

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

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**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.

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**Agenda Item V:** The Great Red Snapper Count

**Timeline Status:** Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

**Council input and next steps:** The Committee will receive a presentation on the Great Red Snapper Count project from Dr. Greg Stunz. This project was the result of directed congressional funding to develop a census of the Gulf of Mexico’s red snapper stock. The results of this project will be considered for integration as an estimate of absolute abundance in future stock analyses and stock assessments. The Committee should consider the information presented, and make any recommendations to the Council as appropriate.

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**Agenda Item VI:** Draft Options: Adjust State Recreational Red Snapper Catch Limits

**Timeline Status:** Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

**Council input and next steps:** The Committee will receive a presentation on the catch limits and their differences for Gulf red snapper. Draft options for a framework action to modify the Gulf state private vessel annual catch limits (ACLs) for red snapper are provided, and have been updated from the previous version to include further explanation of the catch limits and associated buffers. This framework action is being considered to account for discrepancies between the data currencies currently used to monitor recreational red snapper landings and effort from private vessels. The Committee should consider the options presented and recommend modifications as appropriate.

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**Agenda Item VII:** Draft Framework Action: Modifications to Vermilion Snapper and Gray Triggerfish Catch Levels and Gray Triggerfish Recreational Fixed Closed Season

**Timeline Status:** Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

**Council input and next steps:** Council staff will present a draft framework action to update vermilion snapper and gray triggerfish catch limits and consider modifying the gray triggerfish recreational fishing season. Catch limits affected include the vermilion snapper OFL, ABC, and ACL and gray triggerfish ABC, sector ACLs and sector ACTs. Proposed catch limits for vermilion snapper have been updated based on the most recent SEDAR 67 stock assessment and would shift from monitoring catch limits in MRIP-CHTS to MRIP-FES. Proposed catch limits for gray triggerfish have been updated based on the Southeast Fisheries Science Center's (SEFSC) Interim Assessment for Gulf of Mexico Gray Triggerfish (2020), specifically, an increase to the ABC. Updates to the sector ACLs and ACTs would be based on the Council's ACL/ACT Control Rule. An additional action has been included in the draft framework action based on a motion from the previous Council meeting to modify the gray triggerfish fishing season. Council staff will also review recommendations provided to the Council by the Reef Fish Advisory Panel, with respect to modifications to the catch limits for vermilion snapper and gray triggerfish. The Committee should review the draft framework action, consider the information presented, and make any recommendations to the Council as appropriate.

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**Agenda Item VII:** Draft Framework Action: Modification of the Gulf of Mexico Lane Snapper Annual Catch Limit

**Timeline Status:** Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

**Council input and next steps:** Council staff will present a draft framework action to update catch limits and consider modifications to the accountability measures for lane snapper. Catch limit updates will affect the lane snapper OFL, ABC, and ACL. Proposed catch limits for lane snapper have been updated based on the recent stock assessment update and adjusted to account for changes in recreational data collection to MRIP-FES. Additionally, considerations for modifying the current accountability measures are also being considered. Specifically, this would include updating the ACT based on the Council's ACL/ACT Control Rule and modifying mechanisms for implementing in-season closures for both sectors. Council staff will also review recommendations provided to the Council by the Reef Fish Advisory Panel, with respect to modifications to the catch limits for lane snapper. The Committee should review the draft framework action, provide recommendations, and give guidance to the Council on the range of alternatives within each action.

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**Agenda Item IX:** 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.