

**Gulf Council Motions Report
October 24-27, 2022
Biloxi, Mississippi**

DATA COLLECTION

Abbreviated Framework Action to modify for-hire trip declaration requirements

Motion: To make **Option 4** the preferred.

Option 4: Require federally-permitted for-hire vessel owners and/or operators to submit a trip declaration for trips that will be engaging in any type of fishing or chartered activity.

Motion carried with no opposition.

HABITAT PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

No motions.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

LETC Meeting Summary from October 2022 Meeting

Motion: To recommend that the changes made to the fishing violations section of SOPPs be brought to the Administrative/Budget Committee for discussion and approval at their next meeting.

The presence of a fishing violation is an important aspect in consideration of an AP appointment. The Council has determined: 1) Applicable fishing violations include only violations of federally managed species in either State or Federal waters, regardless of the penalty (i.e., [civil fine](#), [criminal conviction](#), [federal written warning](#)); 2) individuals are ineligible to serve on an AP within three years of the final finding of liability through adjudication, settlement, or default. A finding of liability is final after any applicable appeal period expires; and, 3) Vessel owners shall not automatically be held responsible for violations by a crew member when the owner is not present. If an individual who is currently serving on an AP is found to have a fishing violation that meets the preceding criteria, subsequent to their appointment, the decision to maintain or remove the individual from the AP is at the Council's discretion.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: The Law Enforcement Committee concurs with the Law Enforcement Technical Committee's (LETC) request to allow the Operations and Strategic Plans to expire and only be updated as needed in the future.

Substitute Motion: The Law Enforcement Committee concurs with the LETC's request to allow the Operations plan to expire and Strategic Plans to only be updated as needed in the future.

Substitute motion carried with no opposition.

MACKEREL

Review of Coastal Migratory Pelagics (CMP) Landings

Motion: That landings reports be provided to Council Committees twice per year in April and October.

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

Motion: To remove **Objective 3**, as it is redundant with the newly added objective 9.

Objective 3: To provide necessary information for effective management and establish a mandatory reporting system for monitoring catch.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To amend the language of **Objective 1** to read as follows:

Objective 1: The primary objective of this FMP is to achieve and maintain optimum yield, to allow recovery of overfished populations, and maintain population levels sufficient to ensure adequate recruitment.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To delete **Objective 5**.

Objective 5: To distribute the total allowable catch of Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel between recreational and commercial user groups based on the catches that occurred during the early to mid-1970s, which is prior to the development of the deep water run-around gillnet fishery and when the resource was not overfished.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To remove **Objective 7** from the Joint CMP FMP, as it is no longer supported by science.

Objective 7: To provide appropriate management to address specific migratory groups of king mackerel.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To add a new **Alternative 4**.

Alternative 4: Modify the sector allocation for Gulf king mackerel by reallocating to the commercial sector 15% of the average difference between the total landings from the 2016/2017 through 2019/2020 fishing years using Marine Recreational Information Program's (MRIP) Fishing Effort Survey (FES) data and the total simulated annual catch limit (ACL) for Model 2 in Appendix D for the predicted total landings by sector and the total projected ACL.

Motion carried with 1 in opposition.

Motion: In Action 2.1, to make **Alternative 1** the preferred and cease work on this document.

Alternative 1: No Action. Maintain the sector allocation of the total annual catch limit (ACL) for Gulf king mackerel between the commercial and recreational sectors. The sector allocation for Gulf king mackerel is 32% commercial and 68% recreational. This allocation was derived from the average of available landings data from the years 1975 through 1979, and established in Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Coastal Migratory Pelagic (CMP) Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region (CMP FMP) in 1985.

Motion carried 11 to 4 with 2 abstentions.

Motion: To request SEFSC update the ecosystem status report for the Gulf of Mexico as soon as possible.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To request staff write a letter to the SEFSC to explore the feasibility of an interim analysis for Gulf king mackerel.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Draft Framework Amendment: Modifications to the Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group King Mackerel Gillnet Fishing Season

Motion: To make **Option 2** the preferred.

Option 2. Remove the weekend and holiday closure for the gillnet component for Gulf migratory group king mackerel.

Motion carried with no opposition.

REEF FISH

Review of State-specific Private Angling and State For-Hire Red Snapper Landings

Motion: To direct staff to work with the state representatives to provide state recreational red snapper management presentations, pre- and post-season, for the April and October Council meetings, annually.

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

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

Alternative 5: Revise the allocation between the recreational and commercial sectors using MRIP-FES adjusted average landings during the years 1993 through 2019. The allocations for greater amberjack are 80% recreational and 20% commercial. Revise the OFL and ABC as recommended by the SSC based on SEDAR 70 (2020). Set the total stock ACL equal to the ABC.

Year	OFL	ABC	Total ACL	Rec ACL	Com ACL	Allocation (Rec:Com)
2022	2,033,000	505,000	505,000	404,000	101,000	80:20
2023	2,167,000	631,000	631,000	504,800	126,200	80:20
2024	2,272,000	750,000	750,000	600,000	150,000	80:20
2025	2,345,000	854,000	854,000	683,200	170,800	80:20
2026	2,395,000	941,000	941,000	752,800	188,200	80:20
2027	2,429,000	1,012,000	1,012,000	809,600	202,400	80:20

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

Substitute Motion: In Action 1, to add a new **Alternative 6** and make it the preferred.

Alternative 6: Revise the allocation between the recreational and commercial sectors using MRIP-FES adjusted average landings during the years 1993 through 2019. The allocations for greater amberjack are 80% recreational and 20% commercial. Revise the OFL and ABC as recommended by the SSC based on SEDAR 70 (2020). Set the stock ACL equal to the 2023+ ABC of 505,000 lbs.

Year	OFL	ABC	Total ACL	Rec ACL	Com ACL	Allocation (Rec:Com)
2023+	2,033,000	505,000	505,000	404,000	101,000	80:20

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

Mr. Gill – no	Dr. Stunz – yes	Mr. Strelcheck – yes
Mr. McDermott – yes	Mr. Williamson – yes	Mr. Anson – yes
Mr. Dyskow – yes	Mr. Schieble – yes	Dr. Shipp – yes
Mr. Broussard – yes	Mr. Dugas – yes	Dr. Sweetman – abstain
Dr. Frazer – yes	Gen. Spraggins – yes	Mr. Diaz – abstain
Mr. Geeslin – yes	Ms. Boggs – no	

Substitute Motion carried 13 to 2 with 2 abstentions by roll call vote

Second Substitute Motion: In Action 1, to make a new **Alternative 6**, that would retain the current 73% recreational and 27% commercial allocation. The ACL would correspond to the 2023 recommendations in Alternative 2. Make this alternative the preferred.

Alternative 6: Maintain the sector allocations as 73% recreational and 27% commercial. Revise the OFL and ABC as recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) based on SEDAR 70 (2020). Set the total stock ACL equal to the ABC.

Year	OFL	ABC	Total ACL	Rec ACL	Com ACL	Allocation (Rec:Com)
2023+	2,236,000	649,000	649,000	473,770	175,230	73:27

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

Dr. Shipp – no	Mr. Strelcheck – yes	Gen. Spraggins – no
Mr. Dugas – no	Ms. Boggs – yes	Dr. Sweetman – yes
Mr. Schieble – no	Mr. McDermott – no	Dr. Frazer – yes
Dr. Stunz – no	Mr. Williamson – no	Mr. Gill – yes
Mr. Dyskow – no	Mr. Broussard – no	Mr. Diaz – abstain
Mr. Anson – no	Mr. Geeslin – no	

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

Motion: To approve the Draft Amendment 54: Modifications to the Greater Amberjack Catch Limits and Sector Allocations, and other Rebuilding Plan Modifications 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. McDermott – yes	Mr. Broussard – yes
Dr. Stunz – yes	Gen. Spraggins – yes	Ms. Boggs – no
Mr. Schieble – yes	Mr. Anson – yes	Mr. Gill – yes
Mr. Williamson – yes	Mr. Strelcheck – yes	Dr. Shipp – yes
Mr. Dugas – yes	Mr. Geeslin – yes	Mr. Diaz – yes
Dr. Sweetman – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes	

Motion carried 16 to 1 by roll call vote.

Draft Options: Modifications to Recreational and Commercial Greater Amberjack Management Measures

Motion: In Action 1, to move **Alternatives 4** and **5** to considered, but rejected.

Alternative 4: Split season: Open September 1 – October 23 and May 1 – May 19

Alternative 5: Split season: Open September 1 – October 5 and May 1 – May 31

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 1, to make an Alternative for a November 1 through December 31 season.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To Remove **Action 2** from the Framework document.

Action 2: Modify the Recreational Minimum Size Limit Greater Amberjack

Motion carried with no opposition.

IFQ Focus Group

Motion: To reconvene the IFQ Focus Group for a 2nd meeting with the remaining 8 members.

Motion carried with 2 in opposition.

Motion: To direct staff to develop a list of proposed IFQ related issues the Council would review and prioritize at their January 2023 meeting. Thereafter, the Council would either convene a special Council meeting or dedicate significant time on a future Reef Fish committee agenda to discuss the highest priority issues recommended by the Council.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To modify the IFQ Focus Group’s charge to evaluate benefits and drawbacks to get to active fishermen who own no shares:

1. increases in annual allocation (not shares), and

2. allocation held by the agency in non-active accounts.

Motion carried 15 to 0 with 2 abstentions.

Draft Framework Action for Gray Triggerfish Commercial Trip Limit

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

Alternative 3: Increase the commercial trip limit to 25 gray triggerfish per vessel.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 1, to remove **Alternative 5**.

Alternative 5: Increase the commercial trip limit to 40 gray triggerfish per vessel.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Draft Options for Amendment 56: Modifications to the Gag Grouper Catch Limits, Sector Allocations, Fishing Seasons, and other Rebuilding Plan Measures

Motion: To direct staff to develop the following options for exploration in Amendment 56:

1. Summer recreational gag fishing season
2. Lowering the gag bag limit
3. Establishing a gag vessel limit
4. Commercial spawning season closure
5. Spatial areas to protect spawning gag
6. Commercial bycatch trip limits
7. Motion carried with no opposition.

SSC Recommendations: Review of the SEDAR 68 Operational Assessment for Gulf of Mexico Scamp

Motion: To direct staff to provide catch levels for scamp and yellowmouth grouper utilizing an MSY proxy of F40%SPR, and consider other management changes necessary for the shallow-water grouper complex.

Motion carried with no opposition.

SHRIMP

No motions.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Review of Florida pompano landings and requirements for consideration for federal fisheries management

Motion: That Florida Pompano is not in need of federal conservation and management at this time.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To direct staff to evaluate factors in determining whether African pompano is in need of federal management.

Motion failed 6 to 7 with 2 abstentions.

Motion: To direct staff to evaluate factors in determining whether tripletail is in need of federal management.

Motion carried 9 to 6 with 2 abstentions.

FULL COUNCIL

Review and Adoption of Proposed Council Committee Assignments October 2022 through August 2023

Motion: To adopt the proposed Council Committee assignments as amended.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Recommendations from the Joint Council Workgroup on Section 102 of the Modern Fish Act

Motion: To direct staff to initiate a document that would first review the state specific private angler licensing and reporting requirements that are currently used to define the universe of offshore anglers in each state.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To have the Council better incorporate Optimum Yield to fully consider biological, social, and economic aspects in achieving fleet-specific objectives during the management process.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Other Business

Motion: To disband the Jt. Council Workgroup on Section 102 of the Modern Fishing Act.

Motion carried with no opposition.