

Reef Fish Committee: Action Schedule for Tab B

Agenda Item IV: SSC Summary

Timeline Status: Report of the January SSC meeting

Council Input and Next Steps: The SSC representative will review the SSC actions and recommendations from its January 5-6, 2016 meeting. This includes discussions which may be relevant to some of the agenda items on the Reef Fish Committee agenda. The Committee should keep this report in mind when discussing those items. The SSC representative will be available for the entire Committee meeting to answer questions that may arise.

Agenda Item V: Draft Amendment 43 - Hogfish

Timeline Status: Proposed timeline:
January - Draft amendment
April – Public hearing draft amendment
April-June – Public hearings
June – Final action

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff will review a draft amendment to define the management unit for the Gulf stock of hogfish, select status determination criteria (MSY, MFMT, and MSST), set annual catch limits and optionally annual catch targets, consider raising the minimum size limit, and consider addressing a provision in the regulations that allows hogfish to be targeted with powerheads in the stressed area. The Committee may revise the range of alternatives or suggest other revisions to the document. The Committee may choose preferred alternatives, or may defer selection until the April Council meeting when a completed public hearing draft will be presented. The Committee is asked to recommend locations for public hearings which will be held after the April Council meeting, but given the limited range of hogfish abundance, Staff recommends only a small number of hearings, perhaps in southwest Florida, Florida panhandle, and a webinar hearing.

Agenda Item VI: Draft Framework Action – Modify Gear Restrictions for Yellowtail Snapper

Timeline Status: Draft action

Council Input and Next Steps: The Committee will review the draft action, which addresses the circle hook requirement for commercial fishing for yellowtail snapper with natural bait in the Gulf. Special attention should be paid to the issue of bycatch- the retention of which, per the

current regulations, would be prohibited if the action is approved. A proposed change to the fishing season will also be presented, as it was recently approved in the South Atlantic. If the addition of the fishing season action is approved, it will be incorporated into the document. The Committee may want to consider which alternatives can be eliminated, prior to more in-depth analyses. The intent of the IPT is to bring an updated version of the document back to the Committee in April for final action.

Agenda Item VII: Discussion of Scoping Document for Amendment 33 – Reef Fish Limited Access Privilege Program

Timeline Status: Scoping

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff will provide an overview of the amendment and discuss the steps previously taken by the Council in the development of this amendment. The Council is expected to determine whether work on this amendment should resume. If the Council elects to resume work and continue the development of Amendment 33, then the Council would be expected to discuss a timeline for this amendment and provide guidance to staff concerning work load priorities.

Agenda Item VIII: Discussion of Amendment 36 – Red Snapper IFQ Modifications

Timeline Status:

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff will provide an overview of the amendment. The Committee should provide recommendations for actions to develop further or to remove from the document. The Committee may also suggest changes, actions, or alternatives, if warranted. The Committee should also discuss a timeline for the amendment, and provide guidance to staff concerning work load priorities.

Agenda Item IX: Final Action – Amendment 39 – Regional Management of Recreational Red Snapper

Timeline Status: Final action

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff will review the actions and current preferred alternatives. The Committee should review the current preferred alternatives and select a preferred alternative for Action 2. The Committee should also review the codified text. If the Committee approves the amendment and codified text, it should recommend to the Council that Amendment 39 and codified text be submitted to the Secretary for review and implementation.

Agenda Item X: For-Hire Management – Draft Amendments 41 and 42

Timeline Status: Results of scoping workshops

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff will present the purpose and need, management approaches, and actions included in Draft Amendments 41 and 42. The Council is expected to provide input on the purpose and need and discuss the objectives of the headboat reef fish management plan and the charter vessel red snapper management plan. The Council is also expected to discuss management approaches included in the amendments and suggest changes if warranted. Finally, the Council is expected to discuss a timeline for the amendments.

Agenda Item XI: Draft Options– Red Snapper Recreational ACT Adjustment

Timeline Status: Options paper

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff will review an options paper to consider adjusting the 20% buffer between the recreational red snapper ACL and ACT. The SSC reviewed the options paper and the NMFS methodology for setting red snapper season lengths and concluded that, due to the numerous sources of uncertainty, there were too many moving parts to be able to establish a scientific justification for either changing or retaining the 20% buffer. The Committee should recommend whether staff should proceed with developing a framework action to adjust the buffer.

Agenda Item XII: Gray Triggerfish OFL, ABC, and Rebuilding Plan Parameters

Timeline Status: Initial analysis of rebuilding time and yield streams

Council Input and Next Steps: On November 2, 2015, NMFS notified the Council that the gray triggerfish stock is not making adequate progress toward rebuilding by 2017, the end of the current rebuilding plan time period. The Council and NMFS have 2 years, until November 2, 2017, to prepare and implement a new rebuilding plan. The SSC has projected that, under a new rebuilding plan, the gray triggerfish stock can be rebuilt in either 8, 9, or 10 years, and has provided ABC rebuilding yield streams for each time frame. The stock could also rebuild in 6 years under zero fishing mortality. The Committee should review the information provided by the SSC and provide guidance to staff on preparation of an amendment to establish a new rebuilding plan.

Agenda Item XIII: Discussion – Ad Hoc Private Recreational AP

Timeline Status: Continued discussion on a possible formation of an advisory panel

Council Input and Next Steps: At the October 2015 meeting, the Council discussed the formation of an Ad Hoc Private Recreational AP. Some Council members were in support of the formation of an AP, but others felt it was premature until recreational fishermen as a group are able to come together and decide how they want to be managed. A motion was made that the Council direct the five fisheries managers on the Council to convene and obtain a consensus as to how the private recreational community wishes to be managed. However, due to a shortage of time and a lack of consensus, a substitute motion was passed to postpone the discussion on the formation of an Ad Hoc Private Recreational AP until the January Council meeting. The Committee should continue the discussion from the October meeting and decide whether to recommend the formation of an AP. If the Committee recommends that an AP be created, it should then create a draft charge, and discuss the number and composition of the AP membership.

Agenda Item XIV: Other Business

Timeline Status: Additional items that can be brought up for discussion, but no action can be taken since they have not been announced

Council Input and Next Steps: Additional items may be brought up for discussion by Committee members, time permitting. If the committee wishes to pursue action, then action can be scheduled at a future Council meeting.