

**Gulf Council Motions Report  
January 27 – 30, 2020  
New Orleans, Louisiana**

**ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET**

**Updates to Administrative Handbook**

**Motion:** To accept the revisions to the administrative handbook as presented.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Review of Advisory Panels**

**Motion:** To disband the Red Snapper Private Angler Ad Hoc Advisory Panel.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To re-advertise for new members for the CMP and Red Drum Advisory Panels.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**CORAL**

No motions.

**SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES**

**Public Hearing Draft Amendment Reef Fish 48/Red Drum 5: Status Determination  
Criteria and Optimum Yield for Reef Fish and Red Drum**

**Motion:** In Action 1, to make Alternative 2, Option 2b and Alternative 3, Option 3b the preferred alternatives.

**Alternative 2:** For stocks or complexes that do not have an MSY proxy, the MSY proxy is the yield when fishing at:

**Option 2b:** the yield when fishing at 30% spawning potential ratio (F30% SPR).

**Alternative 3:** For goliath grouper, the MSY proxy is the yield when fishing at:

**Option 3b:** the yield when fishing at 40% spawning potential ratio (F40% SPR).

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

**Alternative 4:** For red drum, the MSY proxy is the yield when fishing at:

**Option 4a:** the yield that provides for an escapement rate of juvenile fish to the spawning stock biomass (SSB) equivalent to 30% of those that would have escaped had there been no inshore fishery.

Motion carried 14 to 2.

**Motion:** In Action 1, to make Alternative 5 the preferred.

**Alternative 5:** For future assessments of reef fish stocks and red drum, the MSY proxy equals the yield produced by FMSY or F<sub>Proxy</sub> recommended by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's (Gulf Council) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and subject to approval by the Gulf Council through a plan amendment.

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

**Alternative 2:** For stocks where an MSY proxy has not been defined, set the MFMT equal to the fishing mortality at the MSY proxy for each stock or stock complex as determined in Action 1.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 3, to make Alternative 3 and Alternative 5 the preferred Alternatives.

**Alternative 3:**  $MSST = 0.75 * B_{MSY}$  (or proxy). This alternative applies to stocks and stock complexes in Action 1.

**Alternative 5.** For stocks assessed across the South Atlantic and Gulf Councils' jurisdictions (goliath grouper, mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper, and black grouper). MSST for these species would use existing definitions of MSST defined by the South Atlantic Council.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To remove Options 2d and 3d from Action 4.1.

**Option 2d.**  $(ACL/OFL) * MSY$  or MSY proxy; or zero if the OFL equals zero.

**Option 3d.**  $(ACL/OFL) * MSY$  or MSY proxy; or zero if the OFL equals zero.

Motion failed 0 to 16.

**Motion:** In Action 4.1 to add an Option 3d for Alternative 3: Option 3d. OY = zero

Motion failed 0 to 16.

**Motion:** In Action 4.2 to make Alternative 1 the preferred.

**Alternative 1:** No action. Maintain the red drum optimum yield (OY) for red drum:

- All red drum recreationally and commercially harvested from state waters landed consistent with state laws and regulations under a goal of allowing 30 percent escapement of the juvenile population.
- All red drum commercially or recreationally harvested from the Primary Area of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) under the total allowable catch (TAC) level and allocations specified under the provisions of the FMP, and a zero retention level from the Secondary Areas of the EEZ. (Note: TAC for the EEZ has been set at zero since 1988.)

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Framework Action: Modification of Fishing Access in Eastern Gulf of Mexico Marine Protected Areas**

**Motion:** To add an Alternative to Action 2 to read: The possession of any species of Gulf reef fish is prohibited year-round in the Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps MPAs.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**MIGRATORY SPECIES**

No motions.

**REEF FISH**

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

**Motion:** In Action 1, to add an Alternative 5:

**Alternative 5:** In order to obtain (transfer into a shareholder account), or maintain shares (hold existing shares in a shareholder account), shareholder accounts established after October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 (Reef Fish AP meeting date) must be associated with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit. A shareholder account is considered to be associated with a permit if the permit has the exact same entities listed on both the shareholder account and permit.

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

**Alternative 2:** In order to obtain (transfer into a shareholder account) or maintain shares (hold existing shares in a shareholder account), all shareholder accounts must be associated with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit. A shareholder account is considered to be associated with a permit if the permit has the exact same entities listed on both the shareholder account and permit.

Motion failed 0 to 14.

**Motion:** In Action 2, to add a new Option 2c to Alternative 2 and Option 3c to Alternative 3.

**Alternative 2:** A shareholder account with shares that is not associated with a commercial reef fish permit must divest of shares as needed to meet the requirements set in Action 1 or the shares will be reclaimed by NMFS:

**Option 2c:** Within 5 years following the effective date of the final rule implementing this amendment.

**Alternative 3:** After implementation of this amendment, if a shareholder account no longer has an associated valid or renewable reef fish permit (i.e., the permit is transferred or is not renewed within one year of the expiration date and is terminated), the shareholders must divest of the account's shares as needed to meet the requirements set in Action 1 or the shares will be reclaimed by NMFS:

**Option 3c:** Within 5 years following the transfer or termination of the permit.

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

**Alternative 2:** A shareholder account with shares that is not associated with a commercial reef fish permit must divest of shares as needed to meet the requirements set in Action 1 or the shares will be reclaimed by NMFS:

**Option 2c:** Within 5 years following the effective date of the final rule implementing this amendment.

Motion failed 0 to 15.

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

**Alternative 3:** After implementation of this amendment, if a shareholder account no longer has an associated valid or renewable reef fish permit (i.e., the permit is transferred or is not renewed within one year of the expiration date and is terminated), the shareholders must divest of the account's shares as needed to meet the requirements set in Action 1 or the shares will be reclaimed by NMFS:

**Option 3a:** Within 1 year following the transfer or termination of the permit.

Motion failed 0 to 12.

**Draft Framework Action to Modify Greater Amberjack Recreational Management Measures**

**Motion:** To defer further consideration of recreational greater amberjack management measures until the new assessment is completed.

Motion carried with one opposed.

**SSC Report: Lane Snapper FES-Adjusted Catch Recommendations**

**Motion:** To direct staff to prepare a Framework Action to adjust lane snapper catch levels and present it at the April Council 2020 meeting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Draft Options Paper for Amendment 53: Red Grouper Allocations and Catch Levels**

**Motion:** In Action 2, to add an Alternative 4:

Revise the OFL and ABC as recommended by the SSC and consistent with the allocation selected in Action 1. The total ACL equals the ABC. Apply the ACL/ACT Control Rule to revise the buffer between the ACL and ACT for the recreational sector. The commercial buffer is 5%, and the recreational buffer is 9%.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Draft Amendment 52: Red Snapper Sector Allocations**

**Motion:** To delay consideration of Amendment 52 until the red snapper stock assessment is complete.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Other Business**

**Motion:** To direct staff to have an agenda item at an upcoming meeting that evaluates possible carryovers of uncaught commercial quota.

Motion carried with no opposition.