

**Gulf Council Motions Report  
November 3 – 6, 2025  
Biloxi, Mississippi**

**FULL COUNCIL**

**Proposed Committee Assignments November 2025 through August 2026**

**Motion:** To adopt the proposed Council Committee roster for November 2025 through August 2026 with the addition of CJ Sweetman to the Mackerel Committee.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Other Business**

**Motion:** To direct staff to request the CCC draft a letter in support of satellite-based internet service, such as Starlink, technology being an approved USCG communication device.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**FULL COUNCIL CLOSED SESSION**

**Special Shrimp SSC Vacancy**

Motion: To appoint Konner Lockfield to the Special Shrimp SSC.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**ECOSYSTEM**

No motions.

**HABITAT PROTECTION & RESTORATION**

**Update on EFH Generic Amendment 5**

**Motion:** In Action 1, to make **Alternative 2** the preferred alternative.

**Alternative 2:** Update essential fish habitat identification and descriptions and habitat attribute tables for the Shrimp, Reef fish, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, Spiny Lobster, and Red Drum Fishery Management Plans to include primary research and technical literature sources through 2024. This alternative could be used for all managed species for every life stage, as data are available.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**REEF FISH**

**FINAL ACTION – Abbreviated Framework Action: Continuation of Management Measures to Reduce Reef Fish Release Mortality**

**Motion:** To approve *Abbreviated Framework Action: Continuation of Management Measures to Reduce Reef Fish Release Mortality* and that it be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation, and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate, giving staff editorial license to make the necessary changes to the document. The Council Chair is given the authority to deem any changes to the codified text as necessary and appropriate.

Names	Vote	Row Labels	Count of Vote
Gen. Spraggins	absent		
Mr. Broussard	yes	absent	1
Dr. Banks	yes	yes	16
Mr. Strelcheck	yes	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>17</b>
Mr. Osborne	yes		
Mr. Marquez	yes		
Mr. Sanchez	yes		
Dr. Allen	yes		
Ms. Ballard	yes		
Mr. Schieble	yes		
Capt. Walker	yes		
Capt. Frady	yes		
Dr. Sweetman	yes		
Mr. Anson	yes		
Mr. Geeslin	yes		
Dr. Overton	yes		
Mr. Dugas	yes		

Motion carried 16 to 0 with 1 absent.

**Public Hearing Draft – Reef Fish Amendment 62: Modifications to Gulf Red Grouper Management Measure**

**Motion:** To approve Draft Amendment 62: Modifications to Gulf Red Grouper Management Measures for Virtual Public Hearings.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Presentation: Reef Fish Amendment 63: Modifications to Gulf Red Grouper IFQ Program**

**Motion:** To include **Alternative A** in Reef Fish Amendment 63 with the following changes:  
Change Option a to 30%

**Alternative A:** Establish a commercial quota pool for Gulf red grouper beginning in 2027. If the commercial quota (ACT) is below 2.79 million pound gutted weight (mp gw)\*, the quota pool is set at zero percent of the commercial quota (zero pounds). If the commercial quota is at or above 2.79 mp gw, the quota pool would hold:

**Option a:** ~~10%~~ 30% of the commercial red grouper quota increase above 2.79 mp gw

**Option b:** 15% of the commercial red grouper quota increase above 2.79 mp gw

**Option c:** 20% of the commercial red grouper quota increase above 2.79 mp gw

**Option d:** 25% of the commercial red grouper quota increase above 2.79 mp gw

Quota Pool Year	Red Grouper Commercial Quota*	Quota Increase	Red Grouper Quota in the Pool (% of Quota Increase)			
			10%	15%	20%	25%
2027	4,830,000	2,040,000	204,000	306,000	408,000	510,000
2028	5,360,000	2,570,000	257,000	385,500	514,000	642,500
2029	5,360,000	2,570,000	257,000	385,500	514,000	642,500

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Presentation: Delegation of Management of Federal For-Hire Vessels to the Gulf States for Red Snapper**

**Motion:** To direct staff to begin developing a document that considers the following Purpose and Need statement:

**Purpose:** The purpose of this action is to establish a program structure through which a Gulf state may establish a management program that would provide flexibility in the management of the Federally permitted vessel’s harvest of red snapper for their anglers.

**Need:** The need is to reconsider the management of the Federal charter for-hire harvest of red snapper within the context of the states of the Gulf: to prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from the harvest of red snapper by the Federal for-hire sector; take into account and allow for variations among, and contingencies in the fisheries, fishery resources, and catches; and provide fair and equitable access for the sustained participation of the fishing communities of the Gulf and to the extent practicable, minimize adverse economic impacts on such communities.

Names	Vote	Row Labels	Count of Vote
Mr. Osborne	yes		
Mr. Broussard	yes	abstain	2
Dr. Sweetman	yes	no	5
Mr. Marquez	yes	yes	10
Ms. Ballard	yes	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>17</b>
Capt. Walker	no		
Mr. Geeslin	yes		
Mr. Sanchez	no		
Dr. Banks	yes		
Dr. Allen	no		
Gen. Spraggins	yes		
Mr. Anson	yes		
Dr. Overton	no		
Capt. Frady	no		
Mr. Schieble	yes		
Mr. Strelcheck	abstain		
Mr. Dugas	abstain		

Motion carried 10 to 5 with 2 abstentions.

**Public Hearing Draft – Reef Fish Amendment 58A: Shallow-water Grouper (SWG) Complex Management Considerations**

**Motion:** In Action 1.1, make **Alternative 2** the preferred.

**Alternative 2:** Dissolve the existing Other SWG complex and form two new complexes: scamp and yellowmouth grouper complex (Scamp Complex) and black grouper and yellowfin grouper complex (Black Grouper Complex). Create two new IFQ share categories: one for the Scamp Complex and one for the Black Grouper Complex.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To move Action 1.2 to Considered but Rejected.

Action 1.2: Distribution of IFQ Program Shares to Newly Established Scamp and Black Grouper Complex Share Categories

**Alternative 1:** No Action. Proportionally distribute Scamp Complex and Black Grouper Complex share categories based on existing Other SWG share percentages to the Scamp Complex and the Black Grouper Complex.

**Alternative 2:** Proportionally distribute Scamp Complex and Black Grouper Complex share categories to IFQ participants based on participant's individual landings histories of each IFQ for each sub-complex within a specified reference period:

**Option 2a:** Use IFQ participants landings history from 2011 – 2024

**Option 2b:** Use IFQ participants landings history from 2016 – 2024

**Option 2c:** Use IFQ participants landings history from 2020 – 2024

**Alternative 3:** Proportionally distribute Scamp Complex and Black Grouper Complex share categories to IFQ participants, with 50% based on existing Other SWG share percentages and 50% based on landings histories, by species, for each IFQ participant within a specified reference period.

**Option 3a:** Use IFQ participants landings history from 2011 – 2024

**Option 3b:** Use IFQ participants landings history from 2016 – 2024

**Option 3c:** Use IFQ participants landings history from 2020 – 2024

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 3, to make **Alternative 2** the preferred.

**Alternative 2:** A post-season recreational AM would be implemented for the Black Grouper Complex if the recreational ACL and the Black Grouper Complex ACL are exceeded. In the year following an overage, NMFS would close the recreational Black Grouper Complex to harvest when the recreational ACL is met or is projected to be met, unless NMFS determines based upon the best scientific information available (BSIA) that closure of the recreational fishing season is unnecessary.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 7.1, to make **Alternative 3** the preferred.

**Alternative 3:** Establish a fixed closed season for the recreational sector for the Scamp Complex. The Scamp Complex would be closed from January through June each year (open on July 1 until December 31). A season closure would be implemented for the Scamp Complex when NMFS projects the recreational ACT (established in Action 6) is met.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** In Action 7.2, to make **Alternative 1** the preferred.

**Alternative 1:** No action. Do not establish a recreational payback provision.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## SHRIMP

### **FINAL ACTION: Shrimp Amendment 19: Shrimp Permit Moratorium**

**Motion:** To make **Option 2** the preferred.

**Option 2:** Extend the moratorium on the issuance of federal Gulf commercial shrimp vessel permits. The moratorium would be extended for 10 years.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Motion:** To approve *Shrimp Amendment 19: Shrimp Permit Moratorium* and that it be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation, and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate, giving staff editorial license to make the necessary changes in the document. The Council Chair is given the authority to deem any changes to the codified text as necessary and appropriate.

Names	Vote		
Dr. Overton	yes		
Mr. Broussard	yes		
Capt. Walker	yes		
Mr. Osborne	yes		
Mr. Burris	yes		
Dr. Allen	yes		
Mr. Sanchez	yes		
Capt. Frady	yes		
Dr. Sweetman	yes		
Mr. Marquez	yes		
Dr. Banks	yes		
Mr. Strelcheck	yes		
Mr. Anson	yes		
Mr. Schieble	yes		
Ms. Ballard	yes		
Mr. Geeslin	yes		
Mr. Dugas	yes		
		<b>Row Labels</b>	<b>Count of Vote</b>
		yes	17
		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>17</b>

Motion carried 17 to 0.

**Motion:** To direct Council staff, with assistance from NMFS staff, to review and provide updated multidisciplinary analyses for the minimum threshold number of federal Gulf shrimp commercial permits from Shrimp Amendment 17B.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Working Groups Update on Shrimp Bycatch Methodologies**

**Motion:** To approve the workplan for evaluating and providing feedback on shrimp bycatch methodology for finfish species in the Gulf of America and to direct Council staff to proceed with implementation of the workplan prior to convening the shrimp working group on protected resources.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES**

No motions.