

**Reef Fish Committee
Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab B**

Agenda Item IV: Review of Reef Fish Landings

Timeline Status: Information, presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council input and next steps: NMFS provides this update on the status of reef fish landings relative to ACLs, which is provided for the Committee’s information only. This ongoing report to the Council requires no action by the Committee. Next, Dr. Jessica Stephen from the National Marine Fisheries Service’s (NMFS) Southeast Regional Office (SERO) will review individual fishing quota (IFQ) program landings. The Committee will consider the information presented and make recommendations as appropriate.

Agenda Item V: Implementation of NEPA Modernization

Timeline Status: Information only

Council input and next steps: Staff will inform the Council about the recent implementation of new NEPA procedures and highlight the changes the Council may notice in future documents.

Agenda Item VI: Final Action: Framework Action: Modification of Gray Triggerfish Catch Limits

Timeline Status: Final Action

Council input and next steps: At its previous meeting in December, the Council decided to remove, and create a separate document, for the action pertaining to gray triggerfish catch levels from the Draft Framework Action: Modifications to Gulf of Mexico Vermilion Snapper and Gray Triggerfish Catch Limits and Gray Triggerfish Fishing Seasons. The new framework action contains one action to modify the gray triggerfish acceptable biological catch (ABC), annual catch limit (ACL) and annual catch target (ACT). The new document also contains the additional chapters describing the physical, biological, economic, social, and administrative environments and potential effects on those environments. Council staff will present this information to the Committee for their consideration for Final Action. The Committee should review the draft framework action, and make any recommendations to the Council as appropriate.

Agenda Item VII: Final Action: Framework Action: Modification of the Gulf of Mexico Lane Snapper Catch Limits and Accountability Measures

Timeline Status: Final Action

Council input and next steps: At its December meeting, the Council selected preferred alternatives of a framework action to update lane snapper catch limits and modify the seasonal closure accountability measure. The document has been revised to include the economic, social, and administrative affects of the various alternatives and will be presented to the Committee for their consideration. The Committee should review the document, discuss the framework action alternatives, and decided whether taking final action is appropriate.

Agenda Item VIII: Final Action: Framework Action: Adjust State Recreational Red Snapper Catch Limits

Timeline Status: Final Action

Council input and next steps: The Committee will review the actions and alternatives in the document, and recommend any modifications to the proposed management measures as appropriate. The SSC Representative will review the details of how the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) plans to integrate the data from the Great Red Snapper Count into the Council-requested interim analysis for Gulf red snapper. The Committee will hear a summary of written public comment received with respect to the document, and will review the codified text. If prepared to do so, the Committee should select a preferred alternative. Further, if the Committee considers the proposed management measures to be necessary and appropriate, it may recommend as much to the Council, and that the management measures be implemented by the Secretary of Commerce.

Agenda Item IX: Review: SEDAR 70 – Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack Stock Assessment

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: The SSC representative will summarize the data, model, results, and projections resulting from the SEDAR 70 stock assessment for Gulf greater amberjack. The SSC representative will summarize the SSC's deliberations and review of the assessment. The yield projections and catch recommendations for SEDAR 70 use Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) catch and effort data calibrated to include the Fishing Effort Survey (FES), which differs from the data currency presently used to monitor catch and effort for greater amberjack (MRIP's Coastal Household Telephone Survey [CHTS]). Council staff will summarize the findings of the Council's Something's Fishy tool for greater amberjack, The Stock Assessment Executive Summary, and the one-page hot sheet for greater amberjack, are provided as background information for the Committee's edification. The Committee should review the information and consider directing staff to start a plan amendment for a rebuilding plan.

Agenda Item X: White Paper: Sector Separation for Four Reef Fish Species

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff will present a paper on sector separation for four reef fish species (red grouper, gag, greater amberjack, and gray triggerfish). The paper was prepared in response to a September 2020 Council motion. The Committee is expected to review the information presented, including historical landings and effort by mode for each species, and request additional information as warranted. The Committee is also expected to recommend next steps as deemed necessary.

Agenda Item XI: Review of SEDAR 64: Southeastern U.S. Yellowtail Snapper

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: The SSC representative will briefly summarize the data, model, results, and projections resulting from the SEDAR 64 stock assessment for southeastern U.S. yellowtail snapper. The SSC representative will summarize the joint Gulf and South Atlantic SSCs' deliberations and review of the assessment and projections. The yield projections and catch recommendations for SEDAR 64 use Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) catch and effort data calibrated to include the Fishing Effort Survey (FES), which differs from the data currency presently used to monitor catch and effort for yellowtail snapper (MRIP-CHTS). Council staff will summarize the findings of the Council's Something's Fishy tool for yellowtail snapper, The Stock Assessment Executive Summary, and the one-page hot sheet for yellowtail snapper, are provided as background information for the Committee's edification. The Committee should review the information and consider directing staff to develop a joint framework action with the South Atlantic Council to modify the catch levels.

Agenda Item XII: Public Hearing Draft Amendment 53: Red Grouper Allocations and Annual Catch Levels and Catch Targets

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff will review the actions and alternatives in the public hearing draft. The Committee should discuss the actions and determine if any modifications are needed. If appropriate, the Committee may select preferred alternatives and direct staff to consider holding virtual public hearings. The SSC representative will provide an overview of their discussion on red grouper recreational landings data.

Agenda Item XIII: Remaining Items from SSC Summary Report

Timeline Status: Additional items that can be brought up for discussion and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: Additional items from the January 5-7, 2021, SSC meeting will be presented by the SSC Representative. The Committee should provide recommendations on these items as appropriate.

Agenda Item XIV: Other Business

Timeline Status: Additional items that can be brought up for discussion

Council Input and Next Steps: Additional items may be brought up for discussion by Committee members during the adoption of the agenda, time permitting. If the Committee wishes to pursue action, then action can be scheduled at a future Council meeting.
