

Gulf Council Motions June 15 - 18, 2009 Tampa, Florida

Administrative Policy

Review of Proposed Rule:

Motion: To make the following comment: "That there are no provisions stating the consequences of not completing and filing a Financial Interest Form."

Motion carried.

Motion: To support the requirement that allows more time for submission of Council member nomination packages.

Motion carried.

Motion: To comment on requirement number 8: "Ask for clarification on the language pertaining to the Executive Branch. For example, common conversations that we have with NOAA officials regarding conducting Council business including funding for Council operations."

Motion carried.

Motion: That when an SSC member gives a presentation to the Council on behalf of the SSC, they will be paid a stipend for authorized Council meeting attendance.

Motion carried.

Motion: To authorize payment of a stipend for SSC and special SSC members who attend SEDAR meetings.

Motion carried.

Budget/Personnel

Motion: To approve the 2009 operating budget as proposed in Tab E, No. 3 excluding those items pertaining to the two new positions and including all of the additional office space.

Motion carried.

Motion: To approve the new hire portion of the budget that includes hiring a statistician/ biologist only.

Substitute Motion: To hire both positions that are described in Tab E, No. 3.

Substitute motion carried.

Mackerel

Mackerel Amendment 18:

Motion: To add wahoo to the scoping document (in the Gulf) in the CMP FMP for data collection purposes.

Motion carried.

Motion: To approve a provision under Section 3.2.3 that commercial king mackerel permittees must declare whether they will fish in the Western Zone or the Eastern Zone prior to the start of the king mackerel season, and they will not be allowed to fish outside of this area during the season.

Motion carried.

Motion: To modify section 3.1.5 to add alternatives in the Gulf for probabilities of less than 50%.

Motion carried.

Motion: To approve adding a provision to the Scoping Document for an LAPP program for the king mackerel fishery in the Gulf.

Motion carried.

Motion: To send the CMP scoping document to public scoping meetings.

Motion carried.

Motion: To hold scoping meetings in the following proposed locations:

Panama City, FL
Tampa, FL
Key West, FL
Biloxi (area), MS

Grand Isle, LA
Houston, TX
Corpus Christi, TX

(If possible, these scoping meetings will be held in conjunction with scoping meetings for the Generic ACL/AM amendment and Spiny Lobster Amendment 9.)

Modified motion: To hold scoping meetings in the following proposed locations:

Panama City, FL
Tampa, FL
Key West, FL
Biloxi (area), MS
Grand Isle, LA (to also include the Generic ACL/AM)
Houston, TX
Corpus Christi, TX

Modified motion carried.

Motion: To add blackfin tuna to the CMP FMP for data collection purposes.

Motion carried.

Outreach & Education

Motion: To approve Tab H, No. 3 in its entirety as written:

1. Develop a one-page fact sheet about the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2. Improve the distribution of meeting notices
3. Improve the web site
4. Provide real time online coverage of Council meetings and associated activities to be available on the Council website
5. Create an educational program for our region similar to the Marine Resource Education Program that benefits Gulf of Mexico stakeholders (commercial, recreational and other related interests). The goals of the program are:
 - a. To bring stakeholders, scientists and managers together in a neutral setting outside the regulatory process.
 - b. To increase the number of people involved with Gulf Fisheries who are comfortable working with the fishery data and management systems
 - c. To help policy makers and scientists become more familiar with the inner workings of the fishing communities
 - d. To increase the number of stakeholders involved in collaborative research and pursuit of better data

and science

- e. To increase dialog, rapport and respect between managers, scientists and stakeholders
- f. To foster leaders in the fishing community

Motion carried.

Motion: To establish a review process for all public hearings presentations to ensure clarity and consistency.

Motion carried.

Motion: To expand outreach to outdoor media. For example, if the opportunity arises, to have a representative from the Gulf Council attend the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association meeting or other outdoor writer groups/conferences.

Motion carried.

Motion: To send a letter thanking the meeting participants for their input and informing them of what became of their recommendations.

Motion carried.

Motion: To allow the O&E Committee to convene a meeting once more this year.

Motion carried.

Reef Fish

Reef Fish Amendment 31: Turtle Interaction

Motion: For Action 1, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 1, no action.

Motion carried.

Motion: To send a letter to MMS headquarters that states that the Council is aware of the use of explosives for the use of removal of oil and gas platforms in the Gulf of Mexico and the impacts on the resources that the GMFMC manages. To ask that they consider alternative methods of platform removal in light of the strict management programs currently in place.

Motion carried.

Motion: To convene the SSC to review Dr. Richards' analysis of estimated impacts of mortality reduction on loggerhead sea turtle population dynamics with the associated data, review the paper published by Witherington et al on loggerhead nesting, review NOAA's analysis of cumulative effects of Amendment 31 management actions, and provide advice to the Council at the August meeting.

Motion carried.

Motion: For Action 3, to add a new Alternative 6:

Establish a longline endorsement to the reef fish permit; a minimum annual average reef fish landings using longline gear of 60,000 pounds (gutted weight) per permit will be required to qualify for a longline endorsement. Annual average landings will be calculated based on logbook landings

Option a: during the 1999-2004 period

Option b: during the 1999-2007 period

The transfer of a longline endorsement will be

Sub-option (i): prohibited

Sub-option (ii): unrestricted between commercial reef fish permit holders;

Sub-option (iii): limited to commercial reef fish permit holders with a vessel of equal or lesser length

Motion carried.

Motion: For Action 3, that permit stacking and shifting of poundage not be allowed.

Motion carried.

Motion: For Action 3, to allow the fish trap landings to be added to the longline landings in order to qualify for endorsement, provided the permit also had longline landings after February 7, 2007.

Motion carried.

Motion: For Action 3, to add a new subalternative that the endorsements apply shoreward of the 50 fathom line boundary.

Motion failed.

Motion: For Action 3, to add a new Alternative 7, to establish a longline endorsement to the reef fish permit to allow sustained participation of

fishing communities substantially reliant on red grouper longline landings. Long line vessels reporting landings at these communities for at least 5 years during the period of 1999-2007 with a minimum annual average reef fish landings using longline gear of 30,000 pounds (gutted weight) per permit will qualify for a longline endorsement. Annual average landings will be calculated based on logbook landings.

Option a. Apalachicola, Steinhatchee and Tarpon Springs (fishing communities where 12%-15% of value/pounds landed is red grouper)

Option b. Madeira Beach, and Cortez (fishing communities where 35%-40% value/pounds landed is red grouper)

Sub-option i: during the 1999-2004 period
Sub-option ii: during the 1999-2007 period

The transfer of a longline endorsement will be

Sub -Sub-option (i): prohibited
Sub- Sub-option (ii): unrestricted between commercial reef fish permit holders at the same community of landings;

Sub -Sub-option (iii): limited to commercial reef fish permit holders with a vessel of equal or lesser length at the same community of landings.

Motion carried.

Motion: For Action 3, to change the preferred alternative to Alternative 5, 50,000 lb. endorsement, option b, 1999-2007, sub-option ii, unrestricted transfers.

Motion failed.

Motion: For staff to add an appeals process following the procedures laid out in Amendment 29.

Motion carried.

Motion: For Action 3, make the preferred alternative, Alternative 4, option b, sub-option ii:

Alternative 4 – Establish a longline endorsement to the reef fish permit; a minimum annual average reef fish landings using longline gear of 40,000 pounds (gutted weight) per permit will be required

to qualify for a longline endorsement. Annual average landings will be calculated based on logbook landings

Preferred Option b: during the 1999-2007 period

The transfer of a longline endorsement will be

Sub-option (ii): unrestricted between commercial reef fish permit holders;

Motion carried.

Motion: For Action 5, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 2, and that the SSC revisions for the section titled "Reef Fish FMP Framework Procedure" be substituted.

Motion moot.

Motion: To remove Action 5, "Modification to the Framework Procedure for Setting TAC," from Amendment 31 and move it to a subsequent amendment.

Motion carried.

Other Reef Fish Motions

Motion: To establish an Ad Hoc LAPP AP to address both the commercial and recreational sectors for reef fish. It would have a commercial subgroup and recreational subgroup and each subgroup would work on a LAPP for their respective sector. The overall LAPP would consider the trading of catch shares as well as other issues.

Motion carried.

Motion: To request up to a 400 fish research harvest by fisheries scientists in conjunction with the development of a rebuilding plan for goliath grouper.

Substitute motion: To write a letter asking NMFS and FWC to design and conduct research associated harvest to collect goliath grouper data as needed for aging and fecundity and other life history information to be incorporated in the 2013 goliath grouper assessment.

Substitute motion carried.

Motion: To initiate a plan amendment for the rebuilding of gag grouper and request staff to develop analyses necessary to implement the SSC's 2010 ABC recommendations for gag and red grouper.

Motion carried.

Joint Spiny Lobster/Stone Crab

Motion: That the GMFMC staff, SAFMC staff, and appropriate NMFS representatives from the southeast office meet with the appropriate State of Florida personnel to discuss the possible delegation or removal of certain management requirements which could be turned over to Florida management. The meeting is to take place as soon as possible.

Motion carried.

Motion: That scoping meetings on Spiny Lobster Draft Amendment 9 will be held in Key West, FL and Marathon, FL.

Motion carried.

Motion: To send the Spiny Lobster Scoping Document out for public scoping.

Motion carried.

Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem

Motion: To ask the Ecosystem SSC to investigate the interaction of the recovering red snapper stock with both vermilion snapper and grouper stocks in the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

Motion carried.

Motion: To request that the SSC establish a working group to develop structured decision making framework to assist in assessing scientific uncertainty, the probability of overfishing, and acceptable levels of risk when setting ABC. The working group should include Council members, Council staff, NOAA staff, and SSC members.

Motion carried.

Motion: To hold scoping meetings on the generic ACL/AM Amendment in:

Panama City, FL

Tampa, FL
Key West, FL
Orange Beach, AL
Biloxi, MS
Kenner/St. Rose, LA
Grand Isle, LA (for Mackerel)
Houston/Galveston, TX
Corpus Christi, TX

Motion moot.

SSC Selection

Motion: To appoint Mike Jepson to the SEP.

Motion carried.

Motion: To delay a decision on the economist position on the SEP and give Council members an opportunity to recommend candidates for the position.

Motion carried.

Motion: To add SSC member Will Patterson to the SEDAR Red Snapper Update Workshop.

Motion carried.

