

Gulf Council Motions Report

April 3 – 6, 2023

Gulfport, Mississippi

CLOSED SESSION

Selection of 2022 Law Enforcement Officer/Team of the Year and Historical Award Recipients

Motion: To accept the LETC’s recommendation of selecting Chancellor Mancuso, AL as the 2022 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Selection of Standing and Statistical Committee (SSC) Member Replacement

Motion: To appoint Daniel Petrolia to serve on the Standing SSC.

Motion carried 9 to 5.

MACKEREL

Final Action: Draft Framework Amendment 12: Modifications to the Commercial Gulf King Mackerel Gillnet Fishing Season (Tab C, No. 5)

Motion: To approve *Draft Framework Amendment 12: Modifications to the Commercial Gulf King Mackerel Gillnet Fishing Season* and forward it 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.

C.5.1 Final Action Approve Draft Amend 12 Modifications to Com King Mackerel Gill				
First Name	Last Name			
Kevin	Anson	Yes		
Susan	Boggs	Yes		
Billy	Broussard	Yes		
Dale	Diaz	Yes		
JD	Dugas	Yes		
Phil	Dyskow	Yes		
Tom	Frazer	Yes		
Dakus	Geeslin	Yes		
Bob	Gill	Yes		
Michael	McDermott	Yes		
Chris	Schieble	Yes		
Joe	Spraggins	Yes		
Andy	Stelcheck	Yes		
Greg	Stunz	Yes		
CJ	Sweetman	Yes		
Troy	Williamson	Yes		
Result - Passed	Subtotals	Yes (16)	No (0)	Abstain (0)

Motion carried 16 to 0 with 1 abstention.

Recommendations from the CMP Advisory Panel (AP) December 2022 Meeting (Tab C, No. 6)

Motion: To remove the following from the GMFMC Proposed Actions for 2023 (Action Schedule) because sale of recreationally caught cobia is prohibited by the states.

- (line 22) Framework Amendment: to prohibit the sale of recreationally caught cobia.

C.6.1 Remove line 22 from GMFMC Proposed Actions for 2023 (sale of rec cobia)				
First Name	Last Name			
Kevin	Anson	Yes		
Susan	Boggs		No	
Billy	Broussard	Yes		
Dale	Diaz	Yes		
JD	Dugas	Yes		
Phil	Dyskow	Yes		
Tom	Frazer	Yes		
Dakus	Geeslin	Yes		
Bob	Gill	Yes		
Michael	McDermott	Yes		
Chris	Schieble	Yes		
Joe	Spraggins	Yes		
Andy	Stelcheck	Yes		
Greg	Stunz			Abstain
CJ	Sweetman	Yes		
Troy	Williamson	Yes		
Result - Passed	Subtotals	Yes (14)	No (1)	Abstain (1)

Motion carried 14 to 1 with 1 absent and 1 abstention.

DATA COLLECTION

Update on Southeast For-Hire Integrated Reporting Program (SEFHIER) (Tab F, No. 4)

Motion: To direct staff to initiate a document that establishes a charter for hire data collection program to replace the SEFHIER program.

F.4.1 To direct staff to initiate a doc for CFH data collection program to replace SEFHIER				
First Name	Last Name			
Kevin	Anson	Yes		
Susan	Boggs	Yes		
Billy	Broussard		No	
Dale	Diaz	Yes		
JD	Dugas	Yes		
Phil	Dyskow	Yes		
Tom	Frazer	Yes		
Dakus	Geeslin		No	
Bob	Gill	Yes		
Michael	McDermott		No	
Chris	Schieble	Yes		
Joe	Spraggins	Yes		
Andy	Strelcheck	Yes		
Greg	Stunz			Abstain
CJ	Sweetman	Yes		
Troy	Williamson		No	
Result - Passed	Subtotals	Yes (11)	No (4)	Abstain (1)

Motion carried 11 to 4 with 1 absent and 1 abstention.

Modification to Commercial Coastal Logbook Reporting Requirements and AP Recommendations (Tab F, No. 5a and b)

Motion: To direct Council staff to work with industry groups to determine what outreach and education would be appropriate to the commercial participants.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To select Option 1 as the preferred in the Modification to Commercial Coastal Logbook Reporting Requirements document.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Discussion on Private Angler Licensing Requirements and AP Recommendations (Tab F, No. 6 and 5b) Remaining Data Collection AP Summary Items (Tab F, No. 5b)

Motion: Request that NMFS and Council staff provide collaborative support to the 5 Gulf state fishery services for the express purpose of developing a universal, state managed, recreational fishing license program for the primary Grouper/Snapper species in federal waters. At a minimum, this license will provide information on fishing effort, catch, and discards.

Motion: To table the motion above until discussion on the proposed recreational fishery initiative in Other Business.

Motion carried with no opposition.

SHRIMP

Biological Review of the Texas Closure (Tab D, No. 4)

Motion: To request that NMFS to continue with the Texas Federal Closure in the coming year in conjunction with the state of Texas Closure in 2023.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Update on NMFS VMS Project (Tab D, No. 6)

Motion: To suspend action on the draft Shrimp Framework Action until NMFS conducts side-by-side testing of cELB units with the following cellular units and other cellular units on a minimum of five shrimp vessels for the full length of an average offshore trip and presents the results after the raw data is run through the new NMFS shrimp effort algorithm:

- 1) The Woods Hole NEMO unit that is hard-wired to the vessel
- 2) The Atlantic Radio Telephone ZEN VMS LTE
- 3) Nautic Alert Insight X3

Substitute Motion: The Council recommends NMFS conduct side-by-side testing of cELB units with the following cellular units and other cellular units on a minimum of five shrimp vessels for the full length of an average offshore trip and presents the results after the raw data is run through the new NMFS shrimp effort algorithm:

- 1) The Woods Hole NEMO unit that is hard-wired to the vessel
- 2) The Atlantic Radio Telephone ZEN VMS LTE
- 3) Nautic Alert Insight X3

Second Substitute Motion: The Council recommends to bring the draft Shrimp Framework Action: *Modification of the Vessel Position Data Collection Program for the GOM Shrimp Fishery* back to the Council after NMFS has completed the side by side testing of cELB units with the following cellular units and other cellular units on a minimum of five shrimp vessels for the full length of an average offshore trip and presents the results after the raw data is run through the new NMFS shrimp effort algorithm:

- 1) The Woods Hole NEMO unit that is hard-wired to the vessel
- 2) The Atlantic Radio Telephone ZEN VMS LTE
- 3) Nautic Alert Insight X3

Second Substitute Motion carried with no opposition.

Draft Shrimp Framework Action: Modification of the Vessel Position Data Collection Program for the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery (Tab D, No. 7)

Motion: The Council recognizes the need to continue the development and implementation of a new approved electronic data collection framework soon. Accordingly, the Council directs staff to convene the Shrimp AP and appropriate Council members for a consultation with NMFS on the proposed spend plan of Congressional funds for Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishing effort.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To modify Action 1, **Alternatives 2 and 3** in the Draft Framework Action to the Shrimp FMP as follows:

Alternative 2: Implement a cellular vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirement for the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) shrimp fishery that provides archived position data compatible with the SEFSC’s shrimp algorithm. If selected by the Science and Research Director (SRD), the owner or operator of a shrimp vessel with a valid or renewable Gulf shrimp moratorium permit (SPGM) would be required to install a type-approved VMS unit (50 CFR 600.1501) that archives vessel position when on a shrimp fishing trip in the Gulf and automatically transmits that data via cellular service to NMFS.

Alternative 3: Implement a cellular ELB requirement for the Gulf shrimp fishery that provides archived position data compatible with the SEFSC’s shrimp algorithm. If selected by the SRD, the owner or operator of a shrimp vessel with a valid or renewable SPGM would be required to install a NMFS-approved ELB that archives vessel position when on a shrimp fishing trip in the Gulf and automatically transmits those data via cellular service to a non-OLE NMFS server. NMFS-approved ELBs would not be type-approved based on regulations at 50 CFR 600.1501.

D.7.2 To modify Action 1, Alternatives 2 and 3 in the Draft Framework Action to the Shrimp FMP...				
First Name	Last Name			
Kevin	Anson	Yes		
Susan	Boggs		No	
Billy	Broussard		No	
Dale	Diaz	Yes		
JD	Dugas		No	
Phil	Dyskow	Yes		
Tom	Frazer			Abstain
Dakus	Geeslin	Yes		
Bob	Gill	Yes		
Michael	McDermott	Yes		
Chris	Schieble		No	
Joe	Spraggins	Yes		
Andy	Strelcheck	Yes		
Greg	Stunz			Abstain
CJ	Sweetman	Yes		
Troy	Williamson	Yes		
Result - Passed	Subtotals	Yes (10)	No (4)	Abstain (2)

Motion carried 10 to 4 with 1 absent and 2 abstentions.

Update on Shrimp Effort Estimation Model and 2021 Gulf Shrimp Fishery Effort (Tab D, No. 8)

Motion: To request the SEFSC develop effort estimates for brown, white and pink shrimp using new shrimp effort model estimation procedures.

Motion carried with no opposition.

REEF FISH

Public Hearing Draft: Draft Amendment 56: Modifications to the Gag Grouper Catch Limits, Sector Allocations, and Fishing Seasons (Tab B, No. 5)

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

Alternative 2: Revise the SDC for gag based on the results of the updated Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) 72 stock assessment as reviewed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's (Council) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) in July 2022. MSY is defined as the yield when fishing at a 40% spawning potential ratio (SPR) or F40%SPR. The MFMT is equal to the fishing mortality at the FMSY proxy (e.g., F40%SPR). The MSST is defined as 50% of the biomass at MSY or its proxy. The OY is defined as being conditional on rebuilding plan, such that: if the stock is under a rebuilding plan, OY is equal to the stock annual catch limit (ACL); if the stock is not under a rebuilding plan, OY is equal to 90% of MSY or its proxy.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 2, that **Option 3b** in **Alternative 3** be the preferred alternative.

Alternative 3: Revise the catch limits for gag and establish a rebuilding time for the gag stock. The OFL, ABC, and ACLs are based on the FMSY proxy of the yield when fishing at F40%SPR. The ABC is equal to the stock ACL, which equals the combined total ACLs from both sectors. Revise the sector allocation to 65% recreational, 35% commercial, using average landings from 1986 – 2005, but using SRFS recreational landings data for the private recreational vessel fleet and MRIP-FES for all other recreational landings data. The catch limits in lb gw are rounded down to the nearest thousand pounds to ensure the sum of the sector ACLs does not exceed the ABC; the recreational ACL is informed by SRFS for private recreational vessels, by MRIP-FES data for the for-hire and shore modes, and by the Southeast Region Headboat Survey for headboats, and are as follows for each rebuilding timeline option:

Option 3b: 75% of F_{40%SPR}, which would rebuild the stock in 18 years.

F = F_{40%SPR}	OFL	ABC	Rec ACL	Com ACL
Year	mp gw	mp gw	mp gw	mp gw
2024	0.591	0.444	0.288	0.155
2025	0.805	0.615	0.399	0.215
2026	0.991	0.769	0.499	0.269
2027	1.200	0.943	0.613	0.330
2028	1.454	1.156	0.751	0.404

B.5.2 In PH Draft AM 56 in Action 2, to select Option 3b, Alternative 3 as the preferred				
First Name	Last Name			
Kevin	Anson	Yes		
Susan	Boggs		No	
Billy	Broussard	Yes		
Dale	Diaz	Yes		
JD	Dugas	Yes		
Phil	Dyskow	Yes		
Tom	Frazer	Yes		
Dakus	Geeslin	Yes		
Bob	Gill		No	
Michael	McDermott	Yes		
Chris	Schieble	Yes		
Joe	Spraggins	Yes		
Andy	Strelcheck			Abstain
Greg	Stunz			Abstain
CJ	Sweetman		No	
Troy	Williamson	Yes		
Result - Passed	Subtotals	Yes (11)	No (3)	Abstain (2)

Motion carried 11 to 3 with 1 absent and 2 abstentions.

Motion: In Sub-Action 3.1 of Action 3, to add a new **Alternative 3** to set the recreational ACT 20% below the recreational ACL.

B.5.3 In PH Draft AM 56 in Action 3, Sub-Action 3.1, to add a new Alternative 3 to set the rec ACT 20% below rec ACL				
First Name	Last Name			
Kevin	Anson	Yes		
Susan	Boggs	Yes		
Billy	Broussard	Yes		
Dale	Diaz	Yes		
JD	Dugas	Yes		
Phil	Dyskow	Yes		
Tom	Frazer	Yes		
Dakus	Geeslin	Yes		
Bob	Gill	Yes		
Michael	McDermott	Yes		
Chris	Schieble	Yes		
Joe	Spraggins	Yes		
Andy	Strelcheck	Yes		
Greg	Stunz			Abstain
CJ	Sweetman	Yes		
Troy	Williamson	Yes		
Result - Passed	Subtotals	Yes (15)	No (0)	Abstain (1)

Motion carried 15 to 0 with 1 absent and 1 abstention.

Motion: In Sub-Action 3.1 of Action 3, to make **Alternative 3** the preferred.

Alternative 3 to set the recreational ACT 20% below the recreational ACL.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Sub-Action 3.2 of Action 3, to make **Alternative 3** the preferred alternative.

Alternative 3: Set the commercial quota for the gag IFQ program equal the commercial ACT. The commercial ACT will be fixed at 95% of the commercial ACL. The IFQ program functions as the AM for the commercial sector for gag.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 4, to select **Alternative 3** as the preferred alternative.

Alternative 3: The federal recreational fishing season for Gulf gag would open on 12:01 am local time on September 1. Modify the AMs to direct to NMFS prohibit harvest when the recreational ACT is projected to be met. In addition, remove the provision that requires NMFS to maintain the prior year's ACT if the ACL is exceeded in the previous year.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To take *Draft Amendment 56: Modifications to the Gag Grouper Catch Limits, Sector Allocations, and Fishing Seasons* out for Public Hearing.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Draft Options: Recalibration of Red Snapper Recreational Catch Limits and Modification of Gray Snapper Catch Limits (Tab B, No. 9)

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

Alternative 2: Update state private recreational data calibration ratios of red snapper for Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida; ACLs are modified based on the revised ratios.

The ratios would be applied to the federal state-specific ACLs that are in place. A proposed rule, which if implemented would be effective by June 1, 2023, would change the catch limits as outlined in table 2.1.2 below.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To direct staff to begin work on a plan amendment to look at updating the states private recreational red snapper allocation.

Motion carried 13 to 1 with 1 absent and 2 abstentions.

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

Alternative 3: Catch limits for gray snapper will be updated based on projections informed by SEDAR 75 and recommendations from the SSC. Recreational catch data will be modified to MRIP-FES units. The OFL and ABC are set to a 5-year average of projected yield at $F_{26\%SPR}$. The ACL is set using the ACL/ACT Control Rule with a buffer of 8% between the ABC and ACL (Appendix A).

Years	OFL (mp ww)	ABC (mp ww)	ACL (mp ww)
2024 – 2028+	7.547	6.226	5.728

Motion carried with no opposition.

SSC Summary Report from the March 2023 Meeting (Tab B, No. 8)

Motion: To ask staff to bring back an evaluation as to whether wenchman require federal conservation and management.

Substitute Motion: To ask staff to bring back the data to support an evaluation as to whether wenchman require federal conservation and management.

Substitute motion carried with no opposition.

Other Business: Red Grouper

Motion: To direct staff to initiate a document that addresses elimination of recreational red grouper overruns by consideration of changes such as seasons, bag limits, size constraints, and other measures.

B.10.1 To direct staff to initiate a document that addresses the elimination of recreational red grouper overruns...				
First Name	Last Name			
Kevin	Anson		No	
Susan	Boggs		No	
Billy	Broussard		No	
Dale	Diaz		No	
JD	Dugas		No	
Phil	Dyskow		No	
Tom	Frazer	Yes		
Dakus	Geeslin		No	
Bob	Gill	Yes		
Michael	McDermott		No	
Chris	Schieble		No	
Joe	Spraggins		No	
Andy	Strelcheck	Yes		
Greg	Stunz			Abstain
CJ	Sweetman		No	
Troy	Williamson		No	
Result - Failed	Subtotals	Yes (3)	No (12)	Abstain (1)

Motion failed 3 to 12 with 1 absent and 1 abstention.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Overview of Potential Options for Regulatory Streamlining (Tab E, No. 5)

Motion: To direct staff to begin development on a plan amendment within the reef fish FMP to streamline regulatory procedures.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Factors to Consider for the Inclusion of Species in Federal Management (Tab E, No. 6)

Motion: To remove tripletail from further consideration for conservation and management.

Motion carried with no opposition.

FULL COUNCIL – OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion on the Recreational Fishing Initiative (Tab U, No. 1)

Motion: To un-table the motion below.

Motion: Request that NMFS and Council staff provide collaborative support to the 5 Gulf state fishery services for the express purpose of developing a universal, state managed, recreational fishing license program for the primary Grouper/Snapper species in federal waters. At a minimum, this license will provide information on fishing effort, catch, and discards.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: Request that NMFS, the Council, and the GSMFC collaborate with the 5 Gulf states to evaluate how the existing state recreational permit/data collection programs may be refined to achieve compatible data on reef fish catch effort, and discards such that NMFS will use the state data for both management and assessment.

Substitute Motion: Request that NMFS, GSMFC, and Council staff provide collaborative support to the 5 Gulf state fishery agencies for the express purpose of developing a universal, state managed, recreational saltwater angler landing permit program, to provide more precise fishing effort for use in both management and assessments.

Substitute Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To amend item 7 in the recreational fisheries management initiative to read as follows:

7. Exploration of innovative new management strategies.

Motion carried with no opposition.