

Gulf Council Motions Report
April 8 – 11, 2024
Gulf Shores, Alabama

SHRIMP

Biological Review of the Texas Closure

Motion: To request that NMFS continue with the Texas Federal Closure in the coming year in conjunction with the state of Texas Closure in 2024.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Draft Shrimp Framework Action: Modification of the Vessel Position Data Collection Program for the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery

Motion: In Alternative 3, to replace “a non-OLE” with “the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC)”.

Substitute Motion: In Alternative 3, to replace “a non-OLE server” with “the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) or Office of Science and Technology”.

Substitute Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To request NMFS adopt the following priorities for utilizing the FY24 \$850,000 appropriation for ELB development and implementation:

1. Sufficient funding to ensure the SEFSC server has capacity to receive and store shrimp fishery vessel position data.
2. Develop a statistically robust design for distributing units to a representative portion of the fleet that would be comparable to the last 10 years.
3. Cover the cost of providing units and cellular service to those shrimp vessels, pursuant to the Early Adopter Program.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Other Business - Discussion of Certification Non-compliance

Motion: Request staff prepare a letter to respond to the request for input on non-compliance of Responsible Fisheries Management Certification in the shrimp industry.

Motion carried with no opposition.

GULF SEDAR

No motions.

DATA COLLECTION

Amendment Document: Draft Options

Motion: To have the IPT explore how to incorporate economic data collection into the amendment.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To request that NMFS examine the possibility of randomly sampling economic data from charter for-hire reporting system participants, and report back to the Council on the viability of this approach at the next Council meeting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To request staff bring back a suite of validation options to include the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Charter-for-Hire Data Collection AP.

Motion carried with no opposition.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion: To select the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Northwest Offshore Patrol Vessel (PV) Team for the 2023 Law Enforcement Team of the Year.

Motion carried with no opposition.

REEF FISH

Review of Reef Fish and Individual Fishing Quota Program Landings

Motion: Request staff develop a document to adjust the Annual Catch Target (ACT) buffer for the Federal water Charter for Hire red snapper sector.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: Request staff develop a document to adjust the for-hire red snapper season and private recreational red snapper accountability measures.

B4. To request staff develop a document to adjust the for-hire red snapper season and private red snapper AMs.				
First Name	Last Name			
Scott	Bannon	Yes		
Susan	Boggs		No	
Billy	Broussard	Yes		
Dale	Diaz	Yes		
JD	Dugas			Abstain
Anthony	Overton	Yes		
Tom	Frazer	Yes		
Dakus	Geeslin	Yes		
Bob	Gill	Yes		
Michael	McDermott	Yes		
Chris	Schieble	Yes		
Joe	Spraggins	Yes		
Andy	Strelcheck	Yes		
Kesley	Banks	Yes		
CJ	Sweetman	Yes		
Troy	Williamson	Yes		
Ed	Walker	Yes		
Results - Passed	Subtotals	Yes (15)	No (1)	Abs (1)

Motion carried 15 to 1 with 1 abstention.

Presentation: 2024 Gag and Red Grouper Recreational Season Projections

Motion: To direct staff to explore the removal of the 20-fathom closure for shallow water grouper for the recreational fishery in the months of February and March in the Gulf of Mexico.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Discussion of Conservation and Management of Wenchman in the Mid-water Snapper Complex

Motion: To discontinue work on Reef Fish Amendment 61.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Review: February 2023 Gulf SSC Meeting Summary – SEDAR 85 – Gulf Yellowedge Grouper

Motion: The Council recognizes the results of the SEDAR 85 stock assessment and the SSC’s recommendations for catch limits for the deep-water grouper complex, and requests staff to begin development of a document to modify the deep-water grouper catch limits accordingly.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Presentation on Reef Fish Amendment 60: Individual Fishing Quota Programmatic Distributional Issues

Motion: To include in the development of amendment 60 a method to equitably reclaim all shares and to distribute the commercial allocation through a public auction to be administered by an independent third party.

B9.1 to include in the development of amendment 60 a method to equitably reclaim all shares and to distribute the comm allocation through				
First Name	Last Name			
Scott	Bannon		No	
Susan	Boggs		No	
Billy	Broussard		No	
Dale	Diaz		No	
JD	Dugas			Abstain
Anthony	Overton	Yes		
Tom	Frazer		No	
Dakus	Geeslin	Yes		
Bob	Gill		No	
Michael	McDermott		No	
Chris	Schieble		No	
Joe	Spraggins		No	
Andy	Strelcheck		No	
Kesley	Banks			Abstain
CJ	Sweetman		No	
Troy	Williamson	Yes		
Ed	Walker		No	
Results - Failed	Subtotals	Yes (3)	No (12)	Abs (2)

Motion failed 3 to 12 with 2 abstentions.

Motion: To approve the following purpose and need and list of actions for inclusion in Amendment 60:

Purpose: The purpose of this action is to increase access and opportunities to Gulf of Mexico IFQ programs by equitably distributing IFQ shares and allocation held by NMFS and reclaimed from inactive accounts or accounts not meeting certain eligibility requirements.

Need: The need for this action is to address access barriers creating inequities in the Gulf of Mexico IFQ fisheries.

Actions

1. What shares to redistribute (reclaimed, inactive, other)
2. What allocation to redistribute (quota increases, other)
3. Redistribution methods
4. Eligibility criteria (shares, allocation)
5. Appeals process

B9.2 To approve the following purpose and need and list of actions for inclusion in Amendment 60: Purpose, Need, Actions				
First Name	Last Name			
Scott	Bannon	Yes		
Susan	Boggs	Yes		
Billy	Broussard	Yes		
Dale	Diaz	Yes		
JD	Dugas			Abstain
Anthony	Overton	Yes		
Tom	Frazer	Yes		
Dakus	Geeslin	Yes		
Bob	Gill	Yes		
Michael	McDermott	Yes		
Chris	Schieble	Yes		
Joe	Spraggins	Yes		
Andy	Strelcheck	Yes		
Kesley	Banks	Yes		
CJ	Sweetman	Yes		
Troy	Williamson			
Ed	Walker	Yes		
Results - Passed	Subtotals	Yes (15)	No (0)	Abs (1)

Motion carried 15 to 0 with 1 abstention and 1 absent.

MACKEREL

Draft Framework Amendment 14: Modifications to Gulf Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel Catch Limits and Accountability Measures

Motion: To make **Alternative 2** the preferred alternative in Action 1.

Alternative 2: Modify the OFL, ABC, and stock ACL as recommended by the Council’s SSC, for 2025/2026 – 2027/2028 and subsequent fishing years. Retain the stock ACL being set equal to the ABC.

Fishing Year	OFL	ABC	ACL
2025/2026 – 2027/2028 +	12.074	9.630	9.630

Catch limit values are in mp lw. Note: OFL and ABC as recommended by the Gulf Council’s SSC in lbs whole weight (ww). The recreational portion of the OFL, ABC, and ACL are based on MRIP-FES data. For management purposes, landed weight and whole weight are treated synonymously.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To make **Alternative 2** the preferred alternative in Action 2.

Alternative 2: Modify the AM for Gulf Spanish mackerel. If the stock ACL is exceeded in a fishing year, then in the following fishing year, the Regional Administrator will close the fishing season for Gulf Spanish mackerel for the commercial and recreational fishing sectors if the stock ACL is projected to be reached.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To add an Action to Framework Amendment 14 looking at bag limits.

Motion carried with no opposition.