

**GMFMC Law Enforcement Technical Committee
Summary of Comments on State Management of Recreational Red Snapper
Mobile, Alabama
October 18, 2017**

Draft Amendment – State Management Program for Recreational Red Snapper

Council staff reviewed the actions in the State Management Amendments. The Committee discussed enforcement issues should different states adopt different regulations, and enforcement implications should some states manage the private angling component, only, while others managed both the private angling and federal for-hire components. LCDR Stacy McNeer expressed concern that both of these issues (i.e., states having different regulations for harvest and some states managing one component while another manages both components) would pose enforcement problems. He expressed greater concern for determining whether federally permitted for-hire vessels would be required to follow state or federal law. Committee members felt that both of these issues would make enforcement more difficult but not impossible. Recognizing that the Council's current preferred alternative is to allow a state to decide whether to manage one or both components, Committee members agreed that they preferred not to tell other states what to do. Nevertheless, they expressed a preference for the states to manage all recreational vessels. The Committee then passed the following motion.

Committee recommends allowing states to choose [whether to manage private angling, only or both components] but, in further discussion with federal partners, it would be better if the states were consistent in managing both components across the Gulf. -Reeder/Pittman