

Gulf Council Motions Report
November 4 – 7, 2024
St. Petersburg, Florida

HABITAT PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

No motions.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

No motions.

SHRIMP

Draft Shrimp Framework Action: Modification of the Vessel Position Data Collection Program for the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery

Motion: To convene the Shrimp Advisory Panel to review, discuss, and provide commentary to the Council regarding the revisions to the Draft Shrimp Framework Action: Modification of the Vessel Position Data Collection Program for the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery in advance of the Gulf Council's January 2025 meeting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To adopt the language in Action 1, **Alternative 1** per the IPT's recommendation.

Alternative 1: No Action - Maintain the current method to collect vessel position data through the cellular electronic logbook (cELB) units supplied by NMFS. NMFS would collect the memory cards from the units via mail.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To approve the revised language in Action 1, **Alternative 3** with the recognition that funding is currently unavailable.

Alternative 3: Implement a cellular VMS (cVMS) requirement for the Gulf shrimp fishery that provides archived position data compatible with the SEFSC's shrimp effort algorithm. If selected by the SRD, the owner or operator of a vessel with a SPGM would be required to install a NMFS-approved cVMS that archives vessel position when on a shrimp fishing trip in the Gulf and automatically transmits those data via cellular service to a non-OLE NMFS server. NMFS-approved cVMS would be type-approved through a process external to 50 C.F.R. § 600.1501.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To approve the following language in Action 1, **Alternative 2**.

Alternative 2: Implement a vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirement for the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) shrimp fishery that provides, at a minimum, archived position data compatible with the SEFSC's shrimp effort algorithm to a NMFS server. If selected by the Science and

Research Director (SRD), the owner or operator of a vessel with a Gulf shrimp moratorium permit (SPGM) would be required to install a type-approved VMS unit (50 C.F.R. § 600.1501).

Motion carried with no opposition.

REEF FISH

Draft: Reef Fish Amendment 58B: Modifications to Deep-water Grouper Management Measures

Motion: To move **Alternative 4** to the Considered but Rejected Appendix.

Alternative 4: The complex ACL is set equal to the complex ABC. Establish a recreational ACL and sector allocation based on the average of the highest (2014) and lowest (2000) annual recorded recreational landings from 2000 – 2023 (see Table 1.1.2.). This results in a recreational ACL of 83,809 lb gw, or 15.10% of the complex ACL. The commercial sector is allocated 84.90% of the complex ACL, or 471,217 lb gw. The commercial quota is reduced from the commercial ACL by 4% and is set at 452,368 lb gw. The recreational and commercial ACLs sum to equal the DWG complex ACL. These values are shown in the table below in lb gw.

Complex	Year	OFL	ABC (Complex ACL)	Comm ACL	Comm Quota	Rec ACL
DWG	2025- 2029+	731,035	555,026	471,217	452,368	83,809

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To direct the IPT to develop new Recreational Accountability Measures for DWG. Measures could consider, but are not limited to:

- 1) triggering the AM based on exceedance of both the Rec ACL and Total ACL,
- 2) accounting for the Percent Standard Error of landing estimates when determining whether AMs are or are not triggered, and
- 3) evaluating multi-year approaches for when AMs are triggered.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 2, to add a new Alternative allocation that is based on proportionally reducing landings using the most recent 5-year average.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 2, to propose adding the following **Alternative** using the landings in Table 1.1.2.:

Alternative. Use the years 2001-2004 (same years used to set IFQs) to set recreational allocation.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 2, to propose adding the following **Alternative** using the landings in Table 1.1.2.:

Alternative. Use all the years (2000-2023) to set the recreational allocation. Using more years reduces the variability in the uncertain numbers being used.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Draft: Reef Fish Amendment 58A: Modifications to Shallow-water Grouper Management Measures

Motion: To direct staff to begin work on a framework action to consider options to revise catch limits for the Other Shallow Water Grouper complex for 2026 to allow time for completion and implementation of Reef Fish Amendment 58A. Catch limits would be informed by the percent reduction necessary to achieve harvest reductions consistent with the results of the recent scamp and yellowmouth grouper stock assessment.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: Request the Council's SSC provide a comparison of MSY Proxy of 30%_{SPR} and 40%_{SPR} and associated catch level projections for scamp grouper. In addition to catch level projections, the comparison should highlight the consequences for management of using either MSY Proxy.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Presentation: Reef Fish Amendment 60: Individual Fishing Quota Distributional Issues

Motion: To convene the Ad Hoc Red Snapper/Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Advisory Panel.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Draft Options: Federal For-hire Fishing Season for Red Snapper

Motion: In Action 1, to make **Alternative 2** the preferred.

Alternative 2: Modify the federal for-hire component fishing season for red snapper. The fishing season opens on the Friday before the Memorial Day Federal Holiday and closes when the for-hire component ACT is projected to be met, or on December 31, whichever occurs first.

Motion carried with 15 to 1 with 1 abstention.

Request for an Update on the Greater Amberjack Count

Motion: To request an update on the Great Amberjack Count for the January 2025 meeting, including the projected timeline for completion.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To direct staff to begin work on a flowchart to explore decision points for state and/or regional management of greater amberjack, including a comparison with and without sector separation.

Motion carried with no opposition.

DATA COLLECTION

No motions.

FULL COUNCIL

Review and Adoption of Proposed Council Committees Assignments November 2024 through August 2025

Motion: To adopt the proposed Council Committee assignments as presented.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP): The Better Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRD) for the Gulf Shrimp Fleet Project

Motion: To recommend NMFS approve The Better Bycatch Reduction Devices Exempted Fishing Permit.

Motion carried with no opposition.