

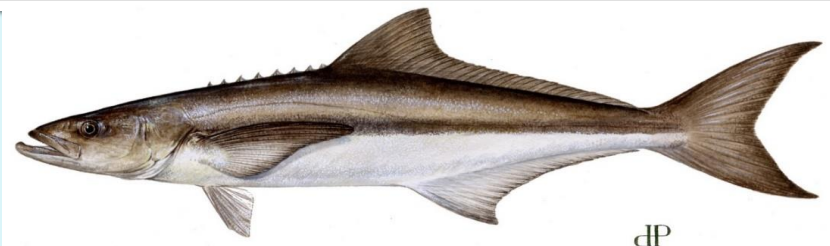


## Joint CMP Amendment 32



# Modifications to the Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group Cobia Catch Limits, Possession Limits, Size Limits, and Framework Procedure

CMP AP Meeting  
March 2021



COBIA

*Rachycentron canadum*

# Overview / Recent Cobia Management

**Framework Amendment 7 (March 2020):** increased minimum size limit for Gulf Zone cobia; retained existing possession limit.

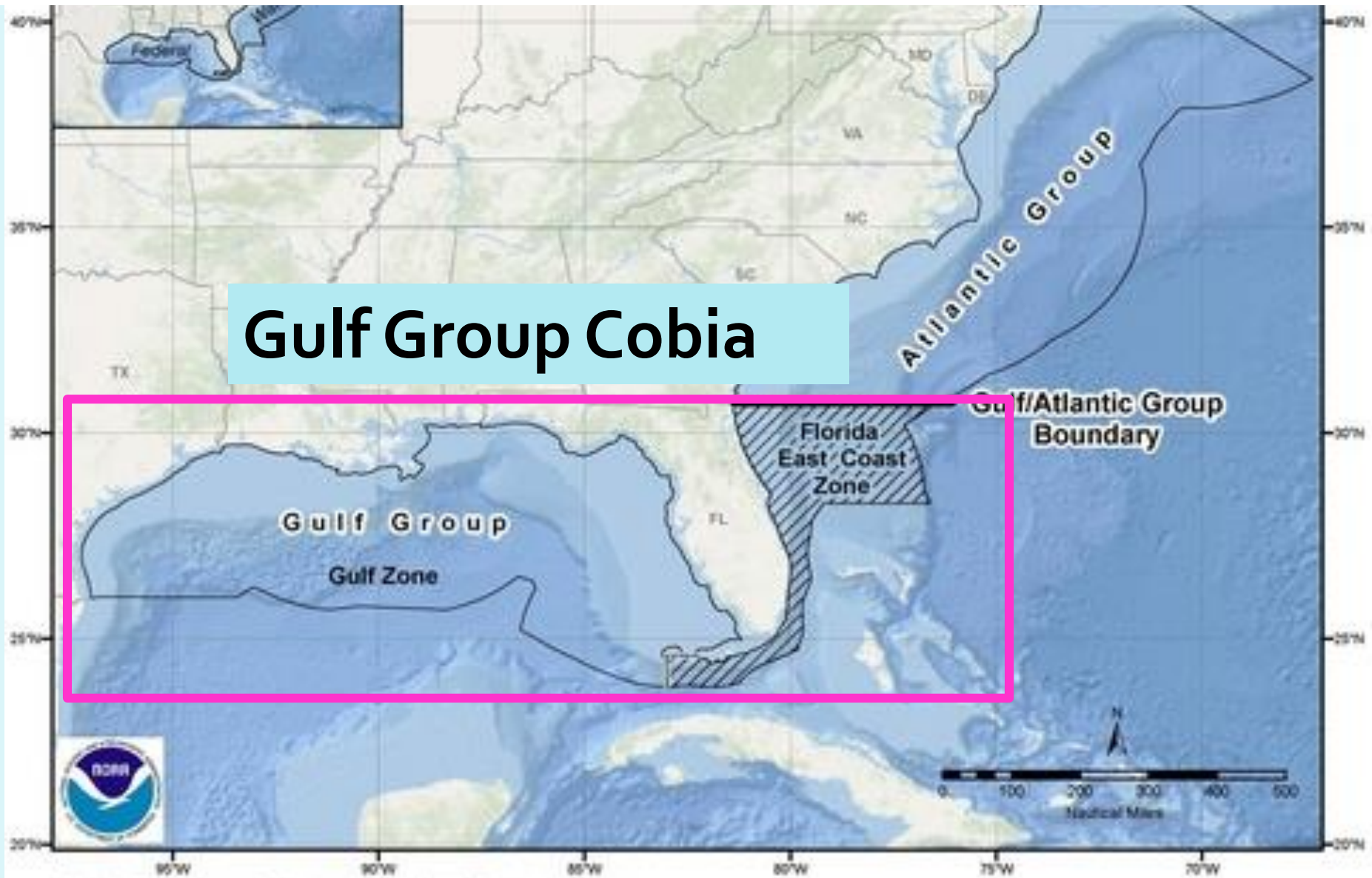
**SEDAR 28 Update (June 2020):** Gulf Cobia is not overfished but is undergoing overfishing.

## **Council motion (September 2020)**

- To direct staff to start a plan amendment to reduce the fishing mortality in the commercial and recreational cobia fishery in the Gulf of Mexico, which will include bag limits, vessel limits, size limits, and catch limit options.

# Gulf Group Cobia Zone Management

## Gulf Group Cobia





# Gulf Group Cobia Zone Management

## Gulf Group Cobia: 2 Zones

Gulf Zone

Florida  
East Coast  
Zone

FLEC  
Zone

Gulf/Atlantic Group  
Boundary



# Most Recent Cobia Action: Framework Amendment 7 (March 2020)

**Purpose:** To reduce fishing mortality of Gulf cobia in response to concerns that harvest rates have decreased in waters in the Gulf Zone.

- Increased minimum size limit
- Considered changing possession limit

**Increased minimum size limit** - Increased from 33" FL to 36" FL for Gulf Zone cobia (Florida East Coast Zone still 33" FL in federal waters)

**Possession limit** – No action. Do not change the current two fish per person daily recreational and commercial possession limit for Gulf cobia, regardless of the number or duration of trips.

# CMP Amendment 32



# CMP Amendment 32

✓ Have Preferreds

Action 1



Gulf Group Cobia OFL, ABC, ACL

Action 2



Gulf Zone ACL

FLEC Zone ACL

Action 3

No Sector Allocation

Recreational ACL

Commercial ACL

Action 4

Gulf Zone ACT

Recreational ACT

Commercial ACT

Action 5



Possession, Vessel, Trip Limit

Action 6



Size Limit

Action 7

CMP Framework Procedure

# Possibilities of Management Actions

- Action 1 – Gulf Group Cobia OFL, ABC, ACL
  - 3 alternatives
- Action 2 – Zones' ACLs
  - 5 alternatives
- Action 3 – FLEC Zone sector allocation
  - 4 alternatives
- Action 4 – Update or establish ACTs
  - 3 alternatives
- Action 5 – Possession, vessel, and trip limits
  - 5.1 Gulf Zone – 4 alternatives
  - 5.2 FLEC Zone – 4 alternatives
- Action 6 – Size limit
  - 4 alternatives
    - Option a: Gulf Zone
    - Option b: FLEC Zone
- Action 7 – CMP Framework Procedure
  - 2 alternatives



# CMP Amendment 32

**Action 1**

**Gulf Group Cobia OFL, ABC, ACL**

# Action 1 – Modify the Gulf Group Cobia OFL, ABC, and ACL

**Alternative 1:** No Action.  
Units in mp landed weight.

MRIP-CHTS

MRIP-FES Equivalent

Gulf Group Cobia		
OFL	ABC	ACL
2.66	2.60	2.60
4.87	4.5	4.5

**Gulf And SA Preferred Alternative 2:** Modify to SSC's recommendation for 2021, 2022, and 2023+. Units in mp ww.

MRIP-FES

	Gulf Group Cobia		
Year	OFL	ABC	ACL
2021	3.03	2.34	2.34
2022	3.21	2.60	2.60
2023+	3.31	2.76	2.76

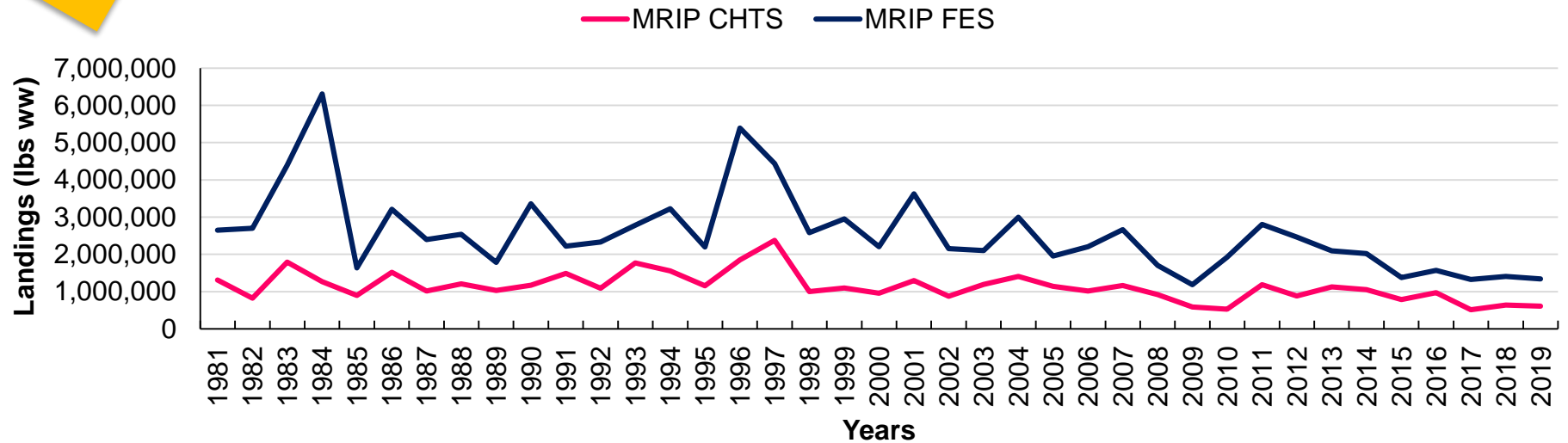
**Alternative 3:** Modify to constant catch values for 2021+. Units in mp ww.

MRIP-FES

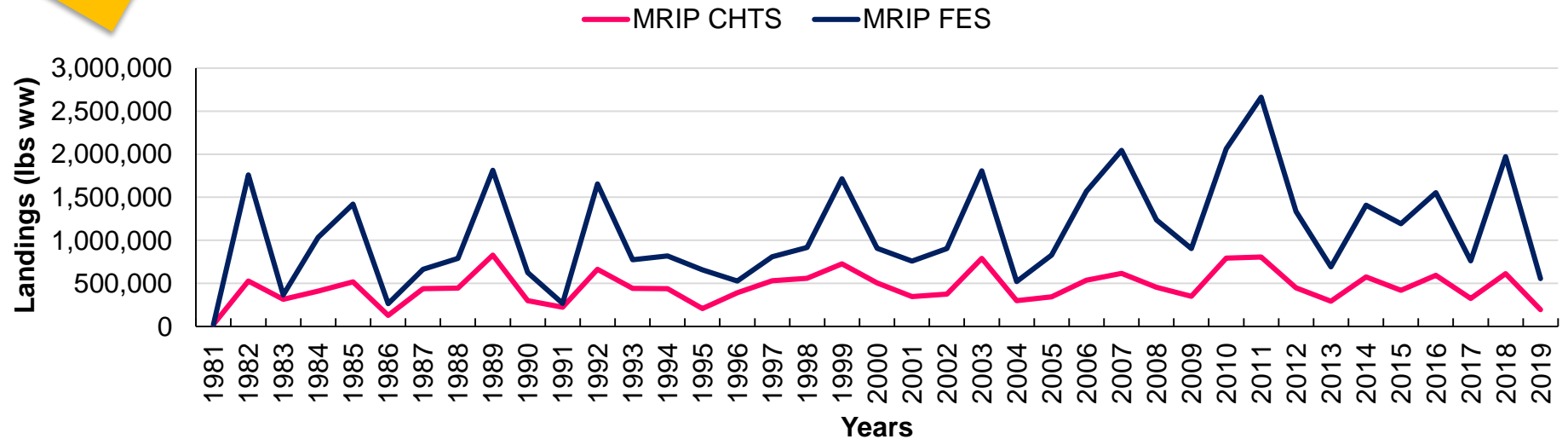
	Gulf Group Cobia		
Year	OFL	ABC	ACL
2021	3.03	2.34	2.34



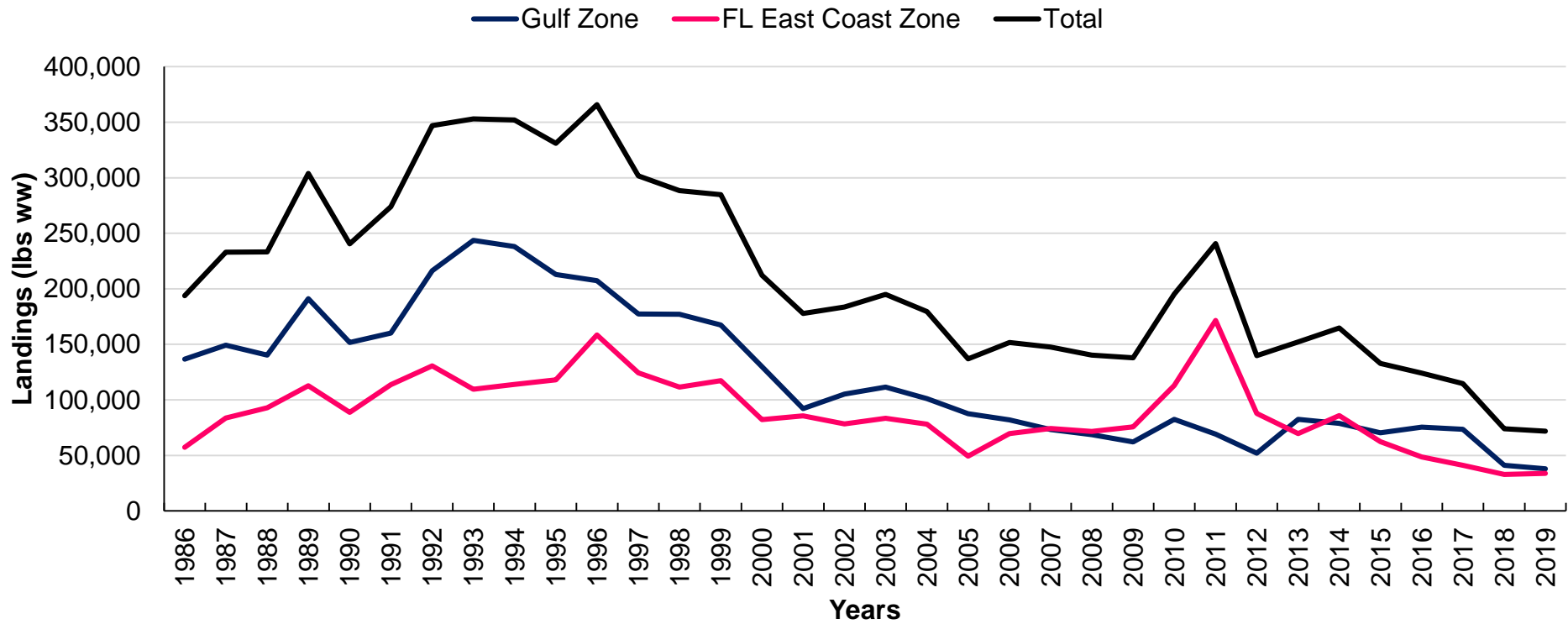
## Gulf Zone Recreational Landings (1981 – 2019)



## Florida East Coast Zone Recreational Landings (1981 – 2019)



## Commercial landings (1986 – 2019)



# CMP Amendment 32

**Action 1**

**Gulf Group Cobia OFL, ABC, ACL**

**Action 2**

**Gulf Zone ACL**

**FLEC Zone ACL**



## Action 2 – Modify Apportionment and Zones’ ACLs

ACLs in Alt 2 – 5 to be updated based on selection in Action 1

Alternative	Method/Years	% Gulf:FLEC Zone
1 (No action)	Average (1998-2012) in MRIP-CHTS	64:36
2	Retain Zone apportionment and set ACL in MRIP-FES	64:36
<b>Gulf and SA Preferred Alt 3</b>	Average (1998-2012) in MRIP-FES	63:37
4	Average (2001-2015) in MRIP-FES	62:38
5	Average (2003-2019) in MRIP-FES	59:41



# ACL Monitoring- Gulf Zone

## Gulf Zone Cobia (MRIP-CHTS)

Year	Recreational Landings	Commercial Landings	Total Landings	ACT	ACT %	ACL	ACL %
2015	784,457	70,370	854,827	1,450,000	59.0	1,610,000	53.1
2016	974,015	75,559	1,049,574	1,500,000	70.0	1,660,000	63.2
2017	515,257	73,604	588,861	1,500,000	39.3	1,660,000	35.5
2018	638,909	41,069	679,978	1,500,000	45.3	1,660,000	41.0
2019	612,842	37,993	650,835	1,500,000	43.4	1,660,000	39.2

Source: SEFSC Commercial ACL data (August 2020), and SEFSC Recreational ACL data (Accessed October 2020).

# ACL Monitoring- FLEC Zone

## Florida East Coast Zone (MRIP-CHTS)

Year	Rec. Landings	Com. Landings	Total Landings	Rec. ACT	Rec. ACL	Rec. %ACT	Rec. %ACL	Com. ACL	Com. %ACL
2015	420,776	62,464	483,240	680,000	830,000	61.9	50.7	70,000	89.2
2016	592,812	48,611	641,423	710,000	860,000	83.5	68.9	70,000	69.4
2017	323,516	41,043	364,559	710,000	860,000	45.6	37.6	70,000	58.6
2018	614,607	32,839	647,446	710,000	860,000	86.6	71.5	70,000	46.9
2019*	194,126	33,874	228,000	710,000	860,000	27.3	22.6	70,000	48.4

Source: SEFSC Commercial ACL data (August 2020), and SEFSC Recreational ACL data (Accessed October 2020).

# ACLs for Gulf and FLEC Zone

## Alt 1 MRIP-CHTS, Alt 2-5 MRIP-FES

			Action 1, Preferred Alternative 2		Action 2	
Alternative	% Gulf:FLEC Zone	Year	Gulf Group Cobia		Gulf Zone	FLEC Zone
			OFL	ABC	ACL	ACL
1	64:36	2021+	2,660,000	2,600,000	1,660,000	930,000
2	64:36	2021	3,030,000	2,340,000	1,497,600	842,400
		2022	3,210,000	2,600,000	1,664,000	936,000
		2023+	3,310,000	2,760,000	1,766,400	993,600
Preferred 3	63:37	2021	3,030,000	2,340,000	1,474,200	865,800
		2022	3,210,000	2,600,000	1,638,000	962,000
		2023+	3,310,000	2,760,000	1,738,800	1,021,200
4	62:38	2021	3,030,000	2,340,000	1,450,800	889,200
		2022	3,210,000	2,600,000	1,612,000	988,000
		2023+	3,310,000	2,760,000	1,711,200	1,048,800
5	59:41	2021	3,030,000	2,340,000	1,380,600	959,400
		2022	3,210,000	2,600,000	1,534,000	1,066,000
		2023+	3,310,000	2,760,000	1,628,400	1,131,600

# CMP Amendment 32

**Action 1**

**Gulf Group Cobia OFL, ABC, ACL**

**Action 2**

**Gulf Zone ACL**

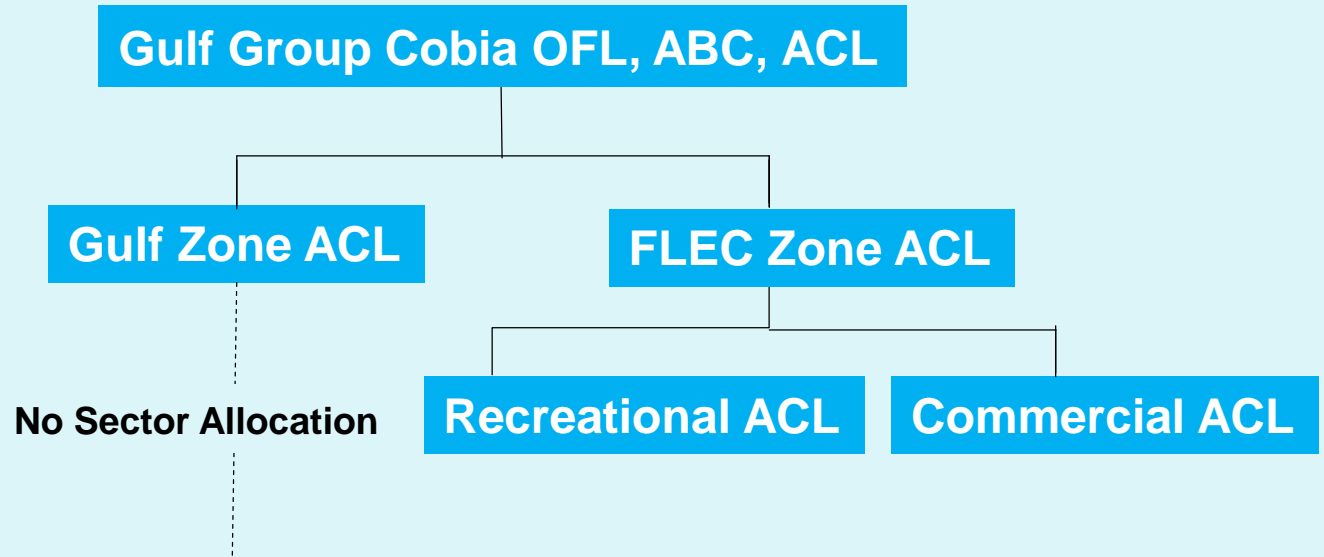
**FLEC Zone ACL**

**Action 3**

**No Sector Allocation**

**Recreational ACL**

**Commercial ACL**



# Action 3 – Modify FLEC Zone Sector Allocation

Alt.	Method	Rec.	Com.
1 (No action)	MRIP-CHTS, balance historical catches (2000 – 2008) with more recent landings (2006 – 2008).	92%	8%
2	Same method as Alt 1, but use MRIP-FES	95%	5%
3	Retain current allocation, monitor in MRIP-FES	92%	8%
4	Com. ACL at 70,000 lbs for 2021, then calculate % of FLEC Zone ACL to update allocation for the following years	FLEC ACL-70,000	70,000
		~92%	~8%

ACLs in Alt 2 – 4 to be updated based on FLEC Zone ACL from Action 2

# Action 3 Alternative 2, MRIP-FES

Action 2 Alt.	% apportionment to FLEC Zone	Year	Gulf Group Cobia ACL	Action 3 Alternative 2 FLEC Zone ACL	
				Com. (5%)	Rec. (95%)
2	36	2021	2,340,000	42,120	800,280
		2022	2,600,000	46,800	889,200
		2023+	2,760,000	49,680	943,920
3	37	2021	2,340,000	43,290	822,510
		2022	2,600,000	48,100	913,900
		2023+	2,760,000	51,060	970,140
4	38	2021	2,340,000	44,460	844,740
		2022	2,600,000	49,400	938,600
		2023+	2,760,000	52,440	996,360
5	41	2021	2,340,000	47,970	911,430
		2022	2,600,000	53,300	1,012,700
		2023+	2,760,000	56,580	1,075,020



# Action 3 Alternative 3, MRIP-FES

Action 2 Alt.	% apportionment to FLEC Zone	Year	Gulf Group Cobia ACL	Action 3 Alternative 3 FLEC Zone ACL	
				Commercial (8%)	Recreational (92%)
2	36	2021	2,340,000	67,392	775,008
		2022	2,600,000	74,880	861,120
		2023+	2,760,000	79,488	914,112
3	37	2021	2,340,000	69,264	796,536
		2022	2,600,000	76,960	885,040
		2023+	2,760,000	81,696	939,504
4	38	2021	2,340,000	71,136	818,064
		2022	2,600,000	79,040	908,960
		2023+	2,760,000	83,904	964,896
5	41	2021	2,340,000	76,752	882,648
		2022	2,600,000	85,280	980,720
		2023+	2,760,000	90,528	1,041,072

# Action 3 Alternative 4, MRIP-FES

Action 2 Alt.	% apportionment to FLEC Zone	Year	Gulf Group Cobia ACL	Action 3 Alternative 4 FLEC Zone ACL		Action 3 Alternative 4 FLEC Zone Percentages	
				Com.	Rec.	Com.	Rec.
2	36	2021	2,340,000	70,000	772,400	8.310%	91.690%
		2022	2,600,000	77,778	858,222	8.310%	91.690%
		2023+	2,760,000	82,564	911,036	8.310%	91.690%
3	37	2021	2,340,000	70,000	795,800	8.085%	91.915%
		2022	2,600,000	77,778	884,222	8.085%	91.915%
		2023+	2,760,000	82,564	938,636	8.085%	91.915%
4	38	2021	2,340,000	70,000	819,200	7.872%	92.128%
		2022	2,600,000	77,778	910,222	7.872%	92.128%
		2023+	2,760,000	82,564	966,236	7.872%	92.128%
5	41	2021	2,340,000	70,000	889,400	7.296%	92.704%
		2022	2,600,000	77,778	988,222	7.296%	92.704%
		2023+	2,760,000	82,564	1,049,036	7.296%	92.704%

# CMP Amendment 32

**Action 1**

**Gulf Group Cobia OFL, ABC, ACL**

**Action 2**

**Gulf Zone ACL**

**FLEC Zone ACL**

**Action 3**

**No Sector Allocation**

**Recreational ACL**

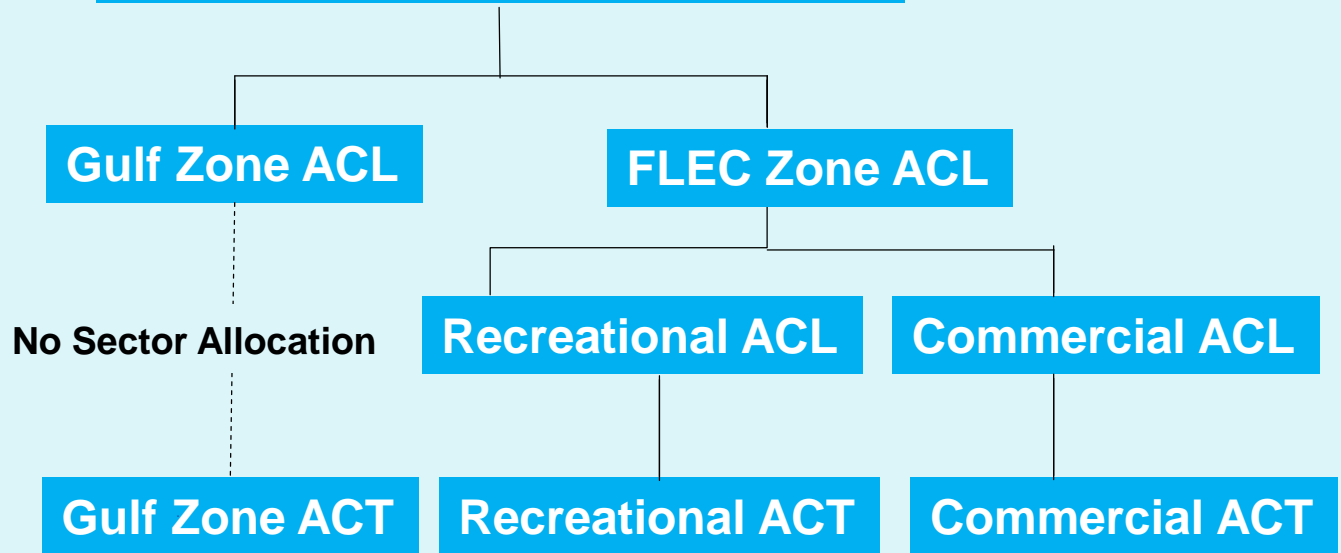
**Commercial ACL**

**Action 4**

**Gulf Zone ACT**

**Recreational ACT**

**Commercial ACT**



# Action 4 – Modify ACT for Gulf and FLEC Zones

Alt.	Gulf Zone	FL East Coast Zone
1 (No Action)	Stock ACT = 90% ACL	Recreational ACT = ACL [(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater]
2	Stock ACL/ACT control rule = 90% Stock ACL	Recreational ACT = Gulf ACL/ACT control rule = 90% Recreational ACL
3		Establish commercial ACT = Gulf ACL/ACT control rule = 90% Commercial ACL

*More than one alternative can be selected*

ACT's will be based on Gulf Zone ACL from Action 2, and FLEC Zone sector ACLs from Action 3

# Action 4: Alt 1 and 2 Gulf Zone

## Alt 1 MRIP-CHTS, Alt 2 MRIP- FES

Action 2 Alternatives	Action 1 Year	Action 4 Alternative 1	Action 4 Alternative 2
		Gulf Zone ACT	Gulf Zone ACT
1	2021+	1,500,000	N/A
2	2021	1,347,840	1,347,840
	2022	1,497,600	1,497,600
	2023+	1,589,760	1,589,760
3	2021	1,326,780	1,326,780
	2022	1,474,200	1,474,200
	2023+	1,564,920	1,564,920
4	2021	1,305,720	1,305,720
	2022	1,450,800	1,450,800
	2023+	1,540,080	1,540,080
5	2021	1,242,540	1,242,540
	2022	1,380,600	1,380,600
	2023+	1,465,560	1,465,560

Action 3, Alternatives 1 and 3 FLEC Zone Allocation 92% Rec. 8% Comm.				
Action 2 Alternatives	Action 1 Year	Action 4 Alternative 1	Action 4 Alternative 2	Action 4 Alternative 3
		FLEC Zone Rec. ACT	FLEC Zone Rec. ACT	FLEC Zone Comm. ACT
1	2021+	710,000	N/A	N/A
2	2021	589,006	697,507	60,653
	2022	654,451	775,008	67,392
	2023+	694,725	822,701	71,539
3	2021	605,367	716,882	62,338
	2022	672,630	796,536	69,264
	2023+	714,023	845,554	73,526
4	2021	621,729	736,258	64,022
	2022	690,810	818,064	71,136
	2023+	733,321	868,406	75,514
5	2021	661,986	794,383	69,077
	2022	735,540	882,648	76,752
	2023+	780,804	936,965	81,475



## Action 3, Alternative 2 FLEC Zone Allocation 95% Rec. 5% Comm.

Action 2 Alternatives	Action 1 Year	Action 4 Alternative 1	Action 4 Alternative 2	Action 4 Alternative 3
		FLEC Zone Rec. ACT	FLEC Zone Rec. ACT	FLEC Zone Comm. ACT
1	2021+	710,000	N/A	N/A
2	2021	608,213	720,252	37,908
	2022	675,792	800,280	42,120
	2023+	717,379	849,528	44,712
3	2021	625,108	740,259	38,961
	2022	694,564	822,510	43,290
	2023+	737,306	873,126	45,954
4	2021	642,002	760,266	40,014
	2022	713,336	844,740	44,460
	2023+	757,234	896,724	47,196
5	2021	683,573	820,287	43,173
	2022	795,525	911,430	47,970
	2023+	806,265	967,518	50,922

**Action 3, Alternative 4 FLEC Zone based on retaining 70,000 Comm. ACL for 2021 and recalculating percentages for 2022, and 2023+**

Action 2 Alternatives	Action 1 Year	Action 4 Alternative 1	Action 4 Alternative 2	Action 4 Alternative 3
		FLEC Zone Rec. ACT	FLEC Zone Rec. ACT	FLEC Zone Comm. ACT
1	2021+	710,000	N/A	N/A
2	2021	587,024	695,160	63,000
	2022	658,160	772,400	70,000
	2023+	701,936	819,932	74,308
3	2021	604,808	716,220	63,000
	2022	677,920	795,800	70,000
	2023+	722,912	844,772	74,308
4	2021	622,592	737,280	63,000
	2022	697,680	819,200	70,000
	2023+	743,888	869,612	74,308
5	2021	667,050	800,460	63,000
	2022	747,000	889,400	70,000
	2023+	796,200	944,132	74,308

# CMP Amendment 32

**Action 1**

**Gulf Group Cobia OFL, ABC, ACL**

**Action 2**

**Gulf Zone ACL**

**FLEC Zone ACL**

**Action 3**

**No Sector Allocation**

**Recreational ACL**

**Commercial ACL**

**Action 4**

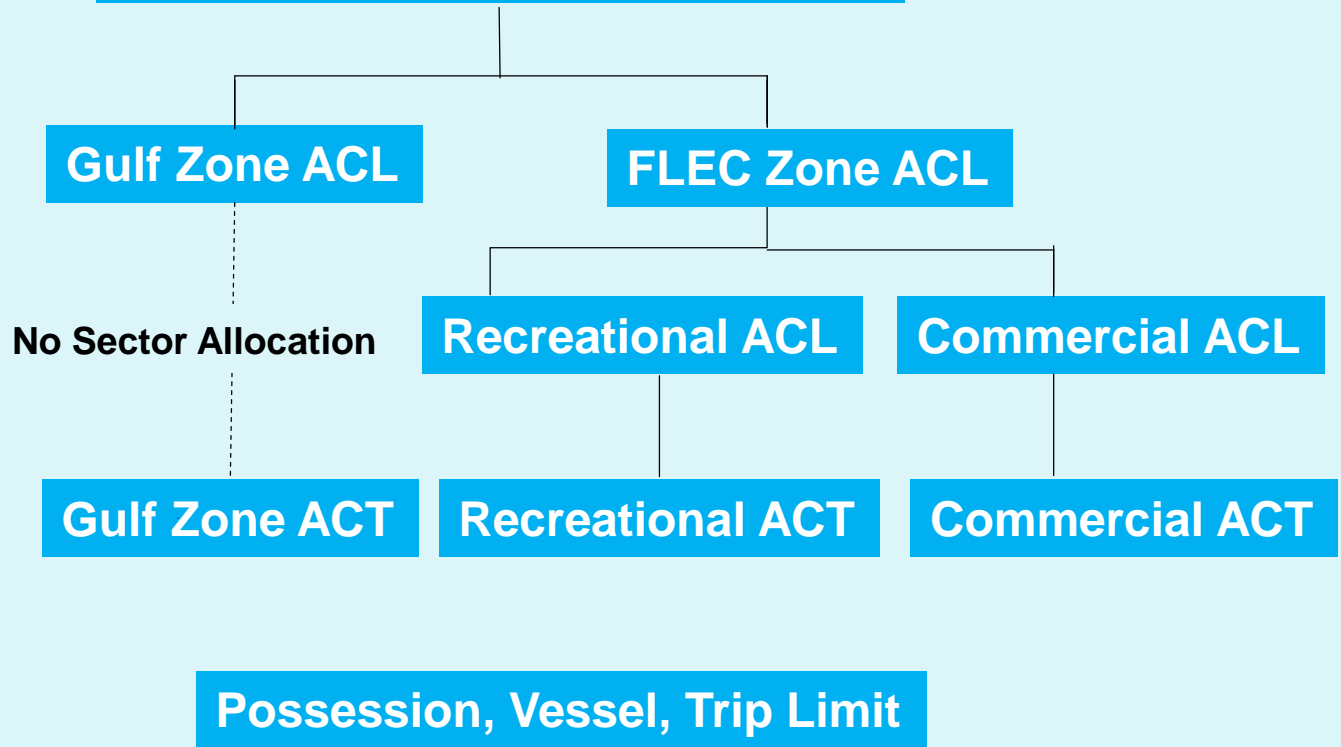
**Gulf Zone ACT**

**Recreational ACT**

**Commercial ACT**

**Action 5**

**Possession, Vessel, Trip Limit**



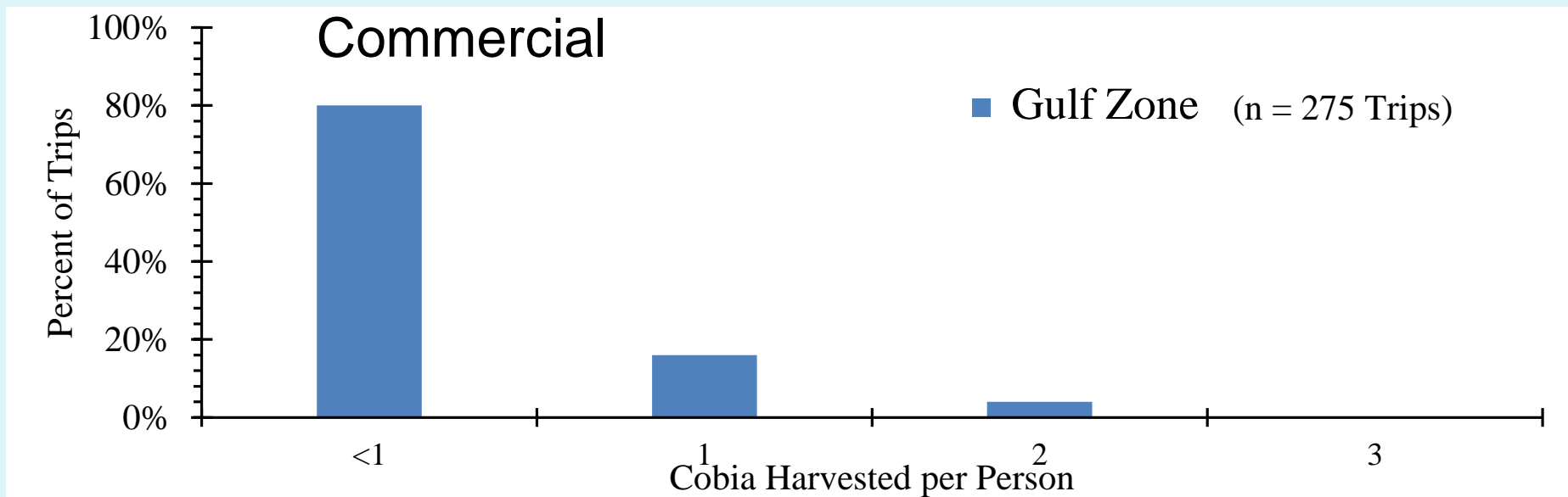
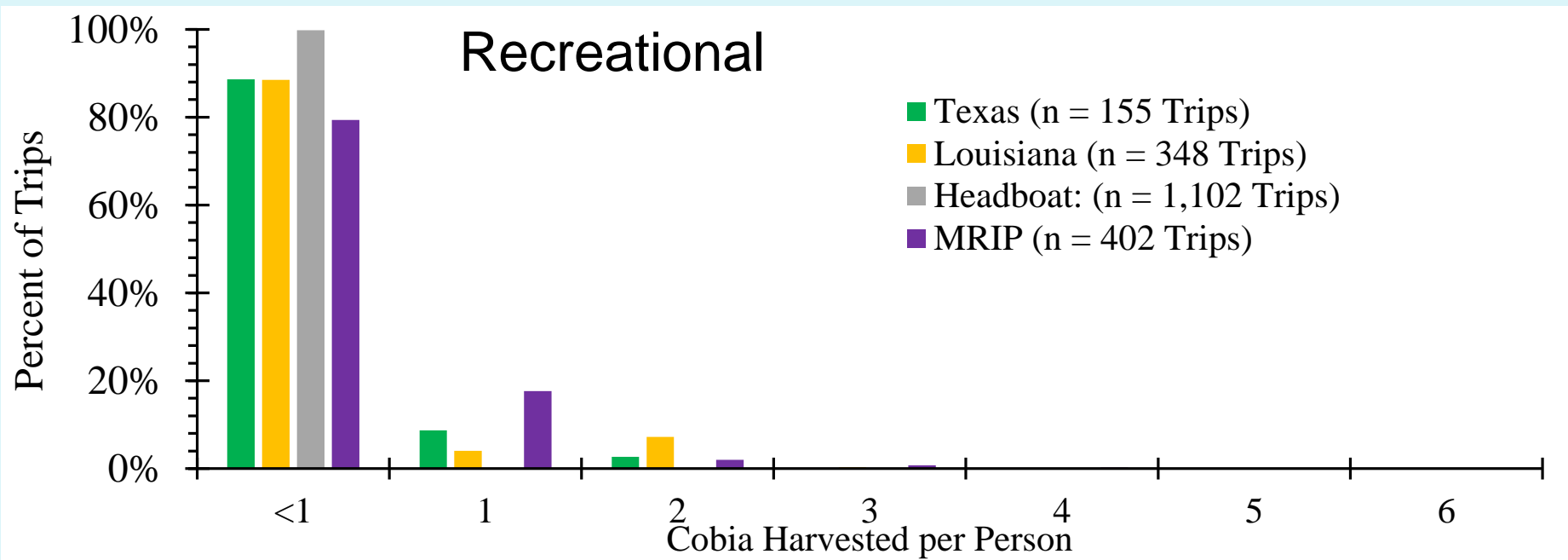
# Action 5.1 – Gulf Zone Possession, Vessel, and Trip Limits

**Alt. 1:** No Action. 2 fish per person, regardless of number or duration of trips.

**Gulf Preferred Alt. 2:** 1 fish per person, regardless of number or duration of trips.

**Preferred Option 2a:** for the recreational sector

**Preferred Option 2b:** for the commercial sector



# Action 5.1 – Gulf Zone Possession, Vessel, and Trip Limits

**Gulf Preferred Alt. 3:** Create recreational vessel limit. Fishermen may not exceed the per person daily possession limit.

**Preferred Option 3a:** The vessel limit is two fish per trip

**Option 3b:** The vessel limit is four fish per trip

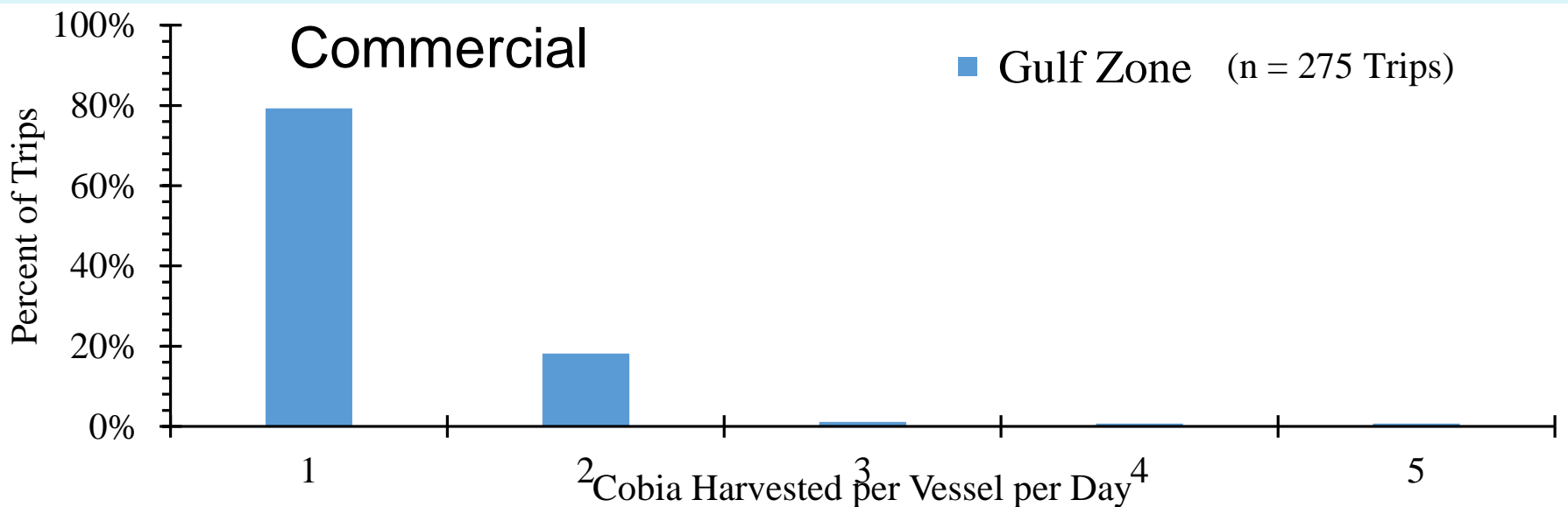
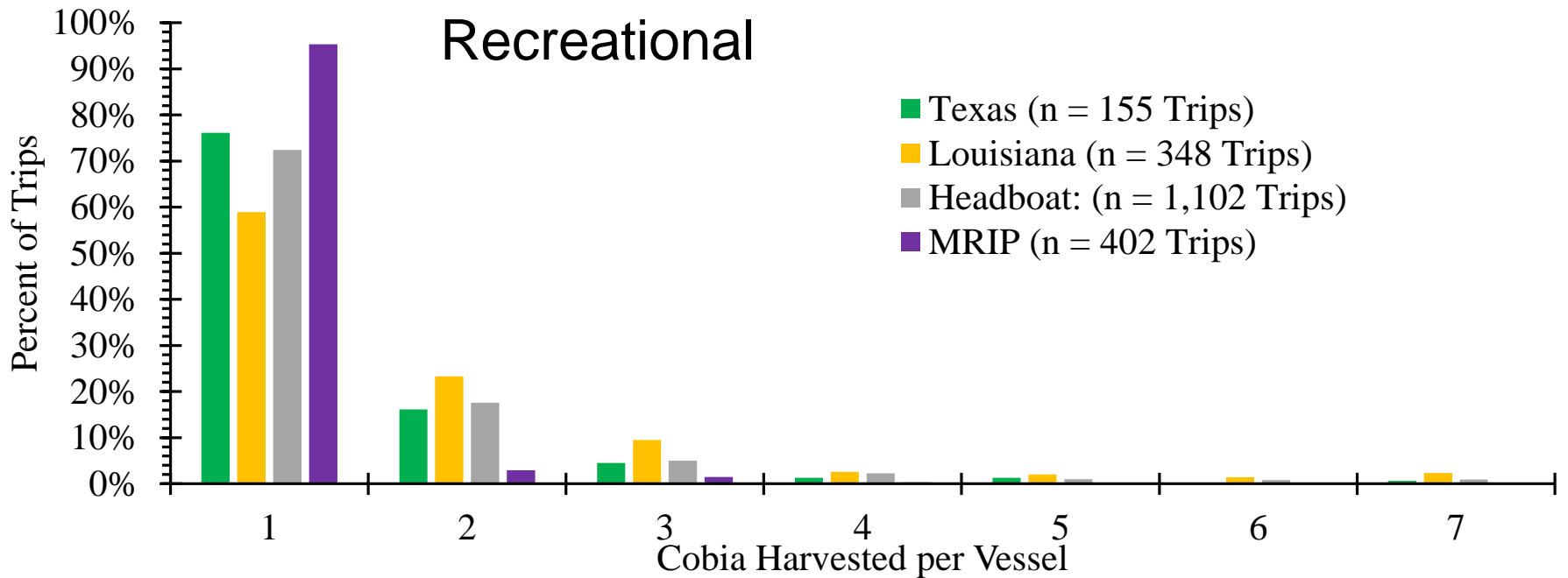
**Option 3c:** The vessel limit is six fish per trip.

**Gulf Preferred Alt. 4:** Create commercial vessel limit. Fishermen may not exceed the per person daily possession limit.

**Preferred Option 4a:** The vessel limit is two fish per trip

**Option 4b:** The vessel limit is four fish per trip

**Option 4c:** The vessel limit is six fish per trip.



# Action 5.2 – FLEC Zone Possession, Vessel, and Trip Limits

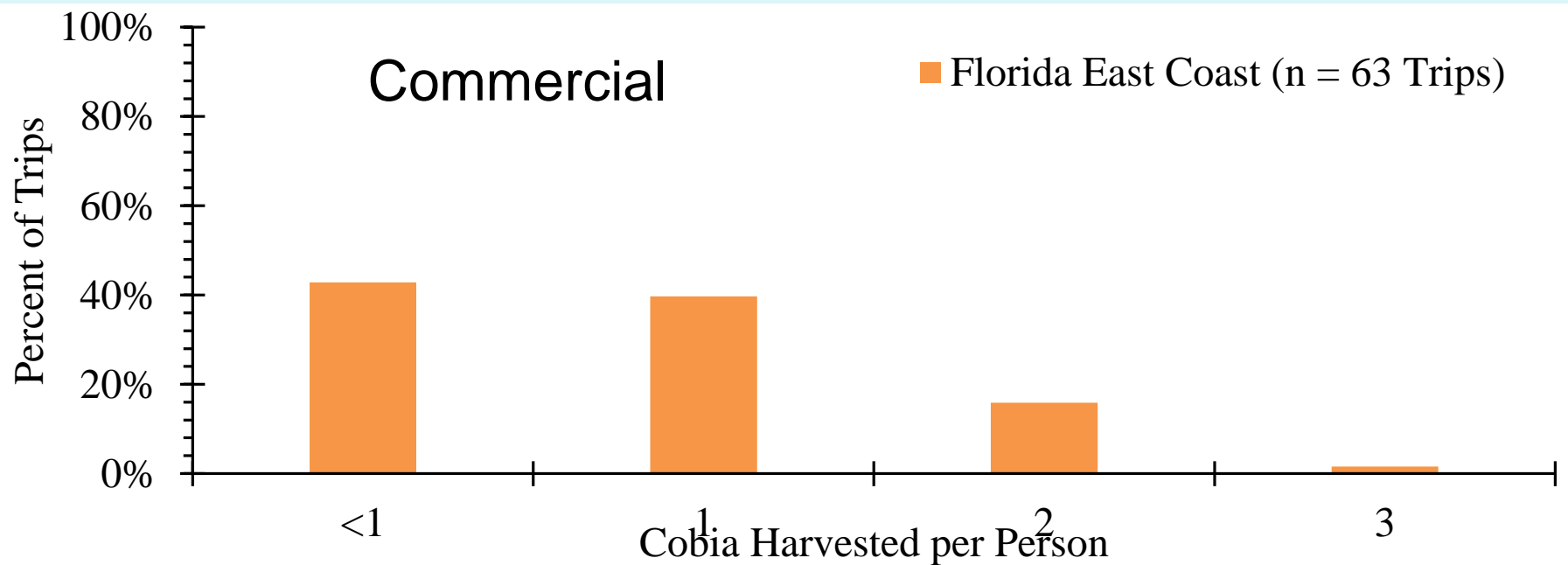
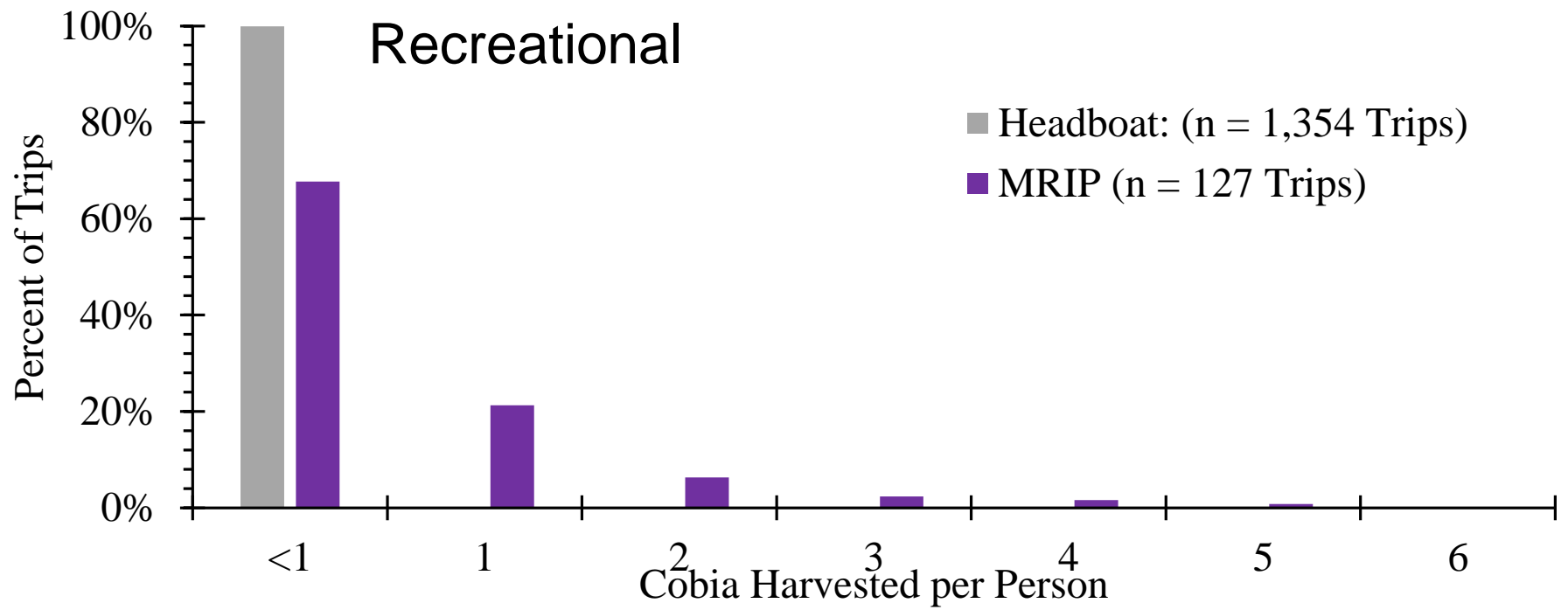
**Alt. 1:** No Action. 2 fish per person, regardless of number or duration of trips.

**South Atlantic Preferred Alt. 2:** 1 fish per person, regardless of number or duration of trips.

**Preferred Option 2a** for the recreational sector

**Preferred Option 2b** for the commercial sector





# Action 5.2 – FLEC Zone Possession, Vessel, and Trip Limits

**South Atlantic Preferred Alt. 3:** Create recreational vessel limit. Fishermen may not exceed the per person daily possession limit.

**Preferred Option 3a:** The vessel limit is two fish per trip

**Option 3b:** The vessel limit is four fish per trip

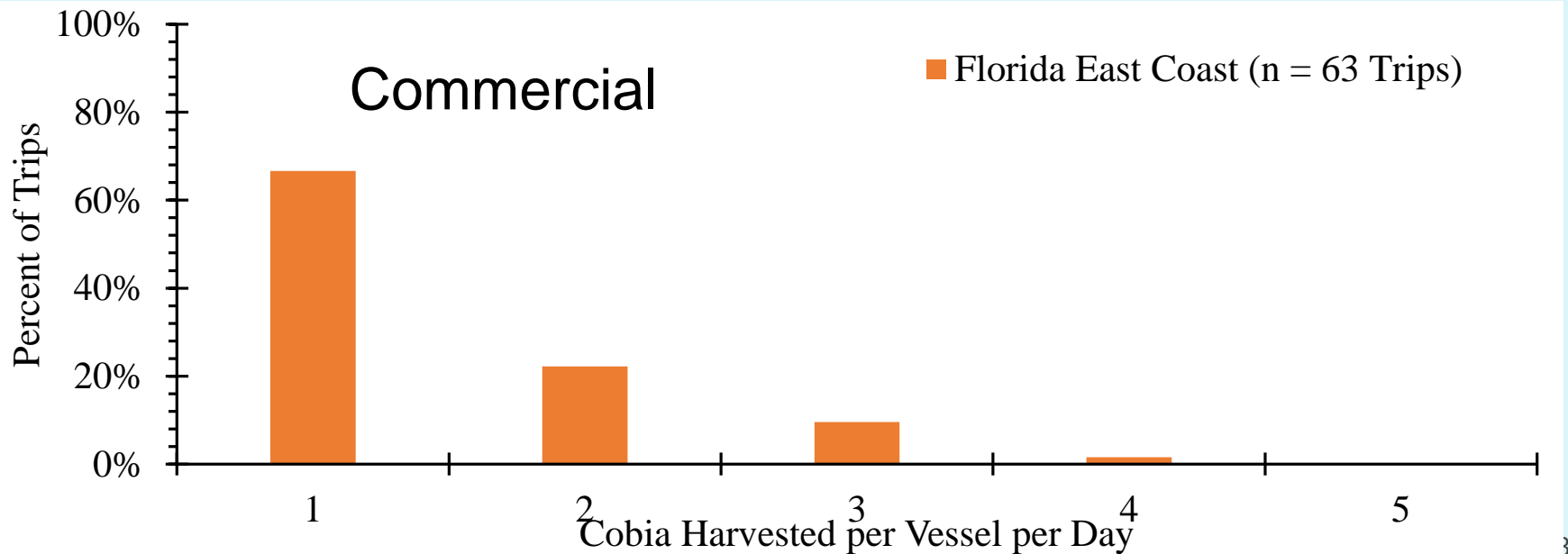
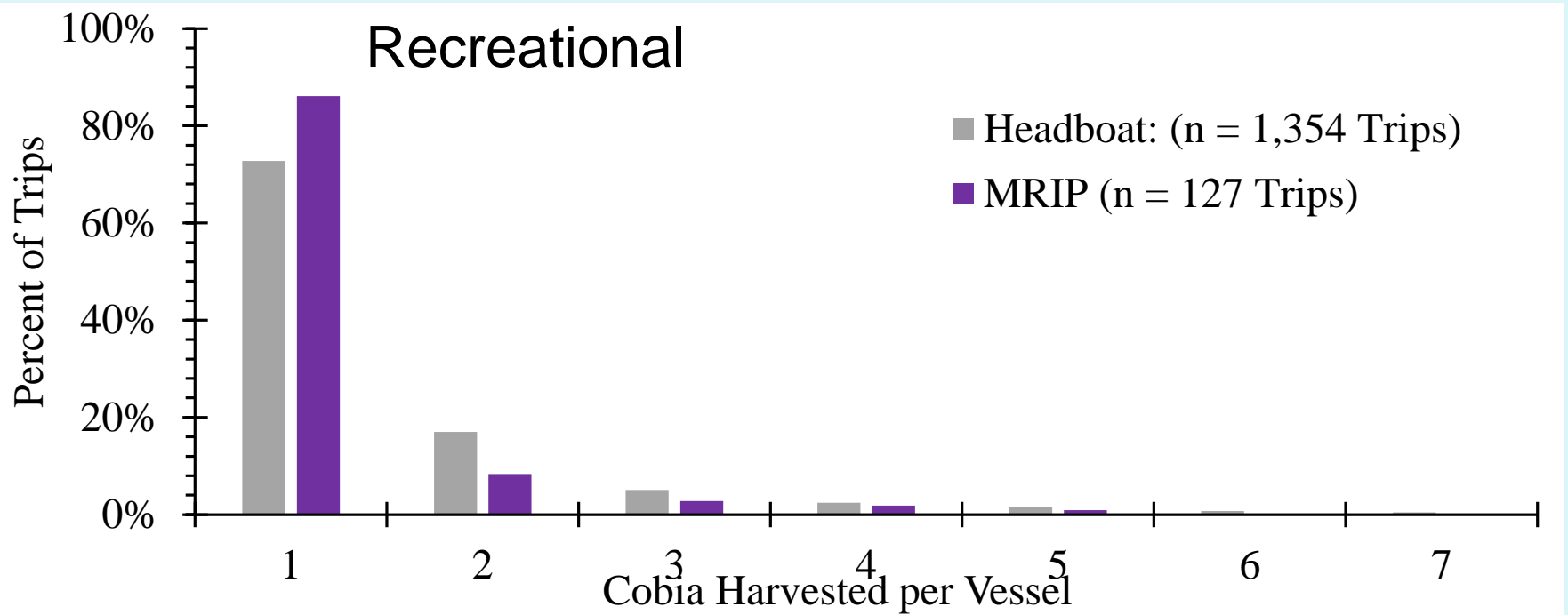
**Option 3c:** The vessel limit is six fish per trip.

**South Atlantic Preferred Alt. 4:** Create commercial vessel limit. Fishermen may not exceed the per person daily possession limit.

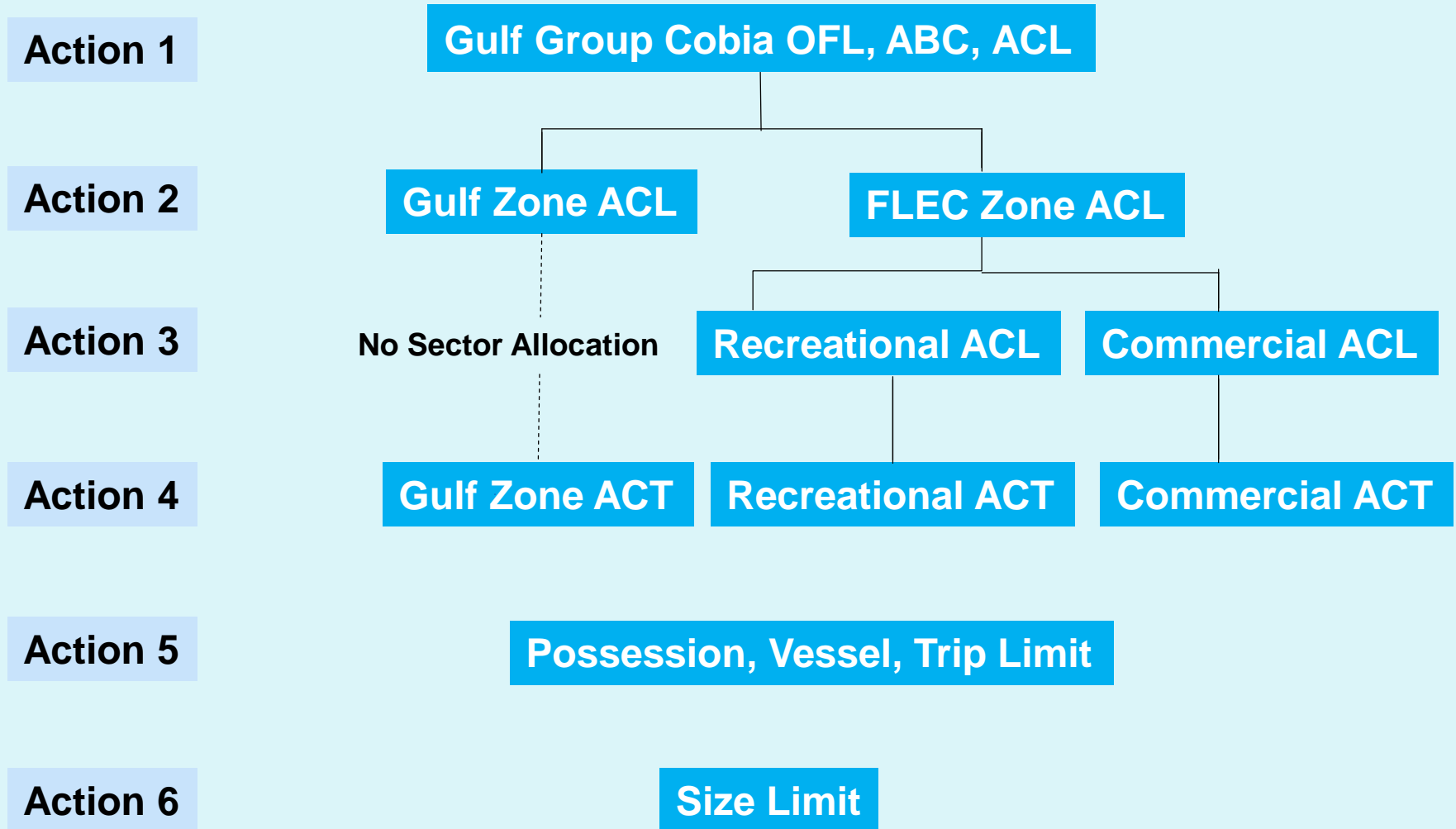
**Preferred Option 4a:** The vessel limit is two fish per trip

**Option 4b:** The vessel limit is four fish per trip

**Option 4c:** The vessel limit is six fish per trip.



# CMP Amendment 32



# Action 6 – Increase the Gulf Cobia Minimum Size Limit

**Alternative 1:** No action. Gulf Zone 36" FL, FLEC Zone 33" FL (both sectors)

**Gulf and SA Preferred Alternative 2:** Gulf Zone 36" FL, FLEC Zone 36" FL (both sectors)

**Alternative 3:** 39" FL (both sectors)

- Option 3a: Gulf Zone
- Option 3b: FLEC Zone

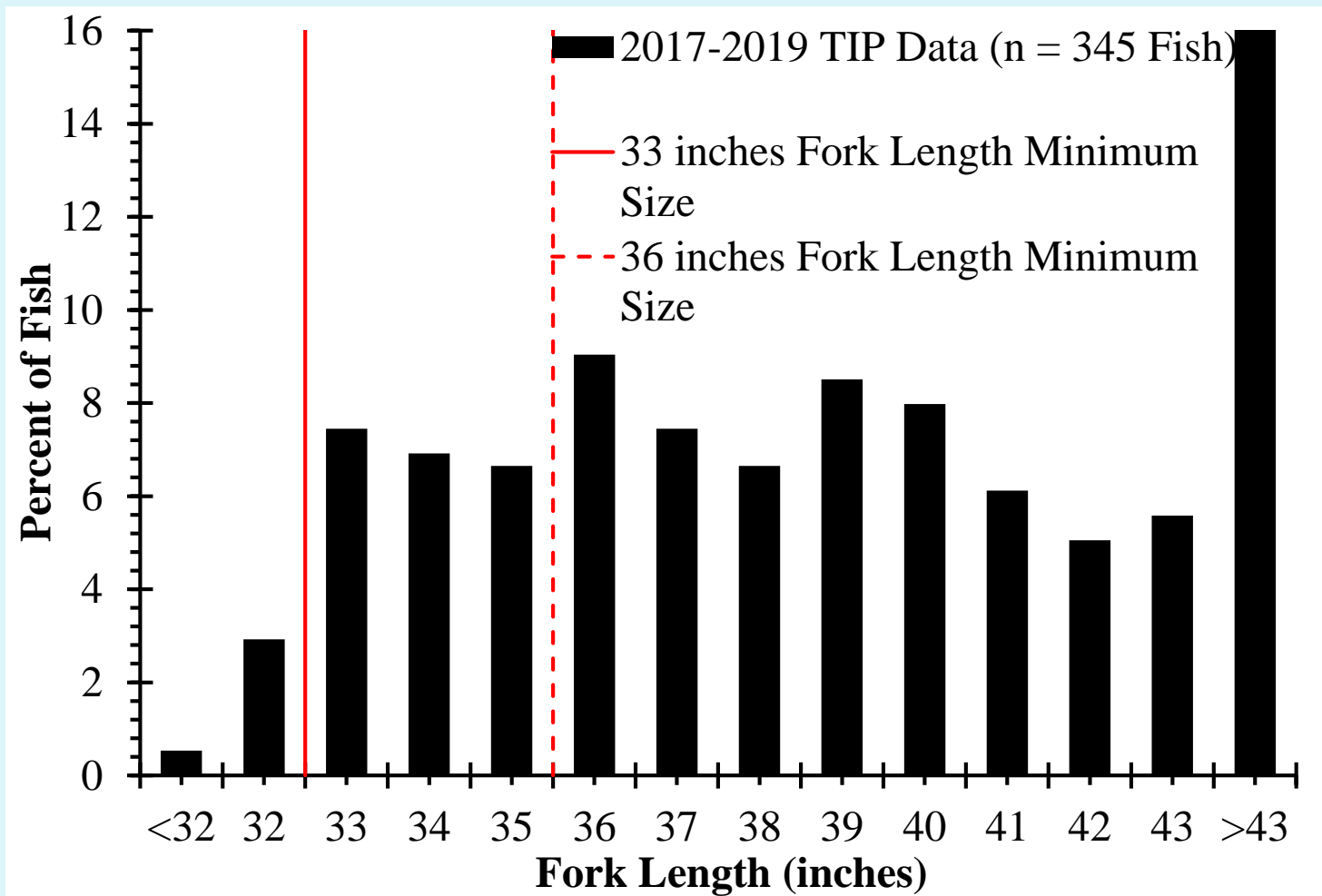
**Alternative 4:** 42" FL (both sectors)

- Option 4a: Gulf Zone
- Option 4b: FLEC Zone

Commercial		
Alternative	Size Limit (in. FL)	% Reduction
<b>Gulf Zone</b>		
1 No Action	36	0
<b>Gulf Preferred Alternative 2</b>	36	0
3a	39	20.3
4a	42	45.2
<b>FLEC Zone</b>		
1 No Action	33	0
<b>SA Preferred Alternative 2</b>	36	27.2
3b	39	48.9
4b	42	60.3

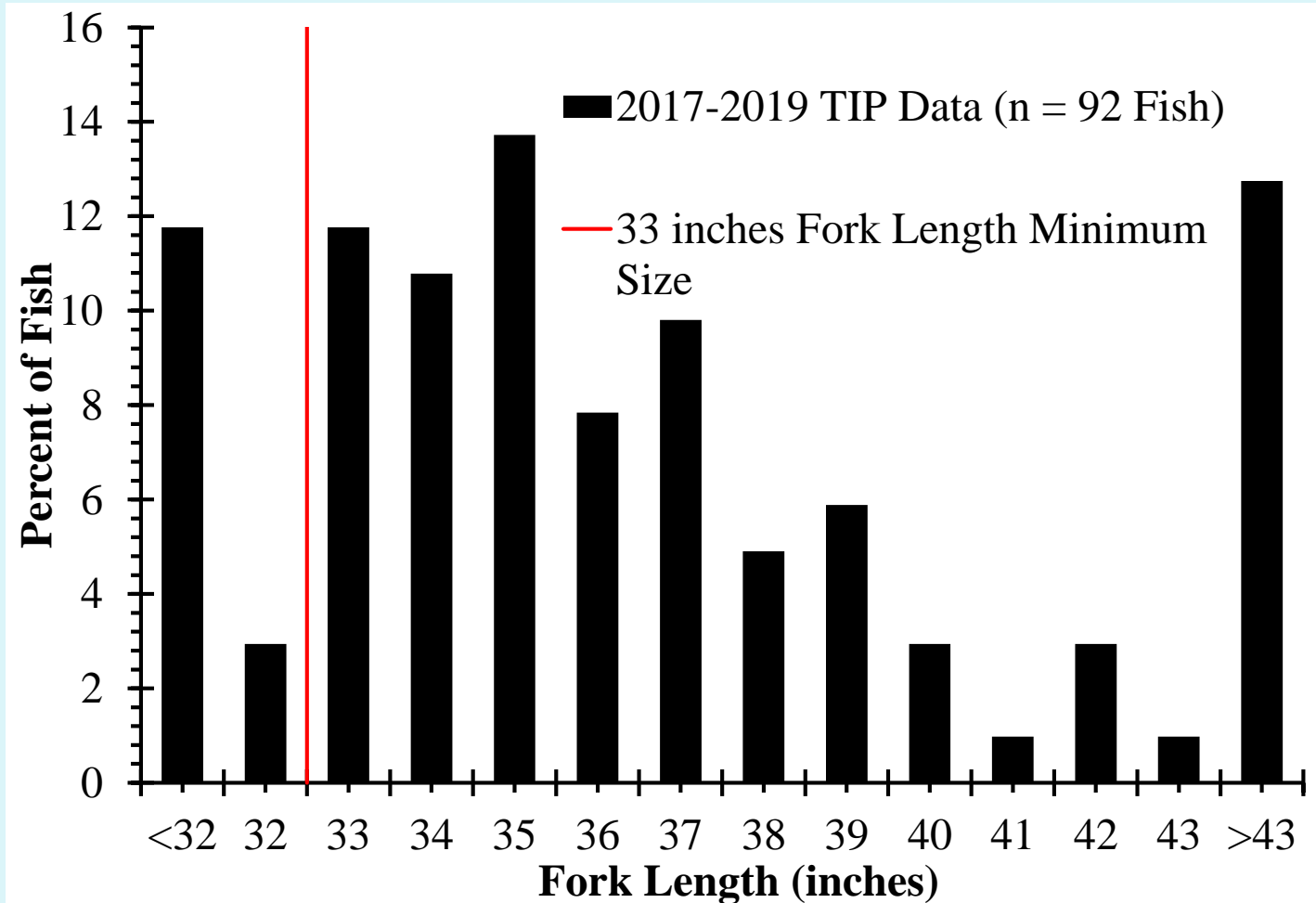
Recreational			
Alternative	Size Limit (in, FL)	Gulf Zone % Reduction	FLEC Zone % Reduction
Texas			
Alternative 1 No Action	36	0	NA
<b>Gulf and SA Preferred Alternative 2</b>	36	0	NA
Alternative 3a	39	20.3	NA
Alternative 4a	42	39.9	NA
Louisiana			
Alternative 1 No Action	36	0	NA
<b>Gulf and SA Preferred Alternative 2</b>	36	0	NA
Alternative 3b	39	20.3	NA
Alternative 4b	42	46.5	NA
Headboat: All Gulf of Mexico States and Both Coasts of Florida			
Alternative 1 No Action	33	NA	0
<b>Gulf and SA Preferred Alternative 2</b>	36	0	23.4
Alternative 3b	39	19.3	43
Alternative 4b	42	37.6	65.2
MRIP: Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida			
Alternative 1 No Action	33	NA	0
<b>Gulf and SA Preferred Alternative 2</b>	36	0	33.9
Alternative 3b	39	19.6	55.4
Alternative 4, Option 4b	42	38.7	74.4

# Length Distribution- Gulf Zone Commercial

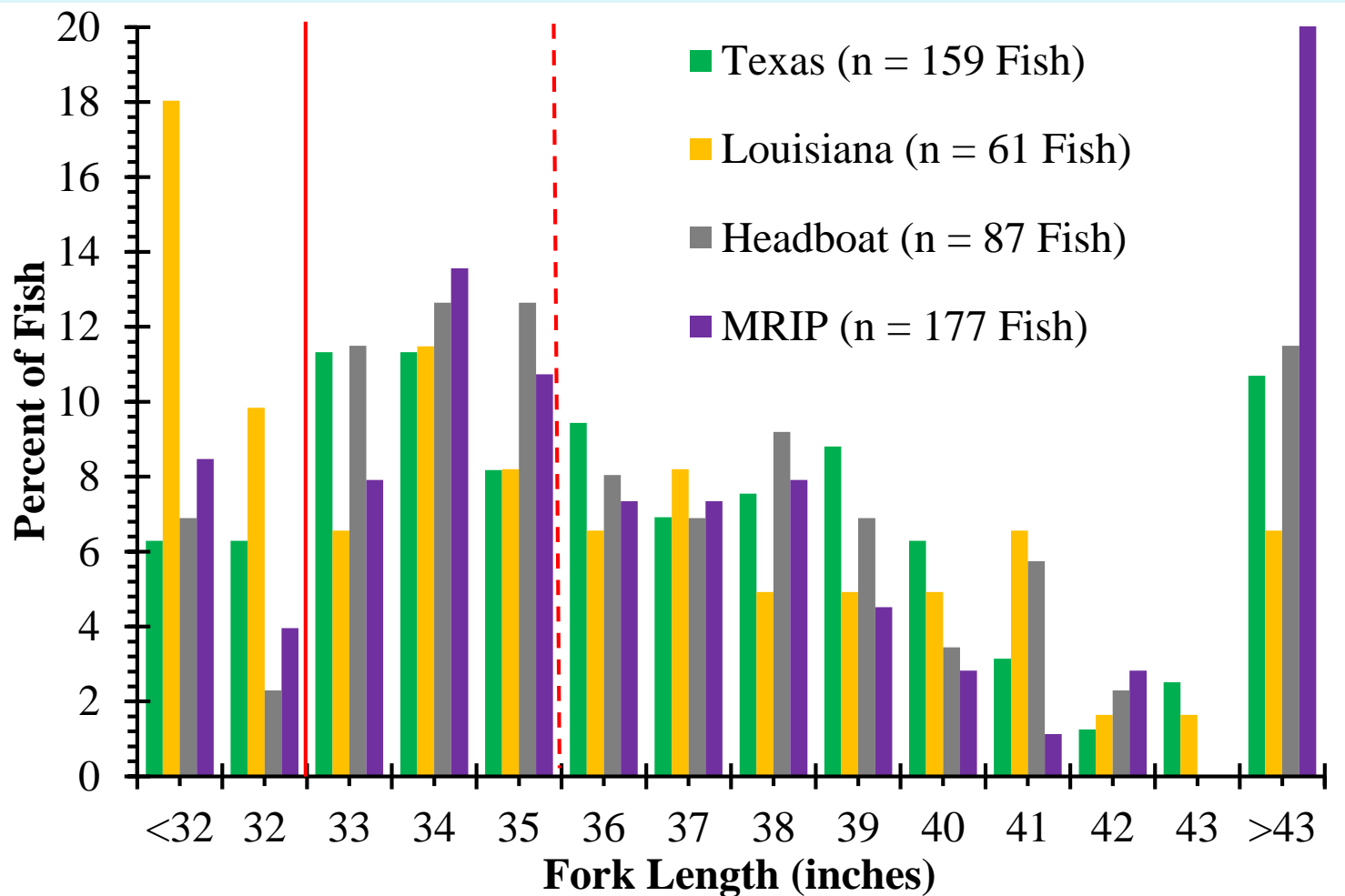




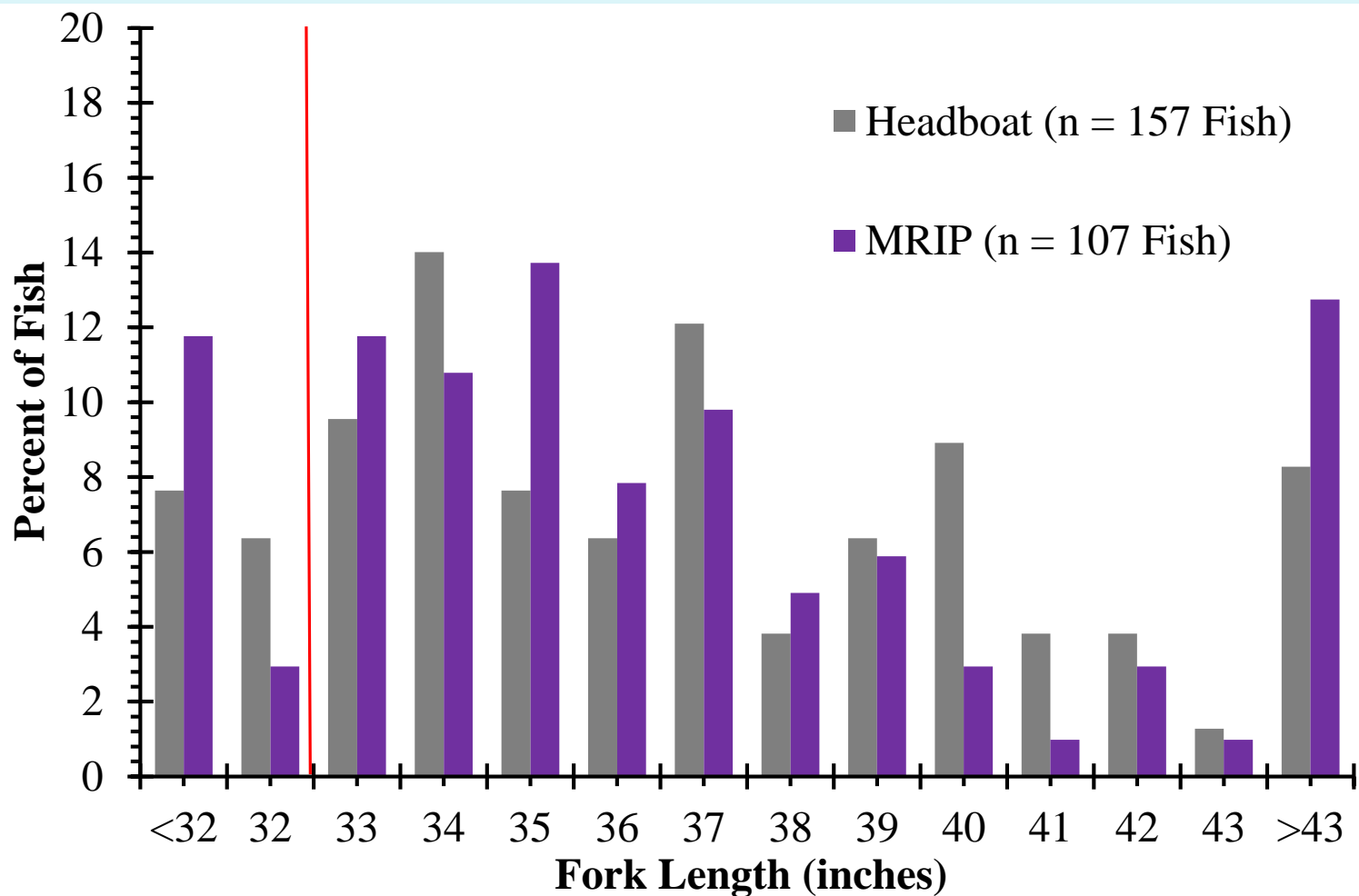
# Length Distribution- FLEC Zone Commercial



# Length Distribution- Gulf Zone Recreational



# Length Distribution- FLEC Zone Recreational



# CMP Amendment 32



# Action 7 – Modify the Framework Procedure

## Alternative 1: No Action.

With respect to  
Responsibilities of each Council:

1. Recommendations with respect to the Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia will be the responsibility of the South Atlantic Council, and those for the Gulf migratory groups of king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia will be the responsibility of the Gulf Council, with the following exceptions:
  - a. The South Atlantic Council will have responsibility to set vessel trip limits, closed seasons or areas, or gear restrictions for 1) the east coast of Florida including the Atlantic side of the Florida Keys for Gulf migratory group cobia.
2. For stocks where a stock assessment indicates a different boundary between the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups than the management boundary, a portion of the ACL for one migratory group may be apportioned to the appropriate zone, but management measures for that zone will be the responsibility of the Council within whose management area that zone is located.
3. Both Councils must concur on recommendations that affect both migratory groups.

# Action 7 – Modify the Framework Procedure

**Alternative 2:** Modify the framework procedure to update the responsibility to each Council for setting regulations for the Gulf Group Cobia.

With respect to

Responsibilities of each Council:

1. Recommendations with respect to the Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia will be the responsibility of the South Atlantic Council, and those for the Gulf migratory groups of king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia will be the responsibility of the Gulf Council, with the following exceptions:

- a. ~~The South Atlantic Council will have responsibility to set vessel trip limits, closed seasons or areas, or gear restrictions for 1) the east coast of Florida including the Atlantic side of the Florida Keys for Gulf migratory group cobia.~~

## **Change to:**

- a. The South Atlantic Council will have the responsibility to specify management measures that affect only the east coast of Florida including the Atlantic side of the Florida Keys for Gulf migratory group cobia.

# Action 7 – Modify the Framework Procedure

2. For stocks where a stock assessment indicates a different boundary between the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups than the management boundary, a portion of the ACL for one migratory group may be apportioned ~~the appropriate zone, but management measures for that zone will be the responsibility of the Council within whose management area that zone is located.~~

## Change to:

2. For stocks where a stock assessment indicates a different boundary between the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups than the management boundary, a portion of the ACL for one migratory group may be apportioned to a zone in the other Council's jurisdiction.

# Action 7 – Modify the Framework Procedure

3. Both Councils must concur on recommendations that affect both migratory groups

## Change to:

3. Both Councils must concur on recommendations that affect the whole range for each migratory group.  
Recommendations specific to each Council's jurisdiction such as when a portion of the ACL for one migratory group has been apportioned to a zone in the other Council's jurisdiction, like is the case for Gulf migratory group of cobia Gulf Zone or Florida East Coast Zone, only need to involve the affected Council.



# Questions?



COURTESY: BRIAN O'HANLON