



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

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

4107 West Spruce St Suite 200

Tampa, Florida 33607 USA

Phone: 813.348.1630 • Toll free: 888.833.1844 • Fax: 813.348.1711

www.gulfcouncil.org

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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:

- A) *For inter-sector allocations of LAPP stocks:*** The Council selects a time-based trigger (with a 7-year timeframe) to allow allocation reviews to coincide with the MSA-mandated reviews of the individual fishing quota (IFQ) programs. Allocations included are: recreational and commercial allocations of red snapper, gag, red grouper, shallow water grouper IFQ aggregate, deep water grouper IFQ aggregate, and tilefish IFQ aggregate.
- B) *For all other allocations:*** The Council selects time-based criteria as primary allocation review triggers and the Council's public input process as a secondary trigger. 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);
- Gulf of Mexico group king mackerel allocations between 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. In addition to the allocation reviews that will be scheduled based on the review triggers selected above, the Council may initiate supplementary allocation reviews should relevant new information, e.g., data recalibration, be made available.

Sincerely,

Thomas Frazer, Ph.D.
Council Chair

cc: