

**Gulf Council Motions Report
October 22-25, 2018
Mobile, AL**

CORAL

No motions.

MACKEREL

Final Action: CMP Framework Amendment 7 – Modifications to Gulf Cobia Size and Possession Limits

Motion: In Action 2, to change the language in Alternative 3 and its options to reflect a vessel trip limit as opposed to a daily vessel limit.

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

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

Option 3b: The recreational and commercial ~~daily vessel limit~~ for cobia is four fish.

Option 3c: The recreational and commercial ~~daily vessel limit~~ for cobia is six fish.

BECOMES

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

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

Option 3b: The recreational and commercial *vessel trip limit* for cobia is four fish.

Option 3c: The recreational and commercial *vessel trip limit* for cobia is six fish.

Motion carried 10 to 2.

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

Alternative 1: No Action – Do not change the current two fish per person daily recreational and commercial possession limit for Gulf cobia, regardless of the number or duration of trips.

Motion carried 11 to 2.

Motion: To approve the CMP Framework Amendment 7 : Modifications to Gulf Cobia Size and Possession Limits, 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.

Ms. Bosarge – yes	Dr. Crabtree – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes
Ms. Boggs – yes	Mr. Swindell – yes	Mr. Riechers – yes
Mr. Boyd – yes	Mr. Dugas – yes	Dr. Stunz – yes
Dr. Mickle – yes	Mr. Banks – yes	Mr. Sanchez – yes
Dr. Shipp – absent	Mr. Anson – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes
Mr. Dyskow – absent	Ms. Guyas – yes	

Motion carried 15 to 0 with 2 absent by roll call vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET

Approval of Funded Budget

Motion: To accept the 2018 proposed budget as written.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Review Proposed Modifications to the SOPPs

Motion: To amend Section 2.5, Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) section of the SOPPs to read as follows:

During the appointment process of the Standing SSC, the Council shall appoint no more than 18 individuals which will include 7 stock assessment or quantitative biologists/ecologists; 3 economists; 3 quantitative anthropologists/ sociologists; and 5 other scientists. Each of the above scientists will be identified in one of the above categories. Each Special SSC will consist of no more than 3 members. When a Special SSC meets with the Standing SSC the combined SSC votes as a whole committee.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To accept the SOPPs as modified.

Motion carried with no opposition.

SEDAR

Summary of SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting

Motion: To inform the SEDAR Steering Committee and the SEFSC that the Council wishes to forego the MRIP calibration update assessments, and have the new MRIP calibrated data considered for species in their next scheduled assessments.

Motion carried with no opposition.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Draft Abbreviated Framework Action: Conversion of Historical Captain Endorsements to Federal For-Hire Permits

Motion: To add language to the Conversion of Historical Captain Endorsements to Federal For-Hire Permits document that would render eligibility letters for historical captains invalid as of the implementation date and not add Options 2 through 6 to the document.

Option 2: Replace reef fish and CMP Historical Captain permits in the Gulf with standard Gulf charter/headboat (for-hire) permits. The permit capacity of each new for-hire standard permit is limited to the corresponding historical captain permit capacity or the Gulf-wide average standard for-hire permit capacity (approximately 14), whichever is less.

Option 3: Replace reef fish and CMP Historical Captain permits in the Gulf with standard Gulf charter/headboat (for-hire) permits. The permit capacity associated with each new standard for-hire permit is limited to the vessel capacity of the vessel currently operated by the historical captain.

Option 4: Replace reef fish and CMP Historical Captain permits in the Gulf with standard Gulf charter/headboat (for-hire) permits. The permit capacity associated with each new standard for-hire permit is limited to six passengers.

Option 5: For historical captains who elect to replace their permits with a standard Gulf charter/headboat (for-hire) permit, the permit must be replaced with a standard for-hire permit and associated with a vessel within:

- A. two years from the implementation of this action
- B. three years from the implementation of this action

Option 6: Allow historical captains to opt out of the replacement of their historical captain permits with standard Gulf charter/headboat (for-hire) permits and retain their historical captain permits.

Motion carried with no opposition.

REEF FISH

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

Motion: In Action 2, to add a new alternative for allocation used for apportioning the private angling ACL:

<u>AL</u>	<u>FL</u>	<u>LA</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>TX</u>	<u>Total</u>
28.00%	42.74%	18.50%	3.55%	7.21%	100.00%

Motion carried 8 to 4.¹

Motion: In Action 2, to make the new alternative the preferred.

<u>AL</u>	<u>FL</u>	<u>LA</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>TX</u>	<u>Total</u>
28.00%	42.74%	18.50%	3.55%	7.21%	100.00%

Motion failed 5 to 9.

Motion: In Action 2, to add a new alternative:

<u>AL</u>	<u>FL</u>	<u>LA</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>TX</u>	<u>Total</u>
26.30%	43.73%	19.84%	3.68%	6.44%	100.00%

Motion carried 8 to 4.

Motion: In Action 1 of each state amendment, to remove Option 2g and create a new action to allow NMFS to implement closures in the EEZ through a framework.

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

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 1 of each state amendment, to remove Options 2e and 2f.

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

Option 2f: requirements for harvest gear

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 1 of Florida’s amendment, to make Alternative 2, Options 2a, 2c, and 2d the preferred.

¹ A motion was later made to reconsider this motion (see below).

Alternative 2: Establish a management program that delegates management authority for recreational red snapper fishing in federal waters to Florida. If Florida'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 Florida would be subject to the default federal regulations for red snapper. Florida 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:

Option 2a: bag limit

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

Option 2d: maximum size limit.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 2, to move Option 2b to Considered but Rejected in all five state amendments.

Option 2b: If a state has both a private-angling ACL and a federal for-hire ACL, the adjustment will be applied equally to both components.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 2, to make Alternative 2, as modified, the preferred in all five state plan amendments.

Alternative 2: Add a state-specific overage and underage adjustment to the existing post-season AM for the recreational sector red snapper ACL. If the combined state recreational landings exceed or are less than the state combined recreational ACLs (if applicable), then in the following year reduce or increase the total recreational quota and the state's component ACL(s) as outlined in Option a or b, in accordance with Council procedures, by the amount of the ACL overage or underage in the prior fishing year, unless the best scientific information available determines that a greater, lesser, or no adjustment is necessary. If appropriate, the state's component ACTs will be adjusted to reflect the established percent buffer.

Option 2a: If a state has both a private-angling ACL and a federal for-hire ACL, the adjustment will be applied only to the component(s) that exceeded or were under the applicable ACL.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To reconsider the motion for the addition of the new Alternative 7.

<u>AL</u>	<u>FL</u>	<u>LA</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>TX</u>	<u>Total</u>
28.00%	42.74%	18.50%	3.55%	7.21%	100.00%

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 2, to add a new alternative for allocation used for apportioning the private angling ACL:

<u>AL</u>	<u>FL</u>	<u>LA</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>TX</u>	<u>Total</u>
28.00%	42.74%	18.50%	3.55%	7.21%	100.00%

Motion failed unanimously.

Motion: To take Amendment 50: State Management Program for Recreational Red Snapper and Individual State Amendments out for public hearings.

- Pensacola, FL
- Destin, FL
- Mobile, AL
- Baton Rouge, LA
- Biloxi, MS
- Ft. Myers, FL
- St. Petersburg, FL
- Brownsville, TX
- Corpus Christi, TX
- League City, TX
- Webinar (one)

Motion carried with no opposition.

Review of the Reef Fish Management Objectives

Motion: In Objective 1 to reword as follows, “To prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks.”

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To combine Objectives 2 and 7 to read: “To maintain robust fishery reporting and data collection systems for monitoring the reef fish fishery.”

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To reword Objective 3, as follows, “To conserve and protect reef fish habitats.”

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To reword Objective 4, as follows, “To minimize conflicts between user groups”, add a new objective “To minimize and reduce dead discards,” and to eliminate Objective 6.

- **Objective 6:** To reduce user conflicts and near shore fishing mortality.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To remove Objectives 5, 9, 11, and 16 and replace with an Objective that defines OY. Objective: “To manage Gulf stocks at OY as defined in MSA.”

- **Objective 5:** The primary objective and definition of Optimum Yield for the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan is to stabilize long term population levels of all reef fish species by establishing a certain survival rate of biomass into the stock of spawning age to achieve at least 20 percent spawning potential ratio.
- **Objective 9:** To revise the definition of optimum yield to allow specification at the species level.
- **Objective 11:** To maximize net socioeconomic benefits from the reef fish fishery.
- **Objective 16:** To optimize, to the extent practicable and allowed by law, net benefits from the fishery.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To reword Objective 10 as follows, “To encourage and periodically review research on the efficacy of artificial reefs for management purposes.”

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To remove Objectives 14 and 18 and reword Objective 12, as follows, “To promote stability in the fishery by allowing for enhanced fisher flexibility and increasing fishing opportunities to the extent practicable.”

- **Objective 14:** To promote flexibility for the fishermen in their fishing operations.
- **Objective 18:** To maximize the available days to recreational fishermen.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To remove Objective 17.

- **Objective 17:** To reduce the harvesting capacity of the red snapper fleet in an equitable manner utilizing demonstrated historical dependence on the red snapper resource as a criterion.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Establish Gray Snapper Status Determination Criteria, Reference Points, and Modify Annual Catch Limits

Motion: In Action 5 to move Alternatives 4 and 5 to Considered but Rejected.

Alternative 4: The ACL for gray snapper for the years 2019 through 2021 and beyond will be equal to the ABC yield stream using the MSY proxy $F_{30\%SPR}$ selected in Action 1. Apply the ACL/ACT Control Rule (landings from 2014 through 2017) to establish an 11% buffer between the ACL and the ACT.

Year	OFL (mp ww)	ABC (mp ww)	ACL (mp ww)	ACT (mp ww)
2019	2.31	2.27	2.27	2.03
2020	2.33	2.29	2.29	2.04
2021+	2.36	2.32	2.32	2.07

Alternative 5: The ACL for gray snapper for the years 2019 through 2021 and beyond will be equal to the ABC yield stream using the MSY proxy $F_{40\%SPR}$ selected in Action 1. Apply the ACL/ACT Control Rule (landings from 2014 through 2017) to establish an 11% buffer between the ACL and the ACT.

Year	OFL (mp ww)	ABC (mp ww)	ACL (mp ww)	ACT (mp ww)
2019	1.83	1.80	1.80	1.61
2020	1.90	1.86	1.86	1.66
2021+	1.95	1.92	1.92	1.71

Motion carried with no opposition.

Other Business: Red Grouper Interim Analysis

Motion: To request that NMFS implement an interim/emergency rule to establish a red grouper total allowable catch of 4.6 mp gw or the 2017 total landings, whichever is lower.

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

Motion carried 14 to 1 with 2 absent by roll call vote.

Motion: To request that staff draft a Framework Action to adjust red grouper total allowable catch.

Motion carried with no opposition.

DATA COLLECTION

No motions.

ECOSYSTEM

Draft Outline of Fishery Ecosystem Document

Motion: To direct staff to develop a fishery ecosystem plan using the outline presented (Agenda item Q-4), which shall include recommendations for how to integrate ecosystem factors into the council decision-making process.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To establish an ecosystem technical committee to consist of no more than 13 ecosystem scientists from the Science Center, SSCs, academia and other stakeholders to assist the council on the development and implementation of a fishery ecosystem plan.

Substitute Motion: To establish an ecosystem technical committee that consists of no more than eleven people. Membership includes two staff from NMFS, the Ecosystem SSC (3 members), two Standing SSC representatives, and up to four other stakeholder representatives. Members are appointed jointly by the Executive Director and Council Chair.

Substitute Motion carried with no opposition.

SHRIMP

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

Motion: In Action 1, to remove Alternative 3.

Alternative 3. Modify the target reduction goal for red snapper shrimp trawl bycatch mortality on red snapper from 67% less than the benchmark years of 2001-2003 to the percentage chosen by increments. Each increment would be an approximately equal percent reduction designed to reach the target reduction by 2032. The incremental changes would begin in the year of the effective date of the implementing rule and then occur:

- Option a.** Every 2 years
 - Suboption a: 60%
 - Suboption b: 56%

- Option b.** Every 5 years

Suboption a: 60%
Suboption b: 56%

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To add an Action to do any future changes for shrimp effort reduction threshold through a framework procedure.

Motion carried with no opposition.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Approval of 2019-2020 Operations Plan

Motion: To approve the 2019-2020 Operations Plan.

Motion carried with no opposition.

OTHER BUSINESS

Proposed Committee Roster Assignments October 2018 through October 2019

Motion: To approve the final Council Committee roster for October 2018 through October 2019.

Motion carried with no opposition.