



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/southeast>

07/15/2022

F/SER24:PH

Carrie Simmons, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
4107 West Spruce Street, Suite 200
Tampa, Florida 33607

Tab E, No. 9

Dear Dr. Simmons,

NOAA Fisheries received a petition for rulemaking from Mr. David Horan on May 23, 2022. Mr. Horan requests NOAA Fisheries and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) develop a fishery management plan for Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) pompano in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). The harvest of pompano in the Gulf EEZ off Florida is currently managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). The FWC regulations require that appropriately permitted persons who are commercially harvesting pompano with approved gillnets land their fish within the Pompano Endorsement Zone, south of Hurricane Pass and north of Cape Sable, Florida. Mr. Horan indicated that FWC regulations discriminate against operators of Florida registered gillnet vessels because they are restricted to landing pompano caught in the EEZ to a very small area. This can create problems for fishermen targeting other species who incidentally catch pompano when their homeport might be outside the Pompano Endorsement Zone. He asks that NOAA Fisheries consider managing Gulf pompano rather than continue with the existing management measures implemented by FWC.

I request that you add a discussion of this matter to the Council agenda for the August 2022 meeting to determine if the Gulf pompano stock is in need of federal conservation and management. When deciding whether Gulf pompano is in need of conservation and management, the Council should consider the list of factors outlined in 50 CFR 600.305(c). I thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

STRELCHECK ANDREW JAMES
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Andrew J. Strelcheck
Regional Administrator

Attachment

