

Reef Fish Committee: Action Schedule and Next Steps for Tab B

Agenda Item IV: Projection for 2017 Federal Recreational Fishing Season and Discussion of State Seasons

Timeline Status: Pre-season projection

Council Input and Next Steps: NMFS Regional Office staff will review their projections for the 2017 federal charter-for-hire and private recreational red snapper fishing seasons. The discussion will include a review of the recreational red snapper seasons set by the Gulf states.

Agenda Item V: Final Action – Amendment 36A – Modifications to Commercial IFQ Programs

Timeline Status: Final action

Council input and next steps: The Committee should review the public hearing and written comments received. Staff will summarize the draft amendment and codified text. Once the Committee has made its final selection of preferred alternatives, the Committee should forward the documents to the full Council for final action, recommend that the Council deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate, and give staff editorial license to make any necessary changes in the document.

Agenda item VI: Final Action – Amendment 46 – Gray Triggerfish Rebuilding Plan

Timeline Status: Final action

Council input and next steps: The Committee should review the public hearing and written comments received. Staff will summarize the draft amendment and codified text. Once the Committee has made its final selection of preferred alternatives, the Committee should forward the documents to the full Council for final action, recommend that the Council deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate, and give staff editorial license to make any necessary changes in the document.

Agenda Item VII Final Action – Framework Action – Mutton Snapper ACL and Management Measures and Gag Commercial Size Limit

Timeline Status: Final action

Council input and next steps: The Committee should review the written comments received. Staff will summarize the draft amendment and codified text. Once the Committee has made its final selection of preferred alternatives, the Committee should forward the documents to the full

Council for final action, recommend that the Council deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate, and give staff editorial license to make any necessary changes in the document.

Agenda Item VIII: Greater Amberjack Update Assessment and Options Paper to Adjust Greater Amberjack ACL

Timeline Status: Options paper

Council Input and Next Steps: The SSC will review the SEDAR 33 greater amberjack update assessment at its March 27-29, 2017 meeting, and if accepted, will provide OFL and ABC projections. NMFS Regional Office staff will provide an options paper for a framework action to modify the greater amberjack commercial and recreational ACL and ACT (quota) based on the ABCs recommended by the SSC. Following guidance from the Committee and Council, staff will prepare a framework action for final action to be taken at either the June or August Council meeting, with any changes to be effective in 2018.

Agenda Item IX: Public Hearing Draft Amendment 47 – Modify Vermilion Snapper ACLs and MSY Proxy

Timeline Status: Public hearing draft amendment

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff will review the amendment's actions and alternatives. If the amendment is approved to go to public hearings, the Committee should select preferred alternatives and recommend public hearing locations. Because this amendment does not implement on-the-water management changes, staff anticipates low turnout at most locations. For this reason, staff suggests holding only a webinar-based public hearing. If the Council wants in-person hearings, staff suggests limiting them to locations where there is a high level of vermilion snapper fishing, e.g. Panama City and Orange Beach.

Agenda Item X: SEDAR 49 – Stock Assessment for Data-Limited Stocks

Timeline Status: Assessment results

Council Input and Next Steps: The SSC representative will present a review of the data poor methods used to evaluate lane snapper, wenchman, yellowmouth grouper, snowy grouper, speckled hind, lesser amberjack, almaco jack, and possibly red drum. The SSC representative will also present the OFL and ABC yield streams for these stocks if the assessment results allow such projections to be made. The Committee should review the results presented by the SSC representative and provide guidance to staff on whether to proceed with actions to revise ACLs for these stocks. For comparison, the current OFL, ABC, and ACL for these stocks from the Generic ACL/AM Amendment are shown in Tab B-12. Note in some cases the stock is part of an aggregate ACL.

Agenda Item XI: Charter For-Hire Management Discussion

Timeline Status: Discussion

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff will present an overview of the white paper requested by the Council at the January meeting, as well as a stand-alone action concerning cyclical redistribution of shares. The Committee is requested to make recommendations based on the white paper. The Committee should also recommend whether or not to include the stand-alone action in Reef Fish Amendment 41. Next steps are dependent on the Committee's recommendations.

Agenda Item XII: SERO/SEFSC Response to Documentation requested by Gulf Angler Fishing Group

Timeline Status: Presentation

Council Input and Next Steps: At the January Council meeting Mr. Ken Haddad of the Gulf Angler Focus Group Initiative gave a presentation about potential options to extend the federal red snapper recreational season in the Gulf of Mexico. The group considered several options, but they did not perform any analyses to examine costs, feasibility, or anticipated effects on the length of the federal red snapper season. The Gulf Council requested that the NMFS also review their report to evaluate if these options are feasible for use as management tools in the Gulf of Mexico. The Council is requesting a presentation at the April 2017 meeting summarizing the NMFS's review of the attached report. This is for information only.

Agenda Item XIII: Standing and Reef Fish SSC Summary

Timeline Status: Report of the March SSC meeting

Council Input and Next Steps: The SSC met March 27-29, 2017. Many of the items that they discussed have been reviewed as part of the specific agenda items on this or other committees. The SSC representative will summarize items discussed by the SSC that have not been discussed under other agenda items. These may include:

- Updated stock assessment improvement plan
- Stock assessment prioritization
- Review of Studies Included in 5-year Grouper-Tilefish IFQ Review
- Review of additional MSST alternative for Amendment 44

The Committee may choose to make recommendations for guidance to staff on whether and how to proceed with these items.

Agenda Item XVI: 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.