

**Summary of Written Comments Received**  
**Framework Action: Modifications to Mutton Snapper and Gag Management Measures**  
March 29, 2017

15 members of the public submitted comment.

Action 1 – Establish Gulf of Mexico Apportioned Mutton Snapper Annual Catch Limits

- Support for Alternative 1, no action.

Action 2 - Modify the Gulf Mutton Snapper Recreational Bag Limit

- Support for Alternative 1, no action. Most trips never harvest more than 2-4 mutton snapper. Reducing the bag limit won't help and people who have a banner day should be rewarded.
- Support for Alternative 2d, establish a 5-fish bag limit.
- Mutton snapper should be removed from the aggregate bag limit in the northern Gulf counties because they're a rare catch.
- Another alternative should be considered which separates the snapper aggregate into two different categories. Category 1 should include mutton, cubera, queen, blackfin, and wenchman snapper; and Category 2 should include gray, yellowtail, and silk snapper.

Action 3 – Modify the Mutton Snapper Minimum Size Limit in the Gulf

- Support for Alternative 1, no action. Larger fish should be protected and protecting spawning aggregations would yield a better result.
- Support for Alternative 3, establish an 18-inch minimum size limit.

Action 4 – Modify the commercial Gag Minimum Size Limit in the Gulf

- Support for preferred Alternative 2, increase the commercial minimum size limit to 24 inches.

**Other Comments**

- The Council should close Western Dry Rocks along with Riley's Hump. It is a tragedy that the economics of Key West, based on commercial and for-hire fishing, outweighed the science that suggested protecting the breeding.