

Reef Fish Committee Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab B

Agenda Item IV: Status of NOAA Fisheries’ MRIP 2020 Recreational Fisheries Catch Estimation Process

Timeline Status: Information, discussion, and recommendations

Council input and next steps: Dr. Richard Cody from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Office of Science and Technology (OST) will present the methods being explored by NOAA OST for resolving gaps in MRIP recreational catch and effort sampling for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic resulted in varied state-specific and federal suspensions of sampling activity to comply with respective regional health ordinances, which affected the collection of recreational catch and effort data for the Gulf and other regions. The Committee should consider the information presented and make recommendations as appropriate.

Agenda Item V: Review of Reef Fish Landings

Timeline Status: Information only

Council input and next steps: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) provides this update on the status of reef fish landings relative to catch limits which is provided for the Committee’s information only. This ongoing report to the Council requires no action by the Committee.

Agenda Item VI: Review of the Great Red Snapper Count Project

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council input and next steps: The SSC Representative will present a summary of the review of the Great Red Snapper Count, including the deliberations between the SSC and the independent consultants who reviewed the project. The SSC Representative will briefly review the terms of reference, the main facets of the GRSC, and the key findings of the review. The Committee should consider the information presented and make recommendations as appropriate.

Agenda Item VII: Final Action: Framework Action: Modify Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Catch Limits

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendation

Council input and next steps: At its previous meeting in January 2021, the Council directed staff to start a new framework action to modify the red snapper overfishing limit (OFL) acceptable biological catch (ABC), annual catch limits (ACLs) and annual catch targets (ACTs). This framework action will use catch advice recommendations from the March/April 2021 meeting of the Council's SSC. Council staff will present this information to the Committee for their consideration for Final Action. The Committee will hear a summary of written public comment received with respect to the document, and will review the codified text. If prepared to do so, the Committee should select a preferred alternative. Further, if the Committee considers the proposed management measures to be necessary and appropriate, it may recommend as much to the Council, and that the management measures be implemented by the Secretary of Commerce.

Agenda Item VIII: Final Action: Framework Action: Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Recreational Data Calibration and Recreational Catch Limits

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council input and next steps: The Committee will review the action and alternatives in the document, and recommend any modifications to the proposed management measures as appropriate. The magnitude of the changes to the catch limits that may result from the alternatives in this document can be anticipated from the preferred alternative selected in the *Framework Action to Modify Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Catch Limits (Agenda Item VII)*. The Committee will hear a summary of written public comment received with respect to the document, and will review the codified text. If prepared to do so, the Committee should select a preferred alternative. Further, if the Committee considers the proposed management measures to be necessary and appropriate, it may recommend as much to the Council, and that the management measures be implemented by the Secretary of Commerce.

Agenda Item IX: Public Hearing Draft Amendment 53: Red Grouper Allocations and Annual Catch Levels and Catch Targets

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: The Committee will receive the requested presentation on red grouper average weights from NOAA OST and SEFSC staff. The Committee should ask questions and provide any relevant feedback.

Staff will review the actions and alternatives in the revised public hearing draft of Reef Fish Amendment 53. The Committee should discuss the actions and determine if any modifications are needed. The Council selected preferred alternatives and directed staff to begin public hearings at the January 2021 meeting. If no additional revisions are requested, staff will conduct public hearings following the April 2021 Council meeting. Council staff will review the deliberations and recommendations on the actions in the document by the Council's Reef Fish Advisory Panel (AP), which discussed the document via webinar on February 24, 2021.

Agenda Item X: Remaining Items from January 2021 SSC Summary Report

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

Council Input and Next Steps: Additional items from the January 5-7, 2021, SSC meeting will be presented by the SSC Representative. The Committee should provide recommendations on these items as appropriate.

Agenda Item XI: Remaining Items from February 2021 Reef Fish AP Summary Report

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

Council Input and Next Steps: Additional items from the February 24, 2021, Reef Fish AP webinar meeting will be presented by Council staff. The Committee should provide recommendations on these items as appropriate.

Agenda Item XII: Discussion of Implementation of the DESCEND Act of 2020

Timeline Status: Information only

Council Input and Next Steps: Mr. Andy Strelcheck (NMFS) and Ms. Mara Levy (NOAA General Counsel) will discuss how NMFS intends to implement the DESCEND Act of 2020, which was recently signed into law. The Committee should ask questions and provide recommendations on these items as appropriate.

Agenda Item XIV: 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 during the adoption of the agenda, time permitting. If the Committee wishes to pursue action, then action can be scheduled at a future Council meeting.
