



Tab B, No. 9(b)

Reef Fish Draft Amendment 41 – June 2016

Red Snapper Management for Federally Permitted Charter Vessels

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Purpose of Action

- The **purpose** of this action is to develop a management approach for federally permitted Gulf reef fish charter vessels to harvest red snapper that provides flexibility, reduces management uncertainty, improves economic conditions, and increases fishing opportunities for federal charter vessels and their angler passengers.



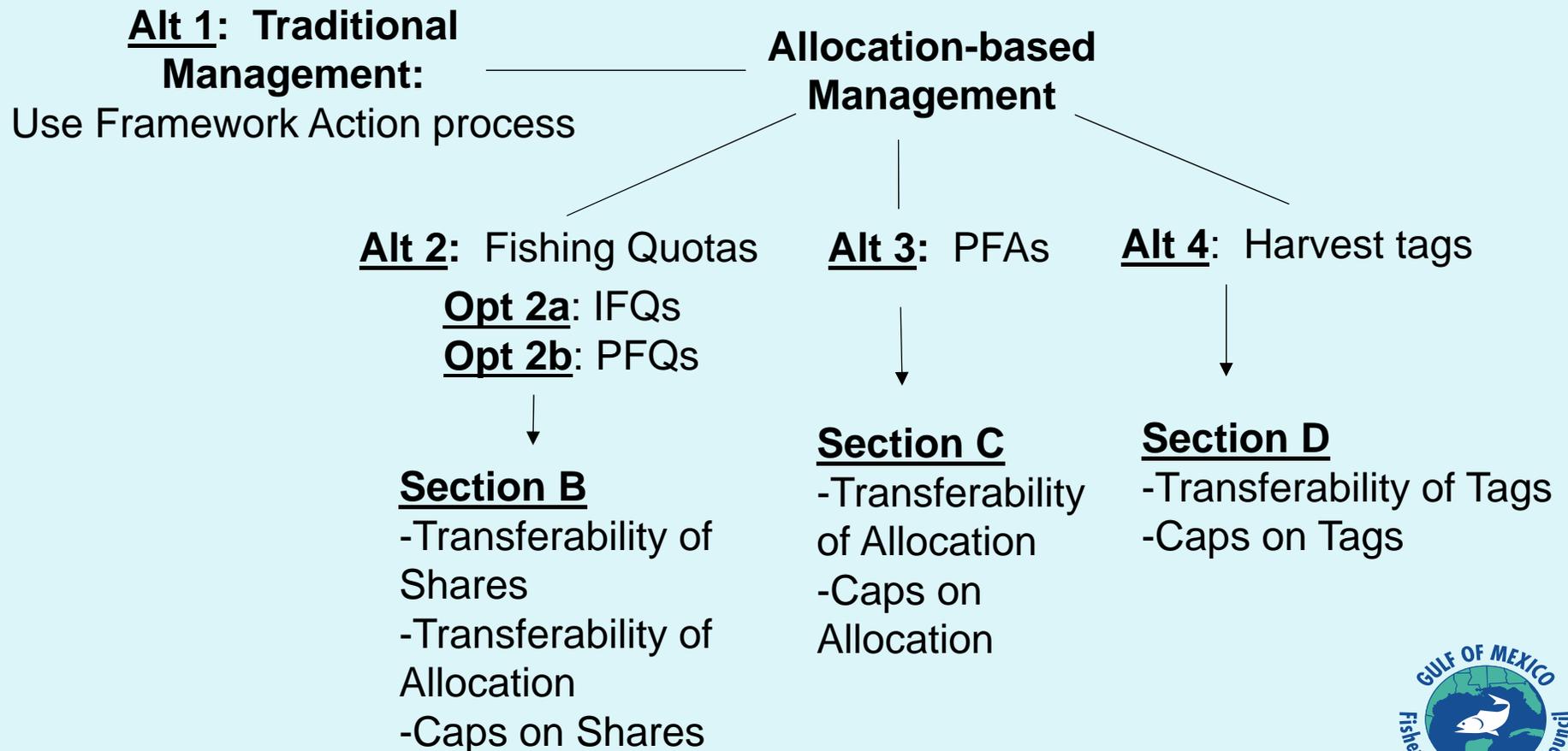
Program Goals and Objectives

- Additional goals from AP:
 - Enhances sustainability of the red snapper population by improving catch monitoring, adhering to quotas, and reducing dead discards.
 - Promote fleet stability through the ability to select fishing days.



Action 1 – Allocation-based Management

Section A: Action 1



Action 1 – Allocation-based Management

Alternative 1: No Action. Do not adopt an allocation-based management approach. Continue to manage federally permitted charter vessels with the federal 16” total length minimum size limit, 2-fish bag limit, and a June 1 fishing season start date.

Alternative 2: Establish a fishing quota program (Section B) that provides participants with shares and annual allocation.

Option 2a: an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program.

Option 2b: a Permit Fishing Quota (PFQ) program.

Alternative 3: Establish a Permit Fishing Allocation (PFA) program (Section C) that provides annual allocation only.

Proposed Options: Annual allocation will be calculated:

Option 3a: each year.

Option 3b: every three years.

Alternative 4: Establish a harvest tag program (Section D) that provides participants with annual allocation distributed in the form of harvest tags.



Action 2 – Program Participation

Alternative 1: No Action. Do not establish a voluntary red snapper management program for charter vessels. The red snapper management program applies to all charter vessels with a valid or renewable federal for-hire permit for reef fish.

Alternative 2: Establish a voluntary red snapper management program for charter vessels. The program would include only charter vessels with a valid or renewable federal for-hire permit for reef fish who elected to join the red snapper management program for charter vessels. An endorsement to the federal for-hire permit for reef fish would be issued to those for-hire permit holders who elected to join the red snapper management program for charter vessels. Any charter vessel that opts out of the red snapper management program will not be able to harvest red snapper. Opportunities to join or to opt-out from the red snapper management program for charter vessels are offered:

Option 2a: once, at the implementation of the program.

Option 2b: every year.

Option 2c: every 3 years.



Action 2 – Program Participation

Voluntary participation: Is no one in unless they join? Or, is everyone in unless they opt-out?

Alternative 2: Establish a voluntary red snapper management program for charter vessels. The program would include only charter vessels with a valid or renewable federal for-hire permit for reef fish and those who join/opted out of the red snapper management program for charter vessels. An endorsement to the federal for-hire permit for reef fish would be issued to those for-hire permit holders who join/did not opt-out of the red snapper management program for charter vessels. Any charter vessel that does not join/opts out the red snapper management program will not be able to harvest red snapper. Opportunities to join/opt-out from the red snapper management program for charter vessels are offered:

Option 2a: once, at the implementation of the program.

Option 2b: every year.

Option 2c: every 3 years.



Action 3 – Distribution of Quota to Charter Vessels

Alternative 1: No Action.

Alternative 2: Distribute quota equally among charter permit holders.

Alternative 3: Distribute quota based on the passenger capacity of charter vessels.

Alternative 4: Distribute quota based on tiers of the passenger capacity of charter vessels. Tiers are defined such that each:

Option 4a: Vessel with a passenger capacity of 6 receives 1 unit;
Vessel with a passenger capacity of 7 or greater receives 2 units.

Option 4b: Vessel with a passenger capacity of 6 receives 1 unit;
Vessel with a passenger capacity of 7-24 receives 2 units;
Vessel with a passenger capacity >24 receives 3 units.

Alternative 5: Distribute quota based on average landings of charter vessels in each geographic region using:

Option 5a: 2003 to **2012**.

Option 5b: 50% of 1986 and 2013 and 50% of 2006 and 2013.

(*2010 landings excluded from both options.)



Action 3 – Distribution of Quota to Charter Vessels

Alternative 6: Distribute quota based on Alternatives 2, 3, and 5 using one of the following options:

	Option 6a	Option 6b	Option 6c	Option 6d
Alternative 2 (equal)	33.3%	50%	25%	25%
Alternative 3 (passenger capacity)	33.3%	25%	50%	25%
Alternative 5 (regional history)	33.3%	25%	25%	50%

Alternative 7: Distribute the quota by auction. All eligible participants are allowed to place bids.

Alternative 8: Distribute a portion of the quota by auction and the remainder by the distribution method selected among Alternatives 3-5, if selected as preferred(s).

Option	Auction	Preferred Alternatives among 2-5
8a	25%	75%
8b	50%	50%
8c	75%	25%



Section B: Quota Programs (shares and allocation)

Action 4 – IFQs/PFQs: Transferability and Maintenance of Shares

Alternative 1: No Action. Do not allow the transfer of shares.

Alternative 2: An account must have a Charter/Headboat permit for Reef Fish to receive transferred shares and to maintain shares.

Alternative 3: An account must have a Charter/Headboat permit for Reef Fish to receive shares, but not to maintain shares once obtained (IFQ program, only).

Alternative 4: There are no restrictions on transferring or the maintenance of shares.



Section B: Quota Programs (shares and allocation)

Action 5 – IFQs/PFQs: Transferability of Allocation

Alternative 1: No Action. Do not allow the transfer of allocation among participants.

Alternative 2: Allocation can be transferred to any accounts in the program. The account receiving the allocation must have a Charter/Headboat permit for Reef Fish.

Alternative 3: Allocation can be transferred to any account in the program. The account receiving the allocation does not need to have a Charter/Headboat permit for Reef Fish.

Alternative 4: There are no restrictions on the transfer of allocation.

Note: A for-hire permit would still be required for landing red snapper from the charter quotas.



Section B: Quota Programs (shares and allocation)

Action 6 – IFQs/PFQs: Caps on Shares

Alternative 1: No Action. Do not cap the amount of shares that one participant can hold.

Alternative 2: No participant may hold shares equaling more than the maximum shares issued during initial apportionment for a participant (as defined in Action 2).

Alternative 3: No participant shall own shares which comprise more than x% of the total charter vessel quota.



Section C: Permit Fishing Allocation Program

Action 7 – PFA: Transferability of Allocation

Alternative 1: No Action. Do not allow the transfer of allocation among participants.

Alternative 2: Allocation can be transferred to any account in the program. The account receiving the allocation must have a Charter/Headboat permit for Reef Fish and endorsement.

Alternative 3: There are no restrictions on the transfer of allocation.

Note: A Gulf for-hire reef fish permit and endorsement would still be required for landing red snapper from the charter quotas.



Section C: Permit Fishing Allocation Program

Action 8 – PFA: Caps on Allocation

Alternative 1: No Action. Do not cap the amount of allocation that one participant can hold.

Alternative 2: No participant may have allocation equaling more than the maximum allocation issued during initial apportionment for a participant (as defined in Action 3).

Alternative 3: No participant may have allocation equaling more than x% of the total charter vessel quota.



Section D: Harvest Tag Program

Action 9 – Harvest Tags: Transferability

Alternative 1: No Action. Harvest tags may not be transferred.

Alternative 2: Harvest tags may be transferred by surrendering them to a NMFS tag bank from which other program participants may obtain the tags by:

Option a: lottery

Option b: auction

Alternative 3: Harvest tags may be transferred to any other participant in the program.

Alternative 4: There are no restrictions on the transferability of harvest tags.



Section D: Harvest Tag Program

Action 10 – Harvest Tags: Caps

Alternative 1: No Action. There is no cap on the amount of harvest tags that a participant can hold.

Alternative 2: No participant may hold more harvest tags than represented by x% of the total charter vessel quota at any point in time.

Alternative 3: No participant may hold and/or use more than x% of the total charter vessel quota cumulatively throughout a calendar year.

Alternative 4: No participant may hold harvest tags equaling more than the maximum number of tags issued to any one participant during the quota apportionment (as defined in Action 3).



Separate Harvest Tag Action

Section A, **Proposed** Action 4:

Alternative 1: Do not use harvest tags.

Alternative 2: Use harvest tags as an enforcement and validation tool for the selected program. Harvest tags will be:

Option 2a: physical tags.

Option 2b: electronic tags.

