

**Gulf Council Motions Report
January 30 – February 2, 2023
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

ADMINISTRATIVE / BUDGET

Review and Discuss Proposed Modifications to the Council’s Statement of Organization Practices and Procedures (SOPPs)

Motion: Anti-harassment training should be completed at the time of appointment or reappointment of Council members, SSC members, and AP members. State directors and their designees should complete anti-harassment training every three years and at the time of appointment.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To approve modifications to sections 4.8 and 4.8.1 of the Council SOPPs.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To approve modifications to the SOPPs as recommended by the LETC and proposed in Tab G, No. 4c.

Motion carried with no opposition

Review and approve Proposed 2023 Activities and EFH Contract

Motion: To approve the proposed EFH contract as presented.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Review 2023 Budget

Motion: To approve a \$5,000 increase in funding in 2023 for the State and Commission Liaison contracts.

Substitute Motion: To approve a \$5,000 increase in funding for the State and Commission Liaison contracts.

Substitute Motion carried with no opposition.

Discussion of Advisory Panels Due for Reappointment in 2023

Motion: To advertise to re-populate the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Advisory Panel only.

Motion carried with no opposition.

CORAL

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) Proposed Rule: Council’s Letter to FKNMS

Motion: To approve the letter with edits from the Council and that it be sent to the FKNMS.

Motion carried with no opposition.

DATA COLLECTION

Final Action: Abbreviated Framework Action to modify for-hire trip declaration requirements

Motion: To approve Abbreviated Framework Action: Modification of For-Hire Vessel Trip Declaration Requirements 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.

Motion carried 17 to 0 by roll call vote.

Dr. Shipp – yes	Mr. Williamson – yes	Dr. Stunz – yes
Mr. Broussard – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes	Mr. Anson – yes
Mr. Schieble – yes	Mr. Dyskow – yes	Mr. Geeslin – yes
Mr. McDermott – yes	Ms. Boggs – yes	Gen. Spraggins – yes
Dr. Sweetman – yes	Mr. Gill – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes
Mr. Dugas – yes	Mr. Strelcheck – yes	

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Other Items from the O&E Technical Committee Summary

Motion: That the Ecosystem Technical Committee charge be revised to have the Outreach and Education Technical Committee develop the plan to engage stakeholders in the process of creating the Fishery Ecosystem Plan.

Motion carried with no opposition.

REEF FISH

FINAL ACTION: Draft Framework Action for Gray Triggerfish Commercial Trip Limit

Motion: To approve Framework Action: Modification of Gray Triggerfish Commercial Trip 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.

Motion carried 17 to 0 by roll call vote.

Mr. Schieble – yes	Dr. Sweetman – yes	Mr. Broussard – yes
Mr. Dugas – yes	Mr. Anson – yes	Mr. Williamson – yes
Dr. Shipp – yes	Dr. Stunz – yes	Mr. Gill – yes
Mr. Dyskow – yes	Mr. Geeslin – yes	Mr. McDermott – yes
Gen. Spraggins – yes	Mr. Strelcheck – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes
Ms. Boggs – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes	

Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Focus Group

Motion: The Council conduct a special session or sessions to determine the goals and objectives of both IFQ programs going forward. The sessions should be scheduled for after the August 2023 meeting.

Substitute Motion: No later than June 2023, the Council should conduct a review of IFQ program goals and objectives, and recommend changes. Based on the newly updated goals and objectives, the Council should then initiate an amendment to address program changes consistent with the resulting goals and objectives corresponding with the themes presented in Tab B, No. 5(c) at the January 2023 Gulf Council meeting.

Substitute motion carried with no opposition.

Draft Amendment 56: Modifications to the Gag Grouper Catch Limits, Sector Allocations, and Fishing Seasons

Motion: In Action 1, to move **Options 2c** and **3c** in **Alternatives 2** and **3** to Considered but Rejected. Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 2, to move **Alternative 4** to Considered but Rejected.

Alternative 4: The federal recreational fishing season for Gulf gag would open on 12:01 am local time on November 1. NMFS would close harvest when the recreational ACL is projected to be met.

Motion carried with one in opposition.

Motion: To direct staff to develop the following options for exploration in a framework action or amendment:

- Lowering the gag and black grouper recreational bag limit
- Establishing a gag and black grouper recreational vessel limit
- Spatial areas to protect spawning gag

Motion carried 12 to 3 with 2 abstentions.

Motion: To take Draft Amendment 56: Modifications to the Gag Grouper Catch Limits, Sector Allocations, and Fishing Seasons out for public hearings in the following 4 Florida locations plus 1 virtual.

- Destin
- Cedar key
- Tampa
- Naples

Motion carried with no opposition.

Draft Framework Action: Modify the Greater Amberjack and Jacks Complex Management Measures

Motion: In Action 1, to add an **Option b** to **Alternatives 2, 3, and 4:**

Option b: Modify the recreational fishing season for the Gulf “Jacks Complex” (i.e. lesser

amberjack, almaco jack, banded rudderfish) such that this season is open June through February.

Motion failed.

Motion: To remove consideration of the Jacks-complex from the document.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 2, to add an **Alternative 4:**

Alternative 4: Establish a commercial trip limit of 7 fish (~ 210 lbs gutted weight [gw] [xxx lbs whole weight, ww]).

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To request SEFSC provide a presentation to the Council regarding multi-year ACL averages to monitor ACLs.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Revised Recreational Red Snapper Calibration Ratios

Motion: To request that staff begin development of a framework action to update the recreational red snapper data calibration ratios for Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi, using the calibration ratios recommended by the SSC during their January 2023 meeting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

January 2023 Gulf SSC Summary Report: SEDAR 75: Gulf Gray Snapper Operational Assessment

Motion: To direct staff to start a document to modify Gulf gray snapper catch limits.

Motion carried with no opposition.

2023 Red Grouper Interim Analysis

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

Motion failed 7 to 8 with 2 abstentions.

Other Business

Motion: Initiate development of a recreational fisheries management initiative for reef fish in 2023. The goal of this initiative is to evaluate the efficacy of current Federal recreational reef fish management in the Gulf of Mexico and develop future management approaches and guidance intended to prevent overfishing, address discards and/or discard mortality, account for uncertainty in recreational data, and provide for innovative new management approaches to regulate Federally managed recreational fisheries.

The initiative would include:

1. Development, review, and revision of goals and objectives for recreational fisheries management;
2. A review of the status of Federally managed species in the Gulf of Mexico that are highly sought after by recreational anglers, including recreational sources of directed and bycatch mortality;
3. A review of recreational management measures, including how management measures have changed over time;
4. Assessment of the performance and efficacy of recreational accountability measures and recommended improvements;
5. Evaluation and consideration of harvest control rules (i.e., pre-agreed guidelines) for setting bag, size, and season limits;
6. Scientific recommendations to the Council for addressing variability and uncertainty in recreational catch estimates, including use of multiple years of data, identification of catch estimates that are the result of low sample sizes or outliers, and statistical recommendations and guidance for how such approaches could be implemented; and,
7. Exploration of innovative new management strategies, including but not limited to: regional management, sector separation, a bottom-fish season, effort rationalization, and management approaches for reducing discards and discard mortality.

Motion carried to 13 to 3 with 1 abstention.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

No motions.

FULL COUNCIL OTHER BUSINESS

Council Chairman Election

Motion: To nominate Tom Frazer to be the next Council Chairman.

Motion: To nominate Greg Stunz to be the next Council Chairman.

Dr. Stunz appointed Council Chairman by secret ballot.

Council Vice Chairman Election

Motion: To nominate Tom Frazer to be the next Council Vice Chairman.

Dr. Frazer appointed Council Vice Chairman by secret ballot.

Motion: To nominate Susan Boggs to be the next Council Vice Chairman.

Motion: To nominate Troy Williamson to be the next Council Vice Chairman.

Nomination declined by Troy Williamson.