

**GULF COUNCIL MOTIONS
FEBRUARY 1-4, 2010
MOBILE, ALABAMA**

Administrative Policy

Motion: To restore the Federal Rule 50 CFR 600.245 and NOAA Guidelines to Section V.B.1.a. of the SOPPs and to adopt all of the changes as presented in red.

Motion carried.

Motion: To adopt the red language in XI.B of the SOPPs.

Motion carried.

Motion: To adopt the additional language in red on Tab E, No. 4 to read:

"Any expense deemed by the Executive Director as non-essential will be disallowed. Travelers are encouraged to submit travel reimbursement forms no later than 60 days from the date of the meeting, otherwise expenses may not be reimbursed. Travelers may petition the Chair of the Council for reconsideration of reimbursement."

Motion carried.

Motion: To delete the word "Council" in the second paragraph on Page 5 of Tab E, No. 5, so that it will read:

"It shall be the policy that in the absence of the Council Chair or chair of any of its committees, the Vice Chair will preside and exercise the duties of that office as herein provided. Individuals are elected or appointed to the offices of the Council Chair and Council Vice Chair even though they may be state officials. Alternate representatives (designee or principal) do not assume these offices, but may participate as members of the committees."

Motion failed.

Motion: To adopt the changes in red as noted on page 25 in Section H, Standards of Conduct, Number 1, Applicable Statutes so that it will read:

"In addition to abiding by the applicable Federal conflict of interest statutes, both members and employees of the Councils must comply with the standards of conduct cited in 50 CFR Section 600.225."

Motion carried.

AP Selection

Motion: To appoint to the Ad Hoc King Mackerel Limited Access Privilege Program Advisory Panel:

George Niles
David Krebs
Tom Marvel
Kelty Readenour
Donald Waters
Mike Jennings

Budget

Motion: To request that staff analyze our 2010 base funding plus carryovers with any other additions, and to include a report on our 2010 operational budget activities cost and administrative costs.

Motion carried.

Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel)

Motion: To set a control date for Gulf group king mackerel of June 30, 2009.

Motion carried.

Motion: To set a control date for Gulf group Spanish mackerel of March 31, 2010.

Motion carried.

Outreach and Education

Motion: Should the Marine Resource Education Program South be funded, that the Outreach and Education Advisory Panel invite a Gulf of Maine Research Institute expert and a program principal investigator from the southeast region to an Advisory Panel meeting to discuss how the Panel can participate in developing and implementing the Marine Resource Education Program South.

Motion carried.

Motion: To approve resources to send a member of the Outreach and Education Advisory Panel member to attend the Marine Resource Education Program being held in March or April 2010.

Motion carried.

Motion: To convene the Outreach and Education Advisory Panel to draft a 5-year strategic communications plan.

Motion carried.

Red Drum

Motion: To develop a scoping document to amend the Red Drum Fishery Management Plan to allow the harvest of Red Drum in the Gulf Exclusive Economic Zone.

Substitute Motion: To request that NMFS review and update the document presented on sampling (Tab L Handout 1 and 2), review and update the red drum state escapement information, develop a discussion paper and analysis regarding how red drum harvest in the Gulf of Mexico would meet the research needs as set forth in past Ad Hoc Red Drum Review Panel reports (Tab L, No. 4 and Tab L, No. 5), and review or analyze the impacts the harvest in the Exclusive Economic Zone may have on the current state water harvest. This information would be used to develop a scoping document to amend the Red Drum Fishery Management Plan to allow the harvest of red drum in the Gulf Exclusive Economic Zone.

Substitute motion carried.

Reef Fish

Motion: In Section 3, Action 1, to make Alternative 2 the preferred alternative: Total allowable catch would be 6.945 MP in 2010.

Motion carried.

Motion: Request staff to develop a discussion paper on potential red snapper changes and present it at the April 2010 Council meeting.

Motion carried.

Motion: To request advice from the Scientific and Statistical Committee on study design and schedule for additional fisheries independent research to address the current uncertainty in age structure of red snapper.

Motion carried.

Motion: To have the Council Chair draft a letter strongly urging Dr. Lubchenco to give a high priority to fishery independent research funding regarding the age structure of red snapper as soon as possible. The letter should refer to the recommendations from the stock assessment workshop for further research.

Motion carried.

Motion: To send the Red Snapper Regulatory Amendment to the Secretary of Commerce and along with the accompanying regulations we deem necessary and appropriate.

Motion carried.

Motion: To establish in Action 1 a new Alternative 4: Establish a rebuilding plan that will rebuild the gag stock to a level consistent with producing maximum sustainable yield in 5 years.

Motion carried.

Motion: To delete Action 2, Recreational Sector Separation from Reef Fish Amendment 32 and incorporate it into the Generic ACL/AM Amendment.

Motion carried.

Motion: For Actions 3.1 and 3.2, to add an Alternative 4, in which annual catch target would be set by an annual catch target control rule that took into consideration management uncertainty.

Motion carried.

Motion: To add alternatives to adjust the red grouper catch levels, including optimum yield, in order to reduce gag discards as required.

Motion carried.

Motion: To delete Action 7.2 – Consideration of Fish Traps as Allowable Gear

Motion carried.

Motion: To defer Action 8 to a subsequent data amendment.

Substitute Motion: To revise Action 8 to read:

2.8 Action 8. Recreational Data Collection and Monitoring Programs

Alternative 1. No Action. Do not implement new data collection and monitoring programs for the recreational grouper fishery.

Alternative 2. Collaborate with the states to establish a recreational fish tag program. Reporting of MRIP-consistent data will be required for each tagged fish. The program will be implemented no later than 2012:

- a. gag
- b. gag and red grouper
- c. all shallow-water grouper
- d. all grouper with the number of tags issued to be:
- e. no limit, issue tags for monitoring and data collection purposes only
- f. the number of fish estimated to fill the annual catch target

Alternative 3: Collaborate with the states to establish a recreational grouper vessel permit. Reporting of MRIP-consistent data will be required for each vessel trip. The program will be implemented no later than 2012:

- a. gag
 - b. gag and red grouper
 - c. all shallow-water grouper
 - d. all grouper
- with the grouper vessel permit required by:
- e. for-hire vessels
 - f. private recreational vessels
 - g. both for-hire and private recreational vessels
 - h. a statistically significant random sub-sample of the above sub-options.

Alternative 4: By 2012, Require that permitted reef fish for hire vessels operating in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone participate in an electronic logbook program that includes catch and bycatch reporting consistent with the recommendations of MRIP*. Vessel permits will not be renewed for vessels that fail or refuse to participate in the program. The electronic logbook program will apply to:

- a. All permitted reef fish for hire vessels
- b. A sub-sample of all permitted reef fish for hire vessels.

*Note this requirement would not be effective until NMFS develops and certifies an electronic logbook system which meets the needs of MRIP.

Alternative 5: Collaborate with the states to establish a telephone or web-based system to report MRIP-consistent data. The program will be implemented no later than 2012.

Reporting will be:

- a. Voluntary
- b. Required

The reporting program will be for:

- c. the private recreational reef fish fishery
- d. the for-hire reef fish fishery
- e. both the private and for-hire reef fish fisheries

Substitute motion carried.

Motion: To look at an alternative for greater amberjack that splits the number of fishing days to have an open period prior to the red snapper season and immediately following the red snapper season.

Motion carried.

Motion: To formally accept the proposed SEDAR schedule.

Motion carried.

Motion: To request that staff develop a discussion paper regarding issues involving the 5-year anniversary of the Red Snapper IFQ.

Motion carried.

Shrimp

Motion: To support the continuation of the Cooperative Texas Closure for 2010 through the Exclusive Economic Zone off Texas to the 200-mile limit.

Motion carried.

Motion: To direct staff to begin preparing a framework action under the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan to reduce the shrimp trawl bycatch mortality reduction target from 74% to 67% starting in 2011.

Motion carried.

Spiny Lobster

Motion: To table further consideration of options under the Spiny Lobster Amendment 10 Options Paper until after the Joint Gulf and South Atlantic Councils Spiny Lobster/Stone Crab committee meeting in June 2010.

Motion carried.

Motion: To approve the meeting of the Joint Spiny Lobster/Stone Crab Advisory Panel and Committee with the South Atlantic Council in June 2010.

Motion carried.

Motion: Approve the Terms of Reference for the Spiny Lobster SEDAR as set forth in Tab H, No. 5.

Motion carried.

Motion: To send a letter to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission advising them relative to mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper, octocorals, stone crab, spiny lobster, and Nassau grouper, that the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is considering changes in management, including delegation to the state of Florida, and request their assistance in making those determinations.

Motion carried.

SSC Selection

Motion: To appoint Shaye Sable, Aaron Podey, and Eric Porch to the Special Mackerel Scientific and Statistical Committee.

Motion carried.

Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem

Motion: That sector separation issues be copied and adapted in its entirety from Reef Fish Amendment 32 and placed in Action 6 of the ACL/AM Amendment as per Council motion at the previous meeting.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 8.1, to establish an Alternative 4 to modify and update the Red Drum Fishery Management Plan and to set an annual catch limit of greater than zero with options to establish limits to that annual catch limit definition.

Motion failed.

Motion: To ask the Ecosystem SSC to hold a workshop on species scheduled for SEDAR in the next 12 to 18 months and develop some ecosystem analysis that could contribute to that SEDAR.

Motion carried.

Motion: To ask the chair of the Socio Economic Panel and the chair of the Ecosystem Scientific and Statistical Committee to develop a proposal for a socio-economic fisherman behavior workshop.

Motion carried.

SEDAR Selection

Motion: To appoint John Hunt to the SEDAR Spiny Lobster Assessment Update.

Motion carried.

Motion: To appoint to the SEDAR Spiny Lobster Assessment Update:

Bob Muller
Karl Lessard
Simon Stafford
Council Representative: Bill Teehan

Motion carried.

Motion: To appoint to the SEDAR 22 Yellowedge Grouper & Tilefish Assessment Workshop:

Harry Blanchet
Shannon Cass-Calay
Richard Fulford
Joe Powers
William Patterson
Robert Allman
Irby Basco
Bob Spaeth
Martin Fischer
T.J. Tate

Motion carried.

Motion: To appoint to the SEDAR Greater Amberjack Assessment:

Harry Blanchet
Read Hendon
William Patterson
Sean Powers
Barbara Dorf
Benjamin Fairey
James Taylor

Motion carried.

Motion: To appoint Luiz Barbieri for SEDAR 23, Goliath Grouper as the SSC representative for the Data Workshop.

Motion carried.

Motion: To appoint Shannon Cass-Calay as the SSC representative for the SEDAR 23 Goliath Grouper Assessment Workshop.

Motion carried.

Other Motions

Motion: To allow an environmental exempted fishing permit to be granted as proposed in Tab Q, No. 3 and Q, No. 4.

Motion carried.

Motion: Motion to table consideration of the exempted fishing permit request by Tom Haugen

Motion carried.

Motion: For 2011, that the Council schedules five Council meetings and continues discussing switching to four meetings for the following years.

Motion carried.

Motion: That the Council receive either a written or oral report from members attending meetings outside the normal Council or Advisory Panel meetings.

Motion carried.