

# Gulf Council Motions Report

## January 24-27, 2022

### Virtual

#### REEF FISH

**Final Action: Framework Action: Modifications of Vermilion Snapper Catch Limits**

**Motion:** In Action 1, to add an **Alternative 4**.

**Alternative 4:** to set the ACL at 75% of the ABC (5.45 mp ww) monitored in MRIP-FES.

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

**Alternative 4:** to set the ACL at 75% of the ABC (5.45 mp ww) monitored in MRIP-FES.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To approve Framework Action: Modifications of Vermilion Snapper 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. Geeslin – yes	Mr. Williamson – yes	Mr. Anson – yes
Mr. Dugas – yes	Ms. McCawley – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes
Mr. Strelcheck – yes	Mr. Burris – yes	Ms. Boggs – yes
Ms. Bosarge – yes	Ms. Schieble – yes	Dr. Shipp – absent
Mr. Gill – yes	Mr. Dyskow – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes
Mr. Broussard – yes	Dr. Stunz – yes	

Motion carried 16 to 0 with one absent by roll call vote.

**Presentation on SEDAR 72: Gag Grouper Stock Assessment Report**

**Motion:** The Council directs staff to begin work on a plan amendment to establish a rebuilding plan for gag grouper to end overfishing of the stock. Actions in this plan amendment should include revising the  $F_{MSY}$  proxy, catch limits, accountability measures, and other management measures.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To recommend that NMFS implement an emergency rule for gag grouper starting on January 1, 2023, based on the yield stream corresponding to F30%SPR and the medium red tide severity determination, in keeping with the SSC's recommendations from SEDAR 72 and using the current sector allocation. Further, the Council recommends that the catch limits for this emergency rule for gag grouper be based on the rebuilding timeline of TMIN \* 2, to ensure the Council is able to end overfishing while it works to develop a comprehensive rebuilding plan.

**Substitute Motion:** To delay a consideration of an interim or emergency rule for gag grouper to the April 2022 Council meeting.

Substitute Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** The Council requests that the calibration of the Florida State Reef Fish Survey with MRIP-FES for gag grouper be a priority for NMFS and all associated parties to that process.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To request the SEFSC update the survey indices of relative abundance for gag grouper through 2021 and explore the feasibility of using those indices for an interim analysis to update ABC and OFL advice.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Discussion: Draft Snapper Grouper Amendment 44 and Reef Fish Amendment 55: Modifications to Southeastern U.S. Yellowtail Snapper Jurisdictional Allocations, Catch Limits, and South Atlantic Sector Annual Catch Limits**

**Motion:** To suspend work on this amendment and request that Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission conduct an update to the assessment to incorporate three additional years of data and a constant catch projection to set the ABC.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Discussion: Wenchman**

**Motion:** To request the SSC and SEFSC review the mid-water snapper ABC and advise the Council on alternative approaches that may be used to set the ABC in light of a developing directed trawl fishery for wenchman. In support of this review, the Council requests the SEFSC provide commercial and recreational landings (historical through present), available data from fishery-independent research surveys to assess trends in catch and abundance of mid-water snapper, and information on the previously attempted data poor assessment. Additionally, commercial fishermen with experience and knowledge of this species should be present (virtually or in-person) to convey their working water knowledge to the SSC/SEFSC during these discussions.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To direct Council staff to use the “Fishermen Feedback” tool to obtain information on wenchman and the other species in the mid-water snapper complex and present that information to the SSC and to the Council as soon as practical.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Other Reef Fish Motions**

**Motion:** To request that the SEFSC compile and present discard data (including dead discards) by species and sector and year for red grouper, gag grouper, greater amberjack, and red snapper in the Gulf. Commercial data should be broken down by gear type (longline, vertical line) and recreational sector data should be broken down by subsector (charter for-hire, headboat, private angler + shore), as feasible. Include data sources where available.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**MACKEREL**

**Draft Amendment 33: Modifications to the Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group King Mackerel Catch Limits and Sector Allocations**

**Motion:** To move **Option 2c** and **2d** of **Alternative 2** in Action 2 to Considered but Rejected.

**Alternative 2:** Modify the sector allocation for Gulf king mackerel by reallocating to the commercial sector a percentage of the average difference between the total landings from the 2016/2017 through 2019/2020 fishing years using MRIP-FES data and the total simulated ACL for Model 2 in Appendix B for the predicted total landings by sector and the total projected ACL.

- Option 2c:** 75% of the average difference
- Option 2d:** 100% of the average difference

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To add an action to set aside quota of King Mackerel to provide the basis for a Research Set Aside program (RSA) that develops funds for Council directed research needs. The RSA program is to be developed by the Council in a separate amendment.

**Substitute Motion:** To request presentations of the New England and Mid-Atlantic RSA programs at a future Council meeting for consideration.

Mr. Dugas – yes	Mr. Williamson – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes
Mr. Dyskow – yes	Mr. Strelcheck – yes	Mr. Burris – yes
Mr. Geeslin – yes	Ms. Boggs – yes	Mr. Gill – yes
Mr. Schieble – yes	Ms. McCawley – yes	Dr. Shipp – absent
Dr. Stunz – no	Mr. Broussard – yes	Mr. Diaz – abstain
Ms. Bosarge – yes	Mr. Anson – yes	

Substitute Motion carried 14 to 1 with one abstention and one absent by roll call vote.

**Motion:** To remove **Action 1** from Amendment 33 and start a new framework action.

**Action 1** – Modify the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) Migratory Group King Mackerel (Gulf King Mackerel) Overfishing Limit (OFL), Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), and Annual Catch Limit (ACL).

Mr. Schieble – no	Ms. Boggs – no	Mr. Broussard – yes
Mr. Burris – no	Dr. Stunz – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes
Mr. Gill – no	Ms. McCawley – yes	Mr. Strelcheck – no
Mr. Williamson – yes	Mr. Geeslin – yes	Dr. Shipp – absent
Mr. Dugas – yes	Mr. Dyskow – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes
Ms. Bosarge – no	Mr. Anson – no	

Motion carried 9 to 7 with one absent by roll call vote.

**Draft Amendment 34: Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel Catch Levels and Atlantic King and Spanish Mackerel Management Measures**

**Motion:** To move **Actions 5** and **6** to Considered but Rejected.

**Action 5.** Reduce the minimum size limit for recreational harvest of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

**Action 6.** Reduce the minimum size limit for commercial harvest of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 7, to select SAFMC **Preferred Alternative 2**, and **Sub-alternatives 2a and 2b** as the Gulf preferred.

South Atlantic Council **Preferred Alternative 2.** Cut-off (damaged) fish caught under the recreational bag limit, that comply with the minimum size limits, may be possessed, and offloaded ashore.

South Atlantic Council **Preferred Sub-alternative 2a.** Atlantic migratory group king mackerel

South Atlantic Council **Preferred Sub-alternative 2b.** Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel

Ms. Bosarge – abstain	Mr. Gill – no	Mr. Burris – yes
Mr. Broussard – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes	Mr. Dugas – yes
Ms. McCawley – no	Mr. Strelcheck – yes	Ms. Boggs – yes
Mr. Williamson – yes	Mr. Dyskow – yes	Dr. Shipp – absent
Dr. Stunz – yes	Mr. Geeslin – yes	Mr. Diaz – abstain
Mr. Schieble – no	Mr. Anson – yes	

Motion carried 11 to 3 with two abstentions and one absent by roll call vote.

## SHRIMP

### **Updated Draft Framework Action: Modification of the Vessel Position Data Collection Program for the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery**

**Motion:** In Action 1, add Appendix D (Draft Technical Specifications) to **Alternative 3** so that the alternative reads:

**Alternative 3:** If selected by the SRD, the owner or operator of a shrimp vessel with a valid or renewable SPGM would be required to install an approved electronic logbook (ELB) that archives vessel position when on a fishing trip in the Gulf, automatically transmits that data via cellular service to NMFS, and meets the technical specifications as outlined in Appendix D as appropriate.

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

Motion failed 5 to 10 with one abstention and one absent by roll call vote.

## SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

### **Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology**

**Motion:** The Council considers the Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology report to adequately characterize the existing bycatch reporting programs that are in place for each Council FMP. The Council recognizes that bycatch information is an increasingly important and recommends evaluation and coordination with state and federal partners to improve bycatch data collection in the future.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## DATA COLLECTION

**Draft Framework Action: Modification to Location Reporting Requirements for For-Hire Vessels and Reef Fish Advisory Panel (AP) Recommendations**

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

**Alternative 2:** Create an exemption to the VMS requirement to address equipment failure and set a limit on the number of calendar days that the NMFS-approved exemption is valid, for vessels with Charter Vessel/Headboat permits for Reef Fish and/or CMP:

**Option 2b:** The exemption will be valid for up to 10 days from submittal date.

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

**Alternative 3:** Create an exemption to the VMS requirement to address equipment failure and set a limit on the number of times a permit holder can request the exemption each calendar year, per vessel:

**Option 3b:** The permit holder may not request more than two exemptions per vessel per calendar year.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

**Remaining Items from the Outreach and Education Technical Committee**

**Motion:** To eliminate the Fishing for Our Future webpage from the Council website by redirecting users to Return 'Em Right and add the discard dashboard and literature cited to the Fisheries Science pages on the Council website.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**HABITAT PROTECTION & RESTORATION**

**Presentation from Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on Wind Energy Development in the Gulf of Mexico**

**Motion:** To request that the Council work with NMFS and BOEM to ensure that the complete historical Gulf shrimp fishing effort data set is fully included and considered as part of the collaborative BOEM/NOAA spatial management analyses for evaluating potential sites for offshore wind energy facilities and transmission lines in the Gulf.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To request the Council work with NMFS to ensure that BOEM enters into consultations with NMFS pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with respect to any action BOEM takes or proposes to take to authorize offshore wind energy development in the Gulf that may affect any ESA listed species or designated critical habitat. Such consultations should begin as early in the BOEM process as possible.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To convey to NMFS and BOEM that the analytical approach to spatial planning applied by NOAA in the AOA Atlas is comprehensive, transparent, objective and, therefore, an effective tool for supporting critical decision-making regarding competing ocean uses in the Gulf and for minimizing any adverse impacts of those uses on the Gulf fishing industry, including the siting of offshore wind facilities and transmission lines in the BOEM Call Area.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** Pursuant to Section 305(b)(3) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Council directs staff to write a letter to BOEM summarizing the comments and concerns from the Advisory Panel and the Council regarding potential impacts of offshore wind energy development, including offshore facilities and transmission lines, on all Essential Fish Habitat in the BOEM Call Area in the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, the Council directs staff to include a request for consideration of membership on the BOEM Gulf of Mexico Task Force.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Draft Response Letter to NOAA for Comments on the Area-Based Management Goals related to Executive Order 14008**

**Motion:** To recommend the letter be sent to the full Council for approval and submittal to NOAA.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**FULL COUNCIL MOTIONS**

**Election of Council Vice-Chair**

**Motion:** To nominate Greg Stunz and Bob Gill as the Council Vice Chair

Greg Stunz appointed as the Council Vice Chair by ballot vote.

**Review and Adoption of Revised Council Committee Assignments October 2021 through August 2022**

**Motion:** To accept the revised Council Committee Assignments.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Full Council Closed Session – Selection of IFQ Focus Group Participants**

**Motion:** To suspend discussion for populating the workgroup until we can convene a special session to complete the population process.

Motion carried with one in opposition.