

Tab B, No. 11

Summary for the Ad Hoc Red Snapper Charter For-Hire Advisory Panel Tampa, Florida December 12, 2018

Council and Staff

Susan Boggs
Matthew Freeman
Carrie Simmons
John Froeschke
Assane Diagne
Ryan Rindone
Camilla Shireman

Panel Attendance

Jim Green, chair
Tom Steber, vice-chair
Gary Bryant
Shane Cantrell
Troy Frady
Gary Jarvis
Tom Marvel
Mike Nugent
Scott Robson
Sonny Schindler
Ed Walker

Attendance – Others

Andy Strelcheck
Susan Gerhart
Jessica Stephen
Alisha DiLeone
Randy Boggs
Dylan Hubbard
Casey Streeter
Johnny Williams
Patricia Davis
Jeff Barger
Brian Dollar
Jeremy Olson

The Ad Hoc Red Snapper Charter For-Hire Advisory Panel (AP) meeting was convened at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 12, 2018. The AP approved the agenda, as amended, to include under Other Business the following items: crew size limit on dual permitted vessels; discussion on Red Snapper Sector Separation; sector allocation discussion (Reef Fish); discussion of Headboat AP motion concerning joint meeting. The AP also approved the summary from the September 2017 AP meeting.

Historical Captain Permits

Staff provided a summary of the historical captain permits document that would convert historical captain permits to standard federal for-hire permits for approximately 32 captains. An AP member inquired about the distribution of the 32 permits by permit capacity; staff displayed the relevant table in the document. Another AP member noted that historical captain permit holders have held those permits since 2003 and kept those permits valid, so they should be allowed to have those permits converted to standard federal for-hire permits. Following a discussion, the AP passed the following motion:

To recommend to the Council that the historical captain permits be standardized as written in the document.

Motion carried unanimously.

State Management (Amendment 50)

Staff reviewed the actions and the Council's preferred alternatives in the program document and the individual state documents. One AP asked about the state data collection programs and the monitoring of landings by NMFS. Mr. Strelcheck indicated that most Gulf states had undergone a certification process for their data collection programs. The landings from the states would still go to NMFS and the Science Center to be used in the stock assessment process for red snapper and that process would still be used to indicate the status and health of the stock. An AP member stated that the charter for-hire vessels should not be under state management. Another AP member commented that sector separation is working fine for the for-hire component, whereas state management is an option that should be explored for private anglers. Following a discussion, the AP passed the following motion:

To recommend that, in Action 1, Preferred Alternative 2 be the preferred.

Preferred Alternative 2: For a state with an approved state management program, the state will manage its private angling component only, and must constrain landings to the state's private angling component ACL as determined in Action 2. The federal for-hire component will continue to be managed Gulf-wide. For states without an approved state management program, a private angling fishing season will be estimated using the remainder of the private angling component ACL, reduced by the established buffer. The sunset provision ending the separate management of the private angling and federal for-hire ACLs (currently 2022) is removed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Allocation Decision Tools

NMFS staff presented the decision tools for red snapper, red grouper, and greater amberjack. AP members requested NMFS staff select different options in the decision tool to explore changes in average fish weights, passenger capacities, and regions. NMFS staff presented the expected pounds that would go to vessels under these various scenarios.

Amendment 41

Staff presented an overview of Reef Fish Amendment 41. AP members began discussing the current preferred alternative for Action 1. Following a discussion, the AP made the following motion:

In Amendment 41 that the preferred alternative for the accountability measure be seasons and bag limits.

Council representative Boggs reminded the AP that, when selecting a preferred alternative, referring to a specific action and specific alternative would be helpful for Council decisions. AP members discussed whether or not Alternative 1 would be the best choice. An AP member noted that status quo/no action could change at any moment, and for instance, the for-hire component could be included by the Council under state management. Following a discussion, the AP passed the following substitute motion:

In Action 1, make Alternative 1 (No Action) as the preferred.

Alternative 1: No Action. Do not adopt an allocation-based management approach. Continue to manage reef fish landed by federally permitted charter vessels using current recreational seasons, size limits, and bag limits.

Motion carried 6 to 4.

An AP member noted that this decision was reached after considering the decision tools presented by NMFS staff. Another AP member requested that it be conveyed to the Council that there are some Advisory Panel members that are opposed to both IFQ and PFQ programs at this time. Several AP members discussed the urgency for getting the for-hire electronic logbook reporting program up and running as quickly as possible.

Other Business

An AP member discussed the crew size limit on dual permitted vessels and stated that the limit is four crew members. The AP member commented that, among other reasons, the crew size limit should be eliminated for safety purposes. Another AP member stated that the original intent was when VMS hail-in/hail-out did not exist, and this was to prevent taking charter passengers on a commercial trip. It was noted that the limit was expanded from three to four crew members about five years ago. Following a discussion, the AP made the following motion:

To recommend the elimination of the crew size limit on dual permitted vessels.

Motion carried unanimously.

An AP member noted that the purpose of the sunset clause was to see how well the program worked; this program has worked well for the charter for-hire component and does not need a sunset clause any longer for red snapper. Following a discussion, the AP made the following motion:

To remove the sunset clause from sector separation.

Motion carried unanimously.

An AP member noted that Amendments 41 and 42 are currently considering five species, so exploring sector separation for these species would be helpful. Following a discussion, the AP made the following motions:

To recommend to the Council to initiate a new amendment to establish federal for-hire component allocations for the following: greater amberjack, red grouper, gag grouper, and gray triggerfish.

Motion carried 9-0, with 1 abstention.

This panel recommends that the preferred alternative timeline used in Amendment 40 be considered for the four remaining species: greater amberjack, red grouper, gag grouper, and gray triggerfish.

Motion carried 8-0, with 2 abstentions.

An AP member commented that, if the Council expanded the AP's original charge, this would allow the AP to discuss species other than red snapper, under the charter-for-hire purview. Following a discussion, the AP made the following motions:

To have Council update the Ad Hoc Red Snapper Charter-for-Hire AP's charge to include development and discussion of a reef fish charter-for-hire amendment.

Motion carried unanimously.

An AP member noted the allocation decisions and discussions for greater amberjack, red grouper, gag grouper, and gray triggerfish would likely be similar as those that had occurred for red snapper in Amendment 40. As such, the entire federally permitted for-hire sector should be considered for establishment of allocation. In addition, state guide boats should not be part of those allocation considerations. Following a discussion, the AP made the following motion:

To recommend that in the establishment of allocations for reef fish the entire federally permitted for-hire sector is included.

Motion carried unanimously.

An AP member noted that the for-hire buffer would be reduced to 9% for 2019. Following a discussion, the AP made the following motion:

For the Council to reduce the for-hire buffer as low as possible for the years 2020 and beyond for red snapper.

Motion carried unanimously.

An AP member noted that the proposed redistribution plan in Amendment 41 did not work for the for-hire component currently, but it should be revisited in the future when the for-hire electronic logbook data is available. Following a discussion, the AP made the following motion:

That allocation based management be considered in the future when adequate ELB data is available.

Motion carried unanimously.

Failed motions:

Motion: to recommend that Amendment 42 proceed independent of Amendment 41.

Motion fails 3-4 with 3 abstentions.

Withdrawn motions

State Management (Amendment 50)

Motion: to recommend that in Action 2, Alternative 6 be the preferred.

Motion withdrawn.

Amendment 41

Motion: in Action 2, to add Alternatives 2d and 2e in Preferred Alternative 2.

Motion withdrawn.

Motion: that Amendment 41 move forward to mirror Amendment 42 with the five species and using the ELBs to have catch history.

Motion withdrawn.

Motion: to ask the Council to remove the sunset clause from sector separation.

Motion withdrawn.

Motion: that the Council preferred alternative for a flexible management system, be season and bag limits that have accountability measures that include mandatory electronic logbooks, dockside law enforcement intercepts, and state data collection intercepts for the following species: greater amberjack; red grouper; gag grouper; gray triggerfish; red snapper.

Motion withdrawn.

The meeting ended at 2:15 p.m.