

**Reef Fish Committee  
Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab B**

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**Agenda Item IV:** Reef Fish Landings and Coastal Migratory Pelagics

**Timeline Status:** Information and Discussion

**Council input and next steps:** NMFS provides this update on the status of reef fish and coastal migratory pelagics landings relative to ACLs. This is provided for information only. This ongoing report to the Council requires no action by the Committee.

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**Agenda Item V:** Draft Amendment 36B: Modifications to Commercial IFQ Programs and Presentations

**Timeline Status:** Draft Amendment

**Council input and next steps:** At the August meeting, the Council divided the actions in Amendment 36B into separate amendments. Staff will review the two actions in the revised Amendment 36B: requirement for shareholders to have a commercial reef fish permit, and a process for share divestment for any shareholders unable to meet the new requirement. Staff will also provide the Reef Fish AP recommendations. The Committee should discuss the actions, including the range of alternatives, and make any modifications, as appropriate.

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**Agenda Item VIII:** Draft Framework Action to Modify Greater Amberjack Recreational Management Measures

**Timeline Status:** Draft Framework Action

**Council input and next steps:** The goal of the framework action is to consider modifications to the Gulf greater amberjack recreational management measures that would improve recreational fishing opportunities throughout the Gulf while constraining harvest to the management target. Management measures being considered are delineation of management zones, reducing the daily bag limit, modifying the fishing year, and modifying the fixed closed season. The Committee should review the document and provide input on the draft action alternatives.

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**Agenda Item VIII:** Stock Assessment Review: SEDAR 61 – Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper

**Timeline Status:** Discussion and recommendations

**Council input and next steps:** SEFSC staff will present the data, model, results, and projections resulting from the SEDAR 61 stock assessment for Gulf red grouper. The stock experiences highly variable and unpredictable recruitment, and is particularly susceptible to

episodic mortality from red tide events. The status of the stock is contingent on the assumptions made about the severity of the 2018 red tide event that affected the central and southern portions of the Florida west coast. The SSC representative will review the SSC's deliberations and review of the assessment, and the OFL and ABC recommendations made. The projections and catch recommendations for SEDAR 61 use MRIP data calibrated to include the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) and the Fishing Effort Survey (FES). The Committee should review the material presented, consider the Reef Fish Advisory Panel's (AP) annual catch limit (ACL) recommendation, and evaluate whether the current ACL should be revised in light of the new stock assessment.

SEFSC and Council staff will also briefly discuss the draft of the Stock Assessment Executive Summary, which is a document designed to distill the assessment into a more concise and easily digestible format. Committee feedback on this draft is requested, and its development will continue in the future.

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**Agenda Item VIII:** Stock Assessment Review: Updated Headboat CPUE Index and OFL/ABC for Lane Snapper

**Timeline Status:** Discussion and recommendations

**Council input and next steps:** SEFSC staff will present the data, model, results, and projections resulting from the updated headboat index data and landings for Gulf lane snapper. This species is considered data-limited, and the assessment model used does not allow for the estimation of status determination criteria. Lane snapper experienced increased harvest in 2017 and 2018, resulting in the Council being notified by NMFS that overfishing of the stock was occurring based on the current catch limits. The SSC representative will review the SSC's deliberations and review of the assessment, and the OFL and ABC recommendations made. The projections and catch recommendations for lane snapper use MRIP data calibrated to include APAIS, but not FES. The Committee may review and ask questions about the material presented, including catch recommendations from the SSC and the Reef Fish AP based on the MRIP-APAIS data.

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**Agenda Item VIII:** Reef Fish AP Summary Report

**Timeline Status:** Discussion

**Council input and next steps:** Staff will discuss other topics brought before the Reef Fish AP for consideration at its October 2, 2019, meeting in Tampa, Florida. The Committee should review the information presented and discuss any response to the AP's recommendations.

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**Agenda Item XII:** Other Business

**Timeline Status:** Additional items that can be brought up for discussion

**Council Input and Next Steps:** Additional items may be brought up for discussion by Committee members, time permitting. If the Committee wishes to pursue action, then action can be scheduled at a future Council meeting.

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