

Gulf Council Motions Report
August 22-25, 2022
Corpus Christi, Texas

ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET

Review of Final 2022 Funded Budget and Activities

Motion: To approve the final 2022 budget as written.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Review and Discuss Proposed Modifications to Council's SOPPs

Motion: To approve the proposed revised language in Section 2.3.3 as presented.

- Alternate representatives (designee or principal) do not assume **these offices** the offices of Council Chair or Council Vice Chair, but may participate as members of committees and act as a Committee Chair or Committee Vice Chair.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To approve the proposed revised language in Section 2.6.2 as presented.

- The presence of a fishing violation is an important aspect in consideration of an AP appointment. The Council has determined: 1) Applicable fishing violations include only violations of federally managed species in either State or Federal waters, **regardless of the penalty (i.e., written warning, civil fine, criminal conviction)**; 2) Individuals are ineligible to serve on an AP within three years of the **final** finding of liability through adjudication, settlement, or default. **A finding of liability is final after any applicable appeal period expires**; and, 3) Vessel owners shall not automatically be held responsible for violations by a crew member when the owner is not present. **If an individual who is currently serving on an AP is found to have a fishing violation that meets the preceding criteria, subsequent to their appointment, the decision to maintain or remove the individual from the AP is at the Council's discretion.**

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To approve the proposed revised language in Section 2.8.3 (c) as presented.

- The Gulf SEDAR Committee is comprised of the Council Chair and the Coastal Migratory Pelagics, Red Drum, **Sustainable Fisheries**, and Reef Fish Management Committee Chairs. This committee reviews and advises on SEDAR stock assessment priorities.

Motion carried with no opposition.

CORAL

No motions.

DATA COLLECTION

Abbreviated Framework Action to Modify For-Hire Trip Declaration Requirements

Motion: To make **Option 3** the preferred.

Option 3: The exemption from the trip declaration requirement would apply to non-fishing trips that are completed in 120-minutes or less.

Motion failed 4 to 11.

Motion: To add an **Option 4** and make it the preferred.

Option 4: To eliminate all trip declaration requirements for federally permitted for-hire vessels in the SEFHIER program when participating in non-fishing activities.

Substitute Motion: To direct staff to add an option to require for-hire vessel owners and/or operators to submit a trip declaration only for a trip that will be engaging in any type of fishing activity or charter trip.

Substitute Motion carried 16 to 0 with 1 abstention.

MIGRATORY SPECIES

Other Business

Motion: To modify the Gulf of Mexico's Fishery Management Council's SOPPs Section 2.7.3 Ecosystem Technical Committee as follows:

- The Ecosystem Technical Committee consists of no more than twelve people. Membership includes three staff from NMFS, one of which is from the HMS division; the Ecosystem SSC (3 members); two Standing SSC representatives; and up to four other stakeholder representatives. Members are appointed jointly by the Executive Director and Council Chair.

Motion carried with 1 in opposition.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

No motions.

REEF FISH

Gulf and South Atlantic SSC Review and Recommendations for Southeastern U.S. Yellowtail Snapper

Motion: To resume work on Reef Fish Amendment 55 and include consideration of updated catch

advice as recommended by the Gulf and South Atlantic SSCs.
 Motion carried with no opposition.

Public Hearing Draft Amendment 54: Modifications to the Greater Amberjack Catch Limits and Sector Allocations, and other Rebuilding Plan Modifications

Motion: In Action 1, to make **Alternative 3** the preferred.

Alternative 3: Revise the allocation between the recreational and commercial sectors using MRIP-FES adjusted average landings during the years 1981 through 2004. The allocations for greater amberjack are 84% recreational and 16% commercial. Revise the OFL and ABC as recommended by the SSC based on SEDAR 70 (2020). Set the total stock ACL equal to the ABC.

Year	OFL	ABC	Total ACL	Rec ACL	Com ACL	Allocation (Rec:Com)
2022	1,996,000	497,000	497,000	417,480	79,520	84:16
2023	2,130,000	621,000	621,000	521,640	99,360	84:16
2024	2,234,000	739,000	739,000	620,60	118,240	84:16
2025	2,305,000	842,000	842,000	707,280	134,720	84:16
2026	2,354,000	929,000	929,000	780,360	148,640	84:16
2027	2,387,000	999,000	999,000	839,160	159,840	84:16

Note: Values are in pounds whole weight. The recreational portion of the OFL, ABC, total ACL and ACL are based on MRIP-FES data.

Ms. Boggs – no	Mr. Strelcheck – abstain	Mr. Williamson – yes
Mr. Burris – no	Dr. Stunz – yes	Dr. Shipp – yes
Mr. Dugas – yes	Mr. Geeslin – yes	Dr. Sweetman – no
Mr. Gill – no	Dr. Frazer – no	Mr. McDermott – yes
Mr. Anson – no	Mr. Dyskow – yes	Mr. Diaz – abstain
Mr. Banks – no	Mr. Broussard – no	

Motion failed 7 to 8 with 2 abstentions by roll call vote.

Substitute Motion: In Action 1, to make **Alternative 5** the preferred.

Alternative 5: Revise the allocation between the recreational and commercial sectors using MRIP-FES adjusted average landings during the years 1993 through 2019. The allocations for greater amberjack are 80% recreational and 20% commercial. Revise the OFL and ABC as recommended by the SSC based on SEDAR 70 (2020). Set the total stock ACL equal to the ABC.

Year	OFL	ABC	Total ACL	Rec ACL	Com ACL	Allocation (Rec:Com)
2022	2,033,000	505,000	505,000	404,000	101,000	80:20
2023	2,167,000	631,000	631,000	504,800	126,200	80:20
2024	2,272,000	750,000	750,000	600,000	150,000	80:20
2025	2,345,000	854,000	854,000	683,200	170,800	80:20
2026	2,395,000	941,000	941,000	752,800	188,200	80:20
2027	2,429,000	1,012,000	1,012,000	809,600	202,400	80:20

Note: Values are in pounds whole weight. The recreational portion of the OFL, ABC, total ACL and ACL are based on MRIP-FES data.

Dr. Frazer – no	Mr. Gill – yes	Dr. Shipp – no
Mr. Anson – yes	Mr. Williamson – no	Mr. Broussard – yes
Mr. Burris – yes	Dr. Stunz – no	Mr. Strelcheck – abstain
Ms. Boggs – no	Mr. Dyskow – no	Mr. Dugas – no
Dr. Sweetman – yes	Mr. Banks – yes	Mr. Diaz – abstain
Mr. Geeslin – no	Mr. McDermott – no	

Substitute Motion failed 6 to 9 with 2 abstentions by roll call vote.

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

Alternative 2: Maintain the sector allocations as 73% recreational and 27% commercial. Revise the OFL and ABC as recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) based on SEDAR 70 (2020). Set the total stock ACL equal to the ABC.

Year	OFL	ABC	Total ACL	Rec ACL	Com ACL	Allocation (Rec:Com)
2022	2,102,000	521,000	521,000	380,330	140,670	73:27
2023	2,236,000	649,000	649,000	473,770	175,230	73:27
2024	2,343,000	770,000	770,000	562,100	207,900	73:27
2025	2,419,000	875,000	875,000	638,750	236,250	73:27
2026	2,472,000	964,000	964,000	703,720	260,280	73:27
2027	2,507,000	1,035,000	1,035,000	755,550	279,450	73:27

Note: Values are in pounds whole weight. The recreational portion of the OFL, ABC, total ACL and ACL are based on MRIP-FES data.

Dr. Shipp – no	Mr. Strelcheck – abstain	Mr. Burris – yes
Mr. Dugas – no	Ms. Boggs – yes	Dr. Sweetman – yes
Mr. Banks – yes	Mr. McDermott – no	Dr. Frazer – yes
Dr. Stunz – no	Mr. Williamson – no	Mr. Gill – yes
Mr. Dyskow – no	Mr. Broussard – no	Mr. Diaz – abstain
Mr. Anson – no	Mr. Geeslin – no	

Second Substitute motion failed 6 to 9 with 2 abstentions by roll call vote.

Motion: In Action 1, to make **Alternative 4** the preferred.

Alternative 4: Revise the allocation between the recreational and commercial sectors using MRIP-FES adjusted average landings during the years 1993 through 2007. The allocations for greater amberjack are 78% recreational and 22% commercial. Revise the OFL and ABC as recommended by the SSC based on SEDAR 70 (2020). Set the total stock ACL equal to the ABC.

Year	OFL	ABC	Total ACL	Rec ACL	Com ACL	Allocation (Rec:Com)
2022	2,052,000	509,000	509,000	397,020	111,980	78:22
2023	2,186,000	636,000	636,000	496,080	139,920	78:22
2024	2,292,000	756,000	756,000	589,680	166,320	78:22
2025	2,365,000	860,000	860,000	670,800	189,200	78:22
2026	2,417,000	947,000	947,000	738,660	208,340	78:22
2027	2,451,000	1,018,000	1,018,000	794,040	223,960	78:22

Note: Values are in pounds whole weight. The recreational portion of the OFL, ABC, total ACL and ACL are based on MRIP-FES data.

Mr. Dyskow – no	Dr. Shipp – no	Mr. Strelcheck – abstain
Mr. Gill – yes	Mr. Williamson – no	Ms. Boggs – no
Mr. Broussard – yes	Mr. Banks – yes	Dr. Sweetman – yes
Mr. Burris – yes	Mr. McDermott – no	Mr. Dugas – no
Mr. Geeslin – no	Dr. Stunz – no	Mr. Diaz – abstain
Dr. Frazer – yes	Mr. Anson – yes	

Motion failed 7 to 8 with 2 abstentions by roll call vote.

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

Alternative 3: Apply the ACL/ACT Control Rule (years 2016-2019) to revise the buffer between the ACL and ACT for each sector. The recreational buffer is 17%, and the commercial buffer is 7%.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To direct staff to begin development of a framework action for greater amberjack to modify commercial and recreational management measures.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To direct staff to begin a scoping document that will explore state management for greater amberjack for the recreational sector.

Motion carried 16 to 0 with 1 abstention.

Motion: To direct staff to begin a scoping document to explore sector separation for the charter for-hire fleet for greater amberjack, triggerfish, gag grouper, and red grouper.

Mr. Banks – yes	Dr. Sweetman – no	Mr. Strelcheck – yes
Mr. Anson – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes	Mr. Gill – yes
Mr. Geeslin – yes	Mr. Dugas – no	Ms. Boggs – yes
Dr. Shipp – yes	Dr. Stunz – no	Mr. Dyskow – no
Mr. Burris – yes	Mr. Broussard – yes	Mr. Diaz – abstain
Mr. Williamson – yes	Mr. McDermott – no	

Motion carried 11 to 5 with 1 abstention.

FINAL ACTION: Modification of Catch Limits for Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper

Motion: To approve the Framework Action: Modification of 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.

Mr. Williamson – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes	Mr. Banks – yes
Ms. Boggs – no	Mr. Broussard – yes	Mr. Geeslin – yes
Mr. Dyskow – yes	Mr. Burris – yes	Dr. Sweetman – yes
Mr. Gill – no	Mr. Anson – yes	Dr. Stunz – yes
Mr. McDermott – yes	Mr. Strelcheck – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes
Mr. Dugas – yes	Dr. Shipp – yes	

Motion carried 15 to 2 By roll call vote.

Motion: To direct staff to develop a document that considers withholding a portion of the commercial ACL such as the recent red snapper increase in the framework action Modification of Catch Limits for Gulf Red Snapper, to be set aside for future distribution. For example, the increase could be used for the commercial fleet to account for dead discards of red snapper, to provide allocation for a future research set aside program.

Mr. Burris – yes	Dr. Shipp – yes	Mr. Williamson – no
Dr. Frazer – no	Mr. Anson – yes	Mr. Banks – no
Dr. Sweetman – no	Mr. Geeslin – yes	Mr. Strelcheck – no
Mr. McDermott – yes	Mr. Gill – no	Mr. Dugas – yes
Dr. Stunz – yes	Ms. Boggs – no	Mr. Diaz – no
Mr. Broussard – no	Mr. Dyskow – yes	

Motion failed 8 to 9 by roll call vote

Motion: Request SEFSC identify metrics for red snapper, greater amberjack, gag, and other targeted species that could indicate changes in stock health between stock assessments. These metrics could be but are not limited to: CPUE, length frequency distributions, weight distributions by region, or other information for consideration and review by the Scientific and Statistical Committee’s feedback.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Presentation on Framework Action for Vermilion Snapper Recreational Bag Limit and Gray Triggerfish Commercial Trip Limit and Recreational Closed Seasons

Motion: To direct staff to begin a standalone Framework Action for Gray Triggerfish commercial trip limits.

Motion carried with no opposition.

SSC Recommendations from the July 2022 SSC Meeting

Motion: To request the GSMFC to work with the 5 gulf states to compile historical landings for butterfish, wenchman, scad, and other associated species from the mid-water trawl fishery for evaluation by the SSC at a future SSC meeting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Draft Options for Amendment 56: Modifications to the Gag Grouper Catch Limits, Sector Allocations, Fishing Seasons, and other Rebuilding Plan Measures

Motion: The Council concurs with the SSC’s motion regarding the SEDAR 72 Gulf of Mexico gag

grouper operational assessment base run configuration, MSY proxy, red tide scenario, and stock status determination to use SRFS data and its consideration as BSIA.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: That Reef Fish Amendment 56 base catch limits using SFRS converted landings for the 1986-2005 original reference period. If subsequent allocation changes are desired, the Council should develop a separate amendment with a full allocation review based on the Allocation Policy and Guidelines.

Motion failed 8 to 8 with 1 abstention.

IFQ Focus Group

Motion: To reassemble the IFQ Focus Group for a second two-day meeting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Other Business

Motion: To recommend acceptance of the state surveys of private recreational catch and effort as best available science for assessment and management.

Substitute Motion: The Council and NOAA fisheries greatly value the work of the Gulf states to develop private recreational fishing catch and effort surveys and are committed to working collaboratively with the states to improve data collection and ensure the Council is using the best scientific information available for management decisions.

Substitute Motion carried 9 to 7 with 1 abstention.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Presentation on Mechanisms and Options for Automating Catch Advice from Interim Analysis

Motion: In collaboration with SERO staff, explore mechanisms to improve timeliness and efficiency of updating routine changes in catch advice using either the existing framework process or suggest changes in framework procedures that could be used to reduce the time between the completion of science and implementation of management changes. Provide an update at a future Council meeting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Discussion on the Florida Pompano Petition for Federal Rulemaking Letter

Motion: To request staff begin work on a presentation that addresses the factors that need to be considered when contemplating the need for federal conservation and management of Florida pompano.

Motion carried 10 to 3 with 4 abstentions.

Substitute Motion: To request staff begin work on a presentation that addresses the factors that need to be considered when contemplating the need for federal conservation and management of Florida pompano, African pompano, and permit.

Substitute Motion failed 6 to 7 with 2 abstentions.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL CHAIR

Motion: To nominate Dale Diaz to serve as Council Chair.

Approved by acclamation.

Motion: To nominate Greg Stunz to serve as Council Vice Chair.

Approved by acclamation.

OTHER BUSINESS – EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT (EFP)

Motion: To recommend approval of the Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) provided by Texas and Louisiana Sea Grants to test bycatch reduction devices (BRD).

Motion carried with no opposition.