

**Gulf Council Motions Report  
November 30 – December 1, 2020  
Webinar**

**ECOSYSTEM**

No motions.

**MIGRATORY SPECIES**

No motions.

**REEF FISH**

**Review of Reef Fish Landings**

**Motion:** The Council requests that NMFS capture IFQ data on 12/31/2020 which details individual accounts and the pounds remaining in those individual accounts at the close of business on 12/31/2020.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Draft Framework Action: Adjust State Recreational Red Snapper Catch Limits**

**Motion:** To add an Alternative that would incorporate an interim assessment increase in ACLs into the Draft Framework Action: Adjust State Recreational Red Snapper Catch Limits document.

Motion withdrawn.

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

**Alternative 3:** Modify the state-specific red snapper private angling component ACLs by establishing a “State Management ACL” that is 23% below the private angling component quota and applying the allocation percentages established in Amendment 50A of the Reef Fish FMP. The resulting state ACLs are as follows:

<b>State</b>	<b>Adjusted ACL (in State Currency)</b>
<b>Alabama</b>	864,450
<b>Florida</b>	1,473,357
<b>Louisiana</b>	628,499
<b>Mississippi</b>	116,694
<b>Texas</b>	204,131

ACLs are in lbs ww.

**Roll call vote**

Ms. Bosarge – yes	Ms. Guyas – no	Ms. Boggs – yes
Mr. Spraggins – yes	Mr. Schieble – no	Dr. Crabtree – yes
Mr. Sanchez – no	Mr. Williamson – no	Mr. Dyskow – no
Dr. Stunz – absent	Dr. Shipp – no	Mr. Anson – abstain
Mr. Swindell – no	Mr. Dugas – absent	Dr. Frazer – abstain
Mr. Diaz – yes	Mr. Riechers – no	

Motion failed 5 to 8 with two abstentions and two absent.

**Motion:** In Action 1, to make Alternative 2 the preferred.

**Alternative 2:** Modify the state-specific red snapper private angling component ACLs using the ratio corrections developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Office of Science and Technology (OST) and the respective Gulf states. These ratios and the resulting ACLs in each state’s currency are as follows:

State	Ratio	ACL (in State Currency)
Alabama	0.4875	547,298
Florida	1.0602	2,028,641
Louisiana	1.06	865,207
Mississippi	0.3840	58,195
Texas	1.00	265,105

ACLs are in lbs ww.

**Roll call vote**

Mr. Dyskow – no	Dr. Stunz – absent	Ms. Guyas – abstain
Mr. Williamson – no	Mr. Riechers – no	Mr. Sanchez – yes
Ms. Boggs – yes	Mr. Schieble – yes	Mr. Dugas – absent
Mr. Diaz – no	Mr. Spraggins – no	Dr. Crabtree – yes
Dr. Shipp – no	Mr. Anson – no	Dr. Frazer – abstain
Mr. Swindell – yes	Ms. Bosarge – yes	

Motion failed 6 to 7 with two abstentions and two absent.

**Draft Framework Action: Modifications to Vermilion Snapper and Gray Triggerfish Catch Levels and Gray Triggerfish Recreational Fixed Closed Season**

**Motion:** To add an action to modify the recreational bag limit for vermilion snapper, including alternatives for a 15-fish bag limit and to eliminate the bag limit, but retain the 20-fish aggregate bag limit for those reef fish species without a species-specific bag limit.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To remove Action 2 from the Framework Action: Modifications to Vermilion Snapper and Gray Triggerfish Catch Levels and Gray Triggerfish Recreational Fixed Closed Season and place it in a stand-alone document.

**Action 2 –Modify the Gray Triggerfish ABC, ACLs, and ACTs**

**Alternative 1:** No Action. Retain the ABC, ACL, and ACT for gray triggerfish as implemented in 2017 by Reef Fish Amendment 46.

Year	OFL	ABC	Recreational ACL	Recreational ACT	Commercial ACL	Commercial ACT
2019+	1,220,000	305,300	241,200	217,100	64,100	60,900

Note: Values are in pounds whole weight. Units are in MRIP-CHTS. The OFL reflects the SSC’s January 2016 recommendation.

**Alternative 2:** Modify the ABC, ACL, and ACT for gray triggerfish based on the results of the 2020 interim analysis, the recommendations of the Council’s SSC, and Reef Fish Advisory Panel (Reef Fish AP). Apply the ACL/ACT Control Rule to determine the buffer between the ACL and ACT for the recreational and commercial sectors, respectively.

Year	OFL	ABC	Recreational ACL	Recreational ACT	Commercial ACL	Commercial ACT
2021+	1,220,000	456,900	360,951	274,323	95,949	88,273

Note: Values are in pounds whole weight. Units are in MRIP-CHTS. The OFL reflects the SSC’s January 2016 recommendation.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 3, to add an Alternative 5:

**Alternative 5:** Modify the recreational fixed closed season for gray triggerfish to be January 1 through the end of February and June 1 through the end of June.

**Roll call vote**

Mr. Williamson – yes	Mr. Riechers – yes	Mr. Schieble – no
Mr. Anson – no	Mr. Dugas – no	Dr. Crabtree – yes
Dr. Stunz – yes	Dr. Shipp – no	Mr. Diaz – yes
Ms. Boggs – no	Mr. Dyskow – no	Mr. Spraggins – yes
Ms. Bosarge – yes	Mr. Sanchez – yes	Dr. Frazer – yes
Mr. Swindell – no	Ms. Guyas – no	

Motion carried 9 to 8.

**Motion:** To remove Action 1 from the Framework Action: Modifications to Vermilion Snapper and Gray Triggerfish Catch Levels and Gray Triggerfish Recreational Fixed Closed Season and place it in a stand-alone document.

**Action 1 – Modify the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) Vermilion Snapper Overfishing Limit (OFL), Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), and Annual Catch Limit (ACL).**

**Alternative 1:** No Action. Retain the OFL, ABC, and ACL for the vermilion snapper stock as implemented in 2018 by Reef Fish Amendment 47.

Year	OFL	ABC	ACL
2021+	3,580,000	3,110,000	3,110,000

Note: Values are in pounds whole weight. Units are in MRIP-CHTS.

**Alternative 2:** Modify the OFL, ABC, and ACL for vermilion snapper based on the recommendation of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for a constant catch yield for 2021 to 2025, and then maintain the ACL at the 2025 level for subsequent fishing years or until changed by management. The stock ABC equals OY and the ACL equals the ABC.

Year	OFL	ABC	ACL
2021-2025+	8,600,000	7,270,000	7,270,000

Note: Values are in pounds whole weight. Units are in MRIP-FES.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Draft Framework Action: Modification of the Gulf of Mexico Lane Snapper Annual Catch Limit**

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

**Alternative 2:** Modify the lane snapper OFL, ABC, and ACL based on the recommendation of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for 2020 and subsequent years from the updated yield projections, as presented to the SSC in March 2020. Do not set an ACT.

Year	OFL	ABC	ACL
2020+ (MRIP-FES)	1,053,834	1,028,973	1,028,973
2020+ (MRFSS)	592,941	578,953	578,953

Note: Catch limit values in MRFSS are provided for comparison only.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 2, to make Alternative 3, Option a the preferred alternative.

**Alternative 3:** Modify the seasonal closure AM such that if annual landings in a given year meet or are projected to meet the prescribed trigger, NMFS would prohibit harvest

of lane snapper by the recreational and commercial sectors for the remainder of the fishing year.

**Option a:** Prescribed trigger is the ACL.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## **SHRIMP**

### **Pilot Program to Evaluate Use of Vessel Navigation System to Measure Shrimping Effort**

**Motion:** The Council will send a letter to the SEFSC supporting the development, implementation and funding of the P-Sea WindPlot program.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** Request staff initiate a white paper that explores the associated costs with an expanded number of shrimp vessels participating in the pilot effort collection program using P-Sea WindPlot.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## **SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES**

### **NOAA Update on Aquaculture Opportunity Areas**

**Motion:** To request staff send a letter to relevant NMFS agency personnel highlighting the value in creating a fishery stakeholder advisory panel to inform the process of identifying aquaculture opportunity areas (AOAs).

Motion carried with no opposition.