

Tab E, No. 6a

# Allocation Review Procedures



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# Definitions

- ❖ **Fisheries Allocation:** a “direct and deliberate distribution of the opportunity to participate in a fishery among identifiable, discrete user groups or individuals.”
- ❖ **Fisheries Allocation Review:** the evaluation that leads to the decision of whether or not the development and evaluation of allocation options is warranted, but is not, in and of itself, an implicit trigger to consider alternative allocations.
- ❖ **Evaluation of Fisheries Allocation Options for an FMP Amendment:** If the allocation review determines a reallocation is warranted then the full analysis and evaluation of allocation options should be initiated. The goal is an FMP amendment (or framework action) to update the allocation or maintain status quo.

# Background

- ❖ NMFS Fisheries Allocation Review policy required Councils establish allocation review triggers
- ❖ Council established its allocation review triggers and published expected start dates for initial allocation reviews. The Council also indicated that it could initiate additional reviews as needed
- ❖ Council established an Allocation Review Working group
- ❖ Government Accountability Office (GAO) released its report on allocation review in mixed-use fisheries. The report includes two recommendations to the Councils.

# GAO Recommendations

NMFS should work with the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils (and other councils as appropriate) to:

- ❖ Develop documented processes for conducting allocation reviews
- ❖ Specify how the councils will document their allocation reviews, including:
  - the basis for their allocation decisions
  - whether fishery management plan objectives are being met
  - what factors were considered in the reviews

# Allocation Review Panel

Who should perform the allocation review?

- ❖ Interdisciplinary Planning Team (IPT) including SERO, SEFSC and, Council staff. Members would be selected by Council Office and NMFS following the usual process
- ❖ SSC members (with NMFS and Council staff support) selected by the Council
- ❖ Independent experts selected by the Council
- ❖ Combination between these alternative panels

# Allocation Review Notice

- ❖ Notice should indicate the specific allocation(s) to be reviewed and the start date of the review
- ❖ Should the notice include the composition of the review panel?
- ❖ Should the notice specify a deadline for the completion of the review (and final submission to the Council)?
- ❖ Additional information to include in the notice?
- ❖ Note: IPT meetings do not have to be noticed

# Allocation Review Tiers

Establish allocation review tiers based on the characteristics of the species or species group allocated

- ❖ **Tier One:** Species or species groups with allocation established to determine commercial quotas for the IFQ programs. Shallow water grouper, Deep water grouper, and Tilefish IFQ aggregates
- ❖ **Tier Two:** All other Gulf species or species group with an existing allocation
- ❖ **Tier Two** species or species group would require more complex reviews

If warranted, species or species groups can be moved from one tier to the other.

# Organization of the Allocation Review

The allocation review could be conducted in stages.

- ❖ Stage One (Data Review): During this stage, data sources are identified and available data are gathered.
- ❖ Stage Two (Allocation Review Analyses): Data collected are interpreted, trends are identified, and required analyses are performed.
- ❖ Stage Three (Report): A preliminary report report is drafted
- ❖ Stage Four (Review and Recommendations): SSCs and Advisory panels review the draft and provide recommendations to the Council

# Allocation Review Report

At a minimum the allocation review report should include the following sections:

- ❖ Introduction and Background: including a discussion of historical allocations and how they were established
- ❖ Data: including a discussion of the types of data collected and sources, and data gaps
- ❖ Review: to include the body of the review
- ❖ Recommendations: including recommendations offered by the review panel, and advisory bodies
- ❖ Research Needs: including a discussion of research that could improve future reviews
- ❖ Council Conclusions

# Allocation Review Clock Reset

Following the completion of an allocation review, when does the allocation review clock reset?

- ❖ If the Council determines that an amendment to consider reallocation is not warranted, then the clock resets and the next allocation review is scheduled based on the time interval set by the corresponding time-based trigger
- ❖ If the Council determines that an amendment is warranted, then the clock resets on the implementation date of the amendment.

# Expected start dates of initial allocation reviews

| <b>Allocations</b>  | <b>Time Intervals</b> | <b>First review (expected start)</b> |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 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                           |
| Gulf of Mexico group king mackerel allocations between the recreational and commercial sectors, zones, and gear types | 6 years               | April 2025                           |
| Recreational and commercial allocations of red snapper, gag, red grouper and, SWG, DWG, and tilefish IFQ aggregates   | 7 years               | April 2026                           |
| Black grouper, mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper allocations between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils            | 7 years               | April 2026                           |

**Thank you**