10  
11 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** So we moved red snapper from 2020 to 2019,  
12 and vermilion snapper was in 2019, and so you're saying bump it  
13 up to 2018?

14  
15 **DR. FRAZER:** That's correct, because there was originally a spot  
16 for red snapper in 2018, and we don't have that any more, if we  
17 move forward with the assessment right now.

18  
19 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Gregory.

20  
21 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** The table should show -- You see  
22 gray snapper benchmark continued in 2018, and it should have the  
23 same thing for red snapper. Red snapper standard will be  
24 continued in 2018, because that won't be finished until early  
25 spring. Then we might be running into the same problem of not  
26 being able to do vermilion in the same year that red snapper is  
27 tackled, and, granted, red snapper is extending over two years  
28 now, but we have a SEDAR meeting at the end of September.

29  
30 2018 should be pretty well settled by then, but we can look at  
31 that. We can look at whether vermilion -- The SEDAR committee  
32 actually has the final say. The council is making  
33 recommendations to the SEDAR committee, and so you can make any  
34 recommendations you want, and the SEDAR committee negotiates  
35 with the Center as to what can be done where. We would need to  
36 be comfortable with what's in 2019 at this time, and, if you  
37 want to move vermilion to 2018, you can go ahead and make that  
38 motion, but recognizing that it may not be possible.

39  
40 **MR. RYAN RINDONE:** Madam Chair, this is Ryan.

41  
42 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Go ahead.

43  
44 **MR. RINDONE:** I would not recommend moving vermilion to 2018,  
45 primarily because there hasn't been any heads-up on that. Like,  
46 it hasn't been on the schedule at all in 2018, and so none of  
47 the data prep has started for that species, and so that  
48 inherently hamstrings it into having problems.

1  
2 With respect to the MRIP calibration updates, they do not have  
3 to be done as a group in 2018, like Captain Greene said. They  
4 can be done whenever those species come up, and keeping a little  
5 bit lighter than absolutely full load would do wonders to ensure  
6 that the other things that are being asked for actually happen.

7  
8 Red snapper listed as a standard in 2018 was per the committee  
9 as a whole's motion that was made on Tuesday, I believe, and so  
10 you guys have to remember that you moved cobia from 2018 to 2019  
11 during committee, and you asked that red snapper be put in for  
12 2018, and you have just passed a motion recently to move red  
13 snapper to 2019, and, from a scheduling standpoint, the best  
14 place for that to fall, to ensure that you get what you're  
15 looking for for management advice, is where vermilion is  
16 sitting, because it's timed the same.

17  
18 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you. Now we understand the red snapper  
19 standard in 2018. That's when we had our first motion in  
20 committee to delay the red snapper assessment to organically  
21 include the 2017 data. All right. I understand. Thank you,  
22 Mr. Rindone.

23  
24 Let me try and read the list on 2018 of how it really stands  
25 right now, based on our motions. We still have a gray snapper  
26 benchmark, and we still have MRIP calibrations. We still have  
27 gray triggerfish standard, and we still have red grouper  
28 standard, and FWC still has a hogfish update. Then HMS is doing  
29 a king mackerel research track. Is that correct, Mr. Rindone?

30  
31 **MR. RINDONE:** For 2018, you have gray snapper as a benchmark,  
32 you still have calibrations, you have gray snapper as a  
33 standard, red grouper as a standard, hogfish update, and  
34 kingfish research track.

35  
36 There is still some kinks that are being worked out with the  
37 research track process that need to be resolved through the  
38 SEDAR Steering Committee, but, right now, king mackerel is  
39 listed as a research track.

40  
41 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Bernie, please email that to the  
42 Full Council. This is a new table that we haven't seen before.

43  
44 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Rindone, my question is, do we have an  
45 open slot in 2018 or not?

46  
47 **MR. RINDONE:** Yes, you do. Where the red snapper standard is  
48 currently listed, you could put something there, but the rub on

1 that is that 2018 is months away, and so whatever is put there  
2 would likely have to start at the end of the year, to make sure  
3 that there's enough time to do ageing and all the initial data  
4 analysis that's required prior to doing any sort of assessment.  
5 It doesn't matter if it's a standard or a benchmark or whatever.  
6 Time is still needed on the frontend to prepare.

7  
8 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. Could we be optimistic and put  
9 vermilion snapper under 2018? We have a big SEDAR meeting  
10 coming up in September, I think it is, Doug, where all the  
11 powers that be get together and look at it.

12  
13 If they cannot do that, they will tell us that in September, at  
14 which point we'll know that vermilion was the one in question,  
15 and we'll have to come back in October and figure out where to  
16 slide vermilion in at. Is everybody comfortable with that?  
17 Okay. So we'll know that this vermilion was our wish list for  
18 2018, but, if they can't do it, we'll step back and punt in  
19 October.

20  
21 All right, and so let's get back to the motion on the board  
22 then. It was seconded by Mr. Sanchez. Do we have any further  
23 discussion on the motion? **Seeing none, is there any opposition**  
24 **to the motion? No opposition, and the motion carries.**

25  
26 That was going to conclude my report. Is there any other  
27 business for the SEDAR Committee? We have Dr. Stunz and then  
28 Mr. Greene.

29  
30 **DR. STUNZ:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to go back to a  
31 point that John made that I thought was very good, and we kind  
32 of didn't really discuss it, because we were trying to handle  
33 these scheduling details here, but I mean I think it's very  
34 important that -- Like John was saying, we just keep sort of  
35 fitting into the system that we have, and it's obviously not  
36 working real well, and we have situations like this.

37  
38 I am trying to remember, and I was a brand-new councilman at the  
39 time, and we had some discussions on ways to improve this a  
40 couple of years ago, or whenever that was, and I don't know what  
41 ever came of that discussion, and I don't know if we need to  
42 revamp that discussion again. It's too bad that Bonnie is not  
43 here to comment on that, but I'm just thinking that surely there  
44 is some ways, whether it's through these research tracks or  
45 whatever, that we can facilitate this process along, or maybe  
46 something we're not thinking of.

47  
48 I don't know what the feeling is around the table, or if there's



1 a motion needed to try to improve our ability to produce more  
2 and more timely assessments. I am open to that, and I am happy  
3 to make a motion, but I feel like we need do something to speed  
4 it up some.

5

6 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Greene and then Mr. Matens.

7

8 **MR. GREENE:** If you remember at the last meeting, we kind of got  
9 into that deal, and I was like, look, we need six for this unit  
10 and we're going to put six up there, and, if you can't do it,  
11 then you're just going to have to come back and tell us that you  
12 can't do it, and it was difficult to put someone on the spot and  
13 kind of throw them under the bus, as you watch them get run  
14 over, but obviously that's what we need to have, and so I agree  
15 with you on this situation.

16

17 One thing that is very difficult for me is I don't know which  
18 analyst does what assessments, and so, if this is an issue and  
19 we can't do vermilion and red snapper at the same time, because  
20 it's done by the same analyst, and we can't do gray triggerfish  
21 and cobia, because they're the same analyst, that would  
22 certainly help out those of us who do not know that industry  
23 very well. That would be something that would be extremely  
24 beneficial to me, personally.

25

26 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Gregory and then Mr. Matens.

27

28 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** There has definitely been some  
29 confusion. The MRIP calibrations put things off in 2017, and  
30 then they got carried over to 2018. We were told that those  
31 calibrations would take so much staff time that they essentially  
32 took up a SEDAR slot for us and for the South Atlantic Council.

33

34 Then we've got the research track concept that we've talked  
35 about, that staff has never been favorable of, and I think,  
36 within the Center, there's been some confusion around that, on  
37 how to handle the research track, and I think, at the Steering  
38 Committee, both the South Atlantic and us will pretty much try  
39 to do away with that, but the concept of the research track was  
40 to allow the Center scientists to do an in-depth assessment  
41 without worrying about providing management advice.

42

43 Then that in-depth assessment, call it a benchmark version II,  
44 or research track, would be the basis for annual updates, and so  
45 the promise was that we would be getting more regular updates  
46 once we got this system started.

47

48 It's now been a couple of years, and the system hasn't quite

1 gotten started, and so that has created some confusion, because  
2 that takes up a SEDAR slot as well, and we're basically  
3 allocated five SEDAR slots a year.

4  
5 Then red snapper, a couple of years ago, started being treated  
6 by the Center as two SEDAR slots instead of one, because, in  
7 essence, they do a western Gulf assessment and an eastern Gulf  
8 assessment and then combine them, because of the recruitment  
9 mechanisms that we know about are not separated.

10  
11 We do seem to be losing some momentum here, and I would hope  
12 that it's temporary, but those things have happened in the last  
13 two or three years, and I think the frustration is  
14 understandable, and we're putting on the assessments as hard as  
15 we can, and then you had the issue of staff turnover in Miami,  
16 which is not our problem, but John can probably attest to how  
17 difficult it is to live and work in Miami.

18  
19 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** A quick follow-up?

20  
21 **DR. STUNZ:** A quick follow-up, and I hear you, Doug, on that. I  
22 am thinking more at a higher level and what can be done. Is it  
23 a staff issue, is it money issues, or is there something that we  
24 can do as a council to fix this from a different level to get  
25 them whatever resources it happens to be?

26  
27 I don't think that we want to be micromanaging that situation in  
28 any way, but ensuring that they have the resources, whether it's  
29 staff or whatever the question may be that's hindering this, and  
30 so that's what I guess sort of the frustration is, and I think  
31 maybe that's what John was expressing as well.

32  
33 It just seems like, if there's something else that we can do,  
34 outside of just nit-picking what assessments are going where --  
35 Because remember that we also have the whole data collection  
36 thing looming as well, and so I don't see this getting a lot  
37 better, and so, anyway.

38  
39 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Let me go to Mr. Matens. He's been patiently  
40 waiting.

41  
42 **MR. MATENS:** Somebody said earlier, and I think it was Doug,  
43 that he's never been accused of being patient, nor have I. I am  
44 really interested in this conversation. I am certainly not a  
45 scientist, and I really can't speak to how important it is to  
46 get this stuff, but all of the scientists here around this table  
47 think that this is important.

48

1 All I hear is what you can't do, what they can't do, and, if  
2 this was a business, my two questions would be to staff, and one  
3 would be do we need a third party to look at this thing and tell  
4 us how we need to change it, or a task force, and two would be  
5 let's ask the people in charge -- Let's ask Bonnie and her group  
6 what they need to do what this council is asking them to do, and  
7 let's see if we can help her get it. This is not the way to run  
8 a business.

9  
10 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** I have Dr. Mickle and then Mr. Sanchez.

11  
12 **DR. MICKLE:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to share what  
13 I did last time. I am just going to say how we do it in my  
14 agency, just straight up. When we're overwhelmed with stock  
15 assessments, we outsource, and I already know what Doug's answer  
16 is going to be after I say this, that the funds aren't there to  
17 do so, but you know it's -- If it's important enough and it  
18 takes up this much time of our meetings, I think it's time to  
19 start talking about the business part of actually outsourcing.  
20 Thank you.

21  
22 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** To that point, Mr. Matens?

23  
24 **MR. MATENS:** To that point, a cold answer to that would be, if  
25 outsourcing is more efficient, let's get rid of some of the  
26 people we've got and use that money to outsource them.

27  
28 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Sanchez.

29  
30 **MR. SANCHEZ:** I think, if we don't really try to do something  
31 that actually happens, we're going to have this same discussion,  
32 or somebody is, and I might not be here, three years from now.  
33 We're going to be in this same situation of which assessment do  
34 we do, because this just clearly isn't working, and, in my mind,  
35 we have brought it up, years ago, and it hasn't gotten any  
36 better, and so something needs to change, or you're revisiting  
37 this same old scenario.

38  
39 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** I wish Dr. Ponwith was here for our  
40 conversation. It's kind of a one-sided conversation at the  
41 moment. It's hard to get much feedback that way. Ms. Gerhart.

42  
43 **MS. GERHART:** I just want to point out that I'm not sure that  
44 Dr. Ponwith isn't coming back. I think she had a call, and she  
45 may be coming back, and so maybe just postpone this for a little  
46 bit, until she gets back.

47  
48 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Is there anything this committee wants to

1 work towards? I need you all to give me a little guidance.  
2 Yes, if you were just wanting to put your comments on the  
3 record, so that it would be heard, but, if you have an idea,  
4 throw it out there. Dr. Stunz.

5  
6 **DR. STUNZ:** I like Camp's idea of a third-party thing, and I  
7 know we -- Of course, we always have these discussions sort of  
8 at the eleventh hour here, when everybody has got other stuff on  
9 their minds, to get back home and things, but maybe, at a  
10 minimum, put it for some more discussion coming up at the next  
11 meeting.

12  
13 Now, the issue is, of course, we're at the Full Council now and  
14 not all of us are on the SEDAR Committee, during that committee,  
15 and so that's kind of -- If there's some way we could maybe  
16 discuss this a little bit further and then come up with some  
17 ideas and think about it between the next meeting, but I don't  
18 think we should just let it kind of go away, for what John says.  
19 If we don't keep it on the front burner, we're going to be doing  
20 this for several years.

21  
22 **MR. RINDONE:** Madam Chair?

23  
24 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Rindone.

25  
26 **MR. RINDONE:** To the point of the discussion, something that Dr.  
27 Ponwith would likely remind you all of, with respect to how the  
28 stock assessments are done, is that one of the main gatekeepers  
29 of a lot of the fisheries-independent and fisheries-dependent  
30 data is still the National Marine Fisheries Service, and so,  
31 even if an outside party were to be responsible for the  
32 analytical side of the assessment, a lot of the data would still  
33 have to at least originate with NMFS, and so that would need to  
34 be a consideration.

35  
36 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. Well, we will try our best to figure  
37 out where and when to put this on the schedule and revisit our  
38 discussion. It doesn't necessarily have to come under the SEDAR  
39 Committee, where there is only four people. We might can  
40 discuss this as a general data collection type of issue, and I'm  
41 not sure what our schedule is going to look like for the next  
42 meeting, but I will do my best to, at some point here in the  
43 future, get this on our agenda to continue this discussion.  
44 Will that work for everybody? Okay. All right.

45  
46 Is there anything else for the SEDAR Committee before we leave  
47 that report? All right. That is going to take us into  
48 Sustainable Fisheries, which is going to be our last committee

1 report.

2  
3 We don't have any exempted fishing permits to discuss, and some  
4 of our liaisons have already left the building. They told me  
5 they had to leave early, and so we still have Chester. Don't  
6 worry. We haven't forgotten about you. Do you all want to keep  
7 pushing through? It's 12:35. All right. Sustainable Fisheries  
8 and Captain Walker. Are you ready?  
9

10 **SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

11  
12 **MR. WALKER:** Yes, Madam Chair, and thank you. The Sustainable  
13 Fisheries Committee Report for August 7, 2017, the agenda was  
14 approved, with the addition of items under Other Business, and  
15 the minutes of the June 5, 2017 committee meeting were approved  
16 as written.  
17

18 Protocol for Authorizing Sea Turtle Release Gear, Mr. Charlie  
19 Bergmann from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center in  
20 Pascagoula gave a presentation describing the protocols and  
21 procedures in use to protect sea turtles from interactions with  
22 the reef fish fishery.  
23

24 He displayed two new devices that he felt should be approved for  
25 sea turtle releases, a collapsible hoop net that could be used  
26 in place of the current dip net and a de-hooking device. Staff  
27 summarized a discussion paper that could be developed into an  
28 amendment to authorize the new devices and modify the framework  
29 procedure to allow changes in release gear requirements to be  
30 implemented via the framework process.  
31

32 **Without opposition, the committee recommends, and I so move: To**  
33 **move forward with the document that approves the new turtle**  
34 **release gear and modifies our framework process to allow the**  
35 **specification of new release gears for turtles and other**  
36 **protected resources.**  
37

38 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** We have a motion on the board, a committee  
39 motion on the board, to move forward with the document that  
40 approves the new turtle release gear and modifies our framework  
41 process to allow the specification of new release gears for  
42 turtles and other protected resources. Is there any discussion  
43 on that motion? Ms. Gerhart.  
44

45 **MS. GERHART:** Just a request or a suggestion. In addition to  
46 changing the framework to allow the changes to the release gear,  
47 we would like to see also that the handling techniques, which  
48 are also part of that requirement -- There is specific handling

1 techniques, and, if we could do that through a framework too,  
2 that would be great. I don't know if that needs to be added to  
3 the motion or if the council could just make that clear to  
4 staff.

5  
6 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Can you repeat that one more time what you  
7 want to also look at in there?

8  
9 **MS. GERHART:** Sure. We're looking to modify the framework  
10 procedures to allow changes to the gear. We also have  
11 requirements for particular handling techniques, and we would  
12 like to be able to make changes to those handling techniques as  
13 well through the framework procedure.

14  
15 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** I think let's be clear. If you want to make  
16 a substitute motion, it would be that same exact motion with  
17 those three or four extra words, and we will vote that up or  
18 down, so we don't have any questions.

19  
20 **MS. GERHART:** Okay. **A substitute motion to move forward with a**  
21 **document that approves the new turtle release gear and modifies**  
22 **our framework procedure to allow the specification of new**  
23 **release gears for turtles and other protected resources and to**  
24 **allow changes to the safe handling techniques.**

25  
26 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. We have a substitute motion on  
27 the board, and it has been seconded by Mr. Greene. Is there any  
28 discussion on the substitute motion? **Seeing no discussion, is**  
29 **there any opposition to the motion? No opposition, and the**  
30 **motion carries.** Mr. Walker.

31  
32 **MR. WALKER:** Thank you. Lionfish Research Overview, Dr. Tom  
33 Frazer gave a presentation highlighting his research on lionfish  
34 off of the Cayman Islands. His studies found that there was a  
35 higher abundance of native reef fish in locations where lionfish  
36 were removed than in control areas where lionfish were not  
37 removed. However, he found no difference between the control  
38 and lionfish removal sites in species richness, species  
39 diversity, or evenness. He noted that groupers are starting to  
40 learn to eat lionfish.

41  
42 Lionfish Actions by Federal and State Agencies, representatives  
43 from National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife,  
44 and each of the state management agencies gave a short  
45 presentation and discussion on agency actions to monitor or  
46 remediate lionfish.

47  
48 National Marine Fisheries Service noted that they have received

1 applications for EFP and LOAs to evaluate various gear types and  
2 will hold a scientific workshop in August to inform study  
3 objectives and survey design.

4  
5 U.S. Fish and Wildlife is primarily involved with coordination  
6 and funding of projects and is addressing lionfish through a  
7 National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. Each of the state  
8 agencies has monitoring and outreach programs, and, in some  
9 cases, programs to promote the removal of lionfish. These  
10 programs are described in the state presentations in the  
11 briefing book, except for Alabama and Texas, which provided  
12 verbal reports.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Boyd.

15  
16 **MR. BOYD:** I just wanted to ask Martha a question, if that's all  
17 right. Bill Kelly gave a presentation on using lionfish traps  
18 that he and his group have developed in the Keys. Have you had  
19 any report about whether he's been successful or not successful?

20  
21 **MS. GUYAS:** What I am hearing is he is still in the process, and  
22 I think he is trying to work with the sanctuary and maybe still  
23 with SERO, but he doesn't have his exempted fishing permit, as  
24 far as I am aware, but maybe Roy has more insight into that.

25  
26 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Crabtree.

27  
28 **DR. CRABTREE:** No, that's correct, and he's been in discussions  
29 with the sanctuary in the Keys, because a lot of the places they  
30 wanted to work were within the sanctuary, and there were some  
31 leadership changes at the sanctuary that kind of delayed things.

32  
33 **MR. BOYD:** Thank you, Madam Chairman.

34  
35 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right, Mr. Walker. Do you want to carry  
36 on?

37  
38 **MR. WALKER:** Under Other Business, Ms. Bosarge stated that the  
39 council had previously reviewed an options paper on descending  
40 devices and venting tools, but provided no guidance to staff.  
41 She indicated that she would like to discuss this at Full  
42 Council.

43  
44 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Is there any discussion at Full Council about  
45 our descending devices? Dr. Stunz.

46  
47 **DR. STUNZ:** I would like to add something. Actually, I would  
48 like to offer a motion, and maybe I will go ahead and do that

1 and then provide my rationale. I sent that motion to the staff  
2 earlier today, and I don't know if they have it, or it's pretty  
3 short, and I can just read it again.

4  
5 **While she is putting it up there, the motion is to direct the**  
6 **development of an amendment to require descending devices**  
7 **onboard vessels that are targeting reef fish in the Gulf of**  
8 **Mexico.** If I get a second, I can explain some rationale of why.

9  
10 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay. We have a motion on the board. Do we  
11 have a second? Second for discussion by Mr. Matens. Go ahead,  
12 Dr. Stunz.

13  
14 **MR. MATENS:** Several groups across the Gulf, and many other  
15 places, have really seen the advantage of using descending  
16 devices in reducing discard mortality. I mean, gosh, the  
17 Bycatch Reduction Program from NOAA and the MARFIN and NFWF.  
18 You name it, and a lot of people have put literally millions,  
19 and no telling how much, into this. I think their intent with  
20 that is that obviously they would like to see that incorporated  
21 into management in some way, obviously, and certainly that was  
22 contingent on whether the science was there and would anglers  
23 use them, which now we all know that they definitely work.

24  
25 Some recent work and others have shown huge buy-in, surprisingly  
26 high buy-in, from the anglers using these, and it's just,  
27 obviously, simply good conservation practice, and there is a lot  
28 of positive outreach opportunities among -- In other words, to  
29 me, this is just a good opportunity to help curb some of this  
30 discard issue, and so that's why I am offering the motion.

31  
32 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Is there further discussion?  
33 Ms. Guyas.

34  
35 **MS. GUYAS:** Two things, and I think it came up in the Education  
36 Committee report from the technical committee, but one of the  
37 things that we're doing at FWC is we're working with anglers on  
38 trying to understand their barriers to using descending devices,  
39 and so, when that study is complete, we would be happy to share  
40 that information with the council, if we're going to do this.

41  
42 The other thing is I remember, the last time we talked about  
43 this, there was some discussion of, if we moved forward with  
44 this, that could halt the availability of some funds to  
45 distribute these devices to anglers, and I just wanted to see  
46 what's going on with that.

47  
48 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Gregory.



1  
2 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Yes, and the RESTORE Program that  
3 was interested in that -- They need to show that they're  
4 restoring some aspect of the Gulf, and they really want to help  
5 with the fisheries, and, if you think about it, restoring  
6 fisheries is our job, and we do that through management, and one  
7 of the -- Restoring habitat is easy. You fix it, and you put  
8 new mangroves or seagrass in or whatever.

9  
10 In their mind, distributing barotrauma and venting tools was a  
11 restoration effort that they could do for fisheries, but they  
12 couldn't do it if we have a regulation. Their money will be  
13 coming out and projects will be hitting the street in 2019.  
14 There was some discussion at the last meeting of, well, it takes  
15 a long time, and it's been seven years already.

16  
17 Well, the settlement has just occurred with BP, and so it's  
18 taken this long to get the settlement, and now the money has got  
19 to go through the system, and NRDA, or whoever is doing this, is  
20 looking at various projects, and this is one of them, but they  
21 told us, at our council office, that they expect projects to  
22 start in 2019, and so that's when that sort of distribution of  
23 gear would be done, and I suggested to them that they not only  
24 distribute the gear, but also do some follow-up as to how it's  
25 being used and maybe even fund some science to say how effective  
26 it is at reducing barotrauma, so we can factor it into our stock  
27 assessments more easily.

28  
29 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. I have several people that want  
30 to talk. Dr. Stunz, to that point.

31  
32 **DR. STUNZ:** To that point, Doug, as it relates to the motion,  
33 and I hear you. I wouldn't want something like this to halt the  
34 ability to incorporate that into the fisheries from a  
35 restoration standpoint, but also, as we all well know around  
36 this table, this process is not fast, and, if we wait around to  
37 -- I am for moving this forward.

38  
39 If that turns out that it develops and we put this on a hold, so  
40 it's not an official requirement, and they still can do their  
41 things, that would be the preference that I go and not hinder  
42 that process in any way, but also not slow us down and to have  
43 something ready to go.

44  
45 Also, just to follow up, the science is there. I am not going  
46 to argue that we don't need more science, but we're showing buy-  
47 in and they do work, and so we still need more to do, but we've  
48 got that.

1  
2 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. I have Mr. Matens and then  
3 Chester and then Dr. Mickle.

4  
5 **MR. MATENS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess where I'm coming  
6 from with this is we know they work. We have a high level of  
7 confidence that they work, and we know that, in varying depths  
8 of water, they can be more effective, and, in some cases, you  
9 don't even need to use them.

10  
11 As I understand this motion, it just requires them to be  
12 onboard, and the price for these things, as I've been told,  
13 spans from something very small to maybe as much as fifty-  
14 dollars. You know, the ice costs fifty-dollars, and I'm not  
15 really worried about -- Maybe I shouldn't say this, but I'm not  
16 really worried about -- We're not asking somebody to carry a  
17 five-thousand-dollar device onboard. If this is something that  
18 would affect the recovery of the species, I'm all for it.

19  
20 Now, how the science gets the data to crank it into things like  
21 management tools, that is beyond my purview. I really can't  
22 speak to that. I, quite frankly, would urge this council to  
23 move forward with this. Thank you.

24  
25 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Next, I have Chester.

26  
27 **MR. BREWER:** This was going to be -- At least my comments right  
28 now were going to be part of my liaison report, and so we're  
29 doing double-duty here. The South Atlantic Council is very,  
30 very interested in this, and we spent almost half a day with  
31 regard to descending devices at our last meeting.

32  
33 Some of the folks from the Harte Institute came and showed us a  
34 video of these things in use, with GoPro and whatnot, and so we  
35 are very, very interested in going forward with this, and we're  
36 looking for funding sources. I don't know that the sources that  
37 are available to the Gulf would be available to the South  
38 Atlantic, but we face a conundrum right now with regard to, of  
39 course, red snapper in the South Atlantic.

40  
41 That is that the bycatch mortality that we're being told is  
42 taking place while fishing for other species, and not red  
43 snapper, is exceeding our quota, and, therefore, we're caught in  
44 a conundrum where, as the red snapper population recovers and  
45 there are more and more fish, people are encountering them more  
46 and more, and so we're having a situation where our bycatch  
47 mortality continues to grow, even though the fishery is closed.

1 For that reason, we are going to be, I think, in the very near  
2 future, going forward with a plan with regard to descending  
3 devices, and I would like to see the Gulf and the South Atlantic  
4 working together, because you've got folks, at least in my state  
5 anyway, that fish on both coasts, and so I just think it's  
6 critically important that this go forward in both councils.

7

8 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Dr. Mickle.

9

10 **DR. MICKLE:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I agree on that, and,  
11 getting back to the motion, from the angle of getting something  
12 funded for the recreational anglers, to give them something  
13 without them having to buy something, and that's the  
14 understanding that I think we're trying to discuss here, and  
15 getting back to that.

16

17 I love getting people things that they don't have to pay for.  
18 It makes people like me, and I will take that in management. I  
19 will take it every time, but have we gotten -- I personally have  
20 not gotten feedback from my constituents in my state saying that  
21 they want it for free or they're going to complain about the  
22 price. I haven't gotten that yet, and I'm asking all of you.  
23 Have you heard that from your constituents, that they  
24 drastically wouldn't do this unless it's free?

25

26 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** No, and this came up, I think,  
27 because the RESTORE group wanted some way of, quote, restoring  
28 fisheries, and this was an easy way for them to do it. It  
29 wasn't a demand from constituents to anybody in particular. It  
30 was just, if you think about it, the funds have to be used for  
31 restoration, and how do you restore fisheries?

32

33 One project they funded was to pay swordfish longliners not to  
34 fish, and so I think their challenge is to find projects and  
35 ideas that, quote, restore fisheries, and this was one they  
36 found that is easy to wrap your head around, and I think that  
37 was the impetus of them coming to us and asking if we would  
38 develop a policy for this, rather than regulations. It's pure  
39 and simple that, and, if we go this way, they have to find  
40 something else to do. It's really been very challenging for  
41 them to find some way of, quote, restoring fisheries.

42

43 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Next on the list, I have -- Who said to that  
44 point? Dr. Mickle. Are you good? Then Mr. Walker.

45

46 **MR. WALKER:** Greg, I had a question about having the descending  
47 devices onboard the vessels, to make it clear that, a lot of  
48 times, you may not need the descending device, but having it

1 available could be something that they could then -- Of course,  
2 in the commercial industry, a lot of guys use a venting tool  
3 when a fish looks like it needs it. We don't vent them if he  
4 doesn't look like he needs that, but that's just something that  
5 I wanted to make sure was clear, that, if we get into an  
6 amendment, in the commercial industry, how it would work.

7

8 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** To that point, sir?

9

10 **DR. STUNZ:** David, that's an excellent point, and that's why I  
11 put "onboard the vessel", and I would hope that, during the  
12 discussion of this amendment, that a lot of that stuff would  
13 come out, as we form alternatives that sort of thing.

14

15 Madam Chair, just while have the microphone, staff did inform me  
16 that they made a recommendation that I might want to slightly  
17 change my motion some, and I don't think that it would give  
18 anyone heartburn, and if my seconder would agree, but, whenever  
19 you're ready to do that, and it's just clarifying a few things  
20 here.

21

22 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** You can clarify real quick.

23

24 **DR. STUNZ:** Carrie, do you want to help me out here, about what  
25 you were telling me about -- We kind of already have this in the  
26 schedule already, and we could just -- What you had recommended  
27 that we change to make this most efficient for you guys.

28

29 **DR. SIMMONS:** Sure, and thanks. I just wanted to bring up that  
30 we already started a document that was very rough. It was draft  
31 options, and we brought that to the council in June, and so, if  
32 you would like us to continue working on that, I would just  
33 suggest that we just change in the language. Instead of "begin  
34 development", just to continue work on it, to require descending  
35 devices onboard vessels, and we had harvesting or possessing.  
36 We had "possessing" reef fish, I believe, before, instead of  
37 "targeting", in the Gulf of Mexico. Then, if you would like it  
38 for the October meeting, we could try to get that, a revised  
39 draft for the October council meeting.

40

41 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** So the main change would be the word "begin",  
42 and that would change to "continue", I'm assuming, "continue  
43 development".

44

45 **DR. SIMMONS:** Yes, and I just wanted to note that we already had  
46 started work on some of this.

47

48 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Now, Greg, are you okay with the change on

1 possessing? I am sure there can be some options in the document  
2 to figure that out.  
3  
4 **DR. STUNZ:** Yes, and I'm assuming we can meet that with options  
5 in the document, and I'm fine with that, if the seconder is  
6 good.  
7  
8 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Is the seconder good with the change?  
9  
10 **MR. MATENS:** To that point. Do I infer that, if I go fishing  
11 and I have lost my descending device and I catch a snapper, that  
12 I've got to throw it back?  
13  
14 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Or risk a ticket, yes.  
15  
16 **DR. STUNZ:** Then maybe I should modify that from "vessels  
17 harvesting" to -- Maybe I want to keep that as vessels  
18 harvesting reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico.  
19  
20 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** I don't think we need to get too hung up on  
21 that word, because I think, in the document, you're going to  
22 have these options. Do we want it to be in possession or  
23 targeting or whatever? We can get to that in the document.  
24 Next on my list, I have Dr. Dana.  
25  
26 **DR. DANA:** Thank you, Chairman Bosarge. I am glad that David  
27 brought up about the venting devices, because that's the same  
28 case with the charter boats. We have the venting devices, and  
29 we use them. What concerns me is, just to be clear, if you were  
30 requiring the use of descender devices, rather than having it  
31 merely on the vessel.  
32  
33 If you required the use of it at all times, that's a problem on  
34 a fast-paced charter boat. I will ask Johnny. In his case, and  
35 he's an over-six-pack. On a fast-paced over-six-pack, in your  
36 situation, tell me -- I mean, it's almost an unsafe situation,  
37 because then your mates are diverting their attention from the  
38 back deck. I mean, what do you think, Johnny?  
39  
40 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** You can answer, but I'm pretty sure, in that  
41 document that we had before, that we did not require the use of  
42 it. It was only to have it onboard the vessel, but, yes, go  
43 ahead and speak to it.  
44  
45 **MR. GREENE:** As long as it's just having it onboard. I mean, we  
46 certainly use it every opportunity we get, but, as Dr. Dana  
47 mentioned, there are times that it gets kind of hectic, and then  
48 you have to kind of make the decision of, well, is it better to

1 just get them back in the water as quick as you can, rather than  
2 wait on one to descend and come back up, and so there is -- I  
3 understand the situation, and Dr. Dana brings up a valid point,  
4 but I think it just speaks to having it onboard the vessel.

5  
6 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** In the document too, there were some options  
7 to do either the venting or the descending, both or one or the  
8 other, and so I think we have plenty of flexibility in that  
9 document, to make sure that we address each sector properly. I  
10 think that crossed everybody off my list. Mr. Walker.

11  
12 **MR. WALKER:** I know we passed some descender devices around one  
13 time, but, Greg, how many different descender devices are  
14 available?

15  
16 **DR. STUNZ:** Another good question, David, and that's something  
17 that I would have to consider. There is a lot, but they range  
18 in price from as simple as five-dollars, and that's basically  
19 reverse safety pin, to up to the fifty-dollar Cadillac version,  
20 and so there is ten, at least, or maybe more.

21  
22 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Swindell.

23  
24 **MR. SWINDELL:** One of the big problems we're going to have with  
25 any of this is the education of anglers, to make certain that  
26 they have something onboard that is acceptable. I just recently  
27 went fishing offshore for hopefully snapper. We didn't catch  
28 any, but the people that took me out had no idea about  
29 descending devices, other than the milk crate, which has been  
30 out for many, many years, and they didn't have anything onboard  
31 to do this.

32  
33 They knew about the puncture and the release of air, but, as far  
34 as knowing about what to do and what you should do, they didn't  
35 have any general idea, and so I'm telling you that one thing  
36 that we're going to have to do to really help this whole thing  
37 is expand the whole program of educating people, and I will tell  
38 you that the states, in the Outreach and Education Technical  
39 Committee, the states and Sea Grant have huge programs trying to  
40 reach people to tell them, and how much of it is getting  
41 through, it doesn't appear to be what it needs to be. Thank  
42 you.

43  
44 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, Mr. Swindell. All right. Any  
45 further discussion on the motion on the board? Captain Greene.

46  
47 **MR. GREENE:** Is this recreational or recreational and  
48 commercial, all vessels? I just want to make sure.

1  
2 **DR. STUNZ:** I am intending all vessels with this motion.  
3  
4 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Mr. Atran.  
5  
6 **MR. ATRAN:** Just a clarification. It sounds like, if this  
7 passes, you would want us to just bring back the options paper  
8 that we've been working on, which covered both descending and  
9 venting tools. This only talks about descending devices, and so  
10 you still want venting tools in there?  
11  
12 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Yes. We want the document that we saw before  
13 to come back, because it had options for only descender,  
14 descender and venting, and only venting. Bring that document  
15 back to us and we'll tweak it. All right. There is a motion on  
16 the board. **All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying**  
17 **aye; all those opposed same sign. The motion carries.**  
18  
19 **MR. WALKER:** Ms. Bosarge also noted that a recent newspaper  
20 article stated that this year's dead zone off Louisiana is the  
21 largest ever. The size of this dead zone is primarily  
22 influenced by agricultural runoff from interior states. She  
23 asked if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could do anything to  
24 address this runoff issue. Glenn Constant responded that they  
25 could possibly address the issue through their Natural Resource  
26 Damage Assessment process. Ms. Bosarge asked that a  
27 presentation be given to the council on this at a future  
28 meeting, and I will stop there, if there's any --  
29  
30 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Yes, and I did actually get to talk to Mr.  
31 Constant before he left, and he was going to follow up and just  
32 make some phone calls, both on lionfish and the dead zone that I  
33 brought up, and just kind of see if those were on anybody's  
34 radar of funding projects or whatever, a schedule, whatever it  
35 may be, and get back with council staff, so that we could get  
36 some updates. If he needs a project that would actually restore  
37 the Gulf, I just laid one down for him that ought to keep him  
38 busy for years to come. All right. Does that conclude your  
39 report, sir?  
40  
41 **MR. WALKER:** Madam chair, this concludes my report.  
42  
43 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. That's all of our committee  
44 reports. The vote on exempted fishing permit applications, we  
45 don't have any, and we can check that off the list. Supporting  
46 Agencies Updates, I will go to Chester first, and I know you've  
47 already given us part of it, but go ahead, sir.  
48

1                                   **SUPPORTING AGENCIES UPDATES**  
2                                   **SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL LIAISON**  
3

4 **MR. BREWER:** I already gave you a third, and, Madam Chair, my  
5 report is red snapper. That concludes my report, and thank you.  
6 We are, obviously, very concerned with red snapper. They've  
7 been closed in the South Atlantic for a number of years.

8  
9 It's gotten to the point now where we have a tremendously data-  
10 poor species, fishery. In fact, it's gotten to the point that,  
11 when we asked the SSC for an ABC for 2018, they said they didn't  
12 have enough data to give us a recommendation, much less any kind  
13 of projection.

14  
15 That puts you in a really interesting position, because you're  
16 supposed to manage using best available science, and we have no  
17 available, quote, science, other than what we hear about what's  
18 going on on the water. Now, what we hear about what's going on  
19 on the water is people are seeing more red snapper than they  
20 have ever seen, and a lot of the same things that you've heard.  
21 People are having trouble getting baits down, and people are  
22 having red snapper come up and hit trolled baits.

23  
24 For 2018, we got started on what we call Amendment 43, which  
25 initially had several aspects in it, one of them being  
26 descending devices, but we determine that it was important  
27 enough to try to get a season in 2018 that we would strip  
28 everything out of that except a 2018 season.

29  
30 We will be going into that at our next meeting, and it's  
31 anticipated that we will be able to have at least a few days,  
32 maybe three or four weekends or something like that, and so we  
33 are proceeding with that.

34  
35 A bit of a bombshell is, during this meeting actually, we've  
36 gotten word that we will be spending the first day of our next  
37 council meeting on establishing a 2017 season. Now, I will  
38 repeat that, 2017. How that's going to work out, on an  
39 emergency basis, I have no idea. I guess I'm going to be  
40 learning as we move up towards that.

41  
42 With regard to other, I think, important pushes, we've got a big  
43 push going on with regard to citizen science. We recognize that  
44 funding is very limited, and perhaps will be more limited even  
45 in the future, and so, with all of the different species that  
46 are managed by the South Atlantic, we need to find some way of  
47 getting more data that is in a useable format for Bonnie's  
48 folks.



1  
2 We have gone forward now with a citizen science approach, with  
3 the idea that that vehicle would be used for data collection,  
4 and we have assigned one member of our staff to this effort  
5 exclusively, which obviously took away from some other things,  
6 but it was thought important enough that we would exclusively  
7 assign a staff member.

8  
9 We have put out a request, or a call, for volunteers, and the  
10 response was absolutely overwhelming. People are very  
11 interested in this. We have established five action teams out  
12 of those volunteers, and it's a smaller subset of people that  
13 will be going forward in five different areas, things like  
14 education and outreach, funding, all of these different aspects,  
15 and that is underway.

16  
17 One drawback that we had is with lack of funding, and so I have  
18 heard, and I have not seen, that a funding source has been found  
19 for what is one of the initial things that needs to be  
20 accomplished, and that is to develop a reporting program,  
21 something similar to iSnapper, but that is designed so that the  
22 data collected from the citizen scientists can go directly to  
23 the scientists in a format that is useful to the scientists.

24  
25 It is my understanding that that process has yet to be  
26 developed, but that we do have a funding source for it, and so  
27 we've got a lot of interesting things going on at the South  
28 Atlantic Council. Leann, I think you're going to be with us in  
29 September, and so you will learn about the same time I do about  
30 what in the world is going on with this 2017 season, and, Madam  
31 Chair, that concludes my report.

32  
33 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir, and thank you for being here  
34 with us.

35  
36 **MR. BREWER:** Thank you.

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Next on our list is Gulf States Marine  
39 Fisheries Commission and Dave.

40  
41 **GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION**

42  
43 **MR. DONALDSON:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I've got one item that  
44 I wanted to let you guys know. NOAA Fisheries, ACCSP, GulfFIN,  
45 and Pacific RecFIN are hosting a discards workshop later this  
46 year, and I think it got mentioned at the last meeting. We  
47 didn't really have any details, but it's a national meeting,  
48 with participation from the Gulf, Atlantic, and Pacific coasts,

1 and the purpose is reviewing the need for and evaluating methods  
2 for recreational discards.

3  
4 That's a huge issue, and obviously something that is very  
5 important to everybody, and we don't have specific dates for it,  
6 but it will be the week of November 6 in New Orleans, and it  
7 will either be Tuesday and Wednesday or Wednesday and Thursday.  
8 We're nailing down hotels, but it should be an interesting  
9 meeting, and I just wanted to let you guys know.

10  
11 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. Mr. Riechers.

12  
13 **MR. RIECHERS:** Dave, you said who was hosting it, but are you  
14 guys going to support state members getting there or how is that  
15 going to work, or is it invite only, or what's the plan on kind  
16 of the meeting setup?

17  
18 **MR. DONALDSON:** It is invite only, in terms of the travel, but  
19 we do have travel money to support members from the Gulf states,  
20 and I think Greg has been in contact with folks in your shop.

21  
22 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you. Next, we have U.S. Coast Guard.  
23 Lieutenant Commander, was there anything that you wanted to  
24 update us on, sir?

25  
26 **U.S. COAST GUARD**

27  
28 **LCDR MCNEER:** Thank you, Madam Chair. No, I don't have anything  
29 to report right now, but thank you all for the warm welcome.  
30 I'm happy to be here and be part of this council. Thank you.

31  
32 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thanks for being with us. We appreciate it,  
33 sir, and we look forward to seeing you again. All right. The  
34 last thing on our agenda was some Other Business, Update and  
35 Next Steps for the Generic For-Hire Electronic Reporting  
36 Amendment, Dr. Froeschke and Ms. Gerhart. Which one of you  
37 would like to --

38  
39 **OTHER BUSINESS**

40 **UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS FOR GENERIC FOR-HIRE ELECTRONIC REPORTING**  
41 **AMENDMENT**

42  
43 **DR. FROESCHKE:** I will give it a go, and, if I leave out  
44 anything, you can chime in. Just a brief update on the process.  
45 As you recall, we took final action, as well as the South  
46 Atlantic, on electronic reporting amendments. We both have  
47 different requirements.

48

1 The good news is we have an implementation team and an acronym,  
2 and so the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting  
3 Implementation Team is what it's called. We have started having  
4 meetings in July, and the specific goals of this, there are four  
5 of them.

6  
7 It's to determine system requirements, determine where the data  
8 collections will be housed, identify software needed, and  
9 establishing timelines for implementation, and five is to  
10 estimate the costs.

11  
12 There are a lot of different groups and expertise and things,  
13 and so the way this team has been designed is there are various  
14 subgroups that can meet and address these priorities  
15 simultaneously, rather than sequentially, and so NMFS has hired  
16 a contractor, George LaPointe, to help sort of guide us through  
17 this, and so we have biweekly meetings scheduled through  
18 October. I hope, by then, that we'll have a solid plan on how  
19 to implement this and we can begin down that process.

20  
21 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, sir. That is the last thing on  
22 our agenda, and our next meeting is October 2 through 6 at the  
23 Beau Rivage Resort in Biloxi, Mississippi. Anything else before  
24 we leave and eat? Mr. Walker.

25  
26 **MR. WALKER:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I would just like to give  
27 some thanks. I would like to thank Governor Bentley for giving  
28 me the chance to be part of the council, and I would like to  
29 thank Chris Blankenship and Kevin Anson in supporting me and  
30 National Marine Fisheries Service and the great Gulf Council  
31 staff that we have. Doug, you run a really tight ship here, and  
32 it's been good, and especially my wife. She's been very patient  
33 and supportive, and I am a lucky man. It's been an honor and a  
34 privilege to work with all of you, and thank you.

35  
36 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Thank you, David. It's been an honor to work  
37 with you, sir. (Applause) Kudos for remembering your wife.  
38 That makes all women feel special, I guarantee you. All right,  
39 guys. Until next time, we are adjourned.

40  
41 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on August 10, 2017.)

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43 - - -