



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

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April --, 2019

Mr. Chris Oliver
Assistant Administrator
NOAA Fisheries
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Oliver

The Fisheries Allocation Review Policy (NMFS Policy Directive 01-119) and the associated Procedural Directive on allocation review triggers (NMFS Procedural Directive 01-119-01) request that Regional Fishery Management Councils establish review triggers and present three types of triggers: indicator-based, public interest-based, and time-based criteria. Councils are expected to identify their allocations subject to the policy and establish review triggers i.e., select the criteria for initiating fisheries allocation reviews, by August 2019.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) initially reviewed a discussion paper introducing the allocation review policy and procedural directive during its August 2018 meeting. Follow-up discussions during the October 2018 meeting included an evaluation of the types of triggers considered in the policy and procedural directive and a preliminary identification of Gulf allocations that would be subject the policy. Additional discussions, including the formal selection of triggers for relevant Gulf of Mexico allocations and the adoption of the policy on allocation reviews detailed below were held during the January 2019 Council meeting. For Gulf of Mexico allocations subject to the policy, the Council adopted the following policy on allocation reviews:

The Council selects time-based criteria as primary allocation review triggers bolstered by general monitoring of indicators for reallocation justification through the Council's general deliberative process including public input channels as a secondary trigger. Consistent with the adaptive management process suggested in the Allocation Review Policy, the incorporation of the Council's public input process as secondary public interest-based review triggers will include the consideration of relevant social, economic, and ecological indicators as an intermediate step before determining whether an allocation review is triggered. For example, economic tools that could contribute to developing indicator-based review triggers could include cost-benefit analysis, economic impact analysis, economic efficiency, and others. Social indicators could include a range

of social metrics such as community resilience, vulnerability and well-being. Examples of ecological criteria could include changes in fishery status resulting from a stock assessment, undocumented sources of mortality, increases in discards, and changes in species distribution and food web dynamics. Allocations included are:

- red snapper allocations within the recreational sector, i.e., between the federal for-hire and private angling components (with a 4-year timeframe);
- red snapper allocations between the five Gulf states (with a 5-year timeframe);
- gray triggerfish and greater amberjack allocations between the commercial and recreational sectors (with a 6-year timeframe);
- recreational and commercial allocations of red snapper, gag, red grouper, shallow water grouper IFQ aggregate, deep water grouper IFQ aggregate, and tilefish IFQ aggregate (with a 7-year timeframe);
- Gulf of Mexico group king mackerel allocations between the recreational and commercial sectors, zones, and gear types (with a 9-year timeframe);
- black grouper, mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper allocations between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils (with a 10-year timeframe).

The Council will publish this policy on allocation reviews on its website and looks forward to working with the Southeast Regional Office and Science Center staff to set the schedule for the allocation reviews. The table appended to this letter lists the time intervals to be used with the time-based allocation review triggers and provides anticipated start dates for the initial allocation reviews. In addition to the allocation reviews scheduled based on the review triggers selected above, the Council may initiate supplementary allocation reviews at any time. For example, the Council could initiate an allocation review should relevant new information, e.g., data recalibration, be made available.

Sincerely,

Thomas Frazer, Ph.D.
Council Chair

cc:

Timeframes for the time-based allocation review triggers and expected starts of initial reviews

Allocations	Time Intervals	Expected start of the first review
Recreational red snapper ACL allocation between the private angling and federal for-hire components	4 years	April 2023
Red snapper allocations between the Gulf states	5 years	April 2024
Gray triggerfish and greater amberjack allocations between the recreational and commercial sectors	6 years	April 2025
Recreational and commercial allocations of red snapper, gag, red grouper, shallow water grouper IFQ aggregate, deep water grouper IFQ aggregate, and tilefish IFQ aggregate	7 years	April 2026
Gulf of Mexico group king mackerel allocations between the recreational and commercial sectors, zones, and gear types	9 years	April 2028
Black grouper, mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper allocations between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils	10 years	April 2029