

**Gulf Council Motions Report  
June 18-21, 2018  
Key West, FL**

**CORAL**

**Final Action Amendment 9: Coral Habitat Areas Considered for Management in the Gulf of Mexico**

**Motion:** In Action 5, to make Alternatives 2 and 3, Option b the preferred.

**Preferred Alternative 2:** Establish a new HAPC named Harte Bank bound by the following coordinates, connecting in order:

Area	Point	Longitude (West)	Latitude (North)
Harte Bank	A	96°36.590'	26°40.826'
Depth Range:	B	96°32.220'	26°40.789'
162-492 ft	C	96°32.308'	26°37.992'
(27-82 fathoms)	D	96°36.636'	26°38.043'
Area: 10.8 nm <sup>2</sup>	A	96°36.590'	26°40.826'

**Option b.** Prohibit fishing with bottom-tending gear in the Harte Bank HAPC. Bottom-tending gear is defined as: bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear\*, dredge, pot or trap, and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels.

**Preferred Alternative 3:** Establish a new HAPC named Southern Bank bound by the following coordinates, connecting in order:

Area	Point	Longitude (West)	Latitude (North)
Southern Bank	A	96°31.902'	27°26.923'
Depth Range:	B	96°30.881'	27°26.989'
162-330 ft	C	96°31.134'	27°25.958'
(27-55 fathoms)	D	96°31.892'	27°25.958'
Area: 0.8 nm <sup>2</sup>	A	96°31.902'	27°26.923'

**Option b.** Prohibit fishing with bottom-tending gear in the Southern Bank HAPC. Bottom-tending gear is defined as: bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear\*, dredge, pot or trap, and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels.

Motion carried 12 to 4.

**Motion:** To approve Amendment 9: Coral Habitat Areas Considered for Management in the Gulf of Mexico and that it be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation, and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate, giving staff editorial license to make the necessary changes in the document. The Council Chair is given the authority to deem any changes to the codified text as necessary and appropriate.

Mr. Anson – yes	(Ms. Gerhart)/Dr. Crabtree – yes	Dr. Stunz – yes
Mr. Sanchez – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes
Dr. Mickle – yes	Mr. Riechers – yes	Mr. Greene – yes
Mr. Matens – yes	Dr. Shipp – yes	Ms. Bosarge – yes
Ms. Guyas – yes	Mr. Boyd – yes	
Mr. Banks – yes	Mr. Dyskow – yes	

Motion carried 16 to 0 with one absent by roll call vote.

**Motion:** The Council requests that HMS implement consistent regulations with those of Coral Amendment 9.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To direct staff to develop a Framework Action to evaluate the definition of fishing in coral HAPC areas with regulations.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## MACKEREL

### **Final Action - CMP Amendment 31: Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region**

**Motion:** To approve CMP Amendment 31 and that it be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation, and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate, giving staff editorial license to make the necessary changes in the document. The Council Chair is given the authority to deem any changes to the codified text as necessary and appropriate.

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

Motion carried 15 to 1 with one absent by roll call vote.

### **Options – CMP Framework Amendment 7: Modifications to Gulf Cobia Size and Possession Limits**

**Motion:** In Action 2, to select Alternative 2 and Alternative 3, Option 3a as preferred alternatives.

**Alternative 2:** Decrease the per person recreational and commercial possession limit for Gulf cobia to one fish per day.

**Alternative 3:** Create a recreational and commercial daily vessel limit for Gulf cobia. Anglers may not exceed the per person possession limit.

**Option 3a:** The recreational and commercial daily vessel limit for cobia is two fish.

Motion carried.

## **SPINY LOBSTER**

### **Public Hearing Draft Spiny Lobster Amendment 13**

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

**Alternative 2:** Align federal regulations to be consistent with Florida regulations for spiny lobster commercial harvesters *using bully net gear* by implementing the following:

- Require commercial bully net vessels in the EEZ off Florida to have a bully net permit from Florida
- Require that the vessel be marked with the harvester's Florida bully net permit number using reflective paint or other reflective material
- Prohibit commercial bully net vessels from having trap pullers onboard
- Prohibit the simultaneous possession of a bully net and any underwater breathing apparatus (not including dive masks or snorkels) onboard a vessel used to harvest or transport spiny lobster for commercial purposes.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 2, to make Alternatives 2 and 3 the Preferred.

**Alternative 2.** Establish a commercial daily vessel harvest and possession limit of 250 per day/vessel for spiny lobsters harvested by bully net in or from the entire EEZ off Florida.

**Alternative 3.** Establish a commercial daily vessel harvest and possession limit of 250 per day/vessel for spiny lobsters harvested by diving in or from the EEZ only off Broward, Dade, Monroe, Collier, and Lee Counties, Florida.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 3, to make Alternative 1 the Preferred and move Action 3 to 'Considered but Rejected.'

**Alternative 1.** No Action. In the EEZ off Florida, a spiny lobster trap constructed of material other than wood must have a panel constructed of wood, cotton, or other material that will degrade at the same rate as a wooden trap. Such panel must be located in the upper half of the sides or on top of the trap, so that when removed, there will be an opening in the trap no smaller than the diameter found at the throat or entrance of the trap.

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

**Action 4: Harvesting restrictions near artificial habitat\* in the EEZ off Florida**

**Alternative 1.** No Action. Federal regulations have no formal definition developed for artificial habitat\* and there are no restrictions for harvest and possession of spiny lobster in the EEZ off an artificial habitat as defined by Florida Administrative Code (FAC).

**Alternative 2.** No person shall harvest any spiny lobster from artificial habitat\* in the EEZ off Florida. The harvest and possession in the water of spiny lobster in excess of the recreational bag limit is hereby prohibited within 10 yards of artificial habitat as is consistent with FAC 64B-24.006(12).

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 5, to make Alternative 2 as amended by the Committee the Preferred.

**Alternative 2.** Establish an enhanced cooperative management procedure that allows Florida to request changes to the spiny lobster federal regulations through NMFS rulemaking. Following is the proposed language (adapted from Amendment 2 to the Spiny Lobster FMP) for the procedure to be added to the existing protocol (established in Amendment 10 to the Spiny Lobster FMP)

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To approve Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 for public hearings.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

### **Final Action Amendment 49 – Modifications to the Sea Turtle Release Gear and Framework Procedure for the Reef Fish Fishery**

**Motion:** To approve Amendment 49 – Modifications to the Sea Turtle Release Gear and Framework Procedure for the Reef Fish Fishery and that it be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation, and deem the codified text as necessary and

appropriate, giving staff editorial license to make the necessary changes in the document and codified text. The Council Chair is given the authority to deem any changes to the codified text as necessary and appropriate.

Dr. Stunz – yes	Mr. Banks – yes	Mr. Anson – yes
Mr. Dyskow – yes	Mr. Greene – yes	Mr. Riechers – yes
Dr. Mickle – yes	Dr. Crabtree – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes
Ms. Guyas – yes	Dr. Shipp – yes	Ms. Bosarge – yes
Mr. Boyd – yes	Mr. Sanchez – yes	
Mr. Matens – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes	

Motion carried 16 to 0 with one absent by roll call vote.

**Draft Generic Amendment – Carryover of Unharvested Quota (Tab E, No. 6)**

**Motion:** In Action 1, to remove Option 2d and to remove Action 2 from the document.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

**Draft Outreach Plan on the Council’s Descending and Venting Policy**

**Motion:** To adopt the Council’s outreach plan on the use of venting tools and descending devices policy.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To have staff work with GSMFC to develop a meeting of scientists, agency personnel, and stakeholders to develop an action plan that includes information dissemination and science and monitoring needs that ensure the policy purpose and objectives are both measurable and successful.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**REEF FISH**

**SEDAR 37 – Hogfish Update Assessment**

**Motion:** To direct staff to develop a framework action to adjust the ACL for Gulf hogfish.

Motion carried with no opposition.

### **SEDAR 51 – Gray Snapper Benchmark Assessment**

**Motion:** To direct staff to begin a plan amendment to establish status determination criteria, management reference points, and catch levels for gray snapper.

Motion carried with no opposition.

### **SEDAR 52 – Red Snapper Standard Assessment**

**Motion:** To direct staff to begin working on a framework action to adjust the catch levels for red snapper.

Motion carried with no opposition.

### **State Management Program for Recreational Red Snapper**

**Motion:** In Action 1, to change the preferred alternative to Alternative 2.

**Alternative 2:** For a state with an approved state management program, the state will manage its private angling component, only, and must constrain landings to the state's private angling component ACL as determined in Action 2. The federal for-hire component will continue to be managed Gulf-wide. For states without an approved state management program, a private angling fishing season will be estimated using the remainder of the private angling component ACL, reduced by the established buffer. The state management plan will end when the separate private angling and federal for-hire ACLs expire (currently 2022).

Motion failed 7 to 8.

**Motion:** In Action 1, to remove the following sentence in Alternatives 2 and 4:

The state management plan will end when the separate private angling and federal for-hire ACLs expire (currently 2022).

**And to add this sentence:**

The sunset provision of 2022 in Amendment 45 is removed.

Motion carried 9 to 6.

**Motion:** In Action 2, to make Alternative 6 the preferred.

**Alternative 6:** 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 set in the exempted fishing permits approved for the states to manage the recreational harvest of red snapper in 2018 and 2019.

Motion carried 11 to 5.

**Motion:** In Action 1 of the Texas amendment, to make Alternative 2, Options 2a-2e and Option 2g the preferred.

**Alternative 2:** Establish a management program that **delegates** management authority in federal waters to Texas. If Texas's 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 Texas would be subject to the default federal regulations for red snapper. Texas must establish the red snapper season structure for the harvest of its assigned portion of the recreational sector annual catch limit (ACL), monitor landings, and prohibit further landings of red snapper when the ACL is reached or projected to be reached. In addition, delegated authority for managing the recreational harvest of red snapper may include establishing or modifying the:

**Preferred Option 2a:** bag limit

**Preferred Option 2b:** prohibition on for-hire vessel captains and crew from retaining a bag limit.

**Preferred Option 2c:** minimum size limit within the range of 14 to 18 inches total length (TL)

**Preferred Option 2d:** maximum size limit

**Preferred Option 2e:** requirements for live release devices (e.g., descending devices)

**Preferred Option 2g:** use of area or depth-specific regulations.

Motion carried with no opposition.

### **Scoping Document – Reallocation of Red Snapper ACL**

**Motion:** To direct staff to provide a side-by-side evaluation of the existing Gulf Council allocation policy vs. the NMFS procedural directive in 01-119-01 and 01-119-02.

Motion carried with no opposition.

### **Draft Framework Action to Modify the ACT for Red Snapper Federal For-hire and Private Angling Components**

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

**Alternative 3:** Apply the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's ACL/ACT Control Rule, using landings from 2014 – 2017, to set the respective component ACT buffers for the private angling and for-hire components. This results in a for-hire component ACT set 9% below the for-hire component ACL. The private angling component ACT would remain at 20% below the private angling component ACL. The total recreational sector ACT would be approximately 15% below the recreational sector ACL.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 1, to make Alternative 4 the preferred alternative.

**Alternative 4:** Establish a sunset provision on the modification of the component ACT buffers of the recreational sector for red snapper. Any changes to the recreational component ACT buffers would end at the end of the 2019 fishing season.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## **GULF SEDAR**

No motions.

## **ECOSYSTEM**

No motions.

## **REEF FISH AND SHRIMP AP APPOINTMENTS**

### **AP APPOINTMENTS**

#### **Reef Fish Advisory Panel** (18 members)

Bruce, James	Jenkins, Chris
Black-Lee, Jane	Marquez, Jr., John
Cagle, Patrick	McDaniel, Jeffrey
DeLaCruz, Jason	Nugent, Michael
Ellender, Joshua	Prasek, Jr., Mike
Fraday, Troy	Seymour, Jr., Clarence
Guindon, Keith (Buddy)	Walker, David
Hubbard, Dylan	Walker, Ed
Huye, George	Williamson, II, Troy

#### **Shrimp Advisory Panel** (14 members)

Bosarge, Steven	Nacio, Lance
Bui, Thu	Nguyen, Can
Chauvin, Kimberly	Parker, Franklin
Delaney, Glenn	Perret, William (Corky)
Graham, Gary	Riley, Patrick
Hance, Andrea	Shultz, Thomas
Lasseigne, Harris	Williams, John



## SSC APPOINTMENTS

### **Standing SSC** (18 members)

Anderson, Lee	Leaf, Robert
Barbieri, Luiz	Lorenzen, Kai
Blanchet, Robert (Harry)	Nance, James
Chagaris, David	Patterson, William
Galloway, Benny	Powers, Joseph
Gill, Robert	Powers, Sean
Gregory, Douglas	Roberts, Kenneth
Isely, John (Jeff)	Scyphers, Steven
Keithly, Walter	Tolan, Jim

### **Special Coral SSC** (3 members)

Brooke, Sandra  
Sammarco, Paul  
Schmahl, George

### **Special Mackerel SSC** (3 members)

Adriance, Jason  
Buck, Kari  
Mareska, John

### **Special Red Drum SSC** (3 members)

Allen, Michael  
Curtis, Judson  
Hardy, Wade

### **Special Reef Fish SSC** (3 members)

Adriance, Jason  
Curtis, Judson  
Mareska, John

**Special Shrimp SSC** (3 members)

Burris, Richard  
Cagle, William (Peyton)  
Shirley, Thomas

**Special Spiny Lobster SSC** (3 members)

Gandy, Ryan  
Matthews, Thomas  
Shirley, Thomas

**Special Socioeconomic SSC** (3 members)

Buck, Kari  
Isaacs, Jack  
Ropicki, Andrew

**Special Ecosystem SSC** (3 members)

Ainsworth, Cameron  
Karnauskas, Mandy  
Sammarco, Paul