

**Ad Hoc Red Snapper / Grouper-Tilefish IFQ  
Advisory Panel Meeting Summary  
March 2025**



# **Action 1: Requirements to Open and Maintain Shareholder Accounts**

**Preferred Alternative 3:** In addition to the US citizenship or permanent residency requirement, all applicants are required to possess a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit to obtain and maintain an IFQ shareholder account.

**AP Motion:** In Action 1, to add an alternative that establishes a control date for a requirement to obtain and maintain a shareholder account and make the control date the date of implementation of the amendment.  
Motion carried with no opposition.

## **Action 2: Requirements to Obtain and Maintain IFQ Shares**

**Alternative 1 (No Action):** Do not set requirements to obtain or maintain IFQ shares. Any United States citizen, corporation, partnership, or other entity established under the laws of the United States or any State, or permanent resident alien can obtain or maintain IFQ shares

**Alternative 2:** Only those who meet the US citizenship or permanent residency requirement and with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit can **obtain** IFQ shares

**Alternative 3:** Only those who meet the US citizenship or permanent residency requirement and with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit can **obtain** or **maintain** IFQ shares

## **Action 2: Requirements to Obtain and Maintain IFQ Shares**

**The Council did not select a Preferred Alternative.**

**AP Motion:** In Action 2, to add an Alternative: To obtain and maintain IFQ shares, in addition to the US citizenship or permanent residency requirement, a shareholder account must be associated with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit and/or a Gulf or South Atlantic Dealer Permit.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## **Action 3: Requirements to Obtain Annual Allocation**

**Alternative 1 (No Action):** Do not set requirements to obtain or maintain IFQ annual allocation. Any United States citizen, corporation, partnership, or other entity established under the laws of the United States or any State, or permanent resident alien can obtain or maintain IFQ annual allocation.

**Alternative 2:** Only those who meet the US citizenship or permanent residency requirement and with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit can **obtain** IFQ annual allocation.

## **Action 3: Requirements to Obtain Annual Allocation**

**The Council did not select a Preferred Alternative.**

### **AP Motions**

**In Action 3**, to add an Alternative that establishes a control date for a requirement to obtain annual allocation and to make the control date March 18, 2024.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**In Actions 1 and 2**, to establish a control date of March 18, 2024.

Motion carried with no opposition.

# Action 4: Divestment from Non-compliant Accounts

**Preferred Alternative 2.** NMFS will reclaim shares from shareholder accounts that are not compliant with requirements set in Actions 1, 2, or 3:

**Preferred Option 2a:** 1 year following the effective date of the final rule implementing these requirements.

**Preferred Alternative 3:** After implementation of this amendment, if a shareholder account is no longer in compliance with the requirements set in Actions 1, 2, 3, or 4, the owner(s) of the shareholder account must divest of their shares, or the shares will be reclaimed by NMFS:

**Preferred Option 3a:** 1 year following the non-compliant status.

AP discussed hardship and indicated that a one-year grace period before divestment may not be enough in some instances, for example in case of death or boat damage. AP noted that fishermen who plan to retire would not be able to sell their shares in instalments

# Reef Fish Amendment 59A IFQ Permit Requirements



# Purpose and Need

**Purpose:** The purpose of this action is to update the goals and objectives of the red snapper and grouper-tilefish IFQ programs and to revise requirements to participate in the IFQ programs.

**Need:** The need for action is to promote participation by entities engaged in the harvest of reef fish species included in the IFQ programs and improve opportunities for new participants to enter the IFQ programs through considering requirements for obtaining an IFQ account and holding and obtaining shares and allocation.

# Red Snapper Shareholder Accounts

Year	Total	With Shares		Without Shares	
		#	%	#	%
2007	596	554	93%	42	7%
2008	547	497	91%	50	9%
2009	530	474	89%	56	11%
2010	598	461	77%	137	23%
2011	589	439	75%	150	25%
2012	599	438	73%	161	27%
2013	598	421	70%	177	30%
2014	606	399	66%	207	34%
2015	635	397	63%	238	37%
2016	639	385	60%	254	40%
2017	639	388	61%	251	39%
2018	650	377	58%	273	42%
2019	624	346	56%	277	44%
2020	644	339	53%	305	47%
2021	625	342	55%	282	45%
2022	619	336	54%	283	46%
2023	624	352	56%	272	44%

## Grouper-Tilefish Shareholder Accounts

Year	Total	With shares		Without Shares	
		#	%	#	%
2010	816	765	94%	51	6%
2011	833	756	91%	77	9%
2012	812	701	86%	111	14%
2013	786	659	84%	127	16%
2014	795	639	80%	156	20%
2015	835	620	74%	215	26%
2016	842	655	78%	187	22%
2017	872	644	74%	228	26%
2018	878	656	75%	222	25%
2019	819	603	74%	216	26%
2020	833	600	72%	233	28%
2021	824	590	72%	234	28%
2022	798	589	74%	209	26%
2023	790	556	70%	234	30%

## **Action 1: Requirements to Open and Maintain Shareholder accounts**

**Alternative 1** (No Action): Do not establish new requirements to obtain or maintain an IFQ shareholder account. To open and maintain an IFQ shareholder account, the applicant must be a United States citizen, a corporation, partnership, or other entity established under the laws of the United States or any State, or a permanent resident alien.

**Alternative 2:** In addition to the US citizenship or permanent residency requirement, all applicants are required to possess a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit to **obtain** an IFQ shareholder account (first 5 years of IFQ programs)

**Preferred Alternative 3:** In addition to the US citizenship or permanent residency requirement, all applicants are required to possess a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit to **obtain and maintain** an IFQ shareholder account

# IFQ Shareholder Accounts

<b>Shareholder Accounts</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Average 2019-2023</b>
with Allocation	899	912	902	879	879	894
with Shares	679	673	667	662	692	675
with Permits	608	609	588	566	555	585
with Landings	431	426	414	388	388	409
with Shares and Permits	408	387	370	363	344	374
with Shares but no Permit	271	286	297	299	348	300

# Dealer Accounts

Year	Dealer Accounts	Dealer accounts processing landings	Dealers accounts with shareholder accounts		Dealers accounts with shareholder accounts and with permits	
2020	<b>177</b>	124	84	47%	64	36%
2021	<b>165</b>	118	78	47%	60	36%
2022	<b>166</b>	112	80	48%	60	36%
2023	<b>163</b>	107	79	48%	68	42%

## **Action 2: Requirements to Obtain and Maintain IFQ Shares**

**Alternative 1 (No Action):** Do not set requirements to obtain or maintain IFQ shares. Any United States citizen, corporation, partnership, or other entity established under the laws of the United States or any State, or permanent resident alien can obtain or maintain IFQ shares

**Alternative 2:** Only those who meet the US citizenship or permanent residency requirement and with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit can **obtain** IFQ shares

**Alternative 3:** Only those who meet the US citizenship or permanent residency requirement and with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit can **obtain** or **maintain** IFQ shares

## **Action 3: Requirements to Obtain Annual Allocation**

**Alternative 1 (No Action):** Do not set requirements to obtain or maintain IFQ annual allocation. Any United States citizen, corporation, partnership, or other entity established under the laws of the United States or any State, or permanent resident alien can obtain or maintain IFQ annual allocation.

**Alternative 2:** Only those who meet the US citizenship or permanent residency requirement and with a valid or renewable commercial reef fish permit can **obtain** IFQ annual allocation.

## **Action 4: Divestment Measures for Non-Compliant Entities**

**Alternative 1 (No Action):** Shareholder accounts must be compliant with the requirements set in Actions 1, 2, and 3 by the effective date of a final rule implementing these requirements, or their shares will be reclaimed by NMFS.

**Preferred Alternative 2:** NMFS will reclaim shares from shareholder accounts that are not compliant with requirements set in Actions 1, 2, and 3:

**Preferred Option a:** 1 year following the effective date of the final rule implementing these requirements

**Option b:** 2 years

**Preferred Alternative 3:** After implementation of this amendment, if a shareholder account is no longer in compliance with the requirements set in Actions 1, 2, and 3, the owner(s) of the shareholder account must divest of their shares, or the shares will be reclaimed by NMFS:

**Preferred Option a:** 1 year following the non-compliant status.

**Option b:** 2 years following the non-compliant status.

# Goals and Objectives

## **Goal 1: Improve opportunities for participants to enter the program**

### Objectives:

- To evaluate the merits of limiting share ownership and implement, if appropriate, alternative mechanisms for equitably redistributing shares and allocation to accounts harvesting IFQ species.
- Limit share ownership (maintaining and obtaining shares) to accounts that are harvesting IFQ species
- Identify barriers inhibiting or limiting participation by surveying participants and those wanting to enter the fishery
- Recover and redistribute IFQ shares and allocation held previously by a deceased shareholder to accounts of fishermen currently harvesting IFQ species.
- Create an allocation bank to reduce barriers to fishing privileges

# Goals and Objectives (2)

## **Goal 2: Reduce IFQ discards**

### Objectives:

- Improve collection of discard information from IFQ vessels
- Create an allocation bank to further reduce bycatch and discards of IFQ species
- Evaluate additional or new flexibility measures to reduce discards

## **Goal 3: Maintain flexible fishing options and economic stability within the IFQ Programs**

## **Goal 4: Increase IFQ market transparency (eliminates information asymmetries)**

## **Goal 5: Reduce costs per unit harvest**