

**Gulf Council Motions Report
January 26 – 28, 2026
New Orleans, Louisiana**

ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET

No motions.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Nomination Process for Officer/Team of the Year

Motion: To remove the closed session of the Law Enforcement Technical Committee to discuss the officer / team of the year nominations.

Motion carried with no opposition.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Other Business: Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Proposed Rule

Motion: To request an extension of the comment period on the implementation of the proposed HMS rule of commercial and recreational shark management measures to give the Gulf Council ample time to comment. Additionally, the Gulf Council requests a presentation from HMS at the April 2026 Council meeting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

DATA COLLECTION

No motions.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Management Area Mapping

Motion: To direct Council staff to send a letter to NOAA Fisheries encouraging NOAA Fisheries to develop a system for providing appropriate marine regulatory areas and boundaries to companies producing marine charts and mapping units.

Motion carried with no opposition.

REEF FISH

Presentation: 2025 Reef Fish and IFQ Landings Update

Motion: To direct staff to begin a document to designate authority to the Regional Administrator to modify the federal for-hire fishing regulations for red snapper on an annual basis, given predetermined constraints on bag limits, minimum size limits, fishing season start and end dates, and reopening the fishing season prior to the end of the fishing year.

Motion carried with no opposition.

FINAL ACTION – Reef Fish Amendment 62: Modifications to Gulf Red Grouper Management Measures

Motion: To approve *Reef Fish Amendment 62: Modifications to Gulf Red Grouper Management Measures* 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		
Capt. Walker	yes	Row Labels	Count of Vote
Dr. Sweetman	yes	yes	17
Capt. Frady	yes	Grand Total	17
Dr. Banks	yes		
Mr. Schieble	yes		
Mr. Strelcheck	yes		
Dr. Allen	yes		
Mr. Broussard	yes		
Mr. Osborne	yes		
Ms. Ballard	yes		
Mr. Anson	yes		
Gen. Spraggins	yes		
Dr. Overton	yes		
Mr. Sanchez	yes		
Mr. Marquez	yes		
Mr. Geeslin	yes		
Mr. Dugas	yes		

Motion carried 17 to 0.

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

Motion: To bring *Reef Fish Amendment 58A: Shallow-water Grouper Complex Management Considerations* back to the Council after receiving the SSC review of the MRIP-FES pilot study results.

Motion carried 12 to 5.

Presentation: Recreational Initiative Working Group Prioritization and Recommendations

Motion: To direct staff to begin a document to explore options for enhanced flexibility for private red snapper recreational management. Develop an action to consider carryover of uncaught quota from the previous year within a state. Also consider an action to allow transfer of some uncaught quota between states within a current fishing year similar to 50 CFR 622.384(c)(2), which allows efficient in-season transfer of Atlantic Spanish Mackerel commercial quota between states in the South Atlantic.

Motion carried 16 to 1.

Presentation: January 2026 SSC Webinar Summary

Motion: To direct staff to begin a document to update the catch limits for lane snapper based on the SSC's recommendations.

Motion carried with no opposition.