Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

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May 31, 2024

Mr. Andrew Strelcheck
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear Mr. Strelcheck,

During its October 2023 meeting, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) approved a motion to delay any changes in allocation between the commercial and recreational sectors of any Gulf fishery resources that are subject to the Marine Recreational Information Program's Fishing Effort Survey (MRIP-FES) until such time that the 2024 pilot study has been completed and deemed consistent with best scientific information available by the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC).

During its January 2024 meeting, the Council discussed its allocation review schedule and completed amendments which include allocation reviews and reallocation initiatives. Following its deliberations, the Council adopted a motion to approve an updated allocation review schedule. The revised schedule assumes that the ongoing MRIP-FES pilot study and subsequent SSC evaluations will be concluded in early 2026 and that updated recreational data should be available for use in management later in 2026.

The time intervals and expected start dates for allocation reviews are provided in the table appended to this letter. The Council will publish this updated allocation review schedule on its website and looks forward to continued collaboration with the Southeast Regional Office and Science Center on allocation reviews. In addition to the scheduled allocation reviews, the Council may initiate supplementary allocation reviews at any time. For example, the Council could initiate an allocation review should relevant new information, e.g., stock assessment results or data recalibration, be made available.

Sincerely,

Kevin Anson
Council Chair

cc: Jack McGovern, Ph.D.
Mara Levy
Frank Helies

Allocation review time intervals and expected review dates

Allocations	Allocation Reviews	
	Time interval	Start date
Red snapper allocation between the private angling and federal for-hire components	4 years	08/15/2027
Red snapper private angling allocations between Gulf states	5 years	10/15/2027
Gray triggerfish allocations between the recreational and commercial sectors	6 years	01/15/2027
Greater amberjack allocations between the recreational and commercial sectors	6 years	07/17/2029
King mackerel Gulf of Mexico group allocations between the recreational and commercial sectors, zones, and gear types	6years	10/27/2028
Red snapper recreational and commercial allocations	7 years	04/15/2027
Gag recreational and commercial allocations	7 years	06/1/2031
Red grouper recreational and commercial allocations	7years	06/1/2029
Swallow water grouper aggregate recreational and commercial allocations	7 years	Ongoing
Deep water grouper and **Tilefish** aggregates recreational and commercial allocations	7 years	01/15/2028
Yellowtail snapper allocation between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils	7 years	Ongoing
Black grouper, **mutton snapper** allocations between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils	7 years	04/15/2028