

**Gulf Council Motions Report  
June 21-24, 2022  
Ft. Myers, Florida**

**HABITAT PROTECTION AND RESTORATION**

**Notice of Intent to Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Aquaculture Opportunity Areas in the Gulf of Mexico**

**Motion:** To have the Council write a letter to comment on the Aquaculture Opportunity Areas Atlas and the subsequent PEIS.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**CORAL**

**Joint Coral AP and Coral SSC Recommendations and Proposed Next Steps**

**Motion:** To have the Council write a letter to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary requesting an extension until at least December 31, 2022 for submitting comments on the draft rule.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**MACKEREL**

**Final Action: Framework Amendment 11: Modifications to the Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group King Mackerel Catch Limits**

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

**Alternative 2:** Revise the OFL and ABC for Gulf king mackerel as recommended by the Gulf SSC for 2021/2022 – 2023/2024 and subsequent fishing years. Retain the total ACL being set equal to the ABC; an annual catch target (ACT) is not used.

<b>Fishing Year</b>	<b>OFL</b>	<b>ABC</b>	<b>Total ACL</b>	<b>Rec ACL</b>	<b>Comm ACL</b>
2021/2022	10,890,000	9,370,000	9,370,000	6,371,600	2,998,400
2022/2023	11,050,000	9,720,000	9,720,000	6,609,600	3,110,400
2023/2024+	11,180,000	9,990,000	9,990,000	6,793,200	3,196,800

Catch limit values are in lbs lw. Note: OFL and ABC as recommended by the Gulf SSC in lbs ww. The recreational portion of the OFL, ABC, and ACL are based on MRIP-FES data.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To approve **Framework Amendment 11: Modifications to the Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group King Mackerel 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. Strelcheck – yes	Ms. Bosarge – yes	Mr. Dyskow – absent
Dr. Frazer – yes	Dr. Stunz – yes	Mr. Gill – yes
Mr. Dugas – yes	Dr. Sweetman – yes	Mr. Riechers – yes
Mr. Banks – yes	Gen. Spraggins – yes	Mr. Broussard – yes
Mr. Williamson – yes	Ms. Boggs – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes
Dr. Shipp – yes	Mr. Anson – yes	

Motion carried 16 to 0 with 1 absent by roll call vote.

**Research Set Aside (RSA) Presentations**

**Motion:** To request Council staff to work with Council members identified by the Chair to evaluate the potential for establishing a Research Set Aside in the Gulf of Mexico, using the examples in the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions as a basis. Council staff should consult with NMFS staff and other appropriate RFMC staff to inform the evaluation, as appropriate. The evaluation and recommendations for next steps, if any, shall be presented to the Council at an upcoming meeting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Draft Amendment 33: Modifications to the Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group King Mackerel Sector Allocation**

**Motion:** To add the following language to the joint CMP FMP objectives:

- To achieve robust fishery reporting and data collection systems across all sectors for monitoring the coastal migratory pelagic fishery which minimizes scientific, management, and risk uncertainty.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To postpone **CMP Amendment 33: Modifications to the Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group King Mackerel Sector Allocation** until the next king mackerel stock assessment is presented to the Council.

Motion failed 6 to 9 with 2 abstentions.

**SHRIMP**

No motions.

**REEF FISH**

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

**Motion:** To modify the Need in the document to read as follows:

“The need is to end overfishing and rebuild the greater amberjack stock as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, update existing greater amberjack catch limits and allocations to be consistent with best scientific information available,

FMP objectives, and contemporary data collection methods.”

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To move **Alternative 6** in Action 1 to Considered but Rejected.

**Alternative 6:** Revise the allocation between the recreational and commercial sectors, such that the commercial ACL is retained at 484,380 lbs ww in 2022 resulting in an allocation equal to 24.4% recreational and 75.6% commercial in 2022. Maintain the recreational allocation at 24.4% recreational and 75.6% commercial thereafter. Set the total stock ACL equal to the ABC.

Year	OFL	ABC	Total ACL	Rec ACL	Com ACL	Allocation (Rec:Com)
2022	2,028,000	641,000	641,000	156,620	484,380	24.4:75.6
2023	2,160,000	757,000	757,000	184,963	572,037	24.4:75.6
2024	2,265,000	870,000	870,000	212,573	657,427	24.4:75.6
2025	2,339,000	970,000	970,000	237,007	732,993	24.4:75.6
2026	2,389,000	1,055,000	1,055,000	257,776	797,224	24.4:75.6
2027	2,423,000	1,124,000	1,124,000	274,635	849,365	24.4:75.6

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

Motion carried 14 to 0 with 2 abstentions and 1 absent.

**Draft Emergency Rule to Modify Recreational and Commercial Greater Amberjack Fishing Seasons**

**Motion:** To recommend NMFS take emergency action to modify the greater amberjack recreational fixed closed season for 2022/2023 recreational fishing year to be August 1 – August 31 and November 1 – July 31 (open September 1 – October 31) as described in Action 1, **Alternative 5**.

**Alternative 5:** Modify the recreational fixed closed season to be August 1 – August 31 and November 1 - July 31 (open September 1 – October 31).

Mr. Broussard – yes	Mr. Strelcheck – no	Ms. Bosarge – abstain
Dr. Frazer – yes	Mr. Banks – yes	Mr. Dyskow – yes
Mr. Riechers – yes	Mr. Williamson – yes	Ms. Boggs – yes
Gen. Spraggins – yes	Mr. Anson – yes	Mr. Gill – no
Dr. Stunz – yes	Mr. Dugas – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes
Dr. Shipp – yes	Dr. Sweetman – yes	

Motion carried 14 to 2 with 1 abstention by roll call vote.

**Substitute Motion:** To recommend the agency take emergency action to modify the greater amberjack recreational fixed closed season for 2022/2023 recreational fishing year to be August 1 – August 31 and October 1 – July 31 (open September 1 – September 30) as described in Action 1, **Alternative 3**.

**Alternative 3:** Modify the recreational fixed closed season to be August 1 – August 31 and October 1 - July 31 (open September 1-30).

Mr. Dugas – no	Mr. Williamson – no	Mr. Anson – yes
Mr. Dyskow – yes	Mr. Strelcheck – abstain	Dr. Frazer – yes

Mr. Riechers – no	Ms. Boggs – no	Gen. Spraggins – no
Mr. Banks – no	Dr. Shipp – yes	Mr. Gill – yes
Dr. Stunz – no	Dr. Sweetman – yes	Mr. Diaz – abstain
Ms. Bosarge – abstain	Mr. Broussard – no	

Substitute Motion failed 6 to 8 with 3 abstentions by roll call vote.

**Draft Options: Modification of Catch Limits for Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper**

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

**Alternative 2:** Modify the red snapper OFL, ABC, ACLs, and recreational ACTs for 2022 and subsequent years based on the OFL and ABC recommendation of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) at the March 8 – 10, 2022, SSC meeting. These catch limits are based on data derived from the Great Red Snapper Count (GRSC), including a post-stratification analysis of the data for Florida, and on the LGL Ecological Associates, Inc. study (LGL study) of the absolute abundance of red snapper off Louisiana.

Catch Limit Type	Current Catch Limits	Calculation
OFL	18,910,000	N/A
ABC	16,310,000	13.7% less than OFL
Total ACL	16,310,000	ACL = ABC
Commercial ACL	8,318,100	51% of ABC
Recreational ACL	7,991,900	49% of ABC
Federal For-Hire ACL	3,380,574	42.3% of Recreational ACL
Federal For-Hire ACT	3,076,322	9% less than For-Hire ACL
Private Angling ACL	4,611,326	57.7% of Recreational ACL
Private Angling ACT	3,689,061	20% below Private Angling ACL
Florida ACL	2,066,889	44.822% of Private Angling ACL
Alabama ACL	1,212,687	26.298% of Private Angling ACL
Mississippi ACL	163,702	3.55% of Private Angling ACL
Louisiana ACL	881,686	19.12% of Private Angling ACL
Texas ACL	286,363	6.21% of Private Angling ACL

Note: Values are in pounds whole weight. Units are in MRIP-CHTS. A private angling ACT is not currently used for management, but remains in place as part of the default federal regulations that would apply to a state in the event the state’s delegation is no longer in effect. Changes in the respective Gulf states’ ACLs are being considered in a June 2021 framework action to address issues related to calibration of recreational data among the various state data collection programs.

Motion carried with 1 in opposition.

**Presentation and Discussion of Gulf of Mexico Gag Grouper Interim Rule**

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

**Alternative 2:** Tmin\*2, Allocation 61% Rec/ 39% Comm

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 2, to make **Alternative 2** the preferred alternative, with a season closure date of

November 10.

**Alternative 2: September 1 Start Date**

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To request that NOAA Fisheries implement interim measures to reduce overfishing of gag grouper that include actions related to catch limits and seasons: **Alternative 2** of Action 1, and to open the recreational fishing season on September 1 and close it on November 10.

**Alternative 2: Tmin\*2, Allocation 61% Rec/ 39% Comm**

Mr. Riechers – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes	Gen. Spraggins – Yes
Mr. Anson – yes	Ms. Bosarge – yes	Mr. Dugas – yes
Dr. Shipp – yes	Mr. Williamson – yes	Ms. Boggs – yes
Mr. Dyskow – yes	Dr. Sweetman – yes	Dr. Stunz – yes
Mr. Banks – absent	Mr. Gill – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes
Mr. Strelcheck – no	Mr. Broussard – yes	

Motion carried 15 to 1 with 1 absent by roll call vote.

**Discussion of Goliath Grouper Closure and Federal Catch Limits**

**Motion:** To add up to five representatives from the Gulf Council SSC to the South Atlantic Council SSC workgroup in an effort to develop a cooperative workgroup focused on establishing a method for evaluating catch limits for federally managed species currently closed to harvest, including Southeastern U.S. goliath grouper.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Other Business**

**Motion:** To have the SSC review state private recreational red snapper calibration ratios using more recent state survey data and provide a recommendation to the Council on change(s) to ratios, if necessary, prior to the January 2023 Council meeting.

Motion carried 12 to 2 with 2 abstentions and 1 absent.

**GULF SEDAR**

**Summary Report of May 9, 2022 SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting**

**Motion:** To have the Council draft a letter commensurate with the SEDAR Steering Committee’s consensus statement to the NOAA Office of Science and Technology stating the need and urgency of this request.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**DATA COLLECTION**

**Final Action: Modification to Location Reporting Requirements for For-Hire Vessels**

**Motion:** To recommend the Council approve **Framework Action: Modification to Location Reporting Requirements for For-Hire Vessels** 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. Banks – absent	Dr. Stunz – yes	Ms. Boggs – yes
Ms. Bosarge – yes	Gen. Spraggins – yes	Mr. Broussard – yes
Mr. Strelcheck – yes	Mr. Dugas – yes	Dr. Sweetman – yes
Mr. Williamson – yes	Mr. Riechers – yes	Mr. Anson – yes
Mr. Gill – yes	Mr. Dyskow – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes
Dr. Shipp – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes	

Motion carried 16 to 0 with 1 absent by roll call vote.

**Presentation on Framework Action to Modify For-Hire Trip Declaration Requirements**

**Motion:** To develop the options (timeframes of 60, 90, 120 minutes) in the abbreviated framework.

Motion carried 14 to 1 with 1 absent.

**Motion:** To bring a presentation to the August 2022 Council meeting relative to declarations for the for-hire fishery applying only when going on a fishing trip.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Coral Advisory Panel Members (2022-2025)**

- Jon Paul “J.P.” Brooker
- Martha Guyas
- Scott Hickman
- Shelly Krueger
- Richard Ruzicka

**Data Collection Advisory Panel Members (2022-2025)**

- Michael Colby
- Troy Frady
- Sepp Haukebo
- Scott Hickman
- Dylan Hubbard
- Charlotte Marin
- John Marquez, Jr.
- Ashford Rosenberg
- Eric Schmidt
- Zac Sturm

**Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel Members (2022-2025)**

- Donald Behringer, Jr.
- Casey Butler
- Bill Kelly
- John Nicklaus
- George Niles
- Daniel Padron
- Simon Stafford