

**Gulf Council Motions Report
October 25-28, 2021
Orange Beach, Alabama**

FULL COUNCIL MOTIONS

Motion: To accept the proposed October 2021 through August 2022 Council Committee Assignments.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Other Business/Stakeholder Participation

Motion: Request staff provide a review of electronic voting options for Council functions.

Motion carried with no opposition.

REEF FISH

Review of Reef Fish and IFQ Landings

Motion: To direct staff to begin development of an amendment to review and update ACLs for unassessed species and evaluate if the species are still in need of federal management.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Gray Triggerfish Commercial Landings and Management Review

Motion: To add an action to the Framework Action: Modifications to Vermilion Snapper Bag Limits and Gray Triggerfish Recreational Fixed Closed Season to adjust the commercial gray triggerfish trip limits.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Final Action: Draft Framework Action: Modification of Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper Catch Limits

Motion: To approve Framework Action: Modification of Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper 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. Gill – yes	Dr. Stunz – yes	Mr. Strelcheck – yes
Mr. Anson – yes	Mr. Broussard – yes	Mr. Dugas – yes
Mr. Schieble – yes	Mr. Geeslin – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes
Dr. Shipp – yes	Mr. Williamson – yes	Ms. Boggs – yes
Ms. Bosarge – yes	Ms. Guyas – yes	Mr. Diaz – absent
Gen. Spraggins – yes	Mr. Dyskow – yes	

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

Presentation on SEDAR 72: Gag Grouper Stock Assessment Report

Motion: To update the SEDAR 72 Gulf of Mexico Gag base assessment model (combined sexes) using data from the Florida State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS) for the private recreational sector in place of the same data collected by MRIP-FES. All other data inputs should remain the same. Generate all customary and appropriate model diagnostics used to evaluate model performance. Update model parameter estimates and their variances, model uncertainties, management benchmarks and stock status estimates.

Motion carried with one in opposition.

Motion: To retain fishery dependent data, it is the Council’s desire to avoid a total shutdown of any species, if at all possible.

Motion carried with one in opposition.

Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Programs/Focus Group Formation

Motion: That the charge of the IFQ Focus Group be expanded to require a review of the current IFQ programs’ goals and objectives and recommend their replacement/retention. The revised goals and objectives shall serve as the basis for the Focus Group recommendations.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To add to the membership of the IFQ Focus Group a person who is well versed in the program but does not hold shares or allocation.

Motion carried with three in opposition.

Reef Fish Amendment 36B: Permit Requirement for Shareholders in the Commercial Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Programs

Motion: That the process document provided be utilized to advertise and solicit members of the IFQ Focus Group.

Motion carried with one in opposition.

Draft Framework Action: Modification of Vermilion Snapper Catch Limits

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

Alternative 2: Modify the OFL, ABC, and ACL for vermilion snapper based on the recommendation of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for a constant catch yield for 2021 to 2025, and then maintains the ACL at the 2025 level for subsequent fishing years or until changed by management. The stock ABC equals OY and the ACL equals the ABC.

Year	OFL	ABC	ACL
2021-2025+ (MRIP-FES)	8,600,000	7,270,000	7,270,000

Note: Values are in pounds whole weight.

Motion carried with two in opposition.

Motion: In Action 1, to add an alternative or alternatives which provide catch levels lower than those recommended by the Science & Statistical Committee (SSC).
Motion carried with no opposition.

MACKEREL

Final Action: Amendment 32: Modifications to the Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group Cobia Catch Limits, Possession Limits, Size Limits, and Framework Procedure

Motion: In Action 5.1, to make **Alternative 3, Option 3b** the preferred.

Preferred Alternative 3: Create a recreational vessel limit. Fishermen may not exceed the per person daily possession limit.

Option 3b: The vessel limit is four fish per trip

Motion failed 5 to 8.

Motion: To approve CMP Amendment 32 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.

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

Motion carried 14 to 2 with one absent by roll call vote.

Motion: To direct staff to create a framework action to prohibit the sale of Gulf cobia caught under the bag limit in or from the EEZ of the Gulf of Mexico or South Atlantic. For a person to sell a cobia in or from the EEZ of the Gulf of Mexico or South Atlantic, those fish must have been harvested on a commercial trip aboard a vessel with a commercial vessel permit/endorsement.

Substitute Motion: To direct staff to create a document to prohibit the sale of Gulf cobia caught under the recreational bag limit in or from the EEZ of the Gulf of Mexico or South Atlantic.

Substitute Motion carried 14 to 0 with two abstentions and one absent.

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

Motion: In Action 2, to move **Alternative 3** to Considered but Rejected.

Alternative 3: Modify the sector allocation of the total ACL between the recreational and commercial sectors by reallocating to the commercial sector a percentage of the average difference between the total landings from the 2010/2011 through 2019/2020 fishing years using MRIP-FES data and the total projected ACL for 2023/2024 from Action 1.

- Option 3a:** 25% of the average difference
- Option 3b:** 50% of the average difference
- Option 3c:** 75% of the average difference
- Option 3d:** 100% of the average difference

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

Motion: In Action 1, to make **South Atlantic Preferred Alternative 3** the preferred.

South Atlantic Preferred Alternative 3. The total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel is equal to 95% of the updated acceptable biological catch level. The updated acceptable biological catch level is inclusive of recreational estimates from the Marine Recreational Information Program’s Fishing Effort Survey.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 2, to make **South Atlantic Preferred Alternative 1** the preferred.

South Atlantic Preferred Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain the current recreational sector and commercial sector allocations of 62.9% and 37.1%, respectively, of the revised total annual catch limit for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel. Apply these percentages to the revised total annual catch limit.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 3, to make **South Atlantic Preferred Alternative 2** the preferred.

South Atlantic Preferred Alternative 2. Revise the recreational annual catch target to reflect the updated acceptable biological catch level. The recreational annual catch target equals the sector annual catch limit [(1-Percent Standard Error) or 0.5, whichever is greater].

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

South Atlantic Preferred Alternative 2. Increase the daily bag limit for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel to three fish per person in the exclusive economic zone off Florida.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 5, to make **Alternative 1** the Gulf Council preferred.

Alternative 1 (No Action). The minimum size limit for recreational harvest of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel is 24-inches fork length.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 6, to make **Alternative 1** the Gulf Council preferred.

Alternative 1 (No Action). The minimum size limit for commercial harvest of Atlantic migratory group king mackerel is 24-inches fork length. Commercial fishermen may possess undersized king mackerel in quantities not exceeding 5 percent, by weight, of the king mackerel on board.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To recommend CMP Amendment 34 be taken out to public hearings.

Motion carried with no opposition.

SHRIMP

Shrimp Focus Group Summary

Motion: Request that NMFS fully evaluate and consider, to the maximum extent possible, the draft approval specifications for reinstating the historical cELB program for the Gulf shrimp fishery in recognition of the legitimate distinctions between a scientific data collection-oriented program and an enforcement-oriented program (see Appendices D and E in the draft Framework Action). NMFS shall provide their evaluation at a future Council meeting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To recommend that the Council request that NMFS arrange for the testing, as soon as possible, of a small sample of approved cellular VMS units programmed to ping every 10 minutes, on federally permitted commercial shrimp vessels operating in different regions of the Gulf of Mexico, to determine if the data generated is compatible with the current cELB algorithm. The testing protocol should be designed by NMFS, in consultation and cooperation with the Shrimp Data Collection Focus Group, VMS vendors, and the shrimp industry, to build industry support and buy-in.

Motion carried with no opposition.

GULF SEDAR

No motions.

DATA COLLECTION

Framework Action: Modification to Location Reporting Requirements for For-Hire and Commercial Vessels and Relevant Data Collection AP recommendation

Motion: In Actions 1 and 2, **Alternative 2**, move **Options 2a** to Considered but Rejected.

Action 1-**Alternative 2:** Create an exemption to the VMS requirement to address equipment failure and set a limit on the number of days that the NMFS-approved exemption method is valid, for vessels with Charter/Headboat permits for Reef Fish and/or CMP:

Option 2a: The exemption will be valid for up to 3 days from submittal date.

Action 2-**Alternative 2:** Create an exemption to the VMS requirement to address equipment failure and set a limit on the number of days that the NMFS-approved exemption method is valid, in order to address equipment failure for vessels with Commercial Reef Fish permits.

Option 2a: The exemption will be valid for up to 3 days from submittal date.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Actions 1 and 2, add an option for 14 calendar days exemption and define the other options as calendar days.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Actions 1 and 2, **Alternative 2** to remove **Options 2a, 2b,** and **2c** and add the exemption will be valid for up to 14 calendar days.

Motion failed unanimously.

Motion: To move Action 2 to Considered but Rejected.

Action 2: Modify requirements for vessels with a Commercial Reef Fish permit to allow for an exemption to VMS requirements to address equipment failure.

Alternative 1: (No Action): Maintain requirement that vessels with Commercial Reef Fish permits have an approved VMS unit operating on board at all times unless exempted by NMFS under a power-down exemption.

Alternative 2: Create an exemption to the VMS requirement to address equipment failure and set a limit on the number of days that the NMFS-approved exemption method is valid, in order to address equipment failure for vessels with Commercial Reef Fish permits.

Option 2a: The exemption will be valid for up to 3 days from submittal date.

Option 2b: The exemption will be valid for up to 7 days from submittal date.

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

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 3a: The permit holder may not request more than one exemption per vessel per calendar year.

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

Option 3c: The permit holder may not request more than three exemptions per vessel per calendar year.

Motion carried 8 to 5 with three abstentions and one absent.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

No motions.