

**Gulf Council Motions Report  
January 29 – February 1, 2018  
New Orleans, LA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET**

**Discussion of SSC Organization**

**Motion:** To make Alternative 3 the Preferred Alternative.

**“Alternative 3. Reduce only the size of the Special SSCs and add two additional Special SSCs**

Keep the current size of Standing SSC at 18 members and reduce Special SSCs to 3 or fewer people, plus add two additional Special SSCs for “Stock Assessment” and “Ecosystem Modeling.”

Change the SOPPs to read:

*Each Special SSC will consist of no more than 3 members. ~~The Special Socioeconomic SSC will be comprised of 2 economists and 2 Anthropologists/Sociologists.~~*

**Substitute Motion:** To make Alternative 3 the Preferred Alternative.

**“Alternative 3. Reduce only the size of the Special SSCs and add one additional Special SSC**

Keep the current size of Standing SSC at 18 members and reduce Special SSCs to 3 or fewer people, plus add one additional Special SSC for “Ecosystem.”

Change the SOPPs to read:

*Each Special SSC will consist of no more than 3 members. ~~The Special Socioeconomic SSC will be comprised of 2 economists and 2 Anthropologists/Sociologists.~~*

Substitute Motion carried with no opposition.

**SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES**

**Options Paper – Carryover of Unharvested Quota**

**Motion:** In Action 1, to move Alternative 4 to Considered but Rejected.

**Alternative 4:** Apply a carry-over provision to harvest the unused portion of the ACL for any managed finfish species in the Gulf except those which are currently managed under a stock ACL, meaning an ACL which is not subdivided by sector allocations. Any

unused portion of the ACL remaining at the end of a fishing year for those species will not be carried over to a successive fishing year.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To move Action 4 to Considered but Rejected.

#### **Action 4 – Adjustments to the Carry-Over Provision**

**Note:** Action 4 is only valid if an alternative other than Alternative 1 is chosen in Action 1.

**Alternative 1:** No Action. Do not reduce the amount of the unused portion of an ACL to be carried over. Any amount of the unused portion of the ACL to be carried over, as specified in Action 1, would be applied in full to the following fishing year, contingent on the alternative selected in Action 3.

**Alternative 2:** Reduce the amount of the unused portion of an ACL to be carried over by the mean natural mortality rate of the subject species as used in the most recent accepted quantitative stock assessment.

**Alternative 3:** Reduce the amount of the unused portion of an ACL to be carried over by an amount which accounts for management uncertainty. This amount would apply to any species for which a carry-over is considered.

**Option 3a:** Reduce the amount of ACL to be carried over by 5%

**Option 3b:** Reduce the amount of ACL to be carried over by 10%

**Option 3c:** Reduce the amount of ACL to be carried over by 15%

Motion carried with no opposition.

#### **Public Hearing Draft Amendment 49 – Modifications to the Sea Turtle Release Gear and Framework Procedure for the Reef Fish Fishery**

**Motion:** In Action 1, to make Alternative 2, the Preferred Alternative.

**Alternative 2:** Modify the regulations for vessels with commercial or charter vessel/headboat Gulf reef fish permits to allow the use of the new collapsible hoop net, dehooking device, and small hoist to release incidentally hooked sea turtles.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 2, to make Alternative 2, Options a and b the Preferred Alternative.

**Alternative 2:** Modify the reef fish framework procedure to include changes to release gear requirements and handling protocols for sea turtles and other protected resources through the abbreviated documentation process for open framework actions. Release gear requirements and handling protocols that could be implemented or changed would

include:

**Option a:** Release gear requirements for sea turtles and other protected resources

**Option b:** Handling requirements for sea turtles and other protected resources

Motion carried with no opposition.

### **Draft Policy and Outreach – Descending Devices and Venting Tools**

**Motion:** To forward the letter to Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group regarding the use of descending devices and venting tools to increase survival of released fish.

Motion carried with no opposition.

### **Review of EAFM by the Gulf Council and Other Regional Approaches**

**Motion:** To direct staff to develop a document that outlines the component parts of an ecosystem plan.

Motion carried with no opposition.

### **Environmental Assessment and Exempted Fishing Permits for Lionfish Trap Testing in the Gulf and South Atlantic**

**Motion:** To recommend that NMFS move forward with the implementation of the three lion fish EFP requests and to add a one year update reporting requirement.

**Substitute Motion:** To recommend that NMFS move forward with the implementation of the FKCFM Lionfish EFP request with the recommended modifications to the sampling area and to add a one year update reporting requirement.

Substitute Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To recommend that NMFS move forward with the implementation of the Keys Fisheries Lionfish EFP request with the recommended modifications to the sampling area and to add a one year update reporting requirement.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## AD HOC RED SNAPPER AND GROUPER-TILEFISH IFQ AP APPOINTMENTS

The following were appointed to the Ad Hoc Red Snapper and Grouper-Tilefish IFQ Advisory Panel:

Black-Lee, Jane	Rosetti, Todd
Copeland, William	Ruland, Nick
DeLaCruz, Jason	Schmidt, Lisa
Floyd, Jonathan	Smitko, Jerri
Guindon, Keith "Buddy"	Swindle, James
Hickman, Scott	Tomeny, Theodore
Krebs, David	Walker, David
Pappas, Harris	Werner, Wayne
Parker, Dennis	Zurbrick, Jim
Parker, Franklin	

**Charge:** To assess the Grouper-Tilefish IFQ Program 5-year Review and Amendment 36B and provide recommendations to the Council relative to changes in the IFQ programs.

## REEF FISH

### Ad Hoc Private Recreational Red Snapper AP Summary

**Motion:** To direct staff to develop a scoping document to evaluate the allocations of red snapper, taking into account previous deliberations in Amendment 28 and any new information and considers a broad range of social, economic, data correction, and management factors.

Motion carried 16 to 0 with one abstention.

### State Management Program for Recreational Red Snapper

**Motion:** In Action 2, to make Alternative 4, Option 4b, the Preferred Alternative.

**Alternative 4:** In calculating state apportionments under Action 2, exclude from the selected time series, as appropriate:

**Option 4b:** 2010 landings.

**Substitute Motion:** Remove Alternative 4, Option 4b and add language to all Alternatives that 2010 landings will be excluded.

**Alternative 4:** In calculating state apportionments under Action 2, exclude from the selected time series, as appropriate:

**Option 4b:** 2010 landings.

Substitute Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Alternative 6, to evaluate recreational trips utilizing the range of years [from Alternatives 2 and 3]:

**Alternative 6:** Establish an allocation of the recreational sector ACL that may be used for state management programs by apportioning the private angling ACL and federal for-hire ACL among the states based on spatial abundance of red snapper biomass and recreational trips using:

**Option 6a:** 25% biomass, 75% trips.

**Option 6b:** 50% biomass, 50% trips.

**Option 6c:** 75% biomass, 25% trips.

**Range of years:**

**Option 2a:** 1986-2015.

**Option 2d:** 50% of average historical landings [trips] for the years 1986-2015 and 50% of average historical landings [trips] for the years 2006-2015.

**Option 3a:** 1986-2009.

**Option 3d:** 50% of average historical landings [trips] for the years 1986-2009 and 50% of average historical landings [trips] for the years 2006-2009.

**Substitute Motion:** In Action 2, Alternative 6, evaluate recreational trips using the following range of years from Alternatives 2 and 3:

**Range of years:**

**Option 2a:** 1986-2015.

**Option 2c:** 2006-2015.

**Option 2d:** 50% of average historical landings [trips] for the years 1986-2015 and 50% of average historical landings [trips] for the years 2006-2015.

**Option 3a:** 1986-2009.

**Option 3c:** 2006-2009.

**Option 3d:** 50% of average historical landings [trips] for the years 1986-2009 and 50% of average historical landings [trips] for the years 2006-2009.

Substitute Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 2, to make Alternative 2, Option 2d the Preferred Alternative.

**Alternative 2:** Establish an allocation of the recreational sector ACL that may be used for state management programs by apportioning the private angling ACL and federal for-hire ACL among the states based on the average of historical landings for the years:

**Option 2d:** 50% of average historical landings for the years 1986-2015 and 50% of average historical landings for the years 2006-2015.

Motion failed 5 to 10.

**Motion:** To instruct staff to assess requested delegation items from the MS, FL, and LA letters, determine through the IPT process if there are any items that cannot be delegated, and incorporate those items that can be delegated for the next iteration of the individual State Management Amendments.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Draft amendments for individual states – Mississippi**

**Motion:** In Action 1, to make Alternative 3 the Preferred Alternative.

**Alternative 3:** Establish a management program that **delegates** management authority in federal waters to Mississippi. The scope of authority to include in the delegation to Mississippi must be defined. If Mississippi red snapper harvest plan is determined to be inconsistent with the requirements of delegation, the recreational harvest of red snapper in the federal waters adjacent to Mississippi would be subject to the default federal regulations for red snapper.

Motion carried 16 to 0 with one abstention.

**Motion:** In Action 2, to make Alternative 2, Option 2a the Preferred Alternative.

**Alternative 2:** While red snapper is overfished (based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress), if the combined Mississippi recreational landings exceed the Mississippi recreational ACL, then in the following year reduce the total recreational quota and Mississippi's ACL by the amount of the ACL overage in the prior fishing year, unless the best scientific information available determines that a greater, lesser, or no overage adjustment is necessary. If appropriate, the Mississippi recreational ACT (or component ACTs) will be adjusted to reflect the previously established percent buffer.

**Option 2a:** If Mississippi has both a private-angling ACL and a federal for-hire ACL, the reduction will be **applied only to the component(s)** that exceeded the applicable ACL.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Amendment 41 – Allocation-based Management for Federally Permitted Charter Vessels**

**Motion:** To add a new Action 5.4 – Reclamation of Latent Shares.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To add a new Action X - Units of Measure for Quota Distribution and Reporting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 3, to make Alternative 5 the Preferred Alternative.

**Alternative 5:** Allocate a percentage of the recreational ACL for each species to the charter vessels based on 50% average landings from 1986-2013 (2010 excluded) and 50% average landings from 2006-2013 (2010 excluded). (Time series of the Preferred

Alternative from Amendment 40)

Red Snapper (% of for-hire*)	68.7%
(% of total)	35.9%
Greater Amberjack	51.4%
Gray Triggerfish	46.5%
Gag	21.7%
Red Grouper	19.2%

\*Until 2022

Motion withdrawn.

**Motion:** In Action 4, to make Alternative 4, Option 4d the Preferred Alternative.

**Alternative 4:** Distribute charter quota based on equal distribution, passenger capacity, and historical landings by region using one of the following:

	<b>Option 4d</b>
<b>Equal distribution</b>	25%
<b>Passenger capacity</b>	25%
<b>Historical landings by region</b>	50%

Motion failed 8 to 8.

**Substitute Motion:** In Action 4, to make Alternative 5 the Preferred Alternative.

**Alternative 5:** Distribute the charter quota by auction. All eligible participants are allowed to place bids.

Substitute Motion failed 5 to 10.

**NMFS Response Regarding Referendum Requirements for Auctions**

**Motion:** To instruct staff to start a white paper exploring rents/royalties in the Gulf commercial red snapper fishery for allocation above 4.65 million pounds. The white paper should include but not be limited to: a definition of rents/royalties, examples of resource rent collection in other public resource uses, a calculation of Gulf red snapper rents/royalties value, alternative methods of rents/royalties collection and alternative methods for redistribution of shares.

Motion carried 11 to 5.

**Other Business – Historical captain charter vessel/headboat reef fish permits**

**Motion:** To instruct staff to begin development of an action in the appropriate document that considers removing the historical captain endorsement to reef fish and CMP permits and allow those permits to be fully transferable.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## VOTE ON EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT (EFP) APPLICATIONS

**Motion:** To recommend approval of each state's EFP.

**Substitute Motion:** To recommend approval of each state's EFP but such that if federal for-hire vessels are included in any state's EFP this will not impact the length of the federal for-hire season.

Substitute motion passed 14 to 2 with one abstention by Mr. Riechers.

**Second Substitute Motion:** To recommend approval of each state's EFP, but leaving the federal for-hire vessels out of the program.

Dr. Frazer – yes	Dr. Crabtree – yes	Mr. Diaz – no
Mr. Greene – yes	Mr. Swindell – no	Mr. Riechers – no
Mr. Boyd – no	Mr. Matens – no	Dr. Stunz – no
Dr. Mickle – no	Mr. Banks – no	Mr. Sanchez – yes
Dr. Shipp – no	Mr. Anson – no	Ms. Bosarge – yes
Mr. Dyskow – yes	Ms. Guyas – yes	

Second Substitute Motion failed 7 to 10 by roll call vote.

**Motion:** To direct staff to draft a letter outlining concerns regarding the Aquaculture EFP Request and forward the letter to NMFS.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## SPINY LOBSTER

No motions.