



Tab E, No. 8

Overview of RSA Timeline, Composition, and Draft Objectives

GMFMC August 2022 Meeting

June '22 Council Mtg Motion

- **Motion:** To request Council staff to work with Council members identified by the Chair to evaluate the potential for establishing a Research Set Aside in the Gulf of Mexico, using the examples in the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions as a basis. Council staff should consult with NMFS staff and other appropriate RFMC staff to inform the evaluation, as appropriate. The evaluation and recommendations for next steps, if any, shall be presented to the Council at an upcoming meeting.

Composition of Workgroup

- Council members – Patrick Banks, Susan Boggs, Bob Shipp, and Greg Stunz
- Matt Freeman and Carrie Simmons
- SERO – Mike Travis
- Science Center – John Walter

- Meetings open to public and noticed in federal register

Draft Objectives for Workgroup

- Set the goal(s) of a RSA program in the Gulf.
 - For instance, in one of the recent Mid-Atlantic workshops, it was noted that their RSA program goal is to “Support robust scientific research that will help inform important resource and management needs.”
- Identify the research goal(s) the Council wants to meet with a RSA program.
- Determine minimum level of funding needed to meet research goal(s).
- Identify potential species through which a RSA program would achieve that minimum level of funding.
- Determine how a RSA program would be administered as well as enforced in the Gulf and if there is existing capacity to do so.
 - Based on the New England & Mid-Atlantic presentations at the June ‘22 Gulf Council meeting, appears that NMFS would administer.
 - Work group will discuss anticipated resources necessary to administer the program

Draft Timeline

- 1st work group meeting – Nov '22
- Update to Council – Jan '23
- 2nd work group meeting – Mar/April '23
- Update to Council – April or Jun '23

Questions and Feedback?

