



**Reef Fish Amendment 60: Distribution of IFQ Shares and  
Annual Allocation**

# Outline

**Purpose and Need**

**Reclaiming Shares from Inactive Accounts**

**Distributing Shares from Inactive and Non-compliant Accounts**

**Distributing Shares Held by NMFS**

**Future Quota Increases**

**Baseline**

**Set asides**

**Distribution**

# Purpose and Need

**Purpose:** The purpose of this action is to increase access and opportunities to Gulf of Mexico IFQ programs by equitably distributing IFQ shares and allocation held by NMFS, reclaimed from inactive accounts or accounts not meeting eligibility requirements, and set asides from future quota increases.

**Need:** The need for this action is to address access inequities of access in the Gulf of Mexico IFQ fisheries.

## **Action 1 – Reclaiming Shares from Inactive Accounts**

**Inactive accounts neither landed nor transferred allocation during the year**

**Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not reclaim shares from inactive IFQ shareholders accounts.**

**Alternative 2. Beginning January 1 the year following the implementation of this amendment, IFQ shares held in a shareholder account would be reclaimed by NMFS if the account is inactive during any two consecutive full calendar years. For each shareholder account, inactivity status would be determined:**

**Option a: based on all share categories in the shareholder account**

**Option b: within each share program (red snapper vs grouper-tilefish) in the shareholder account**

**Option c: independently for each share category in the shareholder account**

**Alternatives 3 and 4: three and four years, respectively**

## Number of Inactive Accounts by Share Category

Year	RS	DWG	GG	RG	SWG	TF	ALL G-T
2019	33	108	224	203	213	70	252
2020	34	119	221	199	215	66	259
2021	31	111	212	163	202	52	252
2022	26	110	200	156	184	62	221
2023	34	98	151	153	193	63	233

RS: Red snapper; DWG: Deepwater grouper; GG: Gag; RG: Red grouper  
 SWG: Other Shallow water grouper; TF: Tilefishes; G-T: Grouper Tilefish IFQ

## Pounds in Inactive Accounts by Share Category

Year	RS	DWG	GG	RG	SWG	TF	ALL G-T
2019	7,984	9,766	80,922	187,090	52,680	5,989	300,076
2020	8,427	27,248	61,945	126,335	58,045	18,187	259,540
2021	13,272	17,220	53,499	41,509	54,016	3,140	142,226
2022	6,611	25,222	36,116	46,417	48,387	5,704	129,050
2023	13,182	27,431	4,902	35,400	78,789	26,542	144,337

RS: Red snapper; DWG: Deepwater grouper; GG: Gag; RG: Red grouper  
 SWG: Other Shallow water grouper; TF: Tilefishes; G-T: Grouper Tilefish IFQ

## **ACTION 2 – DISTRIBUTING SHARES RECLAIMED FROM INACTIVE ACCOUNTS AND NON-COMPLIANT ACCOUNTS**

**Alternative 1 (No Action): Do not distribute IFQ shares reclaimed from inactive and/or non-compliant shareholders accounts.**

**Alternative 2: For each share category, proportionally distribute shares reclaimed from inactive accounts (as defined in Action 1) and non-compliant accounts (as defined in Reef Fish Amendment 59) based on qualified shareholder accounts' share percentage to:**

**Option a: shareholder accounts.**

**Option b: shareholder accounts associated with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit**

**Option c: shareholder accounts with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit and with landings in the share category**

## **ACTION 2 – DISTRIBUTING SHARES RECLAIMED FROM INACTIVE ACCOUNTS AND NON-COMPLIANT ACCOUNTS**

**Alternative 3: For each share category, proportionally distribute shares reclaimed from inactive accounts (as defined in Action 1) and non-compliant accounts (as defined in Reef Fish Amendment 59) based on qualified shareholder accounts' inverse share percentage to:**

**Option a: shareholder accounts.**

**Option b: shareholder accounts associated with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit**

**Option c: shareholder accounts with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit and with landings in the share category**

**For these distributions, qualified shareholders who do not own any IFQ shares would be assigned the minimum percentage of shares computable by the IFQ system, i.e., 0.000001 percent.**

## **ACTION 2 – DISTRIBUTING SHARES RECLAIMED FROM INACTIVE ACCOUNTS AND NON-COMPLIANT ACCOUNTS**

**Alternative 4: For each share category, equally distribute shares reclaimed from inactive accounts (as defined in Action 1) and non-compliant accounts (as defined in Reef Fish Amendment 59) to:**

**Option a: shareholder accounts.**

**Option b: shareholder accounts with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit**

**Option c: shareholder accounts with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit and with landings in the share category**

**Option d: shareholder accounts with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit but without shares in the share category**

**Option e: shareholder accounts with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit and with landings in the share category but without shares in the share category**

## **ACTION 2 – DISTRIBUTING SHARES RECLAIMED FROM INACTIVE ACCOUNTS AND NON-COMPLIANT ACCOUNTS**

**Alternative 5: For each share category, proportionally distribute shares reclaimed from inactive accounts (as defined in Action 1) and non-compliant accounts (as defined in Reef Fish Amendment 59) based on qualified shareholder accounts' share of the landings in the share category to:**

**Option a: shareholder accounts with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit and with landings in the share category**

**Option b: shareholder accounts with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit and with landings in the share category but without shares in the share category**

**Alternative 6: Establish quota banks funded with shares reclaimed from inactive accounts (as defined in Action 1) and non-compliant accounts (as defined in Reef Fish Amendment 59). Characteristics of the quota banks will be defined in a separate plan amendment.**

**Subject to availability, reclaimed shares would be distributed each calendar year on an ongoing basis. Distributions would exclude inactive shareholder accounts.**

## **ACTION 3 – DISTRIBUTING IFQ SHARES HELD BY NMFS (RF 36 A)**

**Alternative 1 (No Action): Do not distribute IFQ shares held by NMFS following the implementation of Reef Fish Amendment 36A.**

**Alternative 2: For each share category, proportionally distribute shares held by NMFS based on qualified shareholder accounts' share of the landings in the share category to:**

**Option a: shareholder accounts with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit and with landings in the share category**

**Option b: shareholder accounts with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit and with landings in the share category but without shares in the share category**

## **ACTION 3 – DISTRIBUTING IFQ SHARES HELD BY NMFS (RF 36 A)**

**Alternative 3: For each share category, equally distribute shares held by NMFS to:**

**Option a: shareholder accounts with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit and with landings in the share category**

**Option b: shareholder accounts with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit but without shares in the share category**

**Option c: shareholder accounts with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit and with landings in the share category but without shares in the share category**

**Alternative 4: Establish quota banks funded with shares held by NMFS. Characteristics of the quota banks will be defined in a separate plan amendment.**

**Distributions would exclude inactive shareholder accounts.**

## **ACTION 4 – FUTURE QUOTA INCREASES**

### **Action 4.1. Determining Baseline Quotas for Setting Aside Future Quota Increases**

**Alternative 1: Do not define baseline quotas for setting aside future quota increases for IFQ species.**

**Alternative 2: For each IFQ share category, the baseline quota used to determine the magnitude of the quota increase is equal to the 2024 quota.**

**Alternative 3: For each IFQ share category that does not include a species under rebuilding, the baseline quota used to determine the magnitude of the quota increase is equal to the 2024 quota.**

**Alternative 4: For each IFQ share category that includes a species under rebuilding, the baseline quota used to determine the magnitude of the quota increase is equal to the quota immediately preceding the beginning of the rebuilding plan.**

## **ACTION 4 – FUTURE QUOTA INCREASES**

### **Action 4.2. Setting Aside Future Quota Increases**

**Alternative 1: Do not set aside quota increases for IFQ species.**

**Alternative 2: For each IFQ share category, set aside a portion of the commercial quota if the commercial quota exceeds its baseline quota. For each IFQ share category, the set aside would be equal to 100% of the amount above the baseline quota.**

**Alternative 3: For each IFQ share category, set aside a portion of the commercial quota if the commercial quota exceeds its baseline quota. For each IFQ share category, the set aside would be equal to 75% of the amount above the baseline quota.**

**Alternative 4: For each IFQ share category, set aside a portion of the commercial quota if the commercial quota exceeds its baseline quota. For each IFQ share category, the set aside would be equal to 50% of the amount above the baseline quota.**

## **ACTION 4 – FUTURE QUOTA INCREASES**

### **Action 4.3. Distribution of Annual Allocation from Quota Set Asides**

**Alternative 1 (No Action): Do not distribute annual allocations from quota set asides.**

**Alternative 2: For each share category, equally distribute annual allocations from quota set asides to:**

**Option a: shareholder accounts with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit and with landings in the share category.**

**Option b: shareholder accounts with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit but without shares in the share category.**

**Option c: shareholder accounts with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit and with landings in the share category but without shares in the share category.**

## **ACTION 4 – FUTURE QUOTA INCREASES**

### **Action 4.3. Distribution of Annual Allocation from Quota Set Asides**

**Alternative 3: For each share category, proportionally distribute annual allocations from quota set asides based on qualified shareholder accounts' share of the landings in the share category to:**

**Option a: shareholder accounts with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit and with landings in the share category.**

**Option b: shareholder accounts with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit and with landings in the share category but without shares in the share category.**

**Alternative 4: Establish quota banks funded with annual allocation from quota set asides. Characteristics of the quota bank will be defined in a separate plan amendment.**

**Subject to availability, annual allocations from quota set asides would be distributed each calendar year on an ongoing basis. Distributions would exclude inactive shareholder accounts.**