

**Gulf Council Motions Report**  
**August 14 – 17, 2023**  
**Austin, Texas**

**ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET**

**Review of Final 2023 Funded Budget and Activities**

**Motion:** To approve the final 2023 Budget as written.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**MIGRATORY SPECIES**

**Update on Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Measures**

**Motion:** To direct staff to develop a comment letter on the scoping document HMS amendment 16, electronic reporting requirements, and HMS amendment 15.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**DATA COLLECTION**

**Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) Program Update and Next Steps**

**Motion:** To create an Ad Hoc Charter-for-Hire Data Collection Advisory Panel.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To approve the draft charge and application information for the Ad Hoc Charter-for-Hire Data Collection Advisory Panel.

**Draft Charge**

The Ad Hoc Charter For-hire Data Collection AP is tasked with providing Gulf-wide stakeholder insight on the development of a new electronic data collection program for the charter for-hire and headboat fishing industry. The AP should consider lessons learned from the SEFHIER program and work collaboratively to discuss strategies that would enhance the timeliness, accuracy, and quality of data for the federal for-hire fleet. The AP should also consider balancing the anticipated reporting and economic burdens associated with their recommended program requirements.

**Draft Application Questions**

1. Do you have federal for-hire fishing permits? (check all that apply)
  - For-hire: Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish
  - For-hire: Gulf of Mexico Coastal Migratory Pelagic fish
  - For-hire: South Atlantic Snapper Grouper
  - For-hire: South Atlantic Coast Migratory Pelagics

- For-hire: Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo
  - Historical Captain: Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish
  - Historical Captain: Gulf of Mexico Coastal Migratory Pelagic fish
2. Indicate the passenger capacity associated with your for-hire permits.
  3. Do you have federal commercial fishing permits? (check all that apply)
    - Commercial: Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish
    - Commercial: Gulf of Mexico Coastal Migratory Pelagic
    - Commercial: Other
  4. Where in the Gulf do you primarily operate?
  5. How many years have you been involved in the for-hire industry?
  6. Provide any additional information or experience that you would like to share with the Council.
  7. Name.
  8. Address.
  9. Have you had a fishing violation in the last 3-years? If yes, please explain.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## **SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES**

No motions.

## **REEF FISH**

### **Discussion: Gag and Black Grouper Management Alternatives**

**Motion:** To remove consideration of the recreational bag limit for gag.

**Substitute Motion:** To maintain an option for modifying the gag bag limit in the draft framework and direct staff to re-run catch analysis using more recent data to better understand the potential impact to the current fishery.

Substitute Motion carried 12 to 4 with 1 abstention.

**Motion:** To remove consideration of the recreational bag limit for black grouper.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To separate spatial area closures into a separate document.

Motion carried with no opposition.

### **Draft Framework Action: Modifications to Recreational and Commercial Greater Amberjack Management Measures**

**Motion:** In Action 2, to make **Alternative 4** the preferred.

**Alternative 4:** Limit of 5 fish ( ~ 150 lbs gw [155 lbs ww]).

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

**Alternative 3:** Establish a commercial trip limit of 7 fish ( ~ 210 lbs gw [218 lbs ww]).

**B6.15 In action 2, to make alternative 3 the preferred**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>		
Kevin	Anson	Yes	
Susan	Boggs	Yes	
Billy	Broussard	Yes	
Kesley	Banks	Yes	
JD	Dugas	Yes	
Anthony	Overton	Yes	
Tom	Frazer		Abstain
Dakus	Geeslin	Yes	
Bob	Gill	Yes	
Michael	McDermott	Yes	
Chris	Schieble	Yes	
Troy	Williamson	Yes	
Joe	Spraggins	Yes	
Ed	Walker	Yes	
CJ	Sweetman	Yes	
Peter	Hood	Yes	
Dale	Diaz	Yes	
		<b>Yes (16)</b>	<b>No (0)</b> <b>Abstain (1)</b>

Substitute Motion carried 16 to 1 with 1 abstention.

**Draft Snapper Grouper Amendment 44 / Reef Fish Amendment 55: Catch Level Adjustments & Allocations for Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper**

**Motion:** In Action 1, to suggest the SAFMC move **Alternative 5** to Considered but Rejected.

**Alternative 5.** Update the yellowtail snapper stock overfishing limit and stock acceptable biological catch based on the results of the 2022 SEDAR 64 Interim Analysis and the Scientific and Statistical Committees’ recommendations. Allocate 84% of the updated stock acceptable biological catch to the South Atlantic and 16% to the Gulf of Mexico based on 50% of the average landings from 1993-2008, plus 50% of the average landings from 2006-2008 using recreational landings from the Marine Recreational Information Program’s Fishing Effort Survey.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Status Update on Recreational Initiative**

**Motion:** To direct Council staff to work with NMFS to develop an outline, estimated schedule and deliverables for pursuing the recreational initiative for discussion at the October 2023 Council meeting. The proposal should consider a budget for hiring a consultant to facilitate the initiative, proposed activities, a strategy for involving stakeholders, the expected number of meetings, and participants to accomplish identified goals.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## **Other Business**

**Motion:** To form an ad-hoc working group to address FES-related issues in science and management. The composition of the working group would consist of 1-2 representatives from the following entities: Gulf and South Atlantic Council members and staff, SERO, SEFSC, Gulf and South Atlantic SSCs, NOAA OST, and other experts, as needed.

**Substitute Motion:** To form an ad-hoc working group to address FES-related issues in science and management. The composition of the working group would consist of 1-2 representatives from the following entities: Gulf and South Atlantic Council members and staff, SERO, SEFSC, Gulf and South Atlantic SSCs, NOAA OST, state representatives, and other experts, as needed.

**Second Substitute Motion:** To direct Council Staff to provide an inventory of Council actions in the foreseeable future that we expect to be impacted by changes in FES along with levels of exposure and bring back findings to the Council in October 2023.

Second Substitute Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To request the Chairs, vice chairs and EDs of both Gulf and South Atlantic Councils to act as a FES steering committee that formulates the structure and process of an ad hoc group that addresses FES-related issues in science and management.

**Substitute Motion:** Request the SEFSC work with Gulf Council and SERO staffs to outline a proposed action plan for the October 2023 meeting based on the FES inventory exercise.

Substitute Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To request the NOAA Office of Science and Technology (OST) provide an overview of their Evaluating Measurement Error in the MRIP Fishing Effort Survey Report to the Gulf SSC.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## **MACKEREL**

### **SSC Recommendations on SEDAR 81 Gulf Spanish Mackerel Operational Assessment**

**Motion:** To direct staff to begin a document to modify the catch limits for Gulf Spanish mackerel in accordance with SEDAR 81 results and SSC recommendations.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## **SHRIMP**

No motions.

## **FULL COUNCIL**

### **Election of Chair**

**Motion:** To nominate Tom Frazer as Council Chair. To nominate Kevin Anson as Council Chair.

Kevin Anson approved as Council Chair by vote.

**Election of Vice-Chair**

**Motion:** To nominate JD Dugas as Council Vice Chair.

JD Dugas approved as Council Vice Chair by acclamation.