

**Ad Hoc Red Snapper Private Angler Advisory Panel
Meeting Summary
Tampa, FL
January 18, 2018**

Council, Council Staff and NMFS Staff

Doug Boyd
Doug Gregory
Assane Diagne
John Froeschke
Karen Hoak
Ava Lasseter
Camilla Shireman
Carrie Simmons
Roy Crabtree
Shannon Cass-Calay
Peter Hood
Russ Dunn

Michael McDermott
Brad Miller
Kellie Ralston
Mark Turner
Rodolfo (Rudy) Valenciano
Troy Williamson, II

Others

Gary Jennings
Ted Venker
Yuying Zhang
Tom Wheatley
Sepp Haukebo
Kai Lorenzen
Dylan Hubbard
Jason DeLaCruz
Randall Keys
Sean Meehan
Kim Amendola

Advisory Panel Members

Hughes Andry
William (Butch) Blankenship
Ray Box
Jim Brown
Charlie Caplinger
Nate Duvall
Marcus Kennedy
Ed Landgraf
Mark Luitien
Johnny Marquez, Jr.

The Ad Hoc Red Snapper Private Angler Advisory Panel (AP) was convened January 18, 2018, in Tampa, Florida to provide recommendations to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) on private recreational red snapper management. After review, the AP approved the minutes from the May 2017 meeting as written. Dr. Froeschke informed the AP that Dr. Shipp was scheduled to provide a presentation to the AP but was unable to attend.

At the May 2017 meeting, the AP asked for supplementary information about data collection, stock assessments, and the role of economic analyses in fishery management. Staff provided a presentation describing the types of biological and economic data typically used to support management decisions. Staff also described the role and obligation of the Council in the fishery management process, including that the Council is prohibited from lobbying for any congressional bills. The AP understood the restriction, however, it wanted to inform the Council of its support for the Modern Fish Act.

Motion: The AP fully supports and endorses the Modern Fish Act as incorporated in H.R. 200.

Motion carried unanimously.

Staff presented an overview of the role of economics in the fishery management process. The presentation covered the mandates for including economic analyses in management actions, the purpose of the analyses, the distinction between economic effects and economic impacts, and the allocation of fishery resources between sectors. Examples of mandates discussed included the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act's (MSA's) National Standards, regulatory impact review requirements (Executive Order 12866) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) provisions. The purpose of economic analyses is to evaluate expected economic consequences of management alternatives, including economic effects and impacts on fishing businesses, individual fishermen, and other affected entities such as input suppliers, dealers, processors, and communities. Staff noted that to pursue economic efficiency, resources should be allocated to where they generate the greatest economic value and that economic impacts should not be the sole basis for allocation decisions. AP members discussed the relative values of recreationally caught and commercially harvested red snapper and made the following motion:

Motion: To recommend the Council reconsider red snapper allocations considering all relevant factors including, but not limited to the following: social, economic, historical catch, and increased participation of the recreational sector, etc.

Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Red Snapper State Management

Staff reviewed the amendments for a state management program for recreational red snapper and a decision tool (<http://portal.gulfcouncil.org/RedSnapperDecisionSupportTool/>) for examining the various resulting percentages for the alternatives in the allocation action. AP members discussed the actions in the amendments, but did not want to make recommendations on decisions such as allocations. Instead the AP stated these decisions should be made among the Council's state directors based on the individual state needs. Most AP members expressed support for flexibility in red snapper management. The AP supported state management for both the private angling and federal for-hire components, and passed the following motion.

Substitute Motion: To support state management of all recreational red snapper.

Substitute Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Red Snapper Stock Assessment

Dr. Cass-Calay (Southeast Fisheries Science Center [SEFSC]) gave a presentation describing the stock assessment process as well as the inputs and outcomes of the most recent red snapper stock assessment. She stated that a stock assessment for red snapper is now underway and will be

completed and reviewed by the SSC and the Council later this year. An AP member asked if the illegal harvest of red snapper by foreign vessels is considered in the stock assessment. Dr. Cass-Calay stated that the SEFSC is aware of the problem but in terms of total removals, the impact is thought to be modest and would require construction of a time series of data to be used in the stock assessment. The AP suggested that this is an important source of removals since the magnitude may approach the quantity of removals from the recreational sector.

Motion: The recommendation from this AP is for the Council to investigate the impact of the illegal red snapper fishery occurring in US waters operating out of Mexico.

Motion carried unanimously.

The AP members also asked about the use of descender devices and how reductions in discard mortality could be incorporated into the stock assessment. Dr. Crabtree (Southeast Regional Office) stated that the Council is aware of the potential benefits of descender devices and their potential to reduce discard mortality. At a recent meeting, the Council considered developing an Action to require descender devices on vessels. The Council is also aware that RESTORE funding could become available to provide descending devices to anglers, however, this option would not be possible if descender devices on vessels was a legal requirement.

Motion: To explore the requirement of descending devices and/or venting tools to reduce discard mortality in all sectors; commercial, headboat, and recreational.

Motion carried unanimously.

The AP also discussed various technology platforms that can be used to enhance fishery data. The AP supported the use of voluntary electronic reporting devices to collect harvest and discard data.

Motion: To recommend the Council explore voluntary angler electronic reporting of harvest and discards and how that information can be incorporated into management decisions and stock assessments.

Motion carried unanimously.

The AP recognizes the complexity of the red snapper management process and requests to be reconvened to continue their deliberations to improve management of the red snapper recreational fishery.

Motion: To reconvene the Panel again.

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on January 18, 2018.