

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
RED DRUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Battle House Renaissance Mobile Mobile, Alabama

October 20, 2014

VOTING MEMBERS

- Harlon Pearce.....Louisiana
- Kevin Anson (designee for Chris Blankenship).....Alabama
- Martha Bademan (designee for Nick Wiley).....Florida
- Doug Boyd.....Texas
- Dale Diaz (designee for Jamie Miller).....Mississippi
- John Greene.....Alabama
- Campo Matens.....Louisiana

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

- Leann Bosarge.....Mississippi
- Jason Brand.....USCG
- Pamela Dana.....Florida
- Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
- Myron Fischer (designee for Randy Pausina).....Louisiana
- Corky Perret.....Mississippi
- Robin Riechers.....Texas
- John Sanchez.....Florida
- Phil Steele (designee for Roy Crabtree).....NMFS
- Greg Stunz.....Texas
- David Walker.....Alabama
- Roy Williams.....Florida

STAFF

- Stephen Atran.....Population Dynamics Statistician
- John Froeschke.....Fishery Biologist
- Doug Gregory.....Executive Director
- Beth Hager.....Financial Assistant/IT Coordinator
- Mara Levy.....NOAA General Counsel
- Charlene Ponce.....Public Information Officer
- Ryan Rindone.....Fishery Biologist/SEDAR Liaison
- Charlotte Schiaffo.....Research & Human Resource Librarian
- Carrie Simmons.....Deputy Executive Director

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

- Randy Boggs.....Orange Beach, AL
- Steve Branstetter.....NMFS
- Gregg Bray.....GSMFC
- Gib Brogan.....Oceana

1 JP Brooker.....Ocean Conservancy
2 Michael Drexler.....Ocean Conservancy
3 Cynthia Fenyk.....NOAA
4 Benny Gallaway.....LGL Ecological, TX
5 Sue Gerhart.....NMFS
6 Chad Hanson.....PEW
7 Ben Hartig.....SAFMC
8 Margaret Henderson.....Gulf Seafood Institute
9 Mike Jennings.....Freeport, TX
10 Robert Jones.....EDF
11 Kristen McConnell.....EDF
12 Herb Murphy.....
13 Laurie Picariello.....Audubon Nature Institute
14 Bonnie Ponwith.....SEFSC
15 Katie Semon.....LDWF
16 Steve VanderKooy.....GSMFC

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20 The Red Drum Management Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery
21 Management Council convened at the Battle House Renaissance
22 Mobile, Mobile, Alabama, Monday afternoon, October 20, 2014, and
23 was called to order at 12:45 p.m. by Chairman Harlon Pearce.
24

25 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
26 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
27 **ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**
28

29 **CHAIRMAN HARLON PEARCE:** In attendance we have Mr. Camp Matens
30 here and that's great. Kevin is here and Doug Boyd and Johnny
31 Greene and Dale is here and Martha. With that, I will accept
32 the -- Is there any changes or additions to the agenda? If not,
33 I would like to have a motion to accept the agenda as written.
34 Any changes to the agenda? Wake up.
35

36 **MR. DOUG BOYD:** I so move.
37

38 **CHAIRMAN PEARCE:** Do we have a second to that motion? We've
39 have a second. Any opposition to the motion for accepting the
40 agenda? Hearing none, the motion carries.
41

42 The minutes, is everyone okay with the minutes? If everyone has
43 read and approved the minutes, I would entertain a motion to
44 accept the minutes. Do we have a second? We have a second.
45 Any opposition to the approval of the minutes? Hearing none,
46 the motion carries.
47

48 The Action Guide is next and if you've all read the Action

1 Guide, any questions about the Action Guide? All right and with
2 no questions, that's fine. Before we get any further, we've got
3 someone that is taking -- Whose place are you taking? You're
4 taking Myron's place? Why don't you introduce yourself to the
5 crowd and tell them what you do.

6
7 **MS. KATIE SEMON:** Hi and I'm Katie Semon with Louisiana Wildlife
8 and Fisheries. I am just shadowing Myron this week and so
9 that's all. Thanks.

10
11 **CHAIRMAN PEARCE:** She is planning for my job when I get off in
12 three meetings and so she is trying to learn, but Katie has done
13 an excellent job with FINFO and she did an excellent job when
14 she was in Washington, when she did some of the same work in
15 Washington, and she brought that strength down to Louisiana and
16 is doing a wonderful job and it's a great deal. Thank you,
17 Katie. Next, we're going to go into the Scoping Document for
18 Recreational Red Drum, Tab F-4. Ryan, you're on deck.

19
20 **SCOPING DOCUMENT FOR RECREATIONAL RED DRUM MANAGEMENT**

21
22 **MR. RYAN RINDONE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We're going to start
23 with an update from the Special Red Drum Working Group and I'm
24 going to give you guys a summary. This working group met
25 September 24 at the council office and staff reviewed the motion
26 to the SSC to set an ABC for red drum in the Gulf and the charge
27 to the working group, which was to review existing data and
28 explore additional assessment methodologies that could be
29 utilized to estimate OFL.

30
31 The council also asked the working group to look at state
32 escapement rates and see if there was a uniform method which
33 could be done across all states. As you guys know, the red drum
34 fishery in state waters is managed using that escapement rate
35 target, which is defined as the ratio of age four individuals in
36 a fished population that leave near-shore areas and recruit to
37 the offshore population relative to the unfished population.

38
39 The 1986 stock assessment showed a low escapement rate for the
40 recreational and commercial fisheries in state waters and as the
41 offshore commercial component of the fishery grew in the mid-
42 1980s, these removals were just too great and this finding was
43 supported in all successive stock assessments.

44
45 Minimum data needs for conducting a Gulf-wide assessment include
46 the magnitude of the landings, time series of fishery-
47 independent age and size composition data and fishery-
48 independent indices of abundance for both the juveniles and the

1 adults and, most importantly, the age structure of the offshore
2 adult population.

3
4 The data available from the states include ages, fishery-
5 dependent and independent surveys, with gears like gillnets,
6 purse seines, trammel nets, and others and some mark recapture
7 studies off of Florida. However, the overwhelming majority of
8 these data come exclusively from state waters, which is part of
9 the problem. We still don't know anything about the offshore
10 stock.

11
12 Since comprehensive Gulf-wide age structure data were
13 unavailable in the fishery-independent indices of abundance for
14 red drum or were insufficient, it was difficult to pin down
15 which model to use. The working group did identify some ongoing
16 future research which will address some of these shortcomings
17 and the combination of completed and scheduled data collection
18 efforts could be combined in the future to produce a more
19 comprehensive index for the offshore stock.

20
21 As an example, some University of South Alabama researchers have
22 some funding to do a purse seine collection from Alabama west to
23 Louisiana and the goal is to sample forty fish from forty
24 schools, preferably different schools, beginning in late 2014
25 and they will collect size at age data and these surveys will
26 occur concurrently with the Gulf States SEAMAP surveys and so
27 you will have some overlapping contrast with those data and the
28 working group recommended that SEAMAP retain red drum collected
29 from the bottom longline sampling efforts for age composition
30 data collection.

31
32 The working group also reviewed the state SEAMAP bottom longline
33 data and found that the average weight was about nine kilograms,
34 or twenty-some-odd pounds, and the average length was about 910
35 millimeters total length and both of these values are consistent
36 for 2008 through 2014 and so a constant level within the stock.

37
38 Staff presented the catch MSY method, which was presented back
39 in March to the SSC, and it suggests an MSY of approximately
40 14.3 million pounds, which is much less than the current Gulf
41 state landings, which last year were almost twenty-million
42 pounds.

43
44 The important thing to remember is catch MSY leaves a lot of
45 information out. There's a lot of other things that you can
46 consider in a model that that model is just not designed to deal
47 with.

48

1 The working group thought that depletion or stock-reduction-
2 based models were inappropriate, which rules out a lot of the
3 data-poor methods that we have in our toolbox and some models
4 may not estimate stock size, because much of the data would need
5 to be excluded because we simply don't have it or there would be
6 really strong assumptions that would have to be made and there
7 is no data to verify those assumptions.

8
9 Also, calling red drum data poor is likely not appropriate,
10 because of all the data we do have, especially from state
11 waters, and so pending ongoing research off of west Florida and
12 Louisiana will contribute some of those age composition data for
13 the offshore adults and could fulfill current gaps in knowledge
14 to help us assess red drum in a more robust manner in the
15 future.

16
17 The working group reviewed the escapement rate determinations by
18 state and let me just stop for a second. If anybody has any
19 questions, just make noise and I will answer them.

20
21 The working group reviewed escapement by state with each state
22 calculating escapement a little bit differently based on what
23 data they collect and the working group recommended some basic
24 needs for determining a standardized escapement method,
25 including deciding on which ages to include in the analyses, be
26 it age zero to four, one to four, one to five, and what those
27 ages actually mean. You know is age zero less than twelve
28 months or is it between three and fifteen months and what are
29 those ages -- How are they actually defined, because each state
30 does it a little bit differently, again, depending on what data
31 they collect.

32
33 The possibility of inaccuracies in the commercial landings data
34 between 1983 and 1986 were also discussed and the working group
35 recommended exploring sensitivities in the stock assessment
36 setting, when we get to that point, to determine the effect of
37 uncertainty.

38
39 **CHAIRMAN PEARCE:** Dale, you have a question?

40
41 **MR. DALE DIAZ:** Yes and I just wanted to stop it while Ryan is
42 on the subject of escapement rates, before we move any further
43 than that. I did go to the Red Drum Working Group meeting and,
44 Ryan, I appreciate all your hard work getting that together, but
45 one of the things that I'm hoping we can work towards is getting
46 a scoping document ready where we can send it out, but we had
47 asked the SSC, sometime this past year, to try to have an
48 acceptable biological catch to us by the February timeframe of

1 2015.

2
3 From hearing the discussions around the table, one of the
4 problems that they're going to have is that all of the Gulf
5 states don't necessarily have their escapement rates up to date.
6 I'm pretty sure Texas and Mississippi is up to date, but the
7 other three states are not current. Anyway, Ryan, you might
8 want to elaborate on that a little bit, as to how big of a
9 problem that is.

10
11 **MR. RINDONE:** Sure. Mississippi and Texas do both have current
12 values and Florida provided us the most current values they
13 have, which I think date back to 2013, but Louisiana's date back
14 to 2002 and Alabama's to 2003 and they don't have anything more
15 current than that and so there is a big gap in what is otherwise
16 known as the primary area for where the fishery occurs and where
17 the majority of the effort is.

18
19 **MR. DIAZ:** That kind of leads to one of my concerns. I would
20 like to get this document ready to go out to the public for
21 scoping, but knowing that whenever the SSC goes to review this
22 that they're probably not going to be at a point where they'll
23 be willing to give us an ABC or an ACL until they can get that
24 information, I would like to make a motion for the Gulf Council
25 to send a letter to all of the Gulf states requesting that they
26 update their escapement rates for red drum as soon as possible
27 and keep them updated on at least a biennial basis.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN PEARCE:** We have a motion and do we have a second? We
30 need a second.

31
32 **MR. DIAZ:** Every other year.

33
34 **CHAIRMAN PEARCE:** The motion is to send a letter to the Gulf
35 states that they update their red drum escapement rates and
36 update on a biennial basis. That's the motion and do we have a
37 second? We have a second.

38
39 **MR. RINDONE:** Just a point of clarification. It's "biennial",
40 meaning every other year, and not "biannual".

41
42 **CHAIRMAN PEARCE:** Did we get a second? Yes, Johnny seconded.

43
44 **MR. KEVIN ANSON:** I just had a question to the motion. Dale,
45 you said update the red drum escapement rates and that's using
46 their methodologies they had used in prior escapement rate
47 determinations, because there was some discussion about trying
48 to make it more uniform, I guess.

1
2 **MR. DIAZ:** That would be my intention for this motion, but there
3 is some work going on, and Ryan is going to get to that I
4 believe in a minute, about trying to update them and standardize
5 them.

6
7 **MR. DOUG BOYD:** Just at quick question. What is involved in
8 updating those escapement rates? Is this anything like a six-
9 month study or --

10
11 **MR. RINDONE:** I can answer that. It depends on the state,
12 because the states determine them a little bit differently
13 depending on what data they collect and so Florida does it in
14 tandem with doing a stock assessment and so whenever they do a
15 formal assessment of red drum, then that's when they update
16 their escapement rates.

17
18 Mississippi can do it based on the data they collect on a
19 continuing basis and so can Texas and as far as Mississippi and
20 Alabama go, they determine escapement a little bit differently,
21 but, again, they haven't updated theirs in quite some time and
22 so I would leave it to them to clarify what they need to do.

23
24 **DR. GREGG STUNZ:** Dale touched on it a little bit and I was at
25 the workshop as well and there was considerable discussion and,
26 Ryan, maybe you're going to address it a little more about the
27 states getting some type of consistency among how they're
28 estimating these escapement rates, because, right now, it's
29 quite a bit different. I don't know if this is the place to put
30 it in this motion or not, but that's something that would
31 definitely help out, so that we're talking about apples to
32 apples here when we talk about these escapement rates.

33
34 **CHAIRMAN PEARCE:** I think that would take another motion, if
35 you're ready after this one. I think this one is just asking
36 them to do it and then we can talk about how they do it.

37
38 **MS. MARTHA BADEMAN:** I agree with what's been said about
39 standardizing the escapement rates. I also just wanted to
40 comment about the feasibility of this for our state. Typically
41 we do our state assessments and that's when we would be
42 calculating escapement for red drum, every three years.

43
44 It may change a little bit if we change regulations. I am
45 trying to find when our next assessment is on the table and I
46 will look at that, but doing it every two years could be
47 burdensome for us. I will say that. I just talked with our
48 assessment folks, but we have a lot in the hopper and so I just

1 wanted to throw that out there.

2
3 **MR. MYRON FISCHER:** We would have difficulty with this. Many of
4 our assessments, and in this case escapements, are mandated by
5 our statute, by legislative statute, of the frequency in which
6 they are done and that's what our manpower is based on. For us
7 to accelerate this cycle, we would need more manpower on staff.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN PEARCE:** Thank you, Myron. Any other discussion on
10 this issue?

11
12 **DR. JOHN FROESCHKE:** One thing to think about is if and when we
13 get these updated escapement rates, that's not exactly the
14 metric we need to set an ABC. There is some conversion from
15 that to an SPR estimate for the stock or something and right
16 now, not having the data, I'm not exactly sure how that would
17 happen.

18
19 We talked about in the working group meeting last month and one
20 thing that I think would be nice is when we produce the updated
21 escapement rates is to convene a state biologist from each of
22 the five states who provided the data and get all of us together
23 for a day or something so we could talk about how to convert,
24 with the data in hand, the actual methods from one state to
25 another, so all the data are on the same scale, because there
26 are some fairly important differences in how they're calculated
27 between states.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN PEARCE:** Thank you, John. Any other discussion on this
30 motion?

31
32 **DR. BONNIE PONWITH:** I would have to concur with that last
33 discussion. Those are -- We have already heard that they should
34 not be considered data poor and that's true, to the extent that
35 those data are good building blocks as inputs to a broader
36 analysis to help determine what the status of the stock is
37 across its range.

38
39 To that end, the more comparable the data are coming from the
40 states, the more comparable that analysis is, the more utility
41 those data have in answering the broader question of what is the
42 status of the stock, both in state and federal waters.

43
44 To that end, I think that having -- I mean in a perfect world,
45 you would do the same analysis across the five states and I
46 recognize that how you do that analysis is built on how you
47 collect the data. Barring that, some sort of a crosswalk table
48 to be able to link those data in a way that are meaningful I

1 think is going to be an important step for the next step and
2 that's using that to understand the status of the stock.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN PEARCE:** Thank you, Bonnie. Any other discussion on
5 this motion?

6
7 **MS. BADEMAN:** I just checked and we have a red drum assessment
8 on our schedule for 2015. I just wanted to throw that out
9 there.

10
11 **CHAIRMAN PEARCE:** That's great. That's good. All right. We
12 have a motion and a second on the floor. All in favor of this
13 motion say aye; all opposed give me a show of hands. **All in**
14 **favor raise your hand; all opposed. The motion fails.**

15
16 Gregg, did you want to approach the thought process you had
17 about -- Of course, now we don't have it, but did you want to
18 discuss the states being uniform in their methodology?

19
20 **DR. STUNZ:** Harlon, I think we kind of covered it and Dr.
21 Froeschke probably had the best idea of perhaps getting the
22 right people from the state to get together to talk about
23 exactly how they do that and where there is the common ground,
24 but that was my primary point and so I don't know if that
25 requires a motion and I'm not on this committee, obviously, and
26 so --

27
28 **CHAIRMAN PEARCE:** Thank you, Gregg. Ryan, are you ready to move
29 on?

30
31 **MR. RINDONE:** Yes, sir. Dauphin Island Sea Lab has done surveys
32 that do not support the assumption that adult red drum are
33 protected by the offshore spawning closure and these data are
34 further augmented by the landings data from Alabama,
35 Mississippi, and Louisiana, or the primary area, all of whom
36 permit anglers to retain one fish per person per day that's over
37 the slot.

38
39 Researchers also noticed that a large proportion of nineteen to
40 twenty-three-year-old fish were in the age composition data from
41 their surveys, which would indicate those year classes coming
42 immediately following the closure of the commercial fishery in
43 the very late 1980s.

44
45 Texas data included influence of environmental factors by
46 adjusting variance of environmental covariates. There's a lot
47 of variation in that. After bootstrapping, variance becomes
48 more reasonable with time, indicating there's been an increase

1 in biomass. Methods like this justify not utilizing something
2 as basic as catch MSY or some other depletion-based method.

3
4 Research from Florida included purse seine collections of fall
5 red drum schools with average lengths and weights similar to the
6 data from Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas, but the size range
7 sampled within those schools is much larger than previously
8 reported.

9
10 The working group recommended the collection of age data from
11 the purse-seine-collected fish in Florida, to further augment
12 work being done elsewhere in the Gulf and future work planned.
13 The data from Florida will eventually inform population size
14 estimates, based on spatially explicit capture recapture
15 methods.

16
17 Committee members desired current Gulf-wide escapement rates
18 prior to any proposed management changes. However,
19 determination of those escapement rates doesn't mean that we're
20 going to have a way to determine an OFL or an ABC and doing
21 something like using escapement as a proxy for SPR still
22 requires a large suite of assumptions to be put forward and we
23 don't necessarily have the information to inform those
24 assumptions.

25
26 An ABC and an ACL are needed along with accountability measures
27 to open any areas of the EEZ to harvest. Also, by opening the
28 fishery over new areas, there is a possibility of exceeding the
29 ACL and if the ACL is exceeded, then it would have to trigger
30 accountability measures to prevent overfishing, be it a
31 reduction in bag limit or closed seasons or whatever it might
32 be, and that would include state waters.

33
34 SSC representatives that were actually at the workshop were not
35 confident that the SSC as a whole would be willing to set an ABC
36 with the data currently available and then just to wrap up,
37 John's suggestion about having a group come together of all the
38 state reps that work on escapement was something that was also
39 talked about at the meeting, but they didn't make any formal
40 recommendations or anything to that level.

41
42 **CHAIRMAN PEARCE:** Any other questions for Ryan on this
43 particular issue? Any discussion about a meeting of the minds
44 with the states to figure out how to pull it together? Yes,
45 Gregg.

46
47 **DR. STUNZ:** I don't have a comment on the meeting of the states
48 and it was a separate comment and do you want me to make that

1 now or hold off?
2

3 **CHAIRMAN PEARCE:** Make it now.
4

5 **DR. STUNZ:** I just wanted to inform kind of everyone of some
6 interesting things that came out of the meeting that should be
7 very informative for this process and that is that there's a lot
8 of studies going on in really all the states, and particularly
9 Florida and Alabama, to get at some of the information we're
10 going to need to do this kind of thing. For example, the age
11 composition of the spawners and several abundance indices, as
12 well as some creative mark and recapture studies, which should
13 shed a light on a lot of the missing pieces of information that
14 we need and so that's just sort of FYI out there, that those
15 things are ongoing.
16

17 **CHAIRMAN PEARCE:** Okay, Gregg, and if we've got time, we can
18 also give it some thought in full council and you can make bring
19 another motion up, if you would like, to make it happen,
20 whatever you want to do. Ryan, anything else on this
21 discussion?
22

23 **MR. RINDONE:** Right now, we're at a point where we need to know
24 what we're doing with the scoping document and so you guys have
25 seen what we had at the last meeting and it hasn't changed since
26 then. We don't have any new information to put into it, even in
27 the wake of the escapement workshop.
28

29 So is this -- Do you guys want to hold off on taking it out to
30 scoping or what are the thoughts for the committee to recommend
31 to the council as far as the desire to see an ABC from the SSC
32 in February, which seems like it might not be possible? There
33 are just some discussions that need to take place on those two
34 lines. What do you do with the scoping document and what do you
35 do about the ABC?
36

37 **MR. DIAZ:** I would like to see this document move forward, but I
38 hate to send it out to scoping and give the public some false
39 hope that we might be trying to move on this and we can't get to
40 the point where we can get some of the data that we need for the
41 SSC to make some decisions.
42

43 Anyway, I'm going to try to talk with some of the other states
44 between now and full council and see if there's not a way where
45 we could move forward that's not coming up in committee, but, at
46 this time, I don't see us moving it out to scoping until we make
47 some progress on collecting these escapements and other
48 information that we need. Thank you.

1
2 **CHAIRMAN PEARCE:** Any other comments on this? Right now, is
3 there anyone that wants to move it forward? Let's put it that
4 way. Anybody here? Not yet? All right.
5

6 **MR. ROY WILLIAMS:** Can a non-committee member ask a question
7 here? Ryan, what do you see the difference functionally between
8 3 and 4, Options 3 and 4, in here? In one you're creating this
9 management zone and then the other you're delegating
10 responsibility and in a practical manner, what's the difference
11 between those two?
12

13 **MR. RINDONE:** Functionally, the differences are if you delegate
14 responsibility to the states and the onus is on the states to
15 take care of management and try to manage for 30 percent
16 escapement and some of the states are currently doing that and
17 some of them project that they might not be, but there's no
18 mechanism in place to serve as some sort of accountability
19 measure for not being at 30 percent escapement, because it was
20 always a request and it was never a require.
21

22 Then for creating a special management zone, that leaves the
23 onus on the council to be the managing authority and to
24 establish open and closed seasons and size limits and bag limits
25 and whatever management measures are appropriate for that three
26 to nine-nautical-mile area off of Louisiana and Mississippi and
27 Alabama. Does that cover it?
28

29 **MS. MARA LEVY:** I just want to add that under either scenario,
30 delegating or the council establishing, it's the same kind of
31 discussion we've had with Amendment 39 in Reef Fish.
32

33 It's still going to be a council-managed species and the council
34 is going to have to set the overarching benchmarks, the annual
35 catch limits and the accountability measures, and there is going
36 to have to be some mechanism for the council and the agency to
37 know that whatever the states do, it's going to be within those
38 guidelines and it's not going to result in overfishing and
39 things like that.
40

41 **MR. CORKY PERRET:** At one time, I could probably cite the
42 legalese language, but no longer can I do that, but, in essence,
43 Magnuson states that an FMP is for species that are
44 predominantly taken in the EEZ and it seems to me it's time for
45 this council to begin deliberations about removing red drum from
46 a federal fishery management plan. 100 percent of the fish are
47 taken in state waters now and so I don't see where we fall under
48 Magnuson anymore.

1
2 We want regional management and we hear all about regional
3 management and what better fishery than the red drum fishery to
4 give to the individual states for their regional management? I
5 think we should seriously think about beginning the process of
6 taking red drum out from federal fishery management.

7
8 **MR. FISCHER:** Corky, you just may be right with this ultimate
9 wisdom you bring, but I asked to be recognized because I thought
10 Ryan said something that I may have thought was incorrect,
11 saying the states were requested to maintain the 30 percent
12 escapement.

13
14 I thought the center states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and
15 Alabama were mandated for 30 percent and Texas and Florida are
16 requested and that is my question with this type of management
17 we're going down, is are we going to do anything to the brood
18 stock that mandates Louisiana change our estuarine fishery
19 because we did something to the offshore stock? That's where we
20 want to know what the answer is before we go any further,
21 because we are mandated. No? I hope you're right.

22
23 **MR. RINDONE:** According to the FMP language, it says request
24 that the states, all the states equally, maintain a 30 percent
25 escapement rate and some of the states are healthily over that
26 and some of them are just underneath it.

27
28 **CHAIRMAN PEARCE:** All right. This leads us to where we would
29 need a motion to move it to scoping and I don't see that
30 happening and so I think if there's any changes to that idea
31 between now and full council that we should bring it up then,
32 but without any motion to move it to scoping, I think that we're
33 pretty much finished with this document.

34
35 **MR. RINDONE:** One more point of discussion ought to be the ABC
36 request that you guys had made. You had requested that the SSC
37 establish an ABC for red drum by February of 2015.

38
39 After going through the working group and all the ensuing
40 discussion that we've had, I mean it sounds like there is some
41 great data collection that's in the works, but they might not be
42 ready to do that just yet and so I didn't know if the committee
43 wanted to recommend to the council any revision on that or if
44 you guys still want to maintain that request.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN PEARCE:** I think that as a committee we've got time.
47 We've got one more meeting before that that we could reconsider
48 it, but I think I would let it lie, unless somebody wants to

1 change that. Dale, any comments?

2

3 With no comments, we will just let it lie. Any other business
4 to come before this committee? If not, Mr. Chairman, I give it
5 back to you.

6

7 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m., October 20,
8 2014.)

9

10

- - -

11