

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

Agenda Item IV: Status of Gulf State Recreational Data Collection Programs and 2020 Red Snapper Seasons

Timeline Status: Information and discussion

Council input and next steps: The Council designees from the five Gulf states will provide a brief update on the status of their respective recreational data collection programs, and will outline their 2020 red snapper fishing seasons for private anglers. The Committee can ask questions and provide feedback to the states as appropriate.

Agenda Item V: Review of Reef Fish and CMP Landings

Timeline Status: Information and discussion

Council input and next steps: NMFS provides this update on the status of reef fish and coastal migratory pelagics landings relative to ACLs. This is provided for information only. This ongoing report to the Council requires no action by the Committee.

Agenda Item VI: Presentation and Discussion on Calibration Process for Red Snapper with the Gulf States

Timeline Status: Presentation and discussion

Council input and next steps: The Committee will receive a presentation from Dr. Richard Cody with the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) on the calibration process for private angler data collection for red snapper by the four Gulf states. Dr. Cody will review the process by which the calibrations are reviewed by MRIP, and the progress made in this effort thus far by each state. The Committee should ask questions and provide feedback as appropriate.

The Committee will also be provided with a letter received by the Southeast Regional Office (SERO) from Ocean Conservancy, detailing their position on issuing a temporary rule for red snapper data calibration. The Committee should ask questions and provide feedback as appropriate.

Agenda Item VII: Update on Federal Fisheries Assistance Package, Process, and Status

Timeline Status: Information and discussion

Council input and next steps: SERO will provide an update to the Committee on the Federal Fisheries Assistance Package, including the process for applying for relief and the status of the availability of funds for the program. The Committee should ask questions and provide feedback as appropriate.

Agenda Item VIII: Discussion of Fishing Industry Impacts Due to COVID-19 and Potential Emergency Rule Requests

Timeline Status: Discussion and recommendations

Council input and next steps: The Committee should discuss impacts to Gulf fishing industries as a result of COVID-19, and possible solutions to help mitigate these impacts. SERO will assist with any requests for emergency rulemaking as a result of COVID-19 impacts, and will clarify that process as applicable.

Agenda Item IX: Review of SEDAR 67: Gulf of Mexico Vermilion Snapper 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 67 stock assessment for Gulf vermilion snapper. The analyst from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center will be available to the Committee. The SSC representative will review the SSC's deliberations and review of the assessment, and the overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch recommendations made. The projections and catch recommendations for SEDAR 67 use MRIP data calibrated to include the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) and the Fishing Effort Survey (FES). The Committee should review the material presented, and evaluate whether the current annual catch limit should be revised in light of the new stock assessment.

SEFSC and Council staff will also briefly discuss the draft of the Stock Assessment Executive Summary, which is a document designed to distill the assessment into a more concise and easily digestible format. Committee feedback on this draft is requested, and its development will continue in the future.

Agenda Item X: Update on the Recreational Closure Analysis for Gulf Red Grouper

Timeline Status: Discussion and recommendations

Council input and next steps: SERO will present on predicted recreational closure dates for Gulf red grouper, based on recreational annual catch targets being considered in Reef Fish Amendment 53. The Committee is expected to discuss the presentation in the context of the amendment and provide guidance if any new recreational management measures should be

considered in Amendment 53 or in another document. Timeline and next steps for Reef Fish Amendment 53 are dependent on the committee’s recommendations. However, the Committee should discuss if they want to hold virtual or in-person public hearings for this amendment. If in-person public hearings are desired, the locations in Florida should be selected during this meeting as red grouper are rarely landed in other areas of the Gulf of Mexico.

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

Timeline Status: Discussion and recommendations

Council input and next steps: Council staff will present a draft framework action regarding the updating of lane snapper catch limits. These updates will affect the lane snapper stock OFL, ABC, and ACL. Catch limits for lane snapper have been updated based on the recent stock assessment and calibrated to account for changes in the collection of recreational harvest data. Additionally, considerations for modifying the current accountability measures are also considered in the framework action. Specifically, this would include updating the annual catch target based on the Council’s ACL/ACT Control Rule and modifying the mechanisms for implementing in-season closures. The Committee should review the draft document, voice recommendations, and provide guidance on the range of alternatives within each action in the draft framework action. The document will be revised based on Committee discussion and an updated version will be presented to the Committee again at the August Council meeting.

Agenda Item XII: 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.
