

Gulf Council Motions Report

June 15 – 18, 2020

Webinar

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

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

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

Alternative 2: Prohibit fishing year-round in the Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps MPAs. This prohibition does not apply to Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS).

Motion carried with two opposed.

Motion: In Action 2, make Alternative 3 the preferred alternative.

Alternative 3: The possession of any species of Gulf reef fish is prohibited year-round in the Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps MPAs, with no exception for vessels in transit.

Substitute Motion: In Action 2, to add an Alternative 4 and make it the preferred alternative.

Alternative 4. The possession of any species of Gulf reef fish is prohibited year-round in the Madison-Swanson and Steam Boat Lumps MPA, except on a vessel in transit with gear stowed with a VMS and valid commercial reef fish permit.

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

Substitute Motion carried 9 to 6 with one absent and one abstention.

Second Substitute Motion: In Action 2, to add an Alternative 4 and make it the preferred alternative.

Alternative 4. The possession of any species of gulf reef fish is prohibited in the Madison-Swanson and Steam Boat Lumps MPA except on a vessel in transit with fishing gear stowed.

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

Second Substitute Motion failed 4 to 10 with one absent and two abstentions.

Motion: For the Council write a letter to the NMFS Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Division requesting commensurate regulations for HMS species in the Madison Swanson and Steamboat Lumps MPAs.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To approve the Framework Action: Modification of Fishing Access in Eastern Gulf of Mexico Marine Protected Areas 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. Bosarge – yes	Mr. Banks – yes
Dr. Crabtree – yes	Mr. Sanchez – yes	Mr. Swindell – yes
Dr. Mickle – yes	Mr. Robinson – yes	Ms. Guyas – yes
Dr. Stunz – yes	Ms. Boggs – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes
Mr. Williamson – yes	Dr. Shipp – absent	Dr. Frazer – yes
Mr. Dugas – yes	Mr. Dyskow – yes	

Motion carried 16 to 0 with one absent.

SEDAR

No motions.

DATA COLLECTION

Update on Southeast For-hire Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) Program

Motion: The Council recommend NMFS delay the for-hire electronic reporting logbook program final rule effective January 1, 2021 and make the rule effective the same date as the SAFMC for-hire program.

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

Motion carried 16 to 0 with one absent and one abstention.

Motion: The Council send a letter to SERO requesting that NMFS reach out to MS DMR and schedule a meeting, to take place prior to the August Council meeting, between relevant SEFHIER personnel and MS DMR personnel to begin discussions on the overlap of and the integration of SEFHIER reporting and Tails and Scales reporting for federally permitted for-hire fishermen.

Motion carried with no opposition.

REEF FISH

Presentation and Discussion on Calibration Process for Red Snapper with the Gulf States

Motion: To send a letter from the Council Chair to Sam Rauch asking for NOAA Fisheries leadership designate the state/federal private recreational data calibration a high priority within the agency with the goal of achieving calibrations necessary to establish a common currency for state recreational red snapper landings with the federal landings. Specifically, the Council requests finalization of the state/federal calibration workshop before July 31, 2020. Materials requested for distribution to workshop participants should include all prior state survey workshop summaries and consultant reports. The workshop should also include time to investigate surveys or methodologies that will assist with future harvest comparisons or calibrations. A workshop report is requested to be completed before the August 2020 Council meeting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: Request that Council and SERO staff work together to begin developing options to address calibrations for red snapper necessary to achieve a common currency for private recreational fishery data. Staff may consider potential allocation changes (in state currencies) for each Gulf state that would be necessary to maintain the existing state ACLs as calibrated to the various state data collection programs. Staff should also consider private recreational Gulf-wide or state specific buffers necessary to calibrate the state surveys to the MRIP-CHTS data.

Motion carried with one opposed and one absent.

Motion: The Council write a letter to the states emphasizing the preliminary calibrations and uncertainty surrounding those calibrations, and the potential consequences on catch rates exceeding the private recreational quota in the 2020 season. Ask the states to consider adjusting

their individual state quotas and/or state seasons accordingly based on not only the preliminary calibrations provided at the June 2020 Council meeting, but also any in-house state calibrations.

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

Motion failed 7 to 8 with one absent and one abstention.

Review of SEDAR 67: Gulf of Mexico Vermilion Snapper Stock Assessment

Motion: To direct staff to initiate work on a Framework Action to modify the OFL, ABC, and ACL for vermilion snapper based on SSC recommendations.

Motion carried with no opposition with one absent.

ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET

Discussion of SOPPs: Section 3.0-Council Meetings

Motion: To make the changes to the SOPPs in Sections 3.0 and 3.6 to read:

3.0 Council Meetings

The Council prefers in-person meetings with the ability to freely discuss and exchange information and interact with the public. However, health, budgetary, and/or time constraints may require virtual participation of a Council member when an in-person Council meeting is held. Therefore, Council members must be physically present at in-person Council meetings in order to present a motion or vote, unless approved to do so remotely by a majority decision of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Executive Director.

3.6 Location

The Council meetings will ordinarily be held within the five state geographical area. However, if the Council determines that the best interests of the work of the Council, its committees, advisory groups or panels, in joint management actions with other Councils, will be better served, meetings may be held outside of the five state area, particularly in any of the constituent states affected by a joint management plan. Public access will be given primary consideration in meeting plans. The Council Chair with input from staff will select the meeting sites for the Council with the understanding that members are given adequate advance notice.

The Council prefers holding in-person meetings; however, national emergencies, health

pandemics, natural catastrophes, budgetary, and time sensitive issues may require the use of remote meeting technologies. In these rare cases, the Council is prepared to hold virtual meetings using alternative technologies for committee and Council meetings. Members of the public will be given the opportunity to provide written and/or verbal comments during virtual meetings of the full Council.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Other Business

Motion: To allow a temporary exception to the Chair & Vice Chair two-year term limit for the upcoming year allowing the Chair & Vice Chair to serve a third term.

Motion carried with no opposition.

2019 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/TEAM OF THE YEAR ANNOUCEMENT

The Council chose Sergeant Scott Dupree from Louisiana to be the 2019 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.