

**Gulf Council Motions Report  
January 28-31, 2019  
Orange Beach, AL**

**SHRIMP**

**Draft: Shrimp Amendment 18: Evaluation of Shrimp Effort Threshold Reduction in the Area Monitored for Juvenile Red Snapper Bycatch**

**Motion:** In Action 1, to make Option b the Preferred.

**Action 1** – Adjust the Target Reduction Goal for Juvenile Red Snapper Mortality in the Federal Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery in Statistical Zones 10-21 in the 10-30 fathom Depth Zone

**Option b:** Modify the target reduction goal for juvenile red snapper shrimp trawl bycatch mortality on red snapper from 67% less than the benchmark years of 2001-2003 to 60%.

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

**Action 2** – Revise the Shrimp FMP Management Measures Framework Procedure

**Option:** Revise the Shrimp FMP Management Measures Framework Procedure to allow changes to the target effort reduction goal for juvenile red snapper mortality through the standard open framework documentation process. Modify the abbreviated documentation process to allow specification of an ABC recommended by the Council's Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) based on results of a new stock assessment and using the ABC control rule.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET**

**Review of Ad Hoc Advisory Panels**

**Motion:** To disband the Ad Hoc Reef Fish Headboat and the Ad Hoc Red Snapper Charter For-Hire Advisory Panels.

Motion carried 12 to 4.

## **Review of Reappointments for Coral, Spiny Lobster, and Data Collection Advisory Panels**

**Motion:** To advertise for applicants for the Coral and the Data Collection APs and to maintain the current membership of the Spiny Lobster AP.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## **DATA COLLECTION**

No motions.

## **SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES**

### **Draft: Replacement of Historical Captain Permits with Standard Federal For-Hire Permits**

**Motion:** To make the replacement of Historical Captain Permits with standard for-hire permits optional.

Motion carried with no opposition.

### **Public Hearing Draft Generic Amendment – Carryover of Unharvested Quota**

**Motion:** In Action 1, to make Options 2b and 2c in Alternative 2 the preferred options.

**Alternative 2:** Establish a carryover provision for managed reef fish and CMP stocks. Carryover provisions apply to stocks and stock complexes with sector allocations. Unused portions of the sector ACLs for species managed under a catch share program are excluded from carryover provisions. Carryover provisions would not apply to the unused portion of the ACL for managed reef fish or CMP stocks/stock complexes:

**Option 2b:** which are currently overfished.

**Option 2c:** which did not have their fishing year closed as a result of the ACL or quota being met or projected to be met.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 2, to make Option 2b in Alternative 2 the preferred option.

**Alternative 2:** Adjust the amount of the ACL to be carried over into the following fishing year by limiting how much the difference between the ABC and the OFL can be reduced.

**Option 2b:** The difference between the ABC and the OFL can be reduced by 50%

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 3, to make Alternative 2 the preferred Alternative.

**Alternative 2:** Modify the closed framework procedures for the Reef Fish and CMP FMPs to allow the Regional Administrator (RA) to adjust the ABC, ACL, annual catch target (ACT), and quota for a stock or stock component to account for carryover of the unused portion of the ACL (as derived from the ABC set by the ABC control rule). See highlighted sections below.

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Closed Framework:

Consistent with existing requirements in the FMP and implementing regulations, the RA is authorized to conduct the following framework actions through appropriate notification in the Federal Register:

1. Close or adjust harvest of any sector of the fishery for a species, sub-species, or species group that has a quota or sub-quota at such time as projected to be necessary to prevent the sector from exceeding its sector-quota for the remainder of the fishing year or sub-quota season;
2. Reopen any sector of the fishery that had been prematurely closed;
3. Implement an in-season AM for a sector that has reached or is projected to reach, or is approaching or is projected to approach its ACL, or implement a post-season AM for a sector that exceeded its ACL in the current year.

Adjust the ABC, ACL, ACT, and quota for a species, sub-species, species group, sector, or component of a sector to allow for carryover of unused ACL, as determined by the ABC control rule.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 3, to make Alternatives 3 and 4 the preferred Alternatives.

**Alternative 3:** Modify the abbreviated framework procedures for the Reef Fish, CMP, Coral and Coral Reefs, and Spiny Lobster FMPs to allow specification of an ABC recommended by the SSC based on results of a new stock assessment and using the ABC control rule. See highlighted sections below.

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Abbreviated documentation process:

Regulatory changes that may be categorized as routine or insignificant may be proposed in the form of a letter or memo from the Council to the Regional Administrator containing the proposed action, and the relevant biological, social and economic information to support the action. If multiple actions are proposed, a finding that the actions are also routine or insignificant must also be included. If the Regional Administrator concurs with the determination and approves the proposed action, the

action will be implemented through publication of appropriate notification in the Federal Register. Actions that may be viewed as routine or insignificant include, among others:

- Specification of ABC, MSY, OY, and associated management parameters (such as overfished and overfishing definitions) where new values are calculated based on previously approved specifications,

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**Alternative 4:** Revise the framework procedures for the Reef Fish, CMP, Coral and Coral Reefs, and Spiny Lobster FMPs to have consistent terminology and format, and to include changes to the standard framework procedure for the Coral and Coral Reefs and Spiny Lobster FMPs regarding accountability measures. See highlighted sections below for additions to the Coral and Coral Reefs and Spiny Lobster FMPs.

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Standard documentation process:

Regulatory changes that do not qualify as a routine or insignificant may be proposed in the form of a framework document with supporting analyses. Non-routine or significant actions that may be implemented under a framework action include:

vi. Implementation or changes to in-season accountability measures

1. Closure and closure procedures
2. Trip limit implementation or change
3. Designation of an existing limited access privilege program as the accountability measure for species in the IFQ program
4. Implementation of gear restrictions

vii. Implementation or changes to post-season accountability measures

1. Adjustment of season length
2. Implementation of closed seasons/time periods
3. Adjustment or implementation of bag, trip, or possession limit
4. Reduction of the ACL/ACT to account for the previous year overage
5. Revoking a scheduled increase in the ACL/ACT if the ACL was exceeded in the previous year
6. Implementation of gear restrictions
7. Reporting and monitoring requirements

Motion carried with no opposition.

## OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

No motions.

## REEF FISH

### **Draft Amendment 50: State Management Program for Recreational Red Snapper and Individual State Amendments**

**Motion:** In Action 2, to add an Alternative 8 that would allocate the private angling annual catch limit (ACL) as follows:

AL	26.298%
FL	44.822%
LA	19.120%
MS	3.550%
TX	6.210%

Motion carried with one opposed.

**Motion:** In Action 2, to make the new Alternative 8 the preferred.

Alternative 8 would allocate the private angling ACL as follows:

AL	26.298%
FL	44.822%
LA	19.120%
MS	3.550%
TX	6.210%

Motion carried 13 to 3.

**Substitute Motion:** In Action 2, to make Alternative 7 the preferred.

**Alternative 7:** Establish an allocation of the recreational sector ACL that may be used for state management programs by apportioning the private angling ACL among the states based on the allocations requested by each state in its exempted fishing permit application, which totaled 96.22%. Apportion the remaining 3.78% among the five states proportionally based on their requested allocation.

Substitute Motion failed 3 to 13.

**Motion:** In Action 3, to make Alternative 2 the preferred alternative.

**Alternative 2:** Establish a procedure to allow a state to request NMFS close areas of federal waters adjacent to state waters to red snapper recreational fishing. The state would request the closure by letter, providing dates and geographic coordinates for the closure. If the request is within the scope of the analysis in this amendment, NMFS would publish a notice in the Federal Register implementing the closure. The closure would apply to the recreational sector component(s) included in that state's approved management program.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To add the appropriate language to the Individual State Amendments' Action 2: Post-Season Quota Adjustments to specify that the overage/underage adjustment would be implemented in 2020 based on each state's 2019 landings under the EFPs. Thus, each state's quota under the first year of state management in 2020 would reflect a quota adjustment (overage/underage) based on that state's 2019 landings.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To hold a special Council meeting on February 18, 2019 with the intent to go final on Amendment 50.

Motion carried 15 to 1.

**Public Hearing Draft Amendment 51: Establish Gray Snapper Status Determination Criteria, Reference Points, and Modify Annual Catch Limits**

**Motion:** In Action 1, to add an Alternative: For gray snapper, the MSY proxy is the yield when fishing at 26% spawning potential ratio (F26% SPR).

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 2, to add an alternative: The definition for the gray snapper MFMT is equal to F26% SPR.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 3, to make Alternative 4 the preferred alternative.

**Alternative 4.** The minimum stock size threshold for gray snapper =  $0.50 * BMSY$  (or proxy).

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 4, to make Alternative 2, Option 2c the preferred alternative.

**Alternative 2.** Set an OY for gray snapper that is the long-term yield that implicitly accounts for relevant economic, social, or ecological factors by fishing at:

**Option 2c.** 90% of FMSY Proxy.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 5, to add a new alternative that mirrors Alternative 2 and Alternative 4 using  $F_{26\%SPR}$ .

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Draft Options: Red Grouper Framework Action**

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

**Alternative 3:** Modify the red grouper ACLs and ACTs based on the combined landings from the 2017 fishing season. Allocations and the recreational ACT are applied as appropriate.

Year	OFL	ABC	Total ACL	Comm ACL	Rec ACL	Comm ACT/Quota	Rec ACT
2019+	14.16	13.92	4.154	3.157	0.997	2.999	0.917

\* Values are in millions of pounds, gutted weight.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Draft Amendment 36B: Modifications to Commercial IFQ Programs**

**Motion:** To add language to the purpose and need section that states the purpose will be to increase access to shares to actively fishing eligible commercial fishermen.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To direct staff to bring back Amendment 36B with Action 1 and Action 2, and under Action 2, to have options for distributing the reclaimed shares to address eastern Gulf bycatch of red snapper.

Motion withdrawn.

**Review Draft Options of Red Snapper Reallocation Document**

**Motion:** In Table 1.2.1 (Objectives of the Fishery Management Plan for Reef Fish Resources in the Gulf of Mexico, Post-October 2018 Council Meeting), to revise Objective 2 to read: “To achieve robust fishery reporting and data collection systems across all sectors for monitoring the reef fish fishery which minimizes management uncertainty.”

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Table 1.2.1 (Objectives of the Fishery Management Plan for Reef Fish Resources in the Gulf of Mexico, Post-October 2018 Council Meeting), to add an Objective “To promote and maintain accountability in the reef fish fishery.”

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 1, to add additional sub-options to Options 3 and 4 that would include percentages on historical distributions as determined in Options 1 and 2.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 1, to add an option that uses historical landings between 1979 and 2006.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 2, that Options 1, 2, and 3 have a terminal year of 2016.

**Substitute Motion:** To delete Action 2.

## **2.2 Action 2 – Allocation of Red Snapper between the Private Angler and Federal For-Hire Components**

**Option 1:** Establish private angling and federal for-hire component allocations based on average landings between 1986 and 2017 (2010 excluded). Resulting private angling and federal for-hire allocations would be 54.4% and 45.6%, respectively.

**Option 2:** Establish private angling and federal for-hire component allocations based on 50% of the average percentages landed by each component between 1986 and 2017 (2010 excluded) and 50% of the average percentages landed by each component between 2006 and 2017 (2010 excluded). Resulting private angling and federal for-hire allocations would be 61.7% and 38.3%, respectively.

**Option 3:** Establish private angling and federal for-hire component allocations based on average landings between 2007 and 2017 (2010 excluded). Resulting private angling and federal for-hire allocations would be 71.4% and 28.6%, respectively.

Substitute Motion carried 13 to 3.

## **Reef Fish Amendment 42: Reef Fish Recreational Management for Headboat Survey Vessels**

**Motion:** To convene a joint meeting of the Ad Hoc Reef Fish Headboat AP and the Ad Hoc Red Snapper CFH AP to review the decision tool in relation to estimating the allocation between the fleets.

**Substitute Motion:** To postpone further action on Amendments 41 and 42 until ELB data are available.

Substitute motion ruled out of order by Chairman Frazer.

**Motion:** To table the following motion:

**Motion:** To convene a joint meeting of the Ad Hoc Reef Fish Headboat AP and the Ad Hoc Red Snapper CFH AP to review the decision tool in relation to estimating the allocation between the fleets.

Motion carried 13 to 3.

**Motion:** To postpone any further action on Amendments 41 and 42 until ELB data have been deemed suitable for management purposes.

Motion carried 9 to 6.