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Joint Council Workgroup on Section 102: Recommendations to Councils

October Gulf Council Meeting

October 26, 2022

- Gulf and South Atlantic Councils are responsible for managing the largest recreational fishing fleets in the Country

- The two councils have explored, and continue to explore, many alternatives for recreational management

- Southeastern U.S. management needs are dynamic
  - Shifting stakeholder needs
  - Variable market conditions
  - Climate concerns
  - Increasing coastal population

- Joint Council Workgroup convened to investigate current and as-yet-unused management options
  - Identify opportunities within constraints of Magnuson-Stevens Act and Modern Fish Act

- Workgroup members discussed successes and struggles for each Council

- Constraints including managing to annual catch limits remain; seem to be at odds with long-term yield goals like OY and MSY

- Defining the universe of anglers deemed a priority
  - Confidence in MRIP to provide estimates of effort is low
  - South Atlantic working on federal fishing permit

- Workgroup also prioritized characterizing OY by species for recreational fleets
  - Expected to aid in management efficacy, stakeholder buy-in

- Improved flexibility and management efficiency discussed through adaptive management strategies

Motions

- Motion: The Joint Section 102 Workgroup recommends that the Gulf Council consider a federal recreational permit concurrently with ongoing efforts with the Gulf states, to define the universe of recreational anglers. Consider whether this permit should be for all offshore species or focus on reef fish species.
- *Motion carried without opposition*

Motions

- Motion: The Joint Section 102 Workgroup recommends that the Councils consider how to achieve optimum yield for the recreational fleets by species.

- *Motion carried without opposition*

Motions

- Motion: The Joint Section 102 Workgroup recommends that the Councils consider adaptive management measures in response to stock condition.

- *Motion carried without opposition*

Motions

- Motion: The Joint Section 102 Workgroup recommends that the Councils request the agency review and consider revisiting the National Standard 1 guidelines to better align them to address the modern needs of management for all sectors. Additional technical guidance and/or identification of other tools and applicable data for use of annual criteria for achieving long-term yields for MSY and OY, as required in MSA, are requested.

- *Motion carried without opposition*

Questions?