

**Gulf Council Motions Report
June 1 – 3, 2026
Tampa, Florida**

SHRIMP

Discuss Work Plan and Membership: Working Group to Address Interactions and Bycatch of Protected Resources in Shrimp Trawls

Motion: To approve the workplan and membership for addressing protected resources interactions with Gulf federal shrimp trawls.

Working Group Participant	Affiliation
1 – John Froeschke	Gulf Council Staff
2 – Lisa Hollensead	Gulf Council Staff
3 – Jim Nance	SSC Representative
4 – Steve Saul	SSC Representative
5 – Jason Saucier	Special Shrimp SSC
6 – Gary DeCossas	NMFS – SEFSC: Shrimp Observer Program
7 – Jeff Gearhart	NMFS – SEFSC: Gear Research
8 – Jenny Lee	NMFS – SERO
9 – Nathan Putman	Researcher
10 – Leann Bosarge	Industry Representative
11 – Ernie Aparicio	Industry Representative
12 – Cheri Blanchard	Industry Representative
13 – Ernie Donini	Industry Representative
14 – Gregg Poulakis (or alternate)	Researcher
15 – Jessica Pate (or alternate)	Researcher
Support Staff Participant	Affiliation
Katie Siegfried	NMFS – SEFSC: Gulf Branch Stock Assessments
Matt Freeman	Gulf Council Staff
Nick Farmer	NMFS – SERO
Adam Brame	NMFS – SERO
Taylor Beyea	Researcher
Kyle Dettloff	NMFS – SEFSC: Shrimp Effort

Motion carried with no opposition.

HABITAT PROTECTION & RESTORATION

Public Hearing Draft - Essential Fish Habitat Generic Amendment to the Shrimp, Reef fish, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, Spiny Lobster, and Red Drum Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) in the Gulf

Motion: To approve the *Essential Fish Habitat Generic Amendment to the Shrimp, Reef fish, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, Spiny Lobster, and Red Drum Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) in the Gulf* for public hearings, following inclusion of the EFH inland boundary when it becomes available.

Motion carried with no opposition.

DATA COLLECTION

Public Hearing Draft of Generic Amendment: Modifications to Gulf For-hire Data Collection Program

Motion: To take Draft Generic Amendment: *Modifications to Gulf For-hire Data Collection Program* out for virtual public hearings.

Motion carried with no opposition.

CLOSED SESSION

Selection of Coastal Migratory Pelagics Advisory Panel members

The Council made the following appointments to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Advisory Panel.

Susan Boggs	Robert Hilliard	Rick Owens
Anthony Colletti	Ben Knight	Lance Robinson
Justin Fadalla	David Krebs, Jr.	Derrick Saucier
Benjamin Graham	Jacob Mouton	Lily Walker
Andrew Gude	Alex Murray	Robert Woithe
Frank Harwell	George Niles	

Selection of Red Drum Advisory Panel members

The Council made the following appointments to the Red Drum Advisory Panel.

John Aukeman	Ty Hibbs	Lance Robinson
Shane Bonnot	Costa Kouzounis	Stephen Smith
Charles Elkins	Susan Lowerre-Barbieri	Rodolfo Valenciano
Charlie Gray	Mark Luitjen	Lily Walker
William Hammond III	Jerry McNew	

REEF FISH

FINAL ACTION – Reef Fish Amendment 63: Modifications to Gulf Red Grouper IFQ Program

Motion: To modify the Purpose and Need section of the document as follows:

The purpose of this action is to establish a three-year pilot commercial red grouper IFQ quota pool and distribute the resulting annual allocation to eligible participants in the GT-IFQ program.

The need for this action is to test whether a quota pool may enhance economic profitability and reduce discards by improving access to red grouper annual allocation by fishermen engaged in the commercial harvest of red grouper and provide new opportunities for obtaining red grouper annual allocation.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To discontinue work on Reef Fish Amendment 63: *Modifications to Gulf Red Grouper IFQ Program.*

Names	Vote	Row Labels	Count of Vote
Mr. Broussard	yes		
Capt. Walker	abstain	abstain	2
Mr. Anson	no	no	11
Dr. Banks	no	yes	4
Ms. Ballard	no	Grand Total	17
Capt. Frady	yes		
Dr. Overton	no		
Dr. Allen	yes		
Mr. Geeslin	no		
Mr. Schieble	no		
Mr. Strelcheck	no		
Mr. Marquez	no		
Dr. Sweetman	abstain		
Mr. Sanchez	yes		
Mr. Osborne	no		
Mr. Burris	no		
Mr. Dugas	no		

Motion failed 4 to 11 with 2 abstentions.

Motion: In Action 1, **Alternative 4**, to create a new **Option 4e**:

Alternative 4. Establish a three-year commercial quota pool for Gulf red grouper beginning in 2027. If the commercial quota (ACT) is at or below 4.28 million pounds gutted weight, the quota pool is set at zero percent of the commercial quota (zero pounds). If the commercial quota is above 4.28 million pounds gutted weight, the quota pool would hold:

Option 4e: 50% of the commercial red grouper quota increase above 4.28 mp gw

Motion carried with 11 to 5 with 1 abstention.

Motion: In Action 1, to make the new **Alternative 4, Option 4e** the preferred.

Alternative 4. Establish a three-year commercial quota pool for Gulf red grouper beginning in 2027. If the commercial quota (ACT) is at or below 4.28 million pounds gutted weight, the quota pool is set at zero percent of the commercial quota (zero pounds). If the commercial quota is above 4.28 million pounds gutted weight, the quota pool would hold:

Option 4e: 50% of the commercial red grouper quota increase above 4.28 mp gw

Motion carried 10 to 5 with 2 abstentions.

Motion: To approve Reef Fish Amendment 63: *Modifications to Gulf Red Grouper IFQ Program* 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	Row Labels	Count of Vote
Capt. Walker	abstain		
Capt. Frady	yes	abstain	2
Dr. Allen	no	no	2
Mr. Burris	yes	yes	13
Mr. Anson	yes	Grand Total	17
Mr. Schieble	yes		
Ms. Ballard	yes		
Mr. Strelcheck	yes		
Dr. Overton	yes		
Mr. Broussard	no		
Mr. Sanchez	yes		
Dr. Sweetman	abstain		
Dr. Banks	yes		
Mr. Osborne	yes		
Mr. Geeslin	yes		
Mr. Marquez	yes		
Mr. Dugas	yes		

Motion carried 13 to 2 with 2 abstentions.

Draft Options – Reef Fish Amendment 55/Snapper Grouper Amendment 44: Mutton Snapper and Yellowtail Snapper Management Measures

Motion: To select **Alternative 3b** in Action 1 as the preferred alternative.

Alternative 3: Modify the OFL and ABC and the jurisdictional apportionment of the mutton snapper ABC and the regional ACLs using the average of historic and recent landings, and the following reference period, based on the recommendations of the Councils’ SSCs for 2027 – 2028 and subsequent years. Each region’s ACL will be set equal to its apportionment of the stock ABC. Monitoring of landings for mutton snapper will be inclusive of SRFS for recreational private vessel landings, MRIP for federal for-hire and recreational shore landings, and SRHS for headboat landings. Catch limits shown below are in lb ww and rounded to the nearest whole pound.

Option 3b: Use 50% of the average landings from 2014 – 2023 and 50% of the average landings from 2021 – 2023. This method apportions 15% of the stock ABC to the Gulf Council, and 85% to the South Atlantic Council.

	OFL (F30%SPR)	ABC (75% of F30%SPR)	Gulf Apportionment and ABC/ACL (15%)	South Atlantic Apportionment and ABC/ACL (85%)
2027	3,313,030	2,752,377	412,857	2,339,520
2028+	3,270,355	2,772,615	415,892	2,356,723

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To select **Alternative 4b** in Action 2 as the preferred alternative.

Alternative 4: Modify the OFL and ABC and the jurisdictional apportionment of the yellowtail snapper ABC and the regional ACLs using the average of historic and recent landings, based on the recommendations of the Councils’ SSCs for 2026 – 2028 and subsequent years. Use 50% of the average landings from 2014 – 2023 and 50% of the average landings from 2021 – 2023. This method apportions 17% of the stock ABC to the Gulf Council, and 83% to the South Atlantic Council. The South Atlantic Council’s regional ACL will be set equal to its apportionment of the stock ABC. Catch limits shown below are in lb ww and rounded to the nearest whole pound.

Option 4b: The Gulf regional ACL will be set equal to the Gulf jurisdictional apportionment of the stock ABC.

	OFL (F30%SPR)	ABC (75% of F30%SPR)	Gulf Apportionment and ABC/ACL (4b) (17%)	South Atlantic Apportionment and ABC/ACL (83%)
2026	4,495,187	3,925,031	667,255	3,297,026
2027	4,364,600	3,913,426	665,282	3,287,278
2028+	4,307,856	3,918,634	666,168	3,291,653

Motion carried with no opposition.

Draft Options – Modifications to Red Snapper Private Recreational Post-Season Accountability Measures

Motion: In Action 1, to remove **Option 2a** from **Alternative 2**.

Alternative 2: If a state's red snapper private angling component landings exceed the applicable state's component ACL by more than the percentage specified in Options 2a-2d or private recreational landings from all states exceed the private angling component ACL, NMFS will reduce that state's private angling ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the ACL

overage in the prior fishing year, unless the best scientific information available determines that a greater, lesser, or no overage adjustment is necessary.

Option 2a: up to 2.5% of the state-specific private angling ACL

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

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

Alternative 3: 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.

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

Alternative 2: To obtain annual allocation, 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.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To ask NMFS/SEFSC for commercial CPUE from 2010 through 2025 for red grouper.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Presentation: May 2026 SSC Summary

Motion: To request a presentation on the G-FISHER survey at an upcoming Council meeting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Other Business: Discussion of Sea Turtle Gear Requirements for Commercial and For-hire Vessels

Motion: To request NMFS review and assess the efficacy and need for the current sea turtle release gear requirements for federally permitted charter for-hire and commercial reef fish vessels. As part of this assessment, NMFS should consider streamlining the current regulatory burden on these fleets, including proposing a simplified gear kit that represents the most recent research on interactions with sea turtles when fishing for reef fish species.

Motion carried with no opposition.

FULL COUNCIL

Motion: To request that the principal investigators make a presentation on the methods and results of the greater amberjack count at the July SSC meeting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To request NMFS conduct a CIE review of SEDAR 99: Gulf King Mackerel.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To request the SEFSC evaluate the possibility of a Gulf king mackerel tagging study that focuses on the mixing zones in the Gulf in order to obtain information on king mackerel movements in the Gulf.

Motion carried with no opposition.