

Tab B, No. 6(a)

Modifications to Lane Snapper Minimum Size Limit and Recreational Bag Limit



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Sarah Gardiner

Timeline



**June 2024
Council
motion**

**November
2024 Council
PPT**

**December
2024 Reef
Fish AP PPT**

**January 2025
Draft Action
Review**

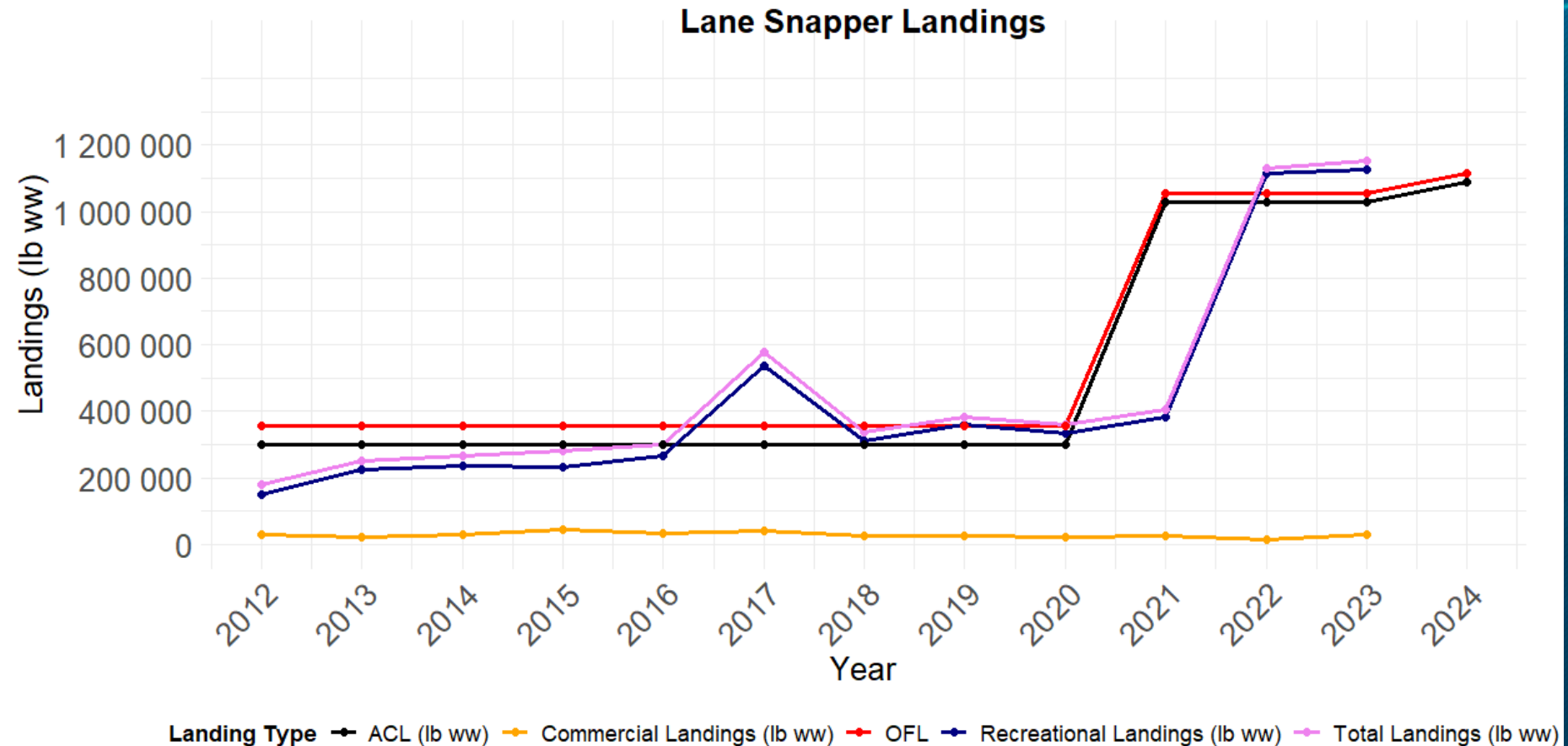
Gulf Lane Snapper



Season: January 1-
December 31

Closures:

- December 13, 2019
- October 18;
reopened Dec 23,
2021
- November 15, 2022
- November 26, 2024



Purpose and Need



The purpose of this framework action is to modify the lane snapper size and bag limits to better constrain harvest to the stock ACL. Additionally, this framework action is intended to prevent early season closures by reducing lane snapper landings.

The need is to decrease the likelihood of overfishing the Gulf lane snapper stock consistent with National Standard 1 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Action 1: Modify the minimum size limit for recreational and commercial Gulf lane snapper



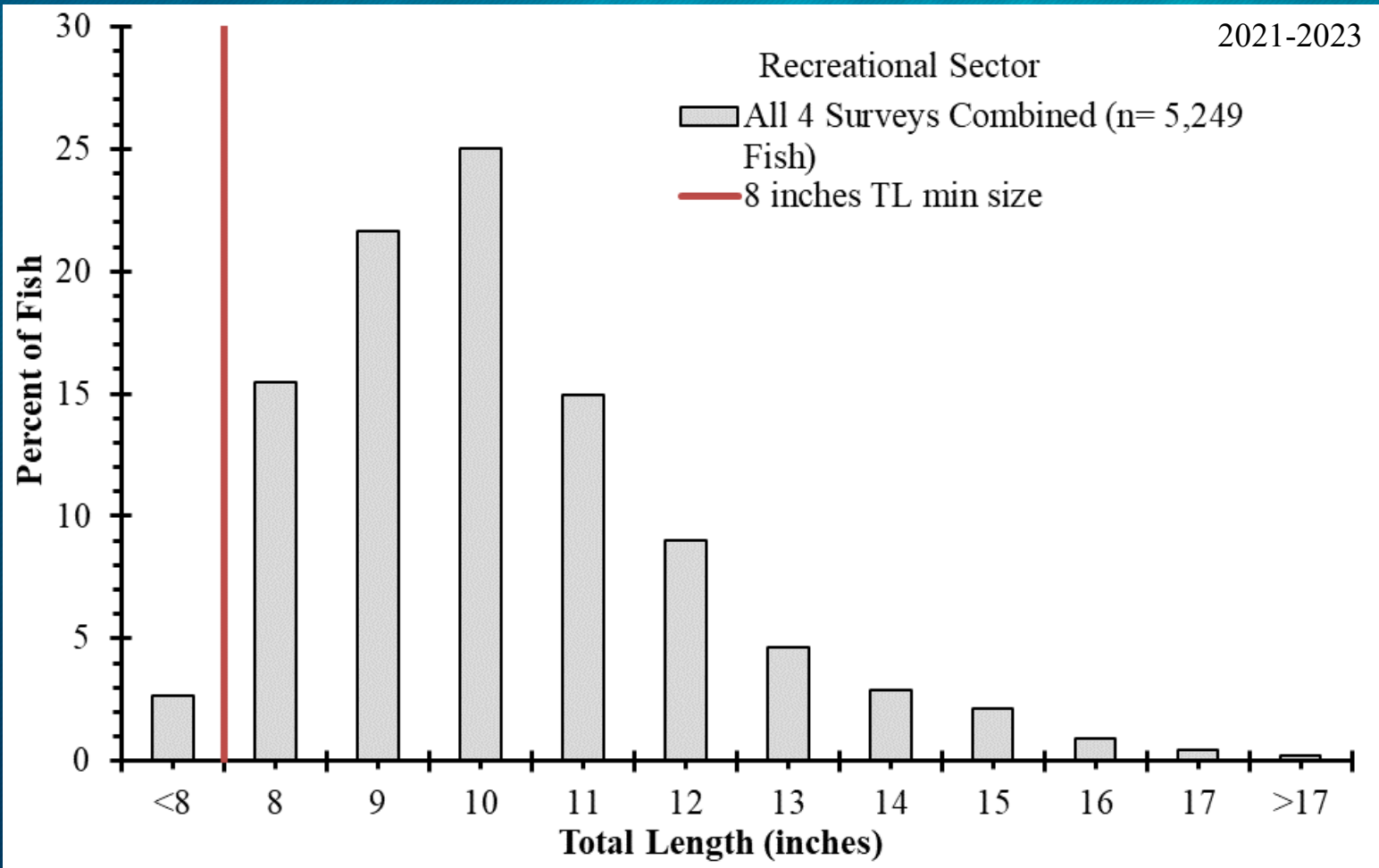
Action 1: Modify the minimum size limit for recreational and commercial Gulf lane snapper

Alternative 1: Maintain the current recreational and commercial minimum size limit of 8 inches TL.

Alternative 2: Modify the recreational and commercial minimum size limit to 10 inches TL.

Alternative 3: Modify the recreational and commercial minimum size limit to 12 inches TL.

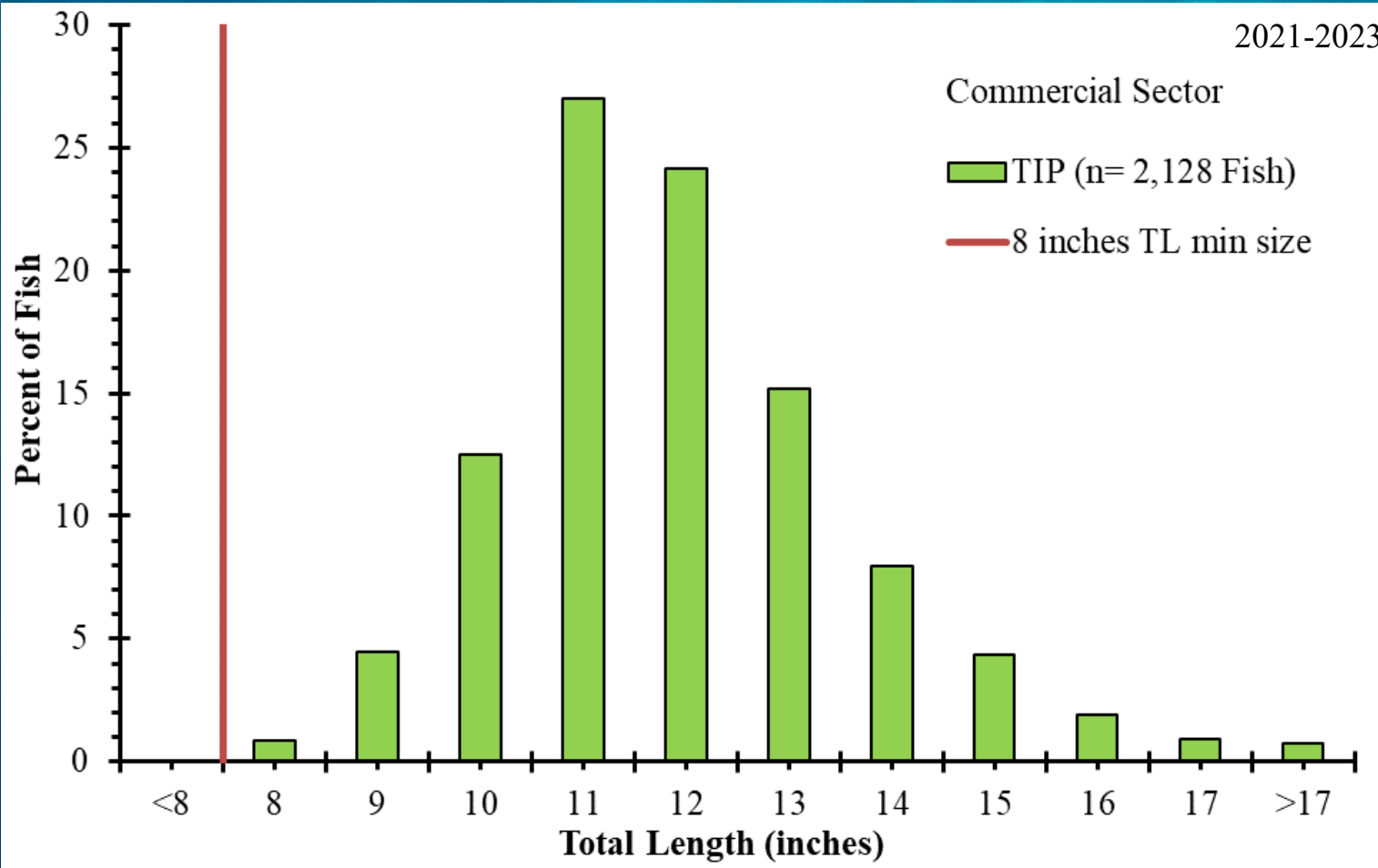
Action 1: Modify the minimum size limit for recreational and commercial Gulf lane snapper



Percent Reduction in Landings

Size Limit	Recreational Sector
8 inches TL (Status Quo)	0.0%
10 inches TL	31.83%
12 inches TL	76.46%

Action 1: Modify the minimum size limit for recreational and commercial Gulf lane snapper



Percent Reduction in Landings

Size Limit	Commercial Sector
8 inches TL (Status Quo)	0.0%
10 inches TL	2.3%
12 inches TL	31.1%

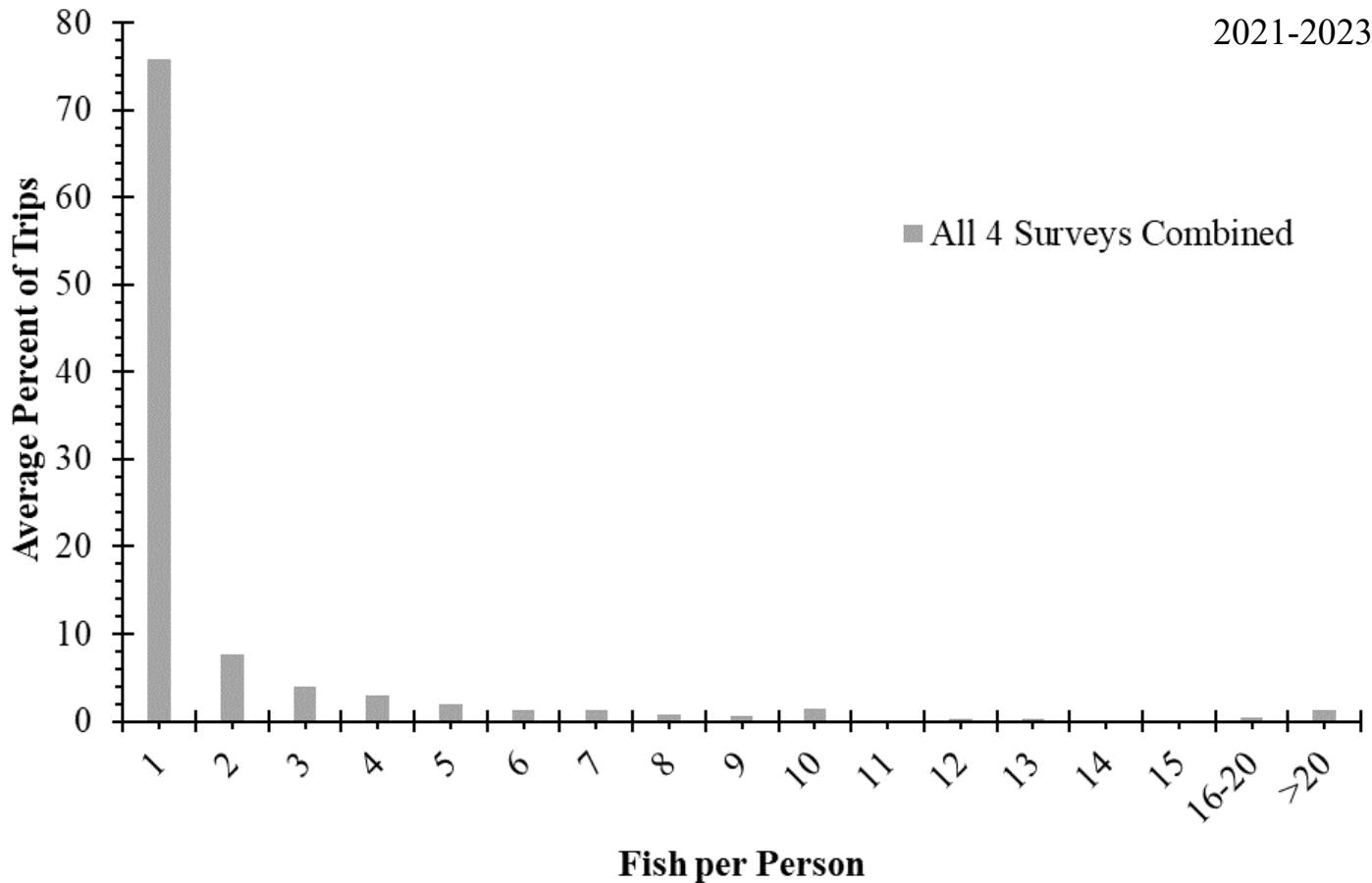
Action 2: Modify the recreational bag limit for Gulf lane snapper



Action 2: Modify the recreational bag limit for Gulf lane snapper:

- Alternative 1:** Maintain Gulf lane snapper within the Gulf reef fish aggregate bag limit of 20 fish.
- Alternative 2:** Establish a **2-fish** recreational daily bag limit for Gulf lane snapper within the Gulf reef fish aggregate bag limit of 20 fish.
- Alternative 3:** Establish a **5-fish** recreational daily bag limit for Gulf lane snapper within the Gulf reef fish aggregate bag limit of 20 fish.
- Alternative 4:** Establish a **10-fish** recreational daily bag limit for Gulf lane snapper within the Gulf reef fish aggregate bag limit of 20 fish.
- Alternative 5:** Establish a **15-fish** recreational daily bag limit for Gulf lane snapper within the Gulf reef fish aggregate bag limit of 20 fish.

Action 2: Modify the recreational bag limit for Gulf lane snapper



Percent Reduction in Landings

Bag Limit	Recreational Sector
20 Lane Snapper (Status Quo)	0.0%
2 Lane Snapper	29.2%
5 Lane Snapper	15.7%
10 Lane Snapper	4.6%
15 Lane Snapper	<1%

Action 1 & 2 effect on Season Length

Regulation	Closure Date
20 Lane Snapper Bag Limit (Status Quo)	
8 inches TL (Status Quo)	29-Nov
10 inches TL	No Closure
12 inches TL	No Closure
2 Lane Snapper Bag Limit	
8 inches TL (Status Quo)	No Closure
10 inches TL	No Closure
12 inches TL	No Closure
5 Lane Snapper Bag Limit	
8 inches TL (Status Quo)	10-Dec
10 inches TL	No Closure
12 inches TL	No Closure

Action 1 & 2 effect on Season Length

10 Lane Snapper Bag Limit	
8 inches TL (Status Quo)	3-Dec
10 inches TL	No Closure
12 inches TL	No Closure
15 Lane Snapper Bag Limit	
8 inches TL (Status Quo)	30-Nov
10 inches TL	No Closure
12 inches TL	No Closure

Snapper Aggregate Bag Limit



Aggregate Bag Limit	Snapper Aggregate Bag Limit	Species-Specific Bag Limit
10	Gray Snapper	
	Mutton Snapper	5
	Yellowtail Snapper	
	Cubera Snapper	
	Queen Snapper	
	Blackfin Snapper	
	Wenchman Snapper	
	Silk Snapper	

Including Lane Snapper in Snapper Aggregate Bag Limit

- Similar to the effects seen by 10-lane snapper bag limit
- ~4.6% reduction in landings if landings are consistent with those in 2021-2023
- Likely constrain the harvest of other snapper species- Not analyzed for this draft

Next Steps



**June 2024
Council
motion**

**November
2024 Council
PPT**

**December
2024 Reef
Fish AP PPT**

**January 2025
Draft Action
Review**

**April 2025
Final Action
(T)**

Council Input



1. Satisfied with the P&N?
2. Reasonable Range of Alternatives?
3. Any omissions in the analysis?
4. Council selected preferred Alternative
5. Timeline

Questions?



Reef Fish AP Motion(s)



December 2024 Reef Fish AP PPT- Preliminary Results

Reef Fish AP Motion:

Motion: The Reef Fish AP recommends that in Action 1, to make Alternative 2 the preferred.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: The Reef Fish AP recommends that any bag limit changes be removed from the document pending a size limit increase.

Motion carried unanimously.