

Gulf Council Motions Report
April 4-7, 2022
Gulf Shores, Alabama

ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET

Discussion of Electronic Voting Process for Council and Council Bodies including available technology

Motion: To implement an electronic voting system for Council and Council committee motions that have opposition. All roll call votes shall be by electronic voting. Results shall be recorded and included in the minutes. Staff to select appropriate software and timing of implementation and modify the SOPPs as necessary.

Motion failed 5 to 10 with 2 abstentions.

Motion: To pilot an electronic voting system for Council and Council committee motions that have opposition. All roll call votes shall be by electronic voting. Results shall be recorded and included in the minutes. Staff will select appropriate software and timing of implementation and modify the SOPPs as necessary.

Motion carried 12 to 3 with 2 abstentions.

ECOSYSTEM

Review and Discuss Contracted Draft Gulf of Mexico Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)

Motion: To accept the FEP plan developed by LGL Associates as a framework to begin discussions and operationalize future FEP plans.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: That the ETC be charged with the following tasks:

1. Revise the ETC mission to ensure long term advice to the Council for the FEP.
2. Develop goals and measurable objectives for the FEP and up to 4 FEIs.
3. Create criteria for prioritizing FEIs. Utilize the criteria to recommend the top 4 FEIs.
4. The ETC is to develop a plan to engage stakeholders in the process.

Motion carried with no opposition.

SHRIMP

Biological Review of the Texas Closure

Motion: To request NMFS to continue with the Texas federal closure in the coming year in conjunction with the State of Texas closure in 2022.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Update on Current Vessel Position Data Collection

Motion: To request staff work with the Outreach and Education Technical Committee to identify the best process for conveying the importance of recovery of Secure Digital (SD) cards to Gulf of Mexico federal shrimp permit holders that have been selected by the Science and Research Director to report vessel position data. Once a notification process for shrimp permit holders is identified, letters to NMFS Fisheries Statistics Division should be sent emphasizing the importance of recovery of SD cards on Gulf of Mexico shrimp vessels and the efforts that have been identified to improve this outreach effort.

Motion carried with no opposition.

SSC Recommendations on Development and Process of Using Empirical Dynamic Models on Brown and White Shrimp

Motion: To convey to the SEFSC the support of the formal inclusion of the appropriate SSC members, Council staff, and shrimp industry representatives in the development of the shrimp Empirical Dynamic Models (EDM)s outside of formal SSC review and prior to the SEDAR research track.

Motion carried with no opposition.

MACKEREL

Final Action: Amendment 34: Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel Catch Levels and Atlantic King and Spanish Mackerel Management Measures

Motion: To recommend the Council approve Amendment 34: Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel Catch Levels and Atlantic King and Spanish Mackerel Management Measures 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. Strelcheck – yes	Mr. Geeslin – yes	Mr. Williamson – yes
Dr. Shipp – yes	Mr. Dugas – yes	Mr. Schieble – yes
Mr. Broussard – yes	Gen. Spraggins – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes
Dr. Stunz – yes	Mr. Anson – yes	Ms. McCawley – yes
Mr. Gill – yes	Ms. Boggs – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes
Ms. Bosarge – absent	Mr. Dyskow – yes	

Motion carried 16-0 with 1 absent by roll call vote.

Other Business

Motion: To direct staff to create a framework amendment to eliminate weekend and holiday closures in the gillnet component of the mackerel fishery.

Motion carried with no opposition.

DATA COLLECTION

Update on Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) Program

Motion: To direct staff to develop an abbreviated framework document addressing the trip declaration

requirements.

Motion carried with no opposition.

REEF FISH

Review of Revised Great Red Snapper Count Estimates and SSC Recommendations for Red Snapper Catch Advice

Motion: To direct staff to begin work on a framework action to revise the red snapper catch limits based on the SSC's March 2022 catch limit recommendations.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Presentation and Discussion of Gulf of Mexico Gag Grouper Interim Rule, SRFs Calibration, and Interim Analysis

Motion: Request that SERO provide to the Council at its June 2022 meeting an analysis of data needed to develop an interim rule to reduce overfishing of gag grouper in the Gulf of Mexico for the 2023 fishing year. The analysis will include: (1) options for distributing quota to the recreational and commercial fishery sectors in an equitable manner (e.g., proportional reduction in catch using data from 2017-2019) given an ABC of 660,000 lbs ww based on a rebuilding time frame of $T_{min} \times 2$, and (2) options to maximize the number of fishing days for the recreational sector based on various fishing season start dates in 2023, including October 1 and November 1.

Motion carried with 2 in opposition.

Motion: As part of the gag rebuilding plan, evaluate the components outlined in the Allocation Review Guidelines presented in the "Allocation Review Criteria" for inclusion in the amendment to fully consider the various allocation scenarios and corresponding catch advice decisions before the Council.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Commercial IFQ Programs

Motion: That the SEFSC and SSC prioritize increased human dimensions data collection and analysis, consistent with the recommendations from the report, "The Use of LAPPs in Mixed-Use Fisheries."

Motion carried with no opposition.

FWC Goliath Grouper Limited Harvest Rule Change

Motion: To request that the SSC reconsider the OFL and ABC for goliath grouper.

Motion carried with no opposition.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Historical Captain Permits Conversion

Motion: To recommend the Council approve Framework Action: Historical Captain Permits

Conversion 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. Gill – yes	Gen. Spraggins – yes	Ms. Boggs – abstain
Mr. Dugas – yes	Mr. Strelcheck – yes	Mr. Geeslin – yes
Ms. Bosarge – yes	Mr. Schieble – yes	Mr. Williamson – yes
Dr. Frazer – yes	Dr. Shipp – yes	Dr. Stunz – yes
Ms. McCawley – yes	Mr. Dyskow – absent	Mr. Diaz – yes
Mr. Anson – yes	Mr. Broussard – yes	

Motion carried 15 to 0 with 1 absent and 1 abstention by roll call vote.

Allocation Review Guidelines

Motion: To approve the Allocation Review Guidelines document.

Motion carried with 2 in opposition.

Motion: Request the SEFSC analyze alternative practicable approaches to sector allocation determination, other than using historic landings only, that specifically include socio-economic evaluation. The SSC should review, make recommendations, and give advice to the Council.

Motion carried with 2 in opposition.

CLOSED SESSION

Selection of IFQ Focus Group Participants

The Council populated the IFQ Focus Group with the following members:

- Small shareholder – Casey Streeter
- Medium shareholder – Jim Zurbrick
- Large shareholder – David Walker
- Crew – Brad Gorst
- New entrant – Lance Nacio
- Public participant – Cliff Penick
- Permitholder who leases (no shares) – Laura Chicola
- Dealer – Jason Delacruz
- Knowledgeable non-participant – Dr. Andrew Ropicki
- Eastern Gulf longliner – the Council did not make an appointment for this position

Selection of 2021 Law Enforcement Officer/Team of the Year

The Council selected the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s (FWC) nominee, the crew of the 85’ offshore patrol vessel *Gulf Sentry* for the 2021 Law Enforcement Team of the Year.