

# Recreational



# Initiative



## Welcome!

Working Group Meeting 2  
January 8-9, 2025  
New Orleans, Louisiana

# Recreational Initiative



Recap Working Group Meeting 1 and  
Review Working Group Meeting 2 Agenda

January 8, 2025

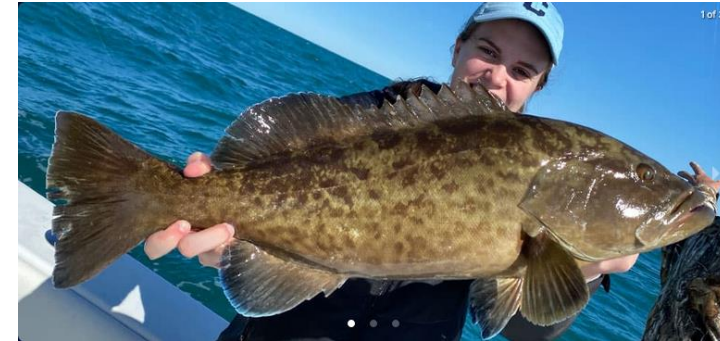
# Key Challenges identified in WG Meeting 1

## I. Education/Engagement

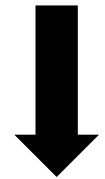
- *Educate*—development of regulations, data's role (trust deficit)
- Achieve effective engagement in the absence of a crisis
- Stock status  $\neq$  regulations
- Improve distribution channels (“ambassadors?”)

## II. Access and Equity

- Gulf-wide approach doesn't meet local needs/characteristics
- Interannual regulatory instability
- Can only harvest one species at a time → concentrates pressure
- Dissatisfaction with allocation
- High discard rates
- Misalignment between stock rebuilding and management (quickly rebuilding stock → low satisfaction)



Fish Rules



South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

# *Key Challenges identified in WG Meeting 1 (cont'd)*

## **III. Magnuson-Stevens Act**

- Hamstrings exploration of new approaches for the recreational community
- 2006 reauthorization: Incompatible with recreational fisheries, demands more of MRIP than initially intended

## **IV. Data and Assessments**

- Lack of unified, integrated data collection across Gulf states
- Estimating discards a key challenge
- Lengthy stock assessments hinder timely decision-making

## **V. Increased Effort/Efficiency**

- Growing size of the recreational sector has increased fishing pressure
- Technology (e.g., mapping, spot-lock) and information transfer (social media) have lowered the learning curve, increased efficiency
- Oil rig removal (LA) is reducing habitat, can concentrate effort

## **VI. Climate/Ecosystem Impacts**

- Depredation
- Changes in water temperature patterns are impacting fish distribution, could impact fishery-dependent data (e.g., grouper)

# *Key Successes to Possibly Build Upon from WG Meeting 1*

## **I. Education/ Engagement**

- Council's Fishermen Feedback Tool facilitates stakeholder input during assessments (more awareness needed)
- Council outreach at angling community events
- MREP valuable but could be distilled—short films/documentaries?
- Council outreach materials are available, but can be difficult to find

## **II. Assessments/Management**

- State management for red snapper (Am. 50A) allows for the tailoring of management measures to each state → apply to other species?
- Council's utilization of frameworks instead of amendments has enabled more rapid/nimble response to fishery issues
- Numerous reef stocks are healthy with liberal regulations
- Successful rebuilding of some stocks, and red snapper quotas has increased substantially
- New assessment/data collection approaches, such as new technologies (video, AI) and the Great Red Snapper Count
- Artificial reefing has expanded recreational opportunities



# ***Vision for Rec. Reef Fish Management***

## **Common Themes in the Discussion to Develop a Vision:**

- Data
- Trust
- Regional fisheries management
- Collaborative management
- Predictability
- Stability
- Access
- Growth in participation

## **Working Vision:**

*A sustainable recreational fishery that is based on trusted data, offers predictable and reliable access, engages and empowers anglers in management, maximizes angler satisfaction, and accommodates growth and regional flexibility.*

# Goals for Rec. Reef Fish Management

## Working Vision:

*A sustainable recreational fishery that is based on trusted data, offers predictable and reliable access, engages and empowers anglers in management, maximizes angler satisfaction, and accommodates growth and regional flexibility.*

Goal 1  
Trusted Data

Goal 2  
Establish trust  
with the  
recreational  
community

Goal 3  
Develop  
predictable  
and reliable  
recreational  
access

Goal 4  
Allow for  
regional  
flexibility in  
management

Goal 5  
Increase  
Recreational  
Community  
Engagement  
in the  
Management  
Process

Goal 6  
Maximize angler  
satisfaction, and  
accommodate  
growth

**Working Vision: A sustainable recreational fishery that is based on trusted data, offers predictable and reliable access, engages and empowers anglers in management, maximizes angler satisfaction, and accommodates growth and regional flexibility.**

**Goal 1: Trusted Data**

O1: Timely, transparent, accurate

O2: Engage rec community

O3: Improve estimates of discard data

O4: Inc. innovative strategies to capture fishery-indep data

**Goal 2: Est. Trust**

O1: Promote transparency/ angler inclusion

O2: Educate anglers on data process

O3: Educate anglers on importance of mgt input

O4: Timely/consistent comms re. stock status/mgt

O5: Develop innovative methods to encourage angler input

**Goal 3: Devel. Predictable/ Reliable Access**

O1: Develop/ communicate rec regs that maximizes lead time

O2: Explore devel. of multi-yr mgt to minimize volatility

**Goal 4: Allow for Regional Flexibility in Mgt**

O1: Explore state or regional mgt beyond red snapper for other reef fish species

**Goal 5: Incr. Rec Engagement in Mgt**

O1: Leverage “champions”

O2: Develop partnerships/ “MREP light”

O3: Face to face communication

O4: Quantify rec preferences

O5: Consolidate rec issues at mtgs

O6: Eval lost oppty’s due to discards

**Goal 6: Max angler satisfaction**

O1: Eval. efficacy of current mgt system

O2: Explore legal/reg flexibility (multispecies?)

O3: Eval. approaches outside Gulf

O4: Project future growth and impact on mgt strategies

O5: Consider barriers to access because availability doesn’t = season



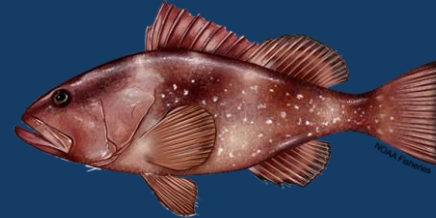
# Workgroup Meeting 2 Purpose

Ensure collective understanding of stock status and management measures/history for each of the Recreational Initiative's five focal species:

- *Review the status of Federally managed species* in the Gulf of Mexico that are highly sought after by recreational anglers, including recreational sources of directed and bycatch mortality
- *Review and assess recreational management measures*, including how management measures have changed over time
- *Assess the performance and efficacy of recreational accountability measures* and recommended improvements

# *Workgroup Meeting 2*

## Review Agenda



**Recreational**



**Initiative**