

Allocation Review Guidelines



April 2022

Background

- ❖ NMFS Fisheries Allocation Review policy required Councils establish allocation review triggers
- ❖ Council established its allocation review triggers and published expected start dates for initial allocation reviews.
- ❖ The Council also indicated that it could initiate additional reviews as needed
- ❖ Allocation review guidelines detail the process the Council would follow to conduct allocation reviews mandated by NMFS Allocation Review Policy.
- ❖ In some instances, the Council may skip a formal allocation review and directly proceed with the development of an FMP amendment. In these cases, these guidelines would not apply.

Outline

- ❖ Terms of Reference
- ❖ Membership of the Review Panel
- ❖ Review Notice
- ❖ Allocation Review Criteria
- ❖ Allocation Review Stages
- ❖ Advisory Panels and SSC Recommendations
- ❖ Council Decisions
- ❖ Resetting the Allocation Review Clock

Terms of Reference

- ❖ Terms of reference (TORs) will either be developed by the SEFSC or by Council staff in conjunction with the SEFSC and SERO.
- ❖ SSCs will review draft TORs and provide recommendations
- ❖ Draft TORs must be reviewed by the Council
- ❖ Council motion is required to formally approve TORs.

Membership of the Review Panel

- ❖ Interdisciplinary Planning Team (IPT) including SERO, SEFSC and, Council staff. Members would be selected by Council Office and NMFS following the usual process
- ❖ SSC members (with NMFS and Council staff support) selected by the Council
- ❖ Independent experts selected by the Council
- ❖ Combination between these alternative panels
- ❖ Special attention to potential conflicts of interest

Review Notice

Federal Register notice (FRN) must be published prior to the initiation of each allocation review.

- ❖ FRN notice will include:
 - ❖ species and allocation(s) to be reviewed,
 - ❖ membership of the review panel,
 - ❖ starting date of the review and anticipated locations and dates of the review panel meetings as applicable.
- ❖ Allocation reviews entirely conducted by an IPT are exempt from meeting notice requirements.

Allocation Review Criteria

- ❖ FMP Objectives
- ❖ Regulatory Structure
- ❖ Status of the Stock(s)
- ❖ Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), Annual Catch Limits and Targets (ACLs and ACTs)
- ❖ Accountability Measures
- ❖ Landings history

continued...

Allocation Review Criteria

- ❖ ACL/Quota Utilization Rates
- ❖ Participation and Effort Measures
- ❖ Discards and Discard Mortality Rates
- ❖ Protected Species Bycatch Numbers and Rates
- ❖ Habitat Impacts

continued...

Allocation Review Criteria

Economic Factors

- ❖ Consumer surplus commercial
- ❖ Consumer surplus recreational anglers
- ❖ Producer surplus for-hire vessels (revenues, variable costs, fixed costs)
- ❖ Producer surplus commercial vessels (revenues, variable costs, fixed costs)
- ❖ Allocation transfer prices (catch share managed species only)
- ❖ Economic impacts by sector

continued...

Allocation Review Criteria

Social Factors

- ❖ - Demographics (e.g., race/ethnicity, age)
- ❖ - Community Regional and Local Quotients
- ❖ - Community Engagement and Reliance Indicators
- ❖ - Community Social Vulnerability Indicators

Allocation Review Stages

The allocation review will be conducted in three (3) stages.

- ❖ **Stage One (Data Collection):** Data sources are identified and gathered.
- ❖ **Stage Two (Chore of the Review):** Data collected are interpreted, trends are identified and discussed.
- ❖ **Stage Three (Report):** A preliminary report report is drafted

SSCs and Advisory Panels Recommendations

- ❖ SSCs review and recommendations (Standing, Socio-economic and relevant SSC, e.g., Reef Fish SSC)
- ❖ Relevant APs review and recommendations, e.g., Reef Fish AP
- ❖ In addition, stakeholders can provide comments (public testimony and electronic comments on Council's website)
- ❖ SSCs and APs reviews and recommendations, and public comments received will be presented to the Council

Council Decisions

- ❖ Review panel representative(s) present a draft allocation review report to the Council
- ❖ Council may request revisions and/or additions to the report
- ❖ SSC representative presents SSC review and recommendations
- ❖ Council staff (with input from AP representatives) summarizes AP recommendations; summarizes public comments received
- ❖ Following the submission of a final allocation review report, the Council will formally approve the report and
 - ❖ either direct staff to **initiate an amendment** to the relevant FMP to consider alternative reallocations or
 - ❖ elect to **conclude the review** without considering revisions to the existing allocation.

Review Clock Reset

Following the completion of an allocation review, when does the allocation review clock reset?

- ❖ If the Council concludes the review without considering revisions to the existing allocation, then the clock resets and the next allocation review is scheduled based on the time interval set by the applicable time-based trigger
- ❖ If the Council directs staff to initiate an amendment to the relevant FMP to consider alternative reallocations, then the clock resets on the implementation date of the amendment.

Expected start dates of initial allocation reviews

Allocations	Time Intervals	First review (expected start)
Recreational red snapper ACL allocation between the private angling and federal for-hire components	4 years	April 2023
Red snapper allocations between the Gulf states	5 years	April 2024
Gray triggerfish and greater amberjack allocations between the recreational and commercial sectors	6 years	April 2025
Gulf of Mexico group king mackerel allocations between the recreational and commercial sectors, zones, and gear types	6 years	April 2025
Recreational and commercial allocations of red snapper, gag, red grouper and, SWG, DWG, and tilefish IFQ aggregates	7 years	April 2026
Black grouper, mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper allocations between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils	7 years	April 2026

Thank you