

**GULF COUNCIL MOTIONS REPORT
AUGUST 7-10, 2017
SAN ANTONIO, TX**

REEF FISH MOTIONS

Final Action – Framework Action – Greater Amberjack ACL and Management Measures

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

Alternative 2: Set the ACL equal to the ABC recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) from 2018 through 2020+, based upon the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) 33 Update Assessment (2016). This alternative is projected to rebuild the stock by 2027.

Option a. Apply the ACL/ACT Control Rule (landings from 2013 through 2016) to establish a 13% buffer to the commercial sector and a 17% buffer to the recreational sector.

Year	Recreational			Commercial	
	ABC	ACL	ACT	ACL	ACT
2018	1,182,000	862,860	716,173	319,140	277,651
2019	1,489,000	1,086,970	902,185	402,030	349,766
2020+	1,794,000	1,309,620	1,086,985	484,380	421,411

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 2, to make Alternative 4 the preferred alternative.

Alternative 4: Modify the recreational closed season to be January 1 – June 30.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To approve the Greater Amberjack ACL and Management Measures 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 passed unanimously by roll call vote, 17 to 0.

Mr. Riechers – y
Mr. Greene – y
Mr. Sanchez – y
Dr. Stunz – y
Dr. Crabtree – y
Mr. Diaz – y
Mr. Walker – y
Dr. Dana – y
Dr. Mickle – y

Dr. Frazer – y
Mr. Swindell – y
Ms. Guyas – y
Mr. Boyd – y
Mr. Anson – y
Mr. Matens – y
Mr. Banks – y
Ms. Bosarge – y

Motion: The Greater Amberjack Framework include an action to change the fishing year for greater amberjack to begin on August 1, and that it contain two options:

- 1) change only the recreational fishing year,
- 2) change both the recreational and commercial fishing years.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: That the recreational season for Greater Amberjack be open from August 1 through October 31, closed November 1 through March 31, and open the month of April, then closes from May 1 through July 31.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: Evaluate the following options for the recreational greater amberjack season:

- Open for the months of April, September, and October (closed Jan-Mar, May-Aug, Nov-Dec)
- Open for the months of May, September, and October (closed Jan-Apr, Jun-Aug, Nov, Dec)

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To have staff develop a Framework Action for greater amberjack management measures dealing with seasons and vessel bag limits.

Substitute motion: To have staff develop a framework action for greater amberjack management measures dealing with seasons and develop a separate framework action dealing with vessel bag limits and commercial trip limits.

Substitute motion carried with one in opposition.

Amendment 42 – Reef Fish Management for Headboat Survey Vessels Eligibility Requirements

Motion: To select Alternative 2, Option b as the preferred alternative and option.

Alternative 2: Restrict participation in the referendum to persons who have a valid or renewable federal reef fish for-hire permit issued to a landings history vessel (LHV) and who have substantially fished for red snapper, gray triggerfish, greater amberjack, red grouper, or gag based on landings submitted to the SRHS during the qualifying years. A vessel qualifies as a LHV if it has individual landings history recorded by the Southeast Region Headboat Survey by December 31, 2015. For-hire federal permit holders whose vessels landed an annual average of at least **100 fish** of all species combined are considered as having substantially fished. Annual average landings are based on landings recorded by the SRHS between 2011 and 2015.

Option b: Each eligible permit will have one vote regardless of the relative size of the vessel's catch history.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Amendment 41 – Allocation-based Management for Federally Permitted Charter Vessels

Motion: To include in the Amendment 41 Eligibility Requirements, an option that would create the voting interest by unique number of permit holders and also by a weighted option by unique permit holders and total permits held.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Draft – Framework Action to Modify the ACT for Red Snapper Federal For-Hire and Private Angler Components

Motion: To ask the SSC to review the Alternatives in the Framework Action to Modify the ACT for Red Snapper Federal For-Hire and Private Angler Components document and provide their recommendations.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Revised Options Paper – Amendment 36B – Modifications to Commercial IFQ Programs

Motion: To identify quota set asides to address and assist small participants and new entrants and to reduce discards.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To combine Action 2.4 into Action 2.3

2.3 Quota redistribution / Quota set-aside

2.4 Distributing Shares from Non-activated Accounts and Reclaimed Shares

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To add an option for accounts that become inactive in the future so that quota would automatically go into the quota bank.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To remove Action 2.6, Allocation Caps, from the document.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To form a new Joint Ad Hoc Red Snapper/ Grouper Tilefish IFQ Advisory Panel.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Options Paper – Status Determination Criteria and OY

Motion: In Action 2, to remove Alternatives 3 and 4.

Alternative 3: For stocks where MSST is currently undefined, $MSST = (1-M) * B_{MSY}$ (or proxy) or $0.75 * B_{MSY}$ (or proxy), whichever provides a larger buffer between MSST and B_{MSY} (or proxy).

Alternative 4: For stocks where MSST is currently undefined, $MSST = 0.85 * B_{MSY}$ (or proxy).

Motion carried with no opposition.

Drafts – State Management of Recreational Red Snapper

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

Alternative 4: For a state with an approved state management program, the state will choose whether to manage its private angling component, only, or to manage both its private angling and federal for-hire components. The state must constrain landings to the state's private angling component ACL and federal for-hire component ACL as determined in Action 2. For states

without an approved state management program, separate fishing seasons based on the component ACTs for the federal for-hire and private angling components would be estimated using the remainder of the recreational sector ACL. The state management plan would end when the separate private angling and federal for-hire ACLs end (currently 2022).

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To direct staff to construct allocation alternatives that reflect spatial patterns in biomass and recreational trips with options for weighting the two.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To reconstruct the allocation tables and truncate the landing series through 2009.

Motion carried.

Motion: That the allocation table include a formula that looks at the percentages, for the best ten years for each state, from the series 1986 through 2015 as the percentage of allocation.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To remove Action 3 from the document.

2.3 Action 3 – Modify the Federal Recreational Minimum Size Limit

Alternative 1: No Action – Retain current federal regulations for the minimum size limit for recreational red snapper in federal waters of the Gulf. The federal minimum size limit is 16 inches total length (TL).

Alternative 2: Reduce the federal minimum size limit to 14 inches TL.

Alternative 3: Reduce the federal minimum size limit to 15 inches TL.

Alternative 4: Increase the federal minimum size limit to 17 inches TL.

Alternative 5: Increase the federal minimum size limit to 18 inches TL.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To begin two separate amendments for the state management of recreational red snapper for Florida and Texas.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 1 of the Louisiana (LA) State Document, to make Alternative 2 the preferred alternative for LA.

Alternative 2: Establish a management program that **delegates** some management authority in federal waters to Louisiana. Louisiana must establish the red snapper season structure and bag limit for the harvest of its assigned portion of the recreational sector annual catch limit (ACL). If Louisiana's red snapper harvest plan is determined to be inconsistent with the requirements of delegation, the recreational harvest of red snapper in the federal waters adjacent to Louisiana would be subject to the default federal regulations for red snapper.

Motion carried 17 to 0.

Motion: To add a new alternative to the Florida (FL) and Texas (TX) documents that would delegate full management authority to the state, related to harvest of recreational red snapper.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 2, of the Louisiana (LA) State Document, to make Alternative 1 the preferred alternative.

Alternative 1: Do not establish a provision to sunset Louisiana's state management program.

Substitute motion: To remove Action 2 from all five (three existing and two proposed) State Management of Recreational Red Snapper documents.

2.2 Action 2 – Sunset Provision

Alternative 1: Do not establish a provision to sunset Louisiana's state management program.

Alternative 2: Establish a provision to sunset Louisiana's state management program after 10 calendar years.

Alternative 3: Establish a provision to sunset Louisiana's state management program after 5 calendar years.

Alternative 4: Establish a provision to sunset Louisiana's state management program after 3 calendar years.

Substitute motion carried 10 to 6.

Motion: In Action 3, of the Louisiana (LA) State Document, to make Alternative 2, Option 2a the preferred alternative and option.

Alternative 2: While red snapper are overfished (based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress), if the combined Louisiana recreational landings exceed the Louisiana recreational ACL, then in the following year reduce Louisiana's ACL by the amount of the ACL overage in the prior fishing year, unless the best scientific information available determines that a greater, lesser, or no overage adjustment is necessary. The Louisiana recreational ACT (or component ACTs) will be adjusted to reflect the previously established percent buffer.

Option 2a: If Louisiana has both a private-angling ACL and a federal for-hire ACL, the reduction will be **applied to the component(s)** that exceeded the applicable ACL.

Motion carried with no opposition.

OTHER BUSINESS –

Motion: To convene a Joint meeting of the Ad Hoc Red Snapper Charter For-hire and the Ad Hoc Reef Fish Headboat Advisory Panels before the end of 2017.

Motion carried with no opposition.

GULF SEDAR MOTIONS

SEDAR Schedule Review

Motion: To delay the current red snapper standard assessment to 2018 and to make 2017 the terminal year.

Motion failed.

Motion: To move the Cobia stock assessment to 2019 with a terminal year of 2017.

Motion carried.

Motion: To add a Red Snapper Standard Assessment in 2019 with a terminal year of 2018.

Motion carried.

Motion: To move the Vermilion Snapper Standard Assessment to 2018.

Motion carried with no opposition.

ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET MOTIONS

Financial Budget Review

Motion: To approve the budget as shown in Tab G, No. 4(a).

Motion carried with no opposition.

Other Business

Motion: To modify the SOPPs so that Council members must be physically present to participate, motion, or vote.

Substitute motion: To modify the SOPPs so that Council members must be physically present to vote.

Second substitute motion: To modify the SOPPs so that Council members must be physically present to motion or vote.

Second substitute motion carried 16 to 0.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MOTIONS

Protocol for Authorizing Sea Turtle Release Gear

Motion: To move forward with the document that approves the new turtle release gear and modifies our framework process to allow the specification of new release gears for turtles and other protected resources.

Substitute Motion: To move forward with the document that approves the new turtle release gear and modifies our framework process to allow the specification of new release gears for turtles and other protected resources and to allow changes to the safe handling techniques.

Substitute Motion carried with no opposition.

Other Business

Motion: To direct staff to continue development of the amendment to require descender-devices and venting tools onboard vessels possessing reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico.

Motion carried with no opposition.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION MOTIONS

Report of O&E Technical Committee Meeting

Designee / Proxy

Motion: That the O&E Technical Committee allow the use of proxy attendees subject to the approval by Council staff.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Anecdotal Data Collection

Motion: To direct staff to develop a data portal to collect public anecdotal information regarding Council-managed species.

Substitute motion: To direct staff to develop a plan that would create a data portal to collect public anecdotal information for Council-managed species and bring that information back to the Council.

Substitute motion carried with no opposition.

Best Practices

Motion: To recommend that the O&E Technical Committee members be allowed to participate via webinar with approval by Council staff.

Motion carried with no opposition.