

**[State] Management for Recreational Red Snapper
Draft Amendment to the Fishery Management Plan
for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico**

Each individual state's Management for Recreational Red Snapper Amendment contains actions to define a state management program for the recreational harvest of red snapper in the state's state waters and adjacent federal waters. The first action proposes two approaches for implementing state management: the *delegation* of limited authority to a state to specify management measures or the use of a *conservation equivalency plan* (CEP), in which a state would specify the management measures to be used to constrain harvest to a state's portion of the recreational sector ACL (established in the State Management Program Amendment). Under either approach, a state would select the management measures most appropriate for management of its portion of the stock based on the fishing preferences of the state's anglers.

Since the LETC's last review of the state management amendments, the Council modified the action pertaining to delegation of management authority. Currently, the Louisiana and Mississippi individual amendments have selected **Alternative 2** (delegation) as preferred. At its next meeting, the Council will review a list of options provided under this delegation alternative, which specify the management measures that may be delegated to a state. The amendment is specific to management of the recreational harvest of red snapper. Thus, authority for the delegated management measures would remain specific to the recreational sector and red snapper, only.

The list of options is still under legal review. Thus, the following list is tentative.

2.1 Action 1 – Authority Structure for State Management

Preferred Alternative 2: Establish a management program that delegates management authority in federal waters to Louisiana. 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. Louisiana must establish the red snapper season structure for the harvest of its assigned portion of the recreational sector annual catch limit (ACL). In addition, delegated authority for managing the recreational harvest of red snapper will include establishing or modifying the:

Option 2a: bag limit

Option 2b: prohibition on for-hire vessel captains and crew from retaining a bag limit.

Option 2c: size limit

Option 2d: permitted gear for harvest

Option 2e: use of bycatch reduction devices

Option 2f: area or depth-specific regulations.