

**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. After hearing the landings review, Dr. Richard Cody from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Office of Science and Technology (OST) will review approaches for estimating recreational landings in 2020 for catch and effort data collected by the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). Next, Dr. Jessica Stephen from the National Marine Fisheries Service’s (NMFS) Southeast Regional Office (SERO) will review individual fishing quota (IFQ) program landings and fishing industry impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee will consider the information presented and make recommendations as appropriate.

Agenda Item V: 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 draft options for a framework action to modify the Gulf state private angling annual catch limits (ACLs) for red snapper. This action is necessary to correct the discrepancies between the data currencies currently used to monitor recreational red snapper landings and effort from private anglers. One option is to use ratios to adjust the state survey-collected landings data back to MRIP’s Coastal Household Telephone Survey; these ratios have been determined to be appropriate for this purpose by the Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). A second option is to create an annual catch target (ACT) for each state’s private angling component. The Council should consider the options presented and recommend modifications as appropriate.

Agenda Item VI: Public Hearing Draft Amendment 53: Red Grouper Catch Limits and Sector Allocations

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, make any modifications, and consider the recommendations from the Reef Fish Advisory Panel. The Committee may select preferred alternatives and direct staff to hold public hearings.

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: 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. The Committee should review the draft framework action, recommendations from the Reef Fish Advisory Panel, and provide feedback to staff on the range of alternatives within each action.

Agenda Item VIII: Gray Triggerfish Interim Analysis

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council input and next steps: Dr. Joe Powers (SSC) will review the interim ABC analysis completed by the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center for gray triggerfish. This interim analysis used the SEAMAP combined video index as its representative fishery-independent index of abundance. The Committee should consider the catch limit modification recommended by the Council's SSC, and the recommendations from the Reef Fish Advisory Panel, and provide direction to staff on the next steps.

Agenda Item VIII: Public Hearing Draft Amendment 36B: Modifications to Commercial IFQ Programs

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council input and next steps: Staff will review the actions in the public hearing draft and request clarification from the Committee regarding its intent for grandfathered accounts, which would not be required to have a permit to retain shares. Staff will also present the recommendations from the Reef Fish Advisory Panel. The Committee should discuss the actions and make any modifications. If appropriate, the Committee may direct staff to hold public hearings, which will include a mail-out to permit holders and shareholders, and two virtual public hearings.

Agenda Item IX: Remaining Reef Fish AP Recommendations

Timeline Status: Discussion and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: Council staff will review remaining items discussed by the Reef Fish Advisory Panel during its October 6, 2020, webinar. The Committee should consider these discussions and recommendations, and make recommendations to the Council as appropriate.

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.
