

**Gulf Council Motions Report**  
**April 12 – 15, 2021**  
**Webinar**

**SHRIMP**

**Biological Review of the Texas Closure**

**Motion:** To recommend to NMFS that federal waters be closed out to 200 miles to run concurrent with the date that the State of Texas recommends for the 2021 Texas shrimp closure in the Texas Territorial Sea.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Gulf Shrimp Fishery Effort and Landings**

**Motion:** To direct staff to begin a Framework Action to set up reporting requirements for the expiring 3G cELB program to transition it to a new platform for effort reporting of the Gulf of Mexico federal shrimp fishery.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Remaining Items from Summary of the Shrimp Advisory Panel Meeting**

**Motion:** Staff send a letter to SEFSC expressing our support for conducting an assessment of the Kemp's ridley stock when time and funds allow, and that this assessment consider the modeling approach presented by LGL Ecological Research Associates.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Amendment 32: Modifications to the Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group Cobia Catch Limits, Possession Limits, Size Limits, and Framework Procedure and South Atlantic Recommendations**

**Motion:** In Action 2, to move **Alternative 4** to Considered but Rejected.

**Alternative 4:** Modify the Gulf Group Cobia stock ACL apportionment at 62% to the Gulf Zone and 38% to the FLEC Zone, based on the MRIP-FES average landings for Gulf Group Cobia for the years 2001 – 2015, and use this apportionment to update the Zone ACLs based on the Gulf Group Cobia ACL(s) in Action 1.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 5.1, to remove “Preferred” from **Option 2b** in **Alternative 2**.

Preferred **Alternative 2**: Reduce the daily possession limit to 1 fish per person, regardless of the number or duration of trips.

**Preferred Option 2a**: for the recreational sector

~~Preferred~~ **Option 2b**: for the commercial sector

Motion carried with two in opposition.

**Motion**: In Action 5.2, to select all the South Atlantic Preferred Alternatives and Options.

**South Atlantic Preferred Alternative 2**: Reduce the daily possession limit to 1 fish per person, regardless of the number or duration of trips.

**South Atlantic Preferred Option 2a**: for the recreational sector

**South Atlantic Preferred Option 2b**: for the commercial sector

**South Atlantic Preferred Alternative 3**: Create a recreational vessel limit. Fishermen may not exceed the per person daily possession limit.

**South Atlantic Preferred Option 3a**: The vessel limit is two fish per trip

**Option 3b**: The vessel limit is four fish per trip

**Option 3c**: The vessel limit is six fish per trip.

**South Atlantic Preferred Alternative 4**: Create a commercial vessel trip limit. Fishermen may not exceed the per person daily possession limit.

**South Atlantic Preferred Option 4a**: The vessel trip limit is two fish.

**Option 4b**: The vessel trip limit is four fish.

**Option 4c**: The vessel trip limit is six fish.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion**: In Action 7, to make **Alternative 2** the preferred.

**Alternative 2**: Modify the framework procedure to update the responsibility to each Council for setting regulations for the Gulf Group Cobia.

Motion carried with two opposed.

## DATA COLLECTION

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

**Motion**: To direct staff to begin a framework action to address equipment failure and possible exceptions for charter vessels, headboats, and commercial reporting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## HABITAT PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

No motions.

### REEF FISH

**Final Action: Framework Action: Modification of Annual Catch Limits for Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper**

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

**Alternative 2:** Modify the red snapper OFL, ABC, ACLs, and recreational ACTs for 2021 based on the OFL and ABC recommendation of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) at the March 30 – April 2, 2021 SSC meeting. The OFL was based on the interim analysis informed by the results of the Great Red Snapper Count (GRSC). The ABC was based on the fishery-independent NMFS bottom longline (BLL) survey-based interim analysis.

Catch Limit Type	Current Catch Limits	Calculation
OFL	25,600,000	SSC recommendation from GRSC
ABC	15,400,000	39.8% less than OFL
Total ACL	15,400,000	ACL = ABC
Commercial ACL	7,854,000	51% of ABC
Recreational ACL	7,546,000	49% of ABC
Federal For-Hire ACL	3,191,958	42.3% of Recreational ACL
Federal For-Hire ACT	2,904,682	9% less than For-Hire ACL
Private Angling ACL	4,354,042	57.7% of Recreational ACL
Florida ACL	1,951,569	44.822% of Private Angling ACL
Alabama ACL	1,145,026	26.298% of Private Angling ACL
Mississippi ACL	154,568	3.55% of Private Angling ACL
Louisiana ACL	832,493	19.12% of Private Angling ACL
Texas ACL	270,386	6.21% of Private Angling ACL

Note: Values are in pounds whole weight. Units are in MRIP-CHTS.

Note: Changes in the respective Gulf states ACLs are being considered simultaneously in another action to address issues related to calibration of recreational data among the various state data collection programs.

Mr. Anson – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes	Mr. Dyskow – yes
Mr. Riechers – yes	Mr. Banks	Mr. Williamson – y
Dr. Shipp – no	Mr. Dugas	Mr. Swindell – y
Ms. Boggs – yes	Mr. Strelcheck – yes	Ms. Guyas – y
Mr. Sanchez – yes	Ms. Bosarge – yes	Dr. Frazer – abstain
Gen. Spraggins – yes	Dr. Stunz – yes	

Motion carried 15 to 1 with one abstention by roll call vote.

**Substitute Motion:** To add a new **Alternative 3**, and select it as the preferred.

**Alternative 3:** Modify the red snapper OFL for 2021 based on the OFL recommendation of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) at the March 30 – April 2, 2021 SSC meeting. The OFL was based on the interim analysis informed by the results of the Great Red Snapper Count (GRSC).

Catch Limit Type	Current Catch Limits	Calculation
OFL	25,600,000	SSC recommendation from GRSC
ABC	15,100,000	41.0 % less than OFL
Total ACL	15,100,000	ACL = ABC
Commercial ACL	7,701,000	51% of ABC
Recreational ACL	7,399,000	49% of ABC
Federal For-Hire ACL	3,130,000	42.3% of Recreational ACL
Federal For-Hire ACT	2,848,000	9% less than For-Hire ACL
Private Angling ACL <sup>1</sup>	4,269,000	57.7% of Recreational ACL
Florida ACL	1,913,451	44.822% of Private Angling ACL
Alabama ACL	1,122,662	26.298% of Private Angling ACL
Mississippi ACL	151,550	3.55% of Private Angling ACL
Louisiana ACL	816,233	19.12% of Private Angling ACL
Texas ACL	265,105	6.21% of Private Angling ACL

Note: Values are in pounds whole weight. Units are in MRIP-CHTS.

Note: Changes in the respective Gulf states ACLs are being considered simultaneously in another action to address issues related to calibration of recreational data among the various state data collection programs.

<sup>1</sup> The private angling ACL is currently managed through individual ACLs for each of the 5 Gulf states. A private angling ACT is not currently used for management, but remains in place as part of the default federal regulations that would apply in the event a state’s delegation is no longer in effect.

Mr. Strelcheck – no	Ms. Bosarge – no	Mr. Swindell – no
Dr. Shipp – yes	Dr. Stunz – yes	Ms. Boggs – no
Mr. Williamson – yes	Mr. Diaz – no	Mr. Sanchez – no
Ms. Guyas – yes	Mr. Anson – no	Mr. Dugas – yes
Mr. Dyskow – yes	Mr. Banks – no	Dr. Frazer – no
Gen. Spraggins – yes	Mr. Riechers – yes	

Substitute Motion failed 8 to 9 by roll call vote.

**Motion:** Request the SSC consider new information and revised report (GRSC) to provide catch advice for red snapper for 2021 and beyond. As part of the discussion, the SSC should consider the existing ABC control rule as well as the national standard guidelines.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To approve the Framework Action: Modification of Annual Catch Limits for Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper 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.

Ms. Boggs – yes	Mr. Banks – yes	Gen. Spraggins – yes
Mr. Riechers – yes	Mr. Williamson – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes
Dr. Stunz – yes	Mr. Dyskow – yes	Ms. Guyas – yes
Mr. Strelcheck – abstain	Mr. Swindell – yes	Mr. Sanchez – yes
Ms. Bosarge – yes	Mr. Dugas – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes
Mr. Anson – yes	Dr. Shipp – yes	

Motion carried 16 to 0 with one abstention.

**Final Action: Framework Action: Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Recreational Data Calibration and Recreational Catch Limits**

**Motion:** In Action 1, to add a new **Alternative 6** that would change the state-specific red snapper private angling component annual catch limits (ACL) using modified percentages from those identified in Amendment 50A in state survey currencies through 2023. Alabama would retain the ACL that was issued in Amendment 50A (1,122,662 lbs).

State	ACL (in MRIP-CHTS Currency)	Allocation %
AL	1,122,662	25.784%
FL	1,965,169	45.134%
MS	155,646	3.575%
LA	838,295	19.253%
TX	272,270	6.253%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,354,042</b>	<b>100%</b>

Mr. Anson – yes	Mr. Banks – no	Mr. Swindell – no
Ms. Bosarge – no	Mr. Diaz – yes	Ms. Guyas – no
Mr. Dugas – yes	Mr. Williamson – yes	Dr. Stunz – yes
Gen. Spraggins – yes	Mr. Strelcheck – no	Mr. Dyskow – yes
Dr. Shipp – yes	Mr. Riechers – no	Dr. Frazer – no
Mr. Sanchez – no	Ms. Boggs – no	

Motion failed 8 to 9 by roll call vote.

**Motion:** The Council accept state surveys of recreational red snapper as best available science.

Mr. Sanchez – no	Dr. Stunz – yes	Mr. Dyskow – yes
Mr. Anson – no	Mr. Diaz – no	Gen. Spraggins – yes
Ms. Boggs – no	Mr. Williamson – yes	Mr. Dugas – yes
Mr. Banks – no	Ms. Bosarge – no	Ms. Guyas – yes
Mr. Swindell – no	Dr. Shipp – yes	Dr. Frazer – no
Mr. Strelcheck – no	Mr. Riechers – yes	

Motion failed 8 to 9 by roll call vote.

**Motion:** To defer action on the framework until immediately after the GRSC report is finalized, the SSC has met and revisited the ABC, and the common currency conversion concerns between Alabama and Mississippi are scientifically vetted. Implement the framework in time for the 2022 season.

**Substitute Motion:** In Action 1, to make **Alternative 2** the preferred, with an implementation date of April 30, 2022.

**Alternative 2:** Modify the state-specific red snapper private angling component ACLs using the ratio calibrations developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Office of Science and Technology (OST) and the respective Gulf states. These ratios and the resulting ACLs in each state’s currency are as follows:

State	Current ACL – MRIP-CHTS Currency	Ratio	ACL (lbs ww) (State Currency)
Alabama	1,122,662	0.4875	547,298
Florida	1,913,451	1.0602	2,028,641
Louisiana	816,233	1.06	865,207
Mississippi	151,550	0.3840	58,195
Texas	265,105	1.00	265,105
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,269,000</b>		<i>Not additive</i>

Any future increases to state-specific ACLs in 2021 or 2022 would be calibrated based on the ratio calibrations described in **Alternative 2**. Further, under **Alternative 2**, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will review the state specific ACLs in 2022, or as soon as practicable.

**Second Substitute Motion:** In Action 1, to make **Alternative 2** the preferred, with an implementation date of January 1, 2023.

**Alternative 2:** Modify the state-specific red snapper private angling component ACLs using the ratio calibrations developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Office of Science and Technology (OST) and the respective Gulf states. These ratios and the resulting ACLs in each state’s currency are as follows:

State	Current ACL – MRIP-CHTS Currency	Ratio	ACL (lbs ww) (State Currency)
Alabama	1,122,662	0.4875	547,298
Florida	1,913,451	1.0602	2,028,641
Louisiana	816,233	1.06	865,207
Mississippi	151,550	0.3840	58,195
Texas	265,105	1.00	265,105
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,269,000</b>		<i>Not additive</i>

Any future increases to state-specific ACLs in 2021 or 2022 would be calibrated based on the ratio calibrations described in Alternative 2. Further, under Alternative 2, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will review the state specific ACLs in 2022, or as soon as practicable.

Mr. Strelcheck – no	Ms. Guyas – no	Mr. Swindell – no
Dr. Shipp – yes	Gen. Spraggins – yes	Mr. Anson – yes
Ms. Bosarge – no	Ms. Boggs – no	Mr. Banks – no
Dr. Stunz – yes	Mr. Williamson – yes	Mr. Dyskow – yes
Mr. Dugas – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes	Dr. Frazer – abstain
Mr. Sanchez – no	Mr. Riechers – yes	

Second Substitute Motion carried 9 to 7 with one abstention by roll call vote.

**Motion:** To approve the Framework Action: Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Recreational Data Calibration and Recreational Catch Limits 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. Riechers – yes	Dr. Shipp – yes	Mr. Swindell – no
Mr. Diaz – yes	Mr. Dugas – yes	Mr. Strelcheck – no
Mr. Banks – no	Dr. Stunz – yes	Mr. Dyskow – yes
Mr. Anson – yes	Ms. Boggs – no	Mr. Williamson – yes
Ms. Guyas – yes	Mr. Sanchez – no	Dr. Frazer – abstain
Ms. Bosarge – no	Gen. Spraggins – yes	

Motion carried 10 to 6 with one abstention.

**Revised Public Hearing Draft Amendment 53: Red Grouper Allocations and Annual Catch Levels and Catch Targets**

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

**Alternative 2:** Maintain the sector allocations of the total ACL as 76% commercial and 24% recreational. Revise the OFL and ABC **Error! Bookmark not defined.** as recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) based on Southeast Data Assessment and Review (SEDAR) 61 (2019). Set the stock ACL equal to the stock ABC.

Mr. Sanchez – yes	Mr. Strelcheck – abstain	Mr. Riechers – no
Mr. Anson – no	Dr. Stunz – no	Mr. Dyskow – no
Ms. Boggs – no	Mr. Diaz – no	Mr. Dugas – no
Mr. Banks – yes	Mr. Williamson – no	Ms. Guyas – no
Gen. Spraggins – no	Ms. Bosarge – yes	Dr. Frazer – abstain
Mr. Swindell – yes	Dr. Shipp – no	

Motion failed 4 to 11 with two abstentions by roll call vote.