Reef Fish Committee
Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab B

Agenda Item IV: Review of Reef Fish Landings

Timeline Status: Information and discussion

Council input and next steps: NMFS provides this update on the status of reef fish landings relative to ACLs. This is provided for information only. This ongoing report to the Council requires no action by the Committee.

Agenda Item V: Discussion of Fishing Industry Impacts Due to COVID-19 and Potential Emergency Rule Requests

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council input and next steps: The Committee will receive a presentation from the Southeast Regional Office (SERO) characterizing data collected thus far on impacts in the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) from COVID-19. The Committee should discuss these and other impacts to Gulf fishing industries as a result of COVID-19, and possible solutions to help mitigate these impacts. SERO will assist with any requests for emergency rulemaking as a result of COVID-19 impacts and will clarify that process as applicable.

Agenda Item VI: Status of Gulf State Recreational Data Collection Programs and 2020 Red Snapper Seasons

Timeline Status: Information and discussion

Council input and next steps: The Council designees from the five Gulf states will provide a brief update on the status of their respective recreational data collection programs, and the performance to date of their 2020 red snapper fishing seasons for private anglers. The Committee can ask questions and provide feedback to the states as appropriate.

Agenda Item VII: MRIP-FES Calibration Workshop

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council input and next steps: Dr. Joe Powers will review the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) deliberations over the material presented during the SSC's July 8-9, 2020 MRIP Workshop. This workshop was convened to demonstrate to the SSC the process of the transition from the Marine Recreational Information Program's (MRIP) Coastal Household Telephone Survey (CHTS) to the Fishing Effort Survey (FES), the effects of that transition, and

the consequences for example species. The Committee should consider the recommendations offered by the SSC, and make its own recommendations to the Council as appropriate.

Agenda Item VIII: Review August 5, 2020, MRIP Red Snapper State Data Calibration Webinar

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council input and next steps: Dr. Richard Cody will summarize the proceedings of the August 5, 2020, NOAA Science and Technology Calibration Workshop for Red Snapper. This is the fifth workshop since 2013 conducted to evaluate and improve data collection and application as it relates to the recreational harvest of red snapper in the Gulf. Dr. Powers will also review with the Committee the SSC's deliberations over the material presented during the SSC's August 11-12, 2020, meeting. Staff will then demonstrate options for calibrating the state-generated harvest data for red snapper from their native currencies to the MRIP-CHTS currency. The Committee should consider these recommendations and make its own recommendations to the Council as appropriate.

Agenda Item IX: Revised Draft Amendment 53: Red Grouper Catch Limits and Sector Allocations

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council input and next steps: Staff will present revised actions and alternatives and review the objectives of the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan. The Committee is expected to provide guidance to staff on further development of the document. Timeline and next steps for Amendment 53 are dependent on the committee's recommendations.

Agenda Item X: Draft Framework Action: Modification of the Gulf of Mexico Lane Snapper Catch Limit

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council input and next steps: Council staff will present a draft framework action to update catch limits and consider modifications to the accountability measures for lane snapper. These updates will affect the lane snapper stock overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), and annual catch limit (ACL). Proposed catch limits for lane snapper have been updated based on the recent stock assessment update and calibrated to account for changes in MRIP-FES recreational data collection design. Additionally, considerations for modifying the current accountability measures are also included. Specifically, this would include updating the annual catch target (ACT) based on the Council's ACL/ACT Control Rule and modifying mechanisms for implementing in-season closures. The Committee should review the draft framework action, provide recommendations, and give guidance on the range of alternatives within each action.

The document will be revised based on Committee discussion and an updated version will be presented to the Committee again at the October Council meeting.

Agenda Item XI: Review of SEDAR 64: Southeastern U.S. Yellowtail Snapper Stock Assessment

Timeline Status: Presentation and discussion

Council input and next steps: The SSC representative will summarize the data, model, results, and projections resulting from the SEDAR 64 stock assessment for southeastern U.S. yellowtail snapper. The SSC representative will review the SSC's deliberations and review of the assessment. Finalized projections, and OFL and ABC recommendations, will be made during a joint SSC webinar between the Gulf and South Atlantic SSCs on September 30, 2020. The projections and catch recommendations for SEDAR 64 will use MRIP data calibrated to include FES.

SEFSC and Council staff will also briefly discuss the draft of the Stock Assessment Executive Summary, which is a document designed to distill the assessment into a more concise and easily digestible format. Committee feedback on this draft is requested, and its development will continue in the future.

Agenda Item XII: Public Hearing Draft Amendment 36B: Modifications to Commercial IFQ Programs

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council input and next steps: Staff will review the actions in the public hearing draft and request clarification from the Committee regarding its intent for grandfathered accounts, which would not be required to have a permit to retain shares. The Committee should discuss the actions and make any modifications. If appropriate, the Committee may direct staff to begin public hearings, which will include a mail-out to permit holders and shareholders, and two virtual public hearings.

Agenda Item XIII: Remaining Items from the SSC Report

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: Dr. Powers will review any additional material presented and SSC recommendations from SSC webinars held on June 29, July 8-9, July 21-22, and August 11-12, 2020. The Committee should make recommendations to the Council 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.