

**Reef Fish Committee
Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab B**

Agenda Item IV: Presentation: 2025 Reef Fish and IFQ Landings Update

Action: Presentation and discussion

Council Input and Next Steps: Southeast Regional Office (SERO) staff will review the status of reef fish and IFQ program landings relative to catch limits, which is provided for the Committee’s information only. These data are part of an ongoing report to the Council that requires no action by the Committee. Committee members should consider the information presented and ask questions as appropriate.

Agenda Item V: **FINAL ACTION** – Reef Fish Amendment 62: Modifications to Gulf Red Grouper Management Measures

Action: Presentation, document, discussion, and final action

Council Input and Next Steps: Mr. Trevor Moncrief (Chair, Standing Scientific and Statistical Committee [SSC]) will present the SSC’s discussions on an interim analysis health check for Gulf red grouper, which was informed by the Gulf Fishery-Independent Survey of Habitat and Ecosystem Resources (GFISHER) survey. Council staff will present public hearing summaries and written comments received on Reef Fish Amendment 62, which considers management modifications for red grouper based on the results of the most recent stock assessment (SEDAR 88). Council staff will then review the amendment, including the Council’s preferred alternatives. SERO staff will review the codified text of the proposed federal regulations. The Committee should consider the information presented and ask questions. If the Committee finds the proposed regulations to be necessary and appropriate, it should recommend that the Council take final action on the document to transmit it to the Secretary of Commerce for implementation.

Agenda Item VI: **FINAL ACTION** – Reef Fish Amendment 58A: Shallow-water Grouper Complex Management Considerations

Action: Document, discussion, and final action

Council Input and Next Steps: Council staff will present the latest draft of Reef Fish Amendment 58A, public hearing summaries and written comments received, and the associated codified text. This amendment proposes dissolving the current shallow-water grouper complex structure into two new management categories: the scamp complex (scamp and yellowmouth grouper) and the black grouper complex (black grouper and yellowfin grouper). With the creation of these two new complexes, management considerations such as catch levels, stock determination criteria, share distribution, sector allocation, accountability measures, and other

management issues are being considered. The Committee should review the information presented, ask questions, and review the current preferred alternatives. If the Committee finds the proposed regulations to be necessary and appropriate, it should recommend that the Council take final action on the document to transmit it to the Secretary of Commerce for implementation.

Agenda Item VII: Draft Options – Reef Fish Amendment 63: Modifications to Gulf Red Grouper IFQ Program (Red Grouper Commercial Quota Pool)

Action: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: Council staff will give a presentation on Reef Fish Amendment 63. This action addresses management measures necessary to establish a three-year pilot program to set aside a portion of the red grouper commercial quota to be distributed to eligible participants in the grouper/tilefish individual fishing quota (IFQ) program. The presentation includes options considering alternative set aside amounts held in a quota pool, criteria for receiving allocation from the quota pool, restrictions on transferability, and distribution methods for quota pool allocation. The Committee should review the information and options presented, suggest revisions, and recommend next steps as warranted.

Agenda Item VIII: Draft Options – Reef Fish Amendment 59A: Permit Requirements in IFQ Programs

Action: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: Council staff will provide an overview of Reef Fish Amendment 59A and discuss recommendations from the March 2025 Ad Hoc Red Snapper / Grouper Tilefish IFQ Advisory Panel meeting. Reef Fish Amendment 59A addresses permit requirements in the red snapper and grouper/tilefish IFQ programs for obtaining and, or maintaining shareholder accounts, IFQ shares, and annual allocation. The Committee should review the information presented, make recommendations, and discuss next steps.

Agenda Item IX: Presentation: Regional Management of Greater Amberjack for the Recreational Sector

Action: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: Council staff will provide a presentation on current greater amberjack management measures, a summary of the ongoing work that may inform greater amberjack stock status and highlight the key decision points necessary for regional management. The Committee should consider the work in progress for greater amberjack and the necessary

decision points for regional management. The Committee should discuss the information presented, ask questions, and recommend next steps as needed.

Agenda Item X: Presentation: Recreational Initiative Working Group Prioritization and Recommendations

Action: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: Council staff will review the Council-prioritized Recreational Initiative Working Group’s recommendation and proposed workplan based on the feedback received at the August 2025 Council meeting. The Committee should review the information presented, ask questions, and make recommendations to the Council regarding how to move forward with the identified prioritized recommendations.

Agenda Item XI: Presentation: January 2026 SSC Webinar Summary

Action: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: Mr. Moncrief will review SSC discussions about interim analyses for Gulf lane snapper and gag grouper, which are both also informed by the G-FISHER index of relative abundance. These interim analyses were developed to inform revisions to catch advice, if warranted. Mr. Moncrief will discuss trends in the index and any catch advice recommendations for each species. The Committee should review the information presented, ask questions, and make recommendations to the Council regarding any revisions to catch advice as appropriate.

Agenda Item XII: Other Business

Action: Additional items that can be brought up for discussion

Council Input and Next Steps: Additional items may be brought up for discussion by Committee members during the adoption of the agenda, time permitting. If the Committee wishes to pursue action, then action can be scheduled at a future Council meeting.
