

**Gulf Council Motions Report**  
**June 20-23, 2016**  
**Clearwater Beach, FL**

**DATA COLLECTION**

**Motion:** To accept the recommendations of the Data Collection Technical Committee and have staff include in the Generic For-Hire Electronic Reporting Amendment.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To direct staff to compile and cross reference various state data collection programs to identify minimum key data elements.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To convene the Data Collection Technical Committee to meet after the August Council meeting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

No motions

**GULF SEDAR**

**Motion:** To move the gray triggerfish benchmark assessment to 2017 and to move gray snapper to 2018.

Motion carried 15-0 with 2 abstentions.

**Motion:** To draft a letter to the SEFSC requesting that the fall plankton (larval) survey samples from the U.S. Gulf of Mexico for calendar year 2008 forward be processed in time for the next gray triggerfish benchmark assessment scheduled in 2017.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To request Council staff to work with the SEFSC staff to evaluate data poor species to determine which species are good candidates for future data poor assessments.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## SHRIMP

**Motion:** In Action 5, Issuance of Reserved Gulf Shrimp Vessel Permits, to eliminate Option c.  
**Option c** - assign the permit to a vessel that is of at least X length on the application.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To add to the SSC agenda a risk assessment for threshold permit values in Action 3, Minimum Threshold Number of Gulf Shrimp Vessel Permits, relative to turtle related constraints in the shrimp fishery.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## SPINY LOBSTER

**Motion:** To direct staff to start work on an amendment to revise the ACL including an option based on the Review Panel recommendation (1991-92 through 2015-16).

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** That there be a lower landings trigger based on the average of the three low landings years (2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004) that would initiate a review panel if below this average for two consecutive years (5.3 mp total catch).

Motion carried with no opposition.

## JOINT HABITAT/CORAL

### **Recommended Coral HAPCs Update**

**Motion:** To request at the August 2016 meeting of the Coral SSC, Coral AP and Shrimp AP that the group identify and rank the most important coral areas and provide this information to the Council in a report. Staff will use this report and Council input to draft a scoping document for evaluating HAPC or deep-sea coral areas.

Motion carried with no opposition.

### **Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

**Motion:** To have staff begin drafting a letter with Council comments relative to the DEIS for the Flower Garden Banks Sanctuary expansion.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To direct staff to develop a letter or white paper addressing fishing regulations relative to the DEIS Flower Garden Banks Sanctuary expansion.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## **REEF FISH**

### **Draft Amendment 36A – Red Snapper IFQ Modifications**

**Motion:** In Action 2.2, Method of Redistributing Shares, add an alternative to redistribute red snapper shares among grouper-tilefish shareholders in proportion to their grouper tilefish landings and redistribute grouper and tilefish shares among the red snapper shareholders.

**Substitute Motion:** In Action 2.2, Method of Redistributing Shares, add an alternative to redistribute red snapper shares among grouper-tilefish shareholders in proportion to their grouper tilefish shares and redistribute grouper and tilefish shares among the red snapper shareholders in proportion to their red snapper shares.

Substitute Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 2.2, Method of Redistributing Shares, add an alternative to redistribute unused red snapper and grouper-tilefish shares to the allocation-only account holders.

**Substitute Motion:** In Action 2.2, Method of Redistributing Shares, add an alternative to redistribute unused red snapper shares to grouper-tilefish allocation only account holders and unused grouper-tilefish shares to red snapper allocation-only account holders.

Substitute Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 2.2, Method of Redistributing Shares, move Alternative 4 to Considered but Rejected.

**Alternative 4:** Redistribute the shares equally among small participants (Action 2.3).

Motion carried 10-6.

**Motion:** In Action 2.2, Method of Redistributing Shares, move Alternative 5 to Considered but Rejected.

**Alternative 5:** Do not redistribute shares, but distribute the annual allocation associated with the shares to small participants (Action 2.3) through a NMFS quota bank each year.

**Substitute Motion:** In Action 2.2, Method of Redistributing Shares, to modify the wording in **Alternative 5:** to distribute the annual allocation associated with the shares through a NMFS quota bank each year.

**Option 5a,** distribute the allocation equally among participants.

**Option 5b,** distribute the red snapper allocation equally among participants who are fishing and landing red snapper in the eastern Gulf.

Substitute Motion carried with no opposition.

**Options Paper for Amendment 46 – Modify Gray Triggerfish Rebuilding Plan**

**Motion:** In Action 2, Establish Annual Catch Limits and Annual Catch Targets for Gray Triggerfish, move Alternative 3, Options b and c to Considered but Rejected.

**Alternative 3:** Use the SSC’s recommended rebuilding period of 8, 9, or 10 years from SEDAR 43 (2015).

**Option b.** Corresponds with the annual ABC’s recommended for 2017 through 2019 by the SSC that are estimated to rebuild the gray triggerfish stock in 9 years or by the end of 2025. Use the ACL/ACT control rule buffer for each sector based on landings from 2012 through 2015. This results in an 8% buffer between the ACL and ACT for the commercial sector and a 20% buffer between the ACL and ACT for the recreational sector.

Year	ABC	Commercial ACL	Commercial ACT (quota)	Recreational ACL	Recreational ACT
2017	399,000	83,790	77,087	315,210	252,168
2018	412,000	86,520	79,598	325,480	260,384
2019	417,000	87,570	80,564	329,430	263,544

**Option c.** Corresponds with the annual ABC’s recommended for 2017 through 2019 by the SSC that are estimated to rebuild the gray triggerfish stock in 10 years or by the end of 2026. Use the ACL/ACT control rule buffer for each sector based on landings from 2012 through 2015. This results in an 8% buffer between the ACL and ACT for the commercial sector and a 20% buffer between the ACL and ACT for the recreational sector.

Year	ABC	Commercial ACL	Commercial ACT (quota)	Recreational ACL	Recreational ACT
2017	546,000	114,660	105,487	431,340	345,072
2018	554,000	116,340	107,033	437,660	350,128
2019	555,000	116,550	107,226	438,450	350,760

Motion carried 14-3.

**Mutton Snapper ACLs and Management Measures**

**Motion:** In Action 2, Modify Mutton Snapper Recreational Bag Limit in Gulf of Mexico, to specify spawning months as April through June.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 3, Modify Mutton Snapper Commercial Trip Limit in the Gulf of Mexico, to specify spawning months as April through June.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Draft Amendment 41 – Red Snapper Management for Federally Permitted Charter Vessels**

**Motion:** In Action 1, Allocation-based Management Approach, to add under Alternative 3, Option 3c, every five years and in Action 2, to add Option 2d, every five years.

**Alternative 3:** Establish a Permit Fishing Allocation (PFA) program (Section C) that provides annual allocation only. Annual allocation will be calculated

**Option 3a:** each year.

**Option 3b:** every three years.

**Option 3c:** every five years.

**Action 2, Alternative 2:** Establish a voluntary red snapper management program for charter vessels. The program would include only charter vessels with a valid or renewable federal for-hire permit for reef fish who elected to join the red snapper management program for charter vessels. An endorsement to the federal for-hire permit for reef fish would be issued to those for-hire permit holders who elected to join the red snapper management program for charter vessels. Any charter vessel that opts out of the red snapper management program will not be able to harvest red snapper. Opportunities to join or to opt-out from the red snapper management program for charter vessels are offered:

**Option 2a:** once, at the implementation of the program.

**Option 2b:** every year.

**Option 2c:** every 3 years.

**Option 2d:** every 5 years.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 2, Program Participation, to clarify, that vessels are presumed to be under the program unless they exercise some affirmative action to opt out.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 3, Distribution of Quota to Charter Vessels, Alternative 5a, to change 2012 to 2013.

**Option 5a:** Average landings for years 2003 to ~~2012~~ 2013, excluding landings in 2010.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To ask staff to evaluate the recreational for-hire red snapper season to open April 20 through May 31 and reopen in September, and to open June 1 through June 30, and reopen October 1 until the projected end of the season.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Draft Amendment 42 – Federal Reef Fish Headboat Management**

No motions

**Final Action Amendment 43 – Hogfish Stock Definition, SDC, ACL, and Size Limit**

**Motion:** To recommend to change the language in Action 3, Preferred Alternative 3, from 219,000 lbs to 159,300 lbs after 2018.

**Preferred Alternative 3:** A constant catch ACL is set at 219,000 lbs ww based on the constant catch ABC recommendation for the years 2016-2018 of the SSC. The ACL will revert to 219,000 lbs after 2018 until modified by rulemaking.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 4, Hogfish Minimum Size Limit for Commercial and Recreational Sectors, to change the Preferred Alternative from Alternative 4 to Alternative 2.

**Alternative 2:** Set the hogfish minimum size limit at 14 inches FL.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To have the Council approve Amendment 43, Hogfish Stock Definition, SDC, ACL, and Size Limit, 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.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Guyas - Yes	Mr. Walker - Yes	Mr. Matens - Yes
Mr. Greene - Yes	Dr. Dana - Yes	Dr. Lucas - Yes
Mr. Sanchez - Yes	Mr. Swindell - Yes	Mr. Riechers - Yes
Mr. Diaz - Yes	Mr. Fischer - Yes	Dr. Stunz - Yes
Mr. Williams - Yes	Ms. Bosarge - Yes	Mr. Anson - Yes
Mr. Boyd - Yes	Dr. Crabtree - Yes	

**Final Action Amendment 45 – Extend or Eliminate the Red Snapper Sector Separation Sunset Provision**

**Motion:** To approve Amendment 45 – Extend or Eliminate the Sunset Provision on Sector Separation, 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.

**Motion:** To table the above Committee motion until Mr. Sanchez provides his motion.

Motion carried 9 to 8.

**Motion:** In Action 2.1, Revise the Provision that Sunsets Sector Separation, to make Alternative 2, Option 2b the Preferred Alternative.

**Preferred Alternative 2:** Extend the separate management of the federal for-hire and private angling components (sector separation) for an additional:

**Option 2b:** 5 calendar years (to be effective through the end of the 2022 fishing year).

Motion carried 9 to 8.

**Substitute Motion:** In Action 2.1, Revise the Provision that Sunsets Sector Separation, to make Alternative 1, the Preferred Alternative.

**Alternative 1:** No Action. The separate management of the federal for-hire and private angling components (sector separation) will be effective through the end of the 2017 fishing year under the existing sunset provision.

Substitute Motion failed 4-12

**Untabled Motion:** To approve Amendment 45 – Extend or Eliminate the Sunset Provision on Sector Separation, 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.

Motion carried 12 to 5 by roll call vote.

Mr. Diaz - Yes	Dr. Dana - Yes	Mr. Greene Yes
Dr. Crabtree - Yes	Mr. Fischer - Yes	Ms. Bosarge - Yes
Dr. Lucas - Yes	Dr. Stunz - No	Ms. Guyas - No
Mr. Swindell - Yes	Mr. Matens - No	Mr. Sanchez - Yes
Mr. Boyd - No	Mr. Williams - Yes	Mr. Anson - Yes
Mr. Riechers - No	Mr. Walker - Yes	

### **Ad Hoc Advisory Panel for Recreational Red Snapper Management**

**Motion:** That the Council assemble an Ad Hoc Advisory Panel of private boat recreational fishermen and charge them to develop fair and effective ways to mitigate the red snapper derby and populate this Committee and convene them for their first meeting after hearing results from the Recreational Angler Focus Group.

**Substitute Motion:** That the Council assemble an Ad Hoc Advisory Panel of private boat recreational fishermen and charge them to develop fair and effective ways to mitigate the red snapper derby and populate this Committee and convene them for their first meeting after hearing results from the Recreational Angler Focus Group by January 2017.

Substitute Motion carried with no opposition.

### **Standing and Reef Fish SSC Report**

**Motion:** To have the Council begin a plan amendment to specify ACL and MSY proxies for vermilion snapper.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To direct staff to start a Framework Action to develop a method to carry over the unharvested red snapper ACL to the following season.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To recommend the Council establish an ad hoc workgroup with the Executive Director's discretion in appointments to assist the SSC in addressing MSY proxies.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To ask the Council to direct the Science & Statistical Committee (SSC), for its August 2016 meeting, to review analyses for red snapper at  $F_{MAX}$ ,  $F_{20\% SPR}$ ,  $F_{22\% SPR}$ , and  $F_{24\% SPR}$  and provide advice regarding the risk of overfishing if any of these potential reference points were used for red snapper given their life history characteristics and new scientific information regarding the generic relationship between life histories and productivity.

Motion carried with no opposition.

### **Other Business**

**Motion:** To direct staff to create a new amendment for management of red snapper for the private recreational fishery in the Gulf of Mexico considering all options including regional management with input from the Ad Hoc Private Recreational Advisory Panel.

Motion carried by a vote of 9 to 6 with 1 abstention.

## **MACKEREL**

### **CMP Amendment 29**

**Motion:** In Action 1, Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel Quota Sharing, to have staff replace the original Alternative 2 with the revised Alternative 2 as presented by staff in full Council.

**Alternative 2:** Conditionally transfer a certain percentage (*Options 2a-2d*) of the stock ACL annually to the commercial sector. If this threshold is met (*Options 2e-2g*), in the following fishing year, the amount of the stock ACL transferred to the commercial sector will be reduced by



50%. If the threshold is met in the following fishing year, the recreational and commercial allocations will revert to 68% for the recreational sector and 32% for the commercial sector at the beginning of the following recreational fishing year. If the threshold is not met in the following fishing year, then the recreational and commercial allocations will revert to the conditional quota transfer option chosen (*Options 2a-2d*).

*Conditional Quota Transfer (MUST CHOOSE ONE):*

**Option 2a:** Transfer 5% of the stock ACL to the commercial sector.

**Option 2b:** Transfer 10% of the stock ACL to the commercial sector.

**Option 2c:** Transfer 15% of the stock ACL to the commercial sector.

**Option 2d:** Transfer 20% of the stock ACL to the commercial sector.

*Recreational ACL Threshold (MUST CHOOSE ONE):*

**Option 2e:** Revert to the status quo sector allocations if 80% of the adjusted recreational sector ACL is landed.

**Option 2f:** Revert to the status quo sector allocations if 90% of the adjusted recreational sector ACL is landed.

**Option 2g:** Revert to the status quo sector allocations if 100% of the adjusted recreational sector ACL is landed.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 1, Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel Quota Sharing, to approve the new language for Alternative 5 as presented by staff at full Council.

**Alternative 5:** Establish a sunset provision for any modifications in the sector quota sharing. After the predetermined time period, any modifications in sector quota sharing would revert back to the status-quo sector allocations (68% recreational and 32% commercial).

**Option 5a:** Sunset any change in sector allocations after a five year period (2017-2021).

**Option 5b:** Sunset any change in sector allocations after a ten year period (2017-2026).

**Option 5c:** Sunset any change in sector allocations after a fifteen year period (2017-2031).

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 1, Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel Quota Sharing, to accept Alternatives 1, 3, and 4 as written.

**Alternative 1:** No Action – Do not establish a quota sharing system. Maintain the current recreational and commercial allocations for Gulf of Mexico migratory group king mackerel (68% recreational, 32% commercial).

**Alternative 3:** If the stock ACL is not met in a fishing year, establish a “carry-over credit” derived from the difference between the total pounds of king mackerel landed in both sectors and the stock ACL for that same fishing year. In the following fishing season, the credit would transfer to the ACL for the sector which met or exceeded its ACL from the ACL for the sector which did not. This carry-over credit would only apply if a minimum percentage of the stock ACL was not harvested in a given fishing year (*Options 3a-3c*), and only a certain percentage of

the unharvested ACL from the previous fishing year would make up the carry-over credit (*Options 3d-3f*). The carry-over credit would only be valid for a single fishing year.

*Remaining Stock ACL Threshold (MUST CHOOSE ONE):*

**Option 3a:** At least 15% of the stock ACL remains unharvested.

**Option 3b:** At least 20% of the stock ACL remains unharvested.

**Option 3c:** At least 25% of the stock ACL remains unharvested.

*Percentage of Remaining ACL to Transfer (MUST CHOOSE ONE):*

**Option 3d:** The carry-over credit will be equal to 20% of the unharvested stock ACL.

**Option 3e:** The carry-over credit will be equal to 30% of the unharvested stock ACL.

**Option 3f:** The carry-over credit will be equal to 40% of the unharvested stock ACL.

**Alternative 4:** If the stock ACL is not met in a fishing year, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will be convened to consider increasing the acceptable biological catch (ABC) for the following fishing year only. If the SSC recommends increasing the ABC, the amount of the increase would be added to the ACL of the sector which met its ACL in the previous fishing year. Consideration of an ABC adjustment by the SSC would only be requested if a minimum percentage of the stock ACL was not harvested in a given fishing season (*Options 4a-4c*). If one of Options 4a-4c is not chosen as preferred, and the stock ACL has not been landed, then the SSC will consider raising the ABC by default:

*Remaining Stock ACL Threshold (CHOOSE ONE):*

**Option 4a:** At least 15% of the stock ACL remains unharvested.

**Option 4b:** At least 20% of the stock ACL remains unharvested.

**Option 4c:** At least 25% of the stock ACL remains unharvested.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 2, Adjust the Recreational Accountability Measure (AM) for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel, to modify Alternative 2, to replace the current in-season AM with a post-season AM. If the recreational ACL as adjusted in Action 1 is exceeded, the bag limit will be reduced to two fish per person per day.

**Alternative 2:** Replace the current in-season AM with a post-season AM. If the recreational ACL as adjusted in Action 1 is exceeded, the bag limit will be reduced to two fish per person per day. After the following fishing year, if the ACL was not exceeded again, the bag limit of three fish per person per day will be reinstated.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 2, Adjust the Recreational Accountability Measure (AM) for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel, to remove the words “as adjusted” in Alternatives 1, 2, and 3.

**Alternative 1:** No Action – Retain the in-season recreational AM. If recreational landings reach or are projected to reach the recreational ACL, the bag limit will be reduced to zero for the remainder of the fishing year.

**Alternative 2:** Replace the current in-season AM with a post-season AM. If the recreational ACL is exceeded, the bag limit will be reduced to two fish per person per day. After the following fishing year, if the ACL was not exceeded again, the bag limit of three fish per person per day will be reinstated.

**Alternative 3:** Replace the current in-season AM with a post-season AM. If the recreational ACL is exceeded, the length of the following fishing season will be reduced by the amount necessary to ensure the landings do not exceed the ACL.

Motion carried with no opposition

**Motion:** In Action 2, Adjust the Recreational Accountability Measure (AM) for Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel, to accept the three alternatives as modified.

Motion carried with no opposition.

### **CMP Framework Amendment 5**

**Motion:** In Action 1, Modify Restrictions Applicable to Federal Pelagic Commercial Permits for King and Spanish Mackerel, to make Alternatives 2 and 3 the preferred Alternatives.

**Alternative 2:** Remove the restriction on retaining the recreational bag limit of king mackerel on a vessel with a federal pelagic commercial permit for king mackerel that is fishing recreationally when the commercial zone in which the vessel is fishing is closed.

**Alternative 3:** Remove the restriction on retaining the recreational bag limit of Spanish mackerel on a vessel with a federal pelagic commercial permit for Spanish mackerel when the commercial Spanish mackerel fishing season is closed.

Motion carried with no opposition.

### **Other Business**

**Motion:** To request the SEFSC provide the SSC with updated OFL and ABC yield streams for Gulf migratory group king mackerel for the 2017/2018 to 2019/2020 fishing seasons.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

No motions