

**Gulf Council Motions Report
January 25 – 28, 2021
Webinar**

ADMINISTRATIVE / BUDGET

Logistics and Estimated Costs of Conducting a Gulf-wide Fishery-Independent Offshore Abundance Study on Red Drum

Motion: To strike the red drum abundance proposal from consideration in the 2021 plan.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Discussion of Council Funding Support for Southeast Regional Office Permit Software

Motion: To have the Council contribute \$94,000 from the 2021 budget to the funding of the SERO permit software.

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

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

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

No motions.

MACKEREL

Draft Document: Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 32

Motion: To remove the commercial sector from Action 4, Alternatives 2 and 3.

Action 4 – Modify the Gulf Cobia Possession Limit and/or Establish a Trip Limit

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

Option 2a: in the Gulf Zone

Option 2b: in the FLEC Zone

Alternative 3: Create a recreational and commercial daily trip limit. Fishermen may not exceed the per person daily possession limit.

Option 3a: in the Gulf Zone

Suboption i: The trip limit for cobia is two fish.

Suboption ii: The trip limit for cobia is four fish.

Suboption iii: The trip limit for cobia is six fish.

Option 3b: in the FLEC Zone

Suboption i: The trip limit for cobia is two fish.

Suboption ii: The trip limit for cobia is four fish.

Suboption iii: The trip limit for cobia is six fish.

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

Motion failed 5 to 11 with 1 abstention by roll call vote.

Motion: In Action 4, to make Alternative 2, Option 2a and Alternative 3, Option 3a and Suboption i the Preferred

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

Option 2a: in the Gulf Zone

Alternative 3: Create a recreational and commercial daily trip limit. Fishermen may not exceed the per person daily possession limit.

Option 3a: in the Gulf Zone

Suboption i: The trip limit for cobia is two fish.

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

Motion carried 10 to 6 with 1 abstention by roll call vote.

Motion: In Action 5, to make Alternative 2 the preferred.

Alternative 2: Retain the current recreational and commercial minimum size limit of 36 inches FL in the Gulf Zone and increase the recreational and commercial minimum size limit to 36 inches FL in the FLEC Zone.

Motion carried with no opposition

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

Alternative 3: Modify the Gulf cobia stock ACL apportionment to be 63% for the Gulf Zone and 37% for the FLEC Zone, based on the MRIP-FES average landings for Gulf cobia for the years 1998 – 2012, and use this apportionment to update the Zone ACLs based on the Gulf Cobia ACL(s) in Action 1.

Motion carried 12 to 3 with 2 abstentions by roll call vote

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

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

Alternative 2: Modify the Gulf cobia OFL, ABC, and ACL based on recommendation of the Gulf Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) as presented in July 2020, for an increasing yield stream for 2021 to 2023, and then maintain the 2023 levels for subsequent fishing years or until changed by a management action. The stock ACL is set equal to the stock ABC.

Year	OFL	ABC	ACL
2021	3,030,000	2,340,000	2,340,000
2022	3,210,000	2,600,000	2,600,000
2023+	3,310,000	2,760,000	2,760,000

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

Motion carried with no opposition.

Gulf of Mexico King Mackerel Presentation

Motion: To remove the minimum size limit option for king mackerel from Amendment 33.

Motion carried with no opposition.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Final Action Amendment Reef Fish 48/Red Drum 5: Status Determination Criteria and Optimum Yield for Reef Fish and Red Drum

Motion: To approve Reef Fish Amendment 48/Red Drum 5: Status Determination Criteria and Optimum Yield for Reef Fish and Red Drum and that it be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation, giving staff editorial license to make the necessary changes in the document.

Motion carried with no opposition by roll call vote.

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

REEF FISH

Final Action: Framework Action: Modification of Gray Triggerfish Catch Limits

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

Alternative 2: Modify the ABC, ACLs, and ACTs for gray triggerfish based on the results of the 2020 interim analysis, the recommendations of the Council’s SSC, and Reef Fish Advisory Panel (Reef Fish AP). Apply the ACL/ACT Control Rule to determine the buffer between the ACL and ACT for the recreational and commercial sectors, respectively.

Year	OFL	ABC	Recreational ACL	Recreational ACT	Commercial ACL	Commercial ACT
2021+	1,220,000	456,900	360,951	274,323	95,949	88,273

Note: Values are in pounds whole weight. Units are in MRIP-CHTS. The OFL reflects the SSC’s January 2016 recommendation.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To approve the Framework Action: Modification of Gray Triggerfish 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. Dyskow – yes	Mr. Williamson – yes	Mr. Swindell – no
Mr. Dugas – yes	Gen. Spraggins – no	Mr. Strelcheck – yes
Mr. Sanchez – yes	Ms. Bosarge – yes	Mr. Stunz – yes
Ms. Guyas – yes	Mr. Anson – yes	Ms. Boggs – yes
Dr. Shipp – yes	Mr. Riechers – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes
Mr. Banks – no	Mr. Diaz – yes	

Motion carried 14 to 3 by roll call vote.

Final Action: Framework Action: Modification of the Gulf of Mexico Lane Snapper Catch Limits and Accountability Measures

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

Motion carried 16 to 1 by roll call vote.

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

Motion: To request the SEFSC add two additional analysis runs to the research track red snapper assessment that would replace federal recreational survey data with state recreational survey data with and without GRSC data.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 1, to add a series of options under Alternative 2 that would incorporate an increase to the overfishing fishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) based on the results of the Interim Analysis as informed by the Great Red Snapper Count. If the results of

the review by the SSC result in a minimum of 0% or 25% increase in ABC, the state-specific ACLs would be calibrated based on Alternative 2 for the 2021 and 2022 recreational fishing seasons. Regardless of the results of the Interim Analysis, the state specific ACLs will be reviewed in 2022 or as soon as practicable.

Example:

Option a: Apply the ratio calibration in Alternative 2, if the ABC is increased

Option b: Apply the ratio conversion in Alternative 2, if the ABC is increased by 25% or more

Substitute Motion: Any future increases to state-specific ACLs in 2021 or 2022 would be calibrated based on adding this language to existing Alternative 2 and the Council agrees to review the state-specific ACL allocations by 2022 or sooner.

Substitute Motion carried with 1 in opposition.

Motion: In Action 1, to add a new Alternative 4.

Alternative 4: To add a series of options that would incorporate an increase to the overfishing fishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) based on the results of the Interim Analysis as informed by the Great Red Snapper Count. If the results of the review by the SSC result in a minimum of 0% or 25% increase in ABC, the newly added quota would be incorporated into the state-specific ACLs using the calibrations indicated in Alternative 2 for the 2021 and 2022 recreational fishing seasons. Regardless of the results of the Interim Analysis, the state specific ACLs will be reviewed in 2022 or as soon as practicable.

Example:

Option a: Apply the ratio calibration in Alternative 2 to any additional quota if the ABC is increased.

Option b: Apply the ratio calibration in Alternative 2 to any additional quota if the ABC is increased by 25% or more.

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

Motion carried 10 to 6 with 1 abstention by roll call vote.

Motion: In Action 1, Alternative 3, apply 23% reduction to the quota currently allocated to each of the states. Any future increases to state-specific ACLs in 2021 or 2022 would be calibrated based on Alternative 3.

Alternative 3: Modify the state-specific red snapper private angling component ACLs by establishing a “State Management ACL” that is 23% below the private angling component quota and applying the allocation percentages established in Amendment 50A of the Reef Fish FMP. The resulting state ACLs are as follows:

State	ACL (lbs ww) (State Currency)
Alabama	864,450
Florida	1,473,357
Louisiana	628,499
Mississippi	116,694
Texas	204,131

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To direct staff to initiate an Amendment to adjust the OFL and ABC based on the results of the Interim Analysis for Red Snapper (as informed by the GRSC) and SSC recommendations. The private recreational ACLs should include but not be limited to a range of alternatives that consider reallocation based on state specific biomass estimates derived, in part, from the GRSC and NOAA’s socio-economic data. Allocation for the commercial and CFH sectors will also be considered in this amendment.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To direct staff to initiate a Framework Action to adjust the OFL and ABC based on the results of the Interim Analysis for Red Snapper (as informed by the GRSC) and SSC recommendations.

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

Any future increases to state-specific ACLs in 2021 or 2022 would be calibrated based on adding this language to the existing Alternative 2:

CHANGES TO ALTERNATIVE 2 DURING COMMITTEE REFLECTED IN **YELLOW**.

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	Ratio	ACL (lbs ww) (State Currency)
Alabama	0.4875	547,298
Florida	1.0602	2,028,641
Louisiana	1.06	865,207
Mississippi	0.3840	58,195
Texas	1.00	265,105

For any subsequent increase in the state-specific ACLs for the recreational private angling component for red snapper:

Option 2a: Apply the ratio calibration in Alternative 2, if the ABC is increased.

Option 2b: Apply the ratio calibration in Alternative 2, if the ABC is increased by 25% or more.

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

Motion failed 10 to 6 with 1 abstention by with roll call vote.

Motion: To add a new alternative (Alternative 5) to Action 1 in the Red Snapper Data Calibrations and Catch Limits Framework Action that would reduce each state’s quota by 11.819% for the 2021 private recreational red snapper season.

Alternative 5: 11.819% reduction.

State	Current ACL - State Currency	% Reduction	LBS Difference	New Totals in State ACL Currency
Alabama	1,122,662	11.819	-132,687	989,975
Florida	1,913,451	11.819	-226,151	1,687,300
Louisiana	816,233	11.819	-96,471	719,762
Mississippi	151,550	11.819	-17,912	133,638
Texas	265,105	11.819	-31,333	233,772
Totals	4,269,001		-504,553	3,764,448

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

Motion carried 11 to 5 with 1 abstention by roll call vote.

Review: SEDAR 70 – Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack Stock Assessment

Motion: To direct staff to work on a plan amendment to update the rebuilding plan for GAJ and revise the catch limits and sector allocations based on the MRIP-FES data.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To include an option which holds the commercial ACL in pounds at its current level.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Review of SEDAR 64: Southeastern U.S. Yellowtail Snapper

Motion: To direct staff to begin a joint amendment with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council to update catch levels for yellowtail snapper based on the results of SEDAR 64.

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

Motion: To request a presentation on the process for arriving at yearly red grouper average weight via MRIP and include sample sizes per strata, PSEs, and other relevant data for each year.

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

Alternative 3: Revise the sector allocations of the total ACL between the recreational and commercial sectors as the average landings using Fishing Effort Survey (FES)-adjusted Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP FES) data during the years 1986 through 2005, based on the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) ACL monitoring datasets. The allocations for red grouper are 59.3% commercial and 40.7% recreational. Revise the OFL and ABC as recommended by the SSC based on SEDAR 61 (2019). Set the stock ACL equal to the stock ABC.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To include an option which holds the commercial ACL in pounds at its current level.

Motion carried with 1 in opposition.

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

Alternative 3: Maintain the current buffer between the ACL and ACT for the commercial sector, and apply the ACL/ACT Control Rule to revise the buffer between the ACL and ACT for the recreational sector. The commercial buffer is 5%, and the recreational buffer is 9%.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To take Amendment 53: Red Grouper Allocations and Annual Catch Levels and Catch Targets to Public Hearing.

Motion carried with no opposition.