Tab E, No. 6a

Allocation Review Procedures

October 26, 2020

Definitions

- **Fisheries Allocation:** a "direct and deliberate distribution of the opportunity to participate in a fishery among identifiable, discrete user groups or individuals."

- **Fisheries Allocation Review:** the evaluation that leads to the decision of whether or not the development and evaluation of allocation options is warranted, but is not, in and of itself, an implicit trigger to consider alternative allocations.

- **Evaluation of Fisheries Allocation Options for an FMP Amendment**: If the allocation review determines a reallocation is warranted then the full analysis and evaluation of allocation options should be initiated. The goal is an FMP amendment (or framework action) to update the allocation or maintain status quo.

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
- Council established an Allocation Review Working group
- Government Accountability Office (GAO) released its report on allocation review in mixed-use fisheries. The report includes two recommendations to the Councils.

GAO Recommendations

NMFS should work with the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils (and other councils as appropriate) to:

- Develop documented processes for conducting allocation reviews
- Specify how the councils will document their allocation reviews, including:
  - the basis for their allocation decisions
  - whether fishery management plan objectives are being met
  - what factors were considered in the reviews

Allocation Review Panel

Who should perform the allocation review?

- 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

Allocation Review Notice

- Notice should indicate the specific allocation(s) to be reviewed and the start date of the review
- Should the notice include the composition of the review panel?
- Should the notice specify a deadline for the completion of the review (and final submission to the Council)?
- Additional information to include in the notice?
- Note: IPT meetings do not have to be noticed

Allocation Review Tiers

Establish allocation review tiers based on the characteristics of the species or species group allocated

- **Tier One**: Species or species groups with allocation established to determine commercial quotas for the IFQ programs. Shallow water grouper, Deep water grouper, and Tilefish IFQ aggregates

- **Tier Two**: All other Gulf species or species group with an existing allocation

- **Tier Two** species or species group would require more complex reviews

If warranted, species or species groups can be moved from one tier to the other.

Organization of the Allocation Review

The allocation review could be conducted in stages.

- Stage One (Data Review): During this stage, data sources are identified and available data are gathered.
- Stage Two (Allocation Review Analyses): Data collected are interpreted, trends are identified, and required analyses are performed.
- Stage Three (Report): A preliminary report report is drafted
- Stage Four (Review and Recommendations): SSCs and Advisory panels review the draft and provide recommendations to the Council

Allocation Review Report

At a minimum the allocation review report should include the following sections:

- Introduction and Background: including a discussion of historical allocations and how they were established
- Data: including a discussion of the types of data collected and sources, and data gaps
- Review: to include the body of the review
- Recommendations: including recommendations offered by the review panel, and advisory bodies
- Research Needs: including a discussion of research that could improve future reviews
- Council Conclusions

Allocation Review Clock Reset

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

- If the Council determines that an amendment to consider reallocation is not warranted, then the clock resets and the next allocation review is scheduled based on the time interval set by the corresponding time-based trigger

- If the Council determines that an amendment is warranted, 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