

Hogfish Decision Document (TAB B, No. 14)

Staff provided a brief overview of the Hogfish Decision Document. Staff explained the percentage of the East Florida/Florida Keys hogfish stock harvested from the Gulf jurisdiction from 2004 through 2012 ranged from 4-13%. Since this stock is overfished and undergoing overfishing a rebuilding plan needs to be developed. The Gulf Reef Fish Committee felt it was appropriate for the South Atlantic Council to manage these fish; however, the Councils will need to determine a boundary for this East Florida/ Florida Keys stock. It was suggested by one Committee member that the stock assessment boundary (i.e., Monroe-Collier County) line be used. This was the boundary used in the SEDAR 37 hogfish assessment to divide the East Florida/Florida Keys stock from the West Florida shelf stock.

The Gulf Committee recommends, and I so move: To remove hogfish from the Gulf fishery management unit (FMU) and add the west Florida shelf hogfish stock to the Gulf FMU. It is the Gulf Council's intent to have the South Atlantic Council manage the East Florida/Florida Keys hogfish stock.

Motion carried.