

1 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
2
3 SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES COMMITTEE
4

5 Beau Rivage Resort and Casino Biloxi, Mississippi
6

7 October 24, 2022
8

9 **VOTING MEMBERS**

10 C.J. Sweetman (designee for Jessica McCawley).....Florida
11 Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon).....Alabama
12 Susan Boggs.....Alabama
13 Billy Broussard.....Louisiana
14 J.D. Dugas.....Louisiana
15 Tom Frazer.....Florida
16 Bob Gill.....Florida
17 Michael McDermott.....Mississippi
18 Joe Spraggins.....Mississippi
19 Andy Strelcheck.....NMFS
20 Greg Stunz.....Texas
21

22 **NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

23 Glenn Constant.....USFWS
24 Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
25 Phil Dyskow.....Florida
26 Dakus Geeslin (designee for Robin Riechers).....Texas
27 Lisa Motoi.....USCG
28 Chris Schieble.....Louisiana
29 Bob Shipp.....Alabama
30 Troy Williamson.....Texas
31

32 **STAFF**

33 Matt Freeman.....Economist
34 John Froeschke.....Deputy Director
35 Beth Hager.....Administrative Officer
36 Lisa Hollensead.....Fishery Biologist
37 Ava Lasseter.....Anthropologist
38 Mary Levy.....NOAA General Counsel
39 Jessica Matos.....Administrative and Accounting Technician
40 Natasha Mendez-Ferrer.....Fishery Biologist
41 Emily Muehlstein.....Public Information Officer
42 Ryan Rindone.....Lead Fishery Biologist/SEDAR Liaison
43 Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager
44 Carrie Simmons.....Executive Director
45 Carly Somerset.....Fisheries Outreach Specialist
46

47 **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

48 Chester Brewer.....SAFMC
49 Jessica McCawley.....FWC, FL

1 Sean Powers.....SSC
2 John Walter.....SEFSC
3
4 - - -
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PAGE 17: Motion that Florida pompano is not in need of federal conservation and management at this time. The motion carried on page 18.

PAGE 22: Motion to request staff to begin work on a presentation that addresses the need for conservation and management of African pompano. The motion failed on page 26.

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1 The Sustainable Fisheries Committee of the Gulf of Mexico
2 Fishery Management Council convened at the Beau Rivage Resort
3 and Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi on Monday morning, October 24,
4 2022, and was called to order by Chairman C.J. Sweetman.

5
6 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
7 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
8 **ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**
9

10 **CHAIRMAN C.J. SWEETMAN:** I will call the Sustainable Fisheries
11 Committee to order. Bear with me as I work through my first
12 chair duties on the committee here. Our first action item is to
13 adopt the agenda, and that is Tab E, Number 1. Are there any
14 modifications to the agenda? Seeing none, are there any
15 objections? Seeing none, the agenda is adopted.

16
17 I will note that, during the pompano discussion, the Florida
18 pompano discussion, I will pass the gavel over to the Vice
19 Chair, Dr. Stunz, and then I will resume the chair duties after
20 that discussion is over.

21
22 Moving on to the Approval of the August 2022 Meeting Minutes,
23 are there any modifications to the meeting minutes? Seeing
24 none, any objections? Seeing none, the August minutes are
25 approved, and so our next item is the Action Guide and Next
26 Steps, and I will hand that over to Dr. Hollensead.

27
28 **DR. LISA HOLLENSEAD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The first agenda
29 item, as, Mr. Chair, you had stated, is to review the Florida
30 pompano landings and requirements for consideration. If the
31 committee will recall, there was the petition made to
32 potentially add Florida pompano to the federal fisheries
33 management.

34
35 However, before any determination was made, the council decided
36 to get some more information, and so council staff, council and
37 SERO staff, will present the historical landings of the Florida
38 pompano in Gulf waters by state, with comments on the types of
39 gear used to harvest the species. Landings will be presented as
40 those from either state or federal waters. The committee should
41 work through the requirements specific to Florida pompano and
42 make recommendations to the council, as appropriate. Mr. Chair.

43
44 **REVIEW OF FLORIDA POMPANO LANDINGS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR**
45 **CONSIDERATION OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**
46

47 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Mr. Vice Chair.
48

1 **DR. GREG STUNZ:** All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Kind of a
2 switch-out here, and I will go ahead and take over, I guess, and
3 this really starts with, I guess, a joint presentation from Mr.
4 Rindone and Mr. Hood, and so, if you're ready, Ryan, go ahead.

5
6 **MR. RINDONE:** It will just be me today, with some assistance
7 from Mara on the backend of this, and, when Lisa was reading the
8 scope of work, that was almost 100 percent of what we had
9 originally intended. We wanted to show you guys the state-
10 specific landings in a little bit more detail, but, due to some
11 confidentiality reasons, we're unable to do that, and so some of
12 this is lumped together.

13
14 We worked with SERO staff and the Science Center to pull Florida
15 pompano landings from 2012 through 2021, with some data from
16 2022, and, like I was mentioning, some of these data are pooled
17 across all Gulf states, due to confidentiality purposes.
18 Landings mostly come from state waters and are dominated by the
19 private angling component of the recreational sector, and most
20 of the landings come from Florida, regardless of fleet.

21
22 Here you've got a graph looking at the landings by fishing mode,
23 and so the red line is commercial, the green line is for-hire,
24 and then the blue line is private angling and shore mode
25 combined, and so, as you can see here, most of the landings are
26 coming from that private and shore mode.

27
28 Here, we're looking at the percentage of Florida pompano
29 landings from both sectors in the Gulf, and this is broken out
30 as, again, those percentages in the for-hire mode is an
31 aggregation of headboat and charter/for-hire all put together,
32 and so, every single that we've looked at the data here, for the
33 last ten years, most of the landings are coming from that
34 private and shore mode, followed by commercial, and then a small
35 amount from the for-hire.

36
37 You have three tables here, and all states combined is at the
38 top, and these are the landings parsed out by component, as to
39 whether those landings are coming from state or federal waters,
40 and so, for all states combined, the majority of landings come
41 from state waters, but, really, it doesn't matter whether we're
42 looking at Florida specifically or all states combined.

43
44 The majority of landings come from Florida, and so the story is
45 the same regardless there, but we broke Florida out separately
46 here, because we could, and it didn't violate anything, from a
47 confidentiality perspective, but just to show that this is
48 primarily state-waters fishery, and then, down there at the

1 bottom, we have the percentage of landings by state, but I'm not
2 able to show you that by fleet by state, and so Florida kind of
3 leads that landings charge, followed by Alabama, and then, as we
4 work towards the western Gulf, there is -- As we get further
5 from Florida, there is fewer Florida pompano.

6
7 This is from the Magnuson Act, talking about stocks that require
8 conservation and management, and so the Act requires the council
9 to prepare an FMP for each fishery under its authority that
10 needs conservation and management, but not every fishery
11 requires federal management, and so stocks that are
12 predominantly caught in federal waters, and are overfished, or
13 subject to overfishing, or likely to become overfished or
14 subject to overfishing, are considered to require conservation
15 and management, but, beyond that, the councils may determine
16 additional stocks that could require this, based on some factors
17 to consider that are within the Act.

18
19 The council can consider this non-exhaustive list, but this just
20 gives you guys something to use as a barometer, factors like is
21 the stock an important component of the marine environment, and
22 that sort of thing you could probably argue is true for any of
23 these species, and they all serve some kind of function or
24 another. The stock is caught by the fishery, and we're
25 targeting it, sure, and whether it can -- Whether an FMP can
26 improve or maintain the condition of the stock, and Florida is
27 the last one to have done a stock assessment on Florida pompano,
28 and Dr. Sweetman can talk a little bit more about that and where
29 all of that stands.

30
31 Whether it's a target species, whether it's important to a
32 particular sector or group of sectors, and whether it's
33 important to the nation or the regional economy, whether there
34 is a need to resolve competing interests amongst user groups,
35 the economic condition of the fishery, and whether an FMP can
36 improve the efficiency.

37
38 If it's a developing fishery and whether an FMP can foster
39 growth, and the extent to which -- I think this is probably
40 going to be the committee's focus here, but the extent to which
41 the fishery is already adequately managed by the state, by a
42 state or federal program, or by federal regulations pursuant to
43 other FMPs or international commissions or by industry self-
44 regulation, consistent with the Act and other applicable law.

45
46 Typically, in the past, when the council has looked at this kind
47 of stuff, some of the things that you guys have discussed
48 previously have been the degree to which the species is already

1 being managed, and the adequacy with which it's being managed,
2 and is it overfished or undergoing overfishing, and, also, the
3 percentage of landings that are coming from state waters, and so
4 I will go ahead and stop there, or is there one more slide?
5 There we go.

6
7 In evaluating these factors, you guys can consider the specific
8 circumstances, best science, and determine if there is some sort
9 of concern that can be addressed by federal management, and, if
10 one or more of the factors, and any additional considerations,
11 might be relevant, then they can provide the basis for
12 determining whether that species requires conservation and
13 management, and that's the last slide.

14
15 **DR. STUNZ:** Okay. Thank you, Ryan. We'll open up the floor for
16 questions, and first up is Dr. Shipp.

17
18 **DR. BOB SHIPP:** Thank you, sir. Somewhere, at this meeting, or
19 a subsequent meeting, I would like to bring up consideration of
20 management of tripletail. I hadn't really thought that I was
21 going to introduce it here, but, with the factors that Ryan just
22 mentioned, I think tripletail is one that does deserve some
23 consideration.

24
25 Just on a personal level, in the last month or so, I've been to
26 five seafood restaurants, where three of them were featuring
27 tripletail as the catch-of-the-day, and the other two
28 restaurants had it on the menu. All I want to do here is
29 suggest that, somewhere along the line, whether under this
30 committee or coastal pelagics, that we start a discussion of
31 tripletail. Thank you, sir.

32
33 **DR. STUNZ:** Okay. Thank you, Bob. Back to the pompano
34 questions, any other questions or comments for Ryan? Mr. Gill.

35
36 **MR. BOB GILL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and so, at the end of
37 this discussion, are you looking for a motion, or will the
38 discussion suffice for passing to the council?

39
40 **DR. STUNZ:** Well, I think we would probably be looking for a
41 motion, but I might defer to the State of Florida, for the
42 Florida pompano, to see if there is any motions planned or some
43 of the things that you would like to discuss, or if they're just
44 going to come in just general discussion.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Thanks, Greg. We certainly want to hear
47 what the rest of the council has to say, and this is not a
48 Florida-only decision, and we certainly, based on the

1 information provided, based on the way that we manage the
2 fishery, we can tell that stock seems to be on the increasing
3 level. Ryan mentioned the stock assessment that we had done,
4 and that last one was completed in 2006, and I don't -- It's a
5 data-limited species, and so there are some issues associated
6 with conducting another stock assessment.

7
8 However, we do conduct a status and trends report every year,
9 for looking at this fishery, and many other fisheries, and, as
10 you can tell from some of those figures there, the stock is
11 increasing, and landings seem to be increasing. We do have
12 specific rules and regulations in place, in order to address
13 this fishery and provide appropriate conservation concerns,
14 while allowing access, and so, given that everything that you
15 saw, and what Ryan provided, that 99 percent of the harvest is
16 in state waters for private rec, and going from 70 to 80 for
17 commercial in state waters, I think that these are all relevant
18 topics of discussion for the council to consider as we move
19 forward trying to figure out what to do with Florida pompano in
20 an FMP, if we wanted to do that.

21
22 Obviously, I would say that Florida does manage the fishery,
23 quite well, and so, from my perspective, I do not think an FMP
24 is warranted, but that is my perspective, and I would be
25 interested to hear what the rest of the council has to say.

26
27 **DR. STUNZ:** Okay. Thank you, Dr. Sweetman. Mr. Dugas.

28
29 **MR. J.D. DUGAS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. With the majority of the
30 landings being in state waters, I have to ask why we're even
31 maybe going down this path. I feel like the states do a great
32 job already, and I am not asking each individual state, but I
33 have to ask the question of why the states wouldn't just handle
34 this issue.

35
36 **DR. STUNZ:** That's a good point, Mr. Dugas, and I think it's on
37 a lot of our minds around the table here as well, but I have a
38 few people next. Mara, go ahead.

39
40 **MS. MARA LEVY:** Well, I had a question for C.J., but I will
41 answer that question first. The reason you're considering it is
42 because the agency got a petition asking that this stock be
43 considered for federal management, and the agency then referred
44 that to you, because you are the body to sort of consider these
45 factors and make that decision, and so I think, from the
46 agency's perspective, we need a consideration of these factors
47 and the discussion about why or why not, or it's not appropriate
48 to do that at this time, and it should include more than the

1 fact that Florida is managing it.
2
3 It's not enough to say that it doesn't need federal management
4 because the state is managing it. There are definitely other
5 reasons in here, and that kind of goes to my question to C.J.,
6 is you mentioned the status of the stock, and you did mention
7 that the stock assessment was a while ago, but that you do some
8 sort of annual determination, and I'm just wondering, and do you
9 have that? Is that some information that is easily accessible,
10 because I think that's relevant, and it would be helpful to have
11 that in a record, right, like of your decision.
12
13 **DR. STUNZ:** C.J.
14
15 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Yes, that information is readily available
16 on our website, for that species and many other species.
17
18 **MS. LEVY:** Is it possible to get a link that?
19
20 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** I can do that, Mara.
21
22 **DR. STUNZ:** Mara, I thought you were -- Is that all you had? I
23 thought you were bringing up something in addition to that.
24 Okay. All right. Susan.
25
26 **MS. SUSAN BOGGS:** My question really had nothing to do -- I
27 mean, it has to do with the pompano, the Florida pompano, but I
28 have a question, I guess for Dr. Sweetman. As I was reviewing
29 this, the commercial fishery is only allowed to land these fish
30 in certain areas of Florida, and my question would be why is
31 that, because I think that's a driver too, is they want to be
32 able to land these fish in other places.
33
34 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Yes, that's correct, and so the way that the
35 permit zone is set up there, the PEZ, is that there are three
36 locations from Hurricane Pass to Cape Sable where commercial
37 fishermen can land their fish in that area.
38
39 **DR. STUNZ:** Go ahead.
40
41 **MS. BOGGS:** But why? I mean, is there a specific reason why you
42 all limit it just to that area?
43
44 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** It marks with the boundaries of the permit
45 endorsement zone there, and that is why we set it up in that
46 capacity.
47
48 **DR. STUNZ:** Well, I guess, moving the committee a little further

1 along on this issue, if there is some more discussion, or a
2 motion, so we can, you know, signal to Full Council what the
3 intent is, if there is an appetite, I guess, to take up an FMP
4 or not, and I'm kind of hearing maybe not around the table, but
5 it would be nice to have some more discussion. Andy.

6
7 **MR. ANDY STRELCHECK:** Just to add to that, I think we want to
8 build a little bit more of a record here. What I am hearing is
9 a sense that it's not in need of federal management, right, and
10 part of that is based on a majority of the harvest occurs in
11 state waters, throughout the Gulf of Mexico, and I'm also
12 hearing that the states, obviously, have management regulations
13 in place, and C.J. can provide some information, in terms of
14 kind of status and trends.

15
16 There are certainly other factors that can be considered here,
17 and so the more, I think, you could build a record, in terms of
18 why it's not in need of federal management, the better, and then
19 what I think I would ask is that, since I had requested this be
20 put on the council agenda, that any decision be kind of put in a
21 document, a letter, back to me, justifying, obviously, that
22 decision, and, ultimately, we would go back to the person that
23 petitioned us for rulemaking.

24
25 **DR. STUNZ:** Okay. Thank you, Andy, and, building that letter,
26 Dr. Sweetman, go ahead.

27
28 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** I just wanted to follow-up to Susan. Just
29 to clarify, if fishermen wanted to take an unlimited amount of
30 pompano, those are the locations that they need to land it. If
31 they want it as bycatch, which we allow, they can land that
32 anywhere.

33
34 **DR. STUNZ:** Thank you. I had Mr. Anson up next.

35
36 **MR. KEVIN ANSON:** So I don't know, Mr. Chair, if we still need
37 to have any more conversation, at least relative to Ms. Levy's,
38 I guess, comment regarding more discussion, I guess, as to why
39 we might want to proceed or not want to proceed, and so I'm
40 referring to the presentation, and it talks about the factors
41 which should be reviewed, I guess, in any decision point related
42 to establishing a species for FMP development, and so it's just
43 -- It's a little difficult, at least in how it's presented in
44 the presentation, relative to, you know, addressing some of the
45 points here.

46
47 The stock is important to commercial, recreational, and
48 subsistence users, and, well, it may be of, you know, little

1 importance to the vast majority of commercial fishermen, or
2 recreational fishermen, but there's a handful that it's very
3 important to, and so the fishery is important to the nation or
4 the regional economy.

5
6 You know, everybody is trying to always, you know, get more
7 dollars in the system, so to speak, when they're thinking about
8 things, and so, if you eliminate that, or if you improve it,
9 that's a contribution, and is that significant enough to warrant
10 though an FMP, and so, you know, to the extent, I guess, Ms.
11 Levy -- Are these just qualitative then descriptions that we
12 need to go through and kind of answer yes or no to, or is this
13 quantitative information that is associated with some of these
14 things to help us make that decision?

15
16 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Go ahead, Mara.

17
18 **MS. LEVY:** I think it really depends on the type of information
19 you have, right, and so, to the extent you have information that
20 is quantitative related to a particular factor, or anything else
21 that might be relevant, it would be great to use that. I get
22 the impression that there's not a lot of that here, right, and
23 so that it's more of a qualitative and a judgment call, right,
24 and so, to say that something is important to the nation, or the
25 regional economy, I mean, is pompano one of those stocks of fish
26 that is -- Is it of such an extent that it is creating that
27 importance on the regional or national level?

28
29 Again, because we probably don't have data, but maybe you do,
30 and I don't know, and you might just have to go based on
31 landings comparative to what you know other landings are of
32 stocks and things like that, and so, yes, I don't -- I could be
33 wrong, but I got the sense that there isn't a whole lot of
34 quantitative data here.

35
36 **DR. STUNZ:** Other -- Go ahead, Mr. Rindone.

37
38 **MR. RINDONE:** Thanks, and so I'm looking at -- I guess I'm kind
39 of looking at Mara when I call this address out here, but, in
40 the codified federal regulations, Section 600.305(c), and this
41 is the section that we took these factors out of to put into the
42 presentation, and so the factors that were in the presentation
43 are word-for-word, but the part in here that -- I just wanted to
44 read this part to you guys, in hopes that this might help a
45 little bit.

46
47 It says: The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires a council to prepare
48 an FMP for each fishery under its authority that requires (or,

1 in other words, is in need of) conservation and management. Not
2 every fishery requires federal management. Any stocks that are
3 predominantly caught in federal waters and are overfished or
4 subject to overfishing, or likely to become overfished or
5 subject to overfishing, are considered to require conservation
6 and management.

7
8 Beyond that, it's essentially -- I will skip ahead, but it's
9 essentially the council's discretion, and so you guys -- So far,
10 you've seen the landings, and you've heard from Dr. Sweetman
11 about the utilization of the stock, from a sector-specific
12 perspective, and then you've seen that, quantitatively, in how
13 we've broken the landings down, to the extent that we can show
14 publicly, because of some confidentiality issues when we get
15 into those really, really small numbers by state, and so
16 hopefully that helps with trying to build the record as to
17 whichever decision you want to recommend to the council.

18
19 **DR. STUNZ:** All right. Other questions? Tom.

20
21 **DR. TOM FRAZER:** I am just going to reiterate a few things. I
22 mean, so, again, to build a record, right, and so the majority
23 of the harvest is in the State of Florida, and most of it is in
24 the recreational element, and is it an important part of the
25 economy? Sure. Fishing, in general, is an important part of
26 Florida's economy, and it's not a trivial player, right, but,
27 from a conservation and management perspective, all of the
28 available data that the state has provided doesn't show that
29 there is a need for increased management measures for
30 conservation and management purposes.

31
32 So, from my perspective, I worry a lot about workload, right,
33 and all of the things that we do on this council, and so, given
34 the things that I've said before, right I do not think that this
35 is a priority for the Gulf Council to get involved in, in
36 Florida pompano, trying to manage them, and my motion -- I am
37 happy to make a motion that says it's not appropriate, that
38 Florida pompano is not appropriate, at this time, for -- To be
39 put in the FMP, if that's appropriate.

40
41 **DR. STUNZ:** Well, Tom, I agree, and it's my role as Vice Chair,
42 and not temporary Chair, of this committee is that, you know,
43 there is probably going to be other things coming up in front of
44 this council, and we certainly don't need extra things on our
45 plates that this might bring, for example, so we can move on to
46 some other things that we're working on, and so, yes, please.
47 If you've got a motion, I think that would help move this
48 forward at this point, and I feel like we've probably built

1 enough of the record, but, as I'm looking at Mara with her hand
2 up, maybe not.

3
4 **MS. LEVY:** To that, I get the workload thing, and I get what
5 you're saying, but let's not let that be the reason we're not
6 doing it, and I didn't hear you to say that, but I just -- You
7 kind of linked them, and so I just wanted to clear that up, and
8 I just also had a question, and I'm just curious whether anybody
9 knows this, on Slide 3, that shows the landings. There is that
10 big spike in it looks like 2017, and do you have any indication
11 about why landings would have gotten so high and then dipped
12 back down?

13
14 **DR. STUNZ:** Mr. Rindone, can you comment on that?

15
16 **MR. RINDONE:** In an abstract way, and because we don't really
17 have enough information to suggest otherwise, and there are
18 several different species that experienced in a spike in the
19 2016 landings, and yellowtail snapper was another one that we
20 had some help from the Southeast Regional Office and the Science
21 Center in looking into, and so this is prevalent not just for
22 Florida pompano, but a spike in landings from MRIP was detected
23 across multiple species for that year, and so it may not
24 necessarily be something that's specific to Florida pompano.

25
26 **DR. STUNZ:** Okay. Thank you, Ryan. Mr. Donaldson.

27
28 **MR. DAVE DONALDSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not on your
29 committee, but I just do want to point out that the commission
30 does fishery profiles and fishery management plans, as
31 necessary, and Florida pompano is on our list for future
32 development, and I'm not sure exactly when that will happen, but
33 it is something that we're interested in developing, and so just
34 for everyone's information.

35
36 **DR. STUNZ:** Good point. Thank you, Mr. Donaldson. Mr. Dyskow.

37
38 **MR. PHIL DYSKOW:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just had another
39 question about that spike that took place in 2017. I know you
40 said it's similar to what other species experienced in that
41 year, but, given where Florida pompano are caught, and given
42 their desire to search out clean water, as opposed to just other
43 water, or polluted water, do you think that Florida water
44 quality had something to do with that decline subsequent to
45 2017?

46
47 **MR. RINDONE:** That's an interesting question, because 2017 is
48 when we had Hurricane Irma, and so there was a tremendous amount

1 of water dumped on the state in September, and I remember this
2 quite well, because we fled Tampa with our three-day-old son,
3 and so that was lots of fun, but there was also a red tide bloom
4 that started later that year that persisted through 2018, but
5 the amount of rainfall that came on the state in 2017 from that
6 particular hurricane was substantial.

7
8 If there is a correlation between Florida pompano landings and
9 water quality, then there might be some correlation there, and
10 that would be something that the data might exist to explore,
11 and the State of Florida certainly does routine water quality
12 monitoring, state-wide, and so there might be something to look
13 at there, and so I'm sure C.J. has lots of extra time, and he
14 would love to dive into that.

15
16 **DR. STUNZ:** Okay. Thank you for that, Ryan. A couple more
17 questions, and then we'll move this along. Susan had her hand
18 up first, Andy, and you're next, and then Dr. Frazer, if you've
19 got a motion, and so I think we've got enough for the record
20 building, but, Susan, go ahead.

21
22 **MS. BOGGS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm sorry, but I'm going back
23 to the landings thing, and then I went back and read the letter
24 that we received, I think from Mr. Horan, where they are
25 concerned about the king mackerel fishery and the bycatch of the
26 pompano, and they can only land the pompano in this certain
27 area, and there is a lot of interaction, I would have to think,
28 in that area where the pompano EEZ is, if that's what I am
29 understanding.

30
31 I understand it's a state fishery, and I don't really know how I
32 would go with this, but I just don't understand why it's being
33 limited to a certain area of Florida, and talking about the
34 importance of the sectors, the national importance, I mean, if
35 you're limiting it to that one area, it doesn't seem like it's
36 being used on a national level, and you catch it throughout the
37 Gulf.

38
39 I was just asking Kevin, and I'm correct that what we catch in
40 our state waters are Florida pompano, and so I just -- I don't
41 understand why the State of Florida is saying you can only bring
42 them in and sell them in this location, and that's where I have
43 heartburn on this issue. Thank you.

44
45 **DR. STUNZ:** Dr. Sweetman.

46
47 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** I might defer to Jessica McCawley, and she's
48 on the line here, and she was instrumental in helping put these

1 regulations forward, and she could probably answer that question
2 much better than I.

3

4 **DR. STUNZ:** Do we have Jessica on the line? Are you there,
5 Jessica?

6

7 **MS. JESSICA MCCAWLEY:** Yes, I'm here. Thank you.

8

9 **DR. STUNZ:** Go ahead.

10

11 **MS. MCCAWLEY:** The reason that the regs are in place that way is
12 -- It is a little confusing, and so the pompano endorsement
13 zone, that sliver of area, was put in place to try to rebuild
14 the pompano stock, and you have to have a pompano endorsement to
15 commercially harvest pompano in that zone in an unlimited
16 amount. You can commercially take pompano as bycatch in other
17 gears, like in a Spanish mackerel gillnet, and you can have a
18 hundred pompano, and you do not have to land them in that zone,
19 and, as long as you're not using gillnets, you can commercially
20 take and direct harvest pompano using hook-and-line, beach and
21 haul seine and other gears, and you don't have to land them in
22 the zone. You are limited to 250.

23

24 **DR. STUNZ:** Okay. Thank you, Jessica. Mr. Strelcheck.

25

26 **MR. STRELCHECK:** Just a couple other comments. One, what Susan
27 brings up -- I mean, it doesn't preclude the council, if you
28 have suggestions to the State of Florida, or other states, in
29 terms of management changes, and you could certainly provide
30 those to the states for consideration, especially with regard to
31 Mr. Horan's concerns about bycatch, or where the fish are
32 landed, and it would still be up to the state, obviously, to
33 make a decision of whether they want to change those
34 regulations.

35

36 C.J. alluded to the status and trends reports that the Florida
37 Fish and Wildlife produces, and I did pull that up, and I think
38 that is informative and worth sharing around with the council.
39 The bottom line is, you know, they are showing increases in
40 standardized commercial catch rates for the last decade, and
41 there was certainly a rapid increase in catch rates following
42 the net ban, and they fell off, but are now increasing again.
43 Recreational catch rates have been stable now for well over two
44 decades.

45

46 Then, to Phil's question, I certainly can't prove this, but
47 recruitment seems to be potentially a driver here, because the
48 increases, and spikes, we're seeing in landings seem to be

1 following some of the dips and increases in recruitment that are
2 entering the pompano fishery. Thanks.
3
4 **DR. STUNZ:** Thank you, Andy. Dr. Frazer, you mentioned you
5 might have a motion?
6
7 **DR. FRAZER:** Sure. We can go ahead and make it pretty simple.
8 **I think the motion probably should read that Florida pompano**
9 **should not be included in the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management**
10 **Council's FMP.**
11
12 **MR. BOB GILL:** Second, Mr. Chairman.
13
14 **DR. STUNZ:** We have a motion and a second, and I'll wait just a
15 second to get it up on the board there. Tom, is that your
16 motion? Do you want to read that into the record, just for
17 completeness, please?
18
19 **DR. FRAZER:** Sure. **The Florida pompano should not be included**
20 **in the Gulf Council's -- We're still getting it squared away.**
21 **In the Gulf Council's Reef Fish FMP.**
22
23 **DR. STUNZ:** Thank you, Dr. Frazer. Ryan, I see your hand. Real
24 quick, just for the record, that was seconded by Mr. Gill.
25 Ryan, go ahead.
26
27 **MR. RINDONE:** Tom, if I can help you massage a little bit, since
28 we didn't know exactly which FMP it might be considered for,
29 maybe something to the effect of Florida pompano should not be
30 considered for federal management at this time, or something
31 like that.
32
33 **DR. FRAZER:** Yes, I'm happy to do that, and that's originally
34 how I had it written, and so, with that friendly suggestion, the
35 motion now reads: **Florida pompano should not be considered for**
36 **federal management at this time.**
37
38 **DR. STUNZ:** Bob, as the seconder, are you good with that? Okay.
39 Mara.
40
41 **MS. LEVY:** I don't want to be too picky here, but I feel like
42 you did consider it, and so maybe you can say that Florida
43 pompano is not in need of federal conservation and management at
44 this time, because I don't want to make it seem like you didn't
45 consider it, because that's what you're doing, right?
46
47 **DR. STUNZ:** Good point. We're editing that right now. The
48 motion now reads that Florida pompano is not in need of federal

1 management conservation at this time. Tom, is that -- Let me
2 read that again. Maybe, Tom, you should read the motion.

3
4 **DR. FRAZER:** All right. I appreciate those comments, Mara,
5 again, and it's always important to get it right by the time
6 we're done, right, and so Florida pompano is not in need of
7 federal conservation and management at this time.

8
9 **DR. STUNZ:** Okay. I'm looking at Mr. Gill, as the seconder, and
10 he's good with that. Okay. **Seeing no other discussion, is**
11 **there any opposition to this motion? Seeing no opposition, the**
12 **motion carries.** Dr. Simmons.

13
14 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARRIE SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and
15 so, if this passes at Full Council, just kind of order of
16 operations here, the intent would be for us to send a letter to
17 Mr. Strelcheck, notifying him that the council did this, and
18 this was their decision, and then he would send a letter to the
19 petitioner, notifying them of that, or is that a separate letter
20 that we would also need to send? Thanks.

21
22 **DR. STUNZ:** Mara.

23
24 **MS. LEVY:** The agency would respond to the petitioner.

25
26 **DR. STUNZ:** Okay. Thank you for clarifying that, and I believe
27 -- Mr. Rindone, does that bring this section to a close in
28 pompano? Seeing yes, Susan.

29
30 **MS. BOGGS:** Well, speaking with pompano, and I don't know if you
31 need me to do this now or under Other Business, but I do have
32 another motion to offer up.

33
34 **DR. STUNZ:** Okay. Well, if I can turn this back over to the
35 Chairman then, at this point, if we're finished with pompano.
36 Two just action items that came out of that, Dr. Sweetman, are,
37 obviously, the letter that we just discussed that's coming from
38 the agency, and then Dr. Shipp's request about tripletail
39 consideration, and, with that, I'm going to turn that back over
40 to Chairman Sweetman.

41
42 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Thank you very much, Dr. Stunz. Susan,
43 maybe wait until we get to Other Business here, and so I think
44 our next action to move along is SSC Recommendations from the
45 September 2022 Gulf SSC Meeting, and that will be Dr. Powers.

46
47 **SSC RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2022 GULF SSC MEETING**

1 **DR. SEAN POWERS:** The topic is review of the socioeconomic stock
2 assessment report, and this one -- We listened to a presentation
3 by Dr. Andrea Chan on the socioeconomic aspects of the stock
4 assessment workshop report, and SEASAW is that it was called.

5
6 The SSC had a detailed, and long, discussion, as many on this
7 subject -- The line is actually my bias, and so some of the
8 socioeconomicists really got into this conversation, and they were
9 really excited to see this topic. I guess it was a little
10 payback for the biologists, who go on and on about selectivity
11 and stock steepness and all of these things, and so it was a
12 very, very good conversation though.

13
14 The national workshop discussed a broad range of issues,
15 including economic connections in stock assessments, projections
16 of stock dynamics by multidisciplinary teams, and case studies
17 integrating socioeconomic data, and so the survey results and
18 workshop recommendations were published as a technical report.

19
20 I am not going to go through all of the recommendations, and we
21 didn't go in detail through all of them, other than that each
22 step in the process had a set of recommendations, specifically
23 the better emphasize that socioeconomic data streams could
24 contribute to mitigating data gaps during the stock assessment
25 process. SSC members, all of the SSC members, expressed their
26 support for the recommendations provided in the report. Dr.
27 Chan indicated, at the end, that data collection methods that
28 would facilitate sharing would continue to be promoted.

29
30 The SSC members noted that data collection should account for
31 the diversity of disciplines in social sciences, not just
32 economics, and committee members noted that commitments to
33 provide additional funding for socioeconomic data collection
34 would be needed, and we had a lot of discussion on this, whether
35 there was existing resources that were available to do this, and
36 that it would not be a small task, and that there would need to
37 be additional staff and time for those to do it.

38
39 The SSC noted that the interdisciplinary work must start early,
40 at the data workshop, and not be just at the assessment
41 workshop, and so we had a lot of conversations about what data
42 streams are available, and I think some of us on the SSC were
43 surprised that there are lots of data streams already available,
44 and they need to be synthesized and turned into a format that
45 can be used, but there are data streams that are already
46 available and that some, obviously, still need to be developed.

47
48 We asked about additional funding to hire additional staff, and

1 we were told that there were no plans to do that at this
2 specific time, and so, overall, the SSC members really
3 encouraged this, and they really liked the review report that
4 was discussed, but it is going to be a lot of work, and so the
5 question is will there be the commitment in resources to do
6 this, and that's it on that topic.

7
8 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Thank you, Dr. Powers. Are there any
9 questions or comments for Dr. Powers? Mr. Gill.

10
11 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I agree, Sean, and that
12 was probably a three-hour discussion, if I remember right, the
13 longest that I can ever recollect of the SSC, but it was a good
14 discussion, but, like a lot of other workshop reports with a
15 recommendation, the magic really depends on implementation, and
16 so recommendations are one thing, and actuality is another, and
17 so my question, to the agency, is could you outline your plans
18 for implementing any of the recommendations, preferably all, but
19 any? Is there an effort by the agency to incorporate that and
20 actually make them happen?

21
22 **MR. STRELCHECK:** So I will jump in and maybe save John here, and
23 so good question, Bob. I don't have an answer for you on that,
24 at this point, and I think we need to pull in the experts that
25 are, obviously, much more versed in socioeconomic data and kind
26 of analysis and provide, you know, a better answer to your
27 question, but they're not, obviously, sitting at this table. I
28 don't know, John, if you want to add anything.

29
30 **DR. JOHN WALTER:** Yes, and thanks for that question, Bob. I
31 think one of the things that is tangible, that we are embarking
32 upon, is management strategy evaluations for a number of stocks,
33 which part of that process is to consider conceptual and
34 operational management objectives that might transcend simple
35 yield, and that's ongoing right now within the South Atlantic,
36 with a dolphinfish MSE, and so that's one of the processes for
37 explicitly incorporating things that might get to what optimal
38 yield is that's not just maximum sustainable yield, and so
39 opportunity, and things of that nature, that might be
40 opportunity stability, in a fishery that might require both
41 socioeconomic data to inform as well as being able to elucidate
42 what those objectives really are out of the fishery, and what
43 does the fishery want, and what does the recreational
44 stakeholder community want, and what does the commercial want,
45 and to try to then develop management procedures that are better
46 able to meet those, while still meeting the needs for protection
47 and conservation of the stocks.

48

1 That is one ongoing thing. In terms of the larger resources to
2 evaluate this, I really can't speak to much, and, unfortunately,
3 that is something that, while this workshop was held, the SEASAW
4 workshop, it wasn't a group of people who could necessarily say
5 write the checks for it, and we'll have to see whether that --
6 How that plays out in the future. Thanks.

7
8 **DR. POWERS:** I will add, Bob, that, even though we didn't make
9 any specific recommendations on prioritization of the twenty-
10 seven, that a lot of us felt that that would be the next step,
11 is some triage to go through the twenty-seven, and figure out
12 which ones are low-hanging fruit, or resources are already
13 there, versus the ones that are more aspirational.

14
15 **MR. GILL:** Great segue into my next question of is the agency
16 planning to come back to us with their plan on what to do, or
17 not to do, with the recommendations made?

18
19 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Dr. Walter.

20
21 **DR. WALTER:** Thank you, Chair. I will jump into that and say
22 one of the reasons to bring this to the SSC was indeed to get
23 some prioritization, and knowing that the SSC is well endowed
24 with a lot of socioeconomic talent, that Sean alluded to, we
25 assumed they would probably dive into it with -- As they did,
26 and spent time on it, and so we were really seeking, from this
27 council's SSC, what are the priorities that they would see, and
28 ask if that SSC could help us there, and I think this was the
29 first rollout to any one of the SSCs of this national SEASAW
30 report, and it came, I think, at your suggestion, Bob, to --
31 There was a motion to incorporate socioeconomic factors that
32 passed, and so we felt that bringing that report to the SSC was
33 the first step in doing that, letting the talent there on the
34 SSC consider that, and then provide us some guidance on what
35 they see as the most fruitful paths forward, and so I would
36 bounce it back to Sean.

37
38 **DR. POWERS:** Yes, I noticed that, that you did that, and so I
39 think that was not overall in our charge, but it could be, and,
40 like I said, I mean, the level of engagement that the SSC
41 members had -- You know, I think they would need a couple of
42 partners from the agency, to have a better sense of what's in-
43 hand, and, like I said, to see what is, for lack of a better
44 word, low-hanging fruit, versus those that are more
45 aspirational, and I know many of the SSC members, particularly
46 the socioeconomicists, would love the opportunity. I don't know
47 about love, but would give us their opinions on that, and so
48 that's up to Ryan and you all, if we have time to do that in the

1 coming meetings.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Thank you for that, Dr. Powers. Any
4 additional comments or questions on this item? Okay. Seeing
5 none, thank you, Dr. Powers. Okay. That moves us into Other
6 Business, and I know Susan has something for Other Business.
7 Ms. Boggs.

8

9

OTHER BUSINESS

10

11 **MS. BOGGS:** Thank you, sir, and I sent a motion to council
12 staff, and I pulled it directly from the motion that was for the
13 Florida pompano, because we have had a request to take a look at
14 the African pompano, and so, like I said, I did send a motion to
15 the staff.

16

17 **It's to request staff to begin work on a presentation that**
18 **addresses the factors that need to be considered when**
19 **contemplating the need for federal conservation and management**
20 **of African pompano.**

21

22 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Mr. Gill.

23

24 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will second that for
25 discussion, but I would like to follow-up with that discussion,
26 if I could, Mr. Chairman.

27

28 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Yes, of course.

29

30 **MR. GILL:** You all might recollect that we did this at the last
31 meeting, when we decided to look at the need for federal
32 management on Florida pompano, and a motion was made to add
33 African pompano and permit, which was rejected, and I don't
34 believe that was because of the permit, and so the question, in
35 my mind, is, is this committee willing to reconsider that
36 decision of the last meeting, and, if so, what's the basis for
37 it? We've been down this road once already, and so I'm not sure
38 that I understand where the will of the committee is relative to
39 this question.

40

41 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Ms. Boggs, a response?

42

43 **MS. BOGGS:** I don't know if I'm responding directly, but I've
44 seen this council do a lot more for one request, and we passed
45 two modifications, two years ago, because one person came to us
46 and said I want you to look at this. I understand the workload.
47 I have a workload too.

48

1 We all have workloads, and, I mean, I don't care if it's pushed
2 to the bottom of the list, but I think it's something that we
3 need to consider, just like we did for the Florida pompano, and,
4 if you want to add permit, I don't care, but we have had a
5 request to take a look at this, and I think we at least need to
6 have a presentation, and it may come up just like Florida
7 pompano, and we come back and say, okay, we don't want to do
8 this. I don't think that it's an immediate action that needs to
9 be taken, but I would like for this committee to consider this
10 motion. Thank you.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** I do think we might have a little point of
13 order discussion here, but Mr. Strelcheck.

14
15 **MR. STRELCHECK:** Did we get a second on this, first? Okay. In
16 response to Bob, at least my recollection of the previous
17 discussion is we were conflating a request, a petition,
18 specifically for Florida pompano, with a desire to then add and
19 evaluate other species as a component of that, right, and so
20 this is separate and distinct from the discussion we just had.

21
22 In terms of the motion, I guess I would request a friendly
23 amendment, or a modification, and so, the factors that need to
24 be considered, those are consistent, and they're standardized,
25 and I would suggest that the motion be modified to say to
26 request staff begin work on a presentation that addresses the
27 need for federal conservation and management of African pompano,
28 and then those factors would be a component of that.

29
30 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Dr. Shipp, did you have your hand raised?

31
32 **DR. SHIPP:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. Just a simple suggestion.
33 Either we ditch the whole motion, or we add permit to it, but
34 splitting out African pompano is irrelevant. I mean, permit are
35 probably more important than African pompano, and, in Alabama,
36 African pompano usually win the award for the most unusual
37 catch, and so I know it's a little bit different down in south
38 Florida, but I would suggest that we either delete the motion or
39 add permit to it.

40
41 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** I feel like this is the same conversation
42 that we had at the last council meeting that we ultimately voted
43 down. I believe that motion failed, and I'm not sure, and I
44 need to look at what the vote was. Carrie.

45
46 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and so I
47 think maybe it might be helpful if we could get Ms. Levy or Mr.
48 Strelcheck to kind of explain to us the process regarding

1 petitions and when formal letters are sent with petitions, and
2 that the number of signers may not matter, regarding these
3 petitions, and when the council has to take these types of
4 things up, because I believe there was, in 2019, in June of
5 2019, a petition, and it was verbally discussed at the podium,
6 but no formal letter, and the number of signers, I believe, is
7 like twenty-five people, or something like that.

8
9 I guess, in my thinking, we kind of need some consistency here
10 on how we're handling that, and perhaps more information on the
11 best way to handle those types of petitions and why the one we
12 had for Florida pompano was perhaps different than the way we
13 maybe had addressed the African pompano would be helpful.

14
15 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Thank you, Carrie. Mara.

16
17 **MS. LEVY:** Sorry, but I don't remember one from -- It was the
18 African pompano, and so it's not clear to me if it was the same
19 type of thing, like a petition for rulemaking, sent to the
20 agency, and the APA, the Administrative Procedure Act, has a
21 specific, you know, process, and people can petition the agency
22 for rulemaking, and then the response to that was for the agency
23 to say, look, this is really something that goes to the council
24 process, and so we're going to refer it to the council and let
25 them go through their process. I don't remember what African
26 pompano was specifically about, and so we can talk about that
27 and revisit it.

28
29 Then there just seems to be some -- I feel like there's a sense
30 that maybe this motion isn't appropriate, because you discussed
31 it at the last meeting, or that there needs to be some sort of
32 formal reconsideration, and I guess I just want to clarify that
33 each new meeting of the council is a new meeting, right, and so,
34 regardless of what you did last time, and you may have
35 considered it, but anyone can bring it up for consideration, and
36 it's not like you're talking about it at the same meeting, and
37 you voted it down, and now you want to revert. That would
38 require a separate motion, and you would need to decide to
39 reconsider it, but each meeting is its own separate process, I
40 guess is what I'm saying.

41
42 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Thank you for that, Ms. Levy. Okay then.
43 Any other comments on this motion that's on the board? Ms.
44 Boggs.

45
46 **MS. BOGGS:** Well, I'm just going to throw this out there,
47 because, if fails today, is there any reason that I can't bring
48 it back up at Full Council?

1
2 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** That is a good question, and I might defer
3 to maybe Mara, or council staff here, to answer that, but I
4 believe the answer is yes.
5
6 **MS. LEVY:** What was the yes to?
7
8 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** That she can bring this up at Full Council.
9
10 **MS. LEVY:** Yes, and so this is a committee, and so, when you're
11 acting as Full Council, you can bring it up.
12
13 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Dr. Frazer.
14
15 **DR. FRAZER:** Just, again, we've heard a number of comments,
16 public comments, with regard to African pompano, and I think
17 there's some inherent value, right, in kind of formalizing what
18 we know and don't know about African pompano and kind of
19 bringing that information to the council for further discussion,
20 and so I don't really have a problem with this motion at all,
21 and so I'll be in favor of it.
22
23 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Okay. Any other comments on the motion?
24 Seeing none, okay. **Those that object to the motion, raise your**
25 **hands, please.** Thank you. **Those in favor, please raised your**
26 **hands.** Okay. **It looks like the motion fails five to eight.**
27 Okay. Is there any other business here before we conclude the
28 Sustainable Fisheries Committee? Mr. Gill.
29
30 **MR. GILL:** Mr. Chairman, Dr. Shipp brought up the tripletail
31 question, and this would be the time to discuss that, if you so
32 choose.
33
34 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** We can certainly have that discussion. Dr.
35 Shipp.
36
37 **DR. SHIPP:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Bob as well.
38
39 **MR. DALE DIAZ:** Hold on, Dr. Shipp, for just a minute, and so I
40 think we need to go through and re-vote that. We had more
41 people vote than what we have for people on the committee, and
42 so there might be some confusion, because we just swapped
43 committees over today, and so let me read the people that's on
44 the committee and then re-vote this, and make sure that you only
45 vote if you're on the committee. It's Dr. Sweetman, Dr. Stunz,
46 Ms. Boggs, Mr. Anson, Mr. Broussard, Mr. Dugas, Dr. Frazer, Mr.
47 Gill, Mr. McDermott, General Spraggins, and Mr. Strelcheck. If
48 you would, Dr. Sweetman, please conduct that vote again. Thank

1 you.
2
3 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Okay. Round two. Those that are in
4 opposition to the motion, please raise your hand, on the
5 Sustainable Fisheries Committee. Okay. Thank you. Those that
6 are in favor of the motion, please raise your hand. Okay. It's
7 four to seven, and the motion fails. I think I calculated that
8 right this time.
9
10 **MR. STRELCHECK:** It should be four to six. I abstained.
11
12 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Sorry, Andy. **Four to six.** Okay. Thank you
13 for your patience. Tripletail, Dr. Shipp.
14
15 **DR. SHIPP:** Thank you, sir.
16
17 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Hold on.
18
19 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** I don't believe that Dr. Shipp is
20 on the committee. Can we check that? You might have been on
21 the last --
22
23 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Ms. Boggs.
24
25 **MS. BOGGS:** Can we do a roll call vote?
26
27 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** I'm doing well for my first vote here.
28
29 **MR. DIAZ:** We think they have the vote correct, Ms. Boggs. If
30 you absolutely want it, you can have it, but we feel like the
31 vote is correct at this point.
32
33 **MS. BOGGS:** What was the vote?
34
35 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Four to six with one abstention.
36
37 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Two abstentions, right, Mr. Chair?
38
39 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Two abstentions.
40
41 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** So that would be twelve, and there
42 are twelve people on this committee, correct? Okay.
43
44 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Okay.
45
46 **MR. STRELCHECK:** If only we had an automatic voting system.
47
48 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** I knew that was coming. Okay. Dr. Shipp,

1 since you are not on this committee, perhaps we should leave
2 that for Full Council, for discussion?

3

4 **DR. SHIPP:** Well, I don't object to that, other than the fact
5 that we do have ten minutes, and I do not intend to make any
6 motions at this time. I just wanted to call attention to a
7 potential problem down the road, but I will be glad to wait
8 until Full Council, if that was the advice of the Chair.

9

10 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Okay. I think I'm open to listening to a
11 tripletail conversation. Dr. Shipp.

12

13 **DR. SHIPP:** This is a unique fish, and, contemplating on what to
14 do with it, I couldn't decide whether it ought to be in coastal
15 pelagics or reef fish or whatever, but what brought it to my
16 attention is the recent experiences that I've had with
17 restaurants and some of the for-hire guys in the Panhandle and
18 off our coast.

19

20 As I mentioned earlier, perhaps, I've been to five seafood
21 restaurants in the last couple of months, and three of the five
22 were featuring tripletail as the catch-of-the-day. The other
23 two restaurants had it on the menu.

24

25 Dr. Larry Able, who was a previous council member, and an avid
26 fisherman out of Tallahassee, and I talked to him yesterday
27 morning, and he said that, five years ago, there was one for-
28 hire guy that would fish occasionally for tripletail, and now
29 there are seven who fish full-time for tripletail. Larry and
30 his son were out recently, and they caught forty-seven of them
31 in one day, and they tagged and released almost all of them.

32

33 My point is that this is a species that has slid under the
34 table, and we haven't taken full account of it, and, before it
35 gets into too much trouble, perhaps we ought to take a look at
36 it. I'm not ready to make a motion at this point, but I just
37 wanted to call the attention to the Full Council that, probably
38 at the next meeting, I will make a motion to that request, but I
39 wanted mainly to put it out on the table, so people who have
40 some interest may take a second look at it. Thank you, sir.

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42 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Mr. Dyskow.

43

44 **MR. PHIL DYSKOW:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sometimes I hide behind
45 Bob, and you don't see my hand when it goes up, and he takes
46 advantage of that opportunity. I understand how tripletail are
47 harvested recreationally, but could you give us some insight on
48 how they are harvested commercially, what type of gear, for

1 example?

2
3 **DR. SHIPP:** I wish that I knew. Hook-and-line is the only way I
4 know that they are caught. Now, I will say that I've talked to
5 some of the commercial guys, and they say a lot of them are
6 imported, but that doesn't answer your question, and so I think,
7 as far as our region is concerned, I think hook-and-line is the
8 only way, and you can't net them.

9
10 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Mr. Gill.

11
12 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would echo Dr. Shipp's
13 noting the resurgence of tripletail, certainly off the coast of
14 Florida, mostly inshore, but my question is for the Chair, and
15 is Florida considering any action relative to tripletail that
16 may play on this issue?

17
18 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** Thanks for the question, Mr. Gill. Not at
19 this time. We are not looking at tripletail in the immediate
20 future, but I will say that we did take action, and I would have
21 to look at when those regulations went into place, but we do
22 have regulations, and I would just need to double-check on the
23 timing of that. Okay. Anything else about tripletail? Dave.

24
25 **MR. DONALDSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, I'm not on your
26 committee, but we do have a profile that was completed in 2016,
27 or 2017, I believe, and we're doing a variety of research right
28 now on tagging and genetics on tripletail, and Steve VanderKooy
29 sent me an email that said that most of the commercial market
30 comes from imports, mainly Suriname, and so just FYI.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN SWEETMAN:** That's interesting. Thanks, Dave. All
33 right. That was an interesting discussion, and something
34 certainly worthwhile for council members to consider for future
35 discussions on tripletail. Anything else on this topic? Any
36 other items to discuss in the Sustainable Fisheries Committee?
37 Okay. Mr. Chair, I yield five minutes back to you.

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39 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on October 24, 2022.)

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