

Reef Fish Committee: Action Schedule for Tab B (revised 7/30/2015)

Agenda Item IV: Public Hearing Draft Amendment 39 – Regional Management of Recreational Red Snapper

Timeline Status: Public hearing draft; Final Action in January 2016

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff will review the actions and alternatives in the updated draft. The Committee should review the current preferred alternatives and select a preferred alternative for Action 2. The Committee should further discuss the intended timeline for the document, including the scheduling of additional public hearings.

Agenda Item V: Updated Options Paper – Framework Action to set Gag Recreational Season and Gag and Black Grouper Minimum Size Limits

Timeline Status: Options paper; Final Action in October

Council Input and Next Steps: After reviewing an earlier options paper and analysis indicating a recent decline in gag CPUE indices, the Council voted to retain the existing gag ACLs and ACTs, add an action to consider increasing the recreational gag minimum size limit to 24 inches, and add a similar size limit action for black grouper. This required a major revision to the options paper, and an analysis of the increased size limit on season length and discard mortality. This analysis could not be completed in time for a final action document. Therefore, a revised options paper is presented for the Committee to review and, optionally, select preferred alternatives. A final action document will then be prepared for the October Council meeting.

Agenda Item VI: Final Action – Amendment 28 – Red Snapper Allocation

Timeline Status: Final Action

Council Input and Next Steps: The Committee will review the final version of the amendment and the associated codified text. The Committee is expected to recommend that the Council deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate and submit Reef Fish Amendment 28 to the Secretary for review and implementation.

Agenda Item VII: Options Paper – Framework Action to Allow NMFS to Withhold a Portion of the Commercial Red Snapper Quota in 2016

Timeline Status: Final Action

Council Input and Next Steps: The Committee will review the framework action and select a preferred alternative. The Committee is expected to recommend that the Council deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate and submit the framework action to the Secretary for review and implementation.

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

Timeline Status: Options Paper

Council Input and Next Steps: The Committee will need to review the action and alternatives presented for appropriateness, and determine if any alternatives should be added or removed. Staff will plan on bringing a final draft of the document to the Council for consideration in October.

Agenda Item IX: Options Paper – Amendment 42 – Federal Reef Fish Headboat Management

Timeline Status: Draft Options Paper

Council Input and Next Steps: The Committee will review the management approaches considered in the draft options paper. The Committee is expected to suggest additional management approaches (if any) to include in this amendment. In addition, the Committee is expected to discuss a timeline for the development of a public hearing draft.

Agenda Item X: Options Paper – Amendment 41 – Federal Charter-for-Hire Red Snapper Management

Timeline Status: Draft Options Paper

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff will review the management approaches considered in the draft options paper. The Committee should suggest additional management approaches (if any) to include in the document. In addition, the Committee should discuss a timeline for the development of a public hearing draft, and consider whether to convene the Ad Hoc Red Snapper Charter For-hire AP.

Agenda Item XI: Discussion – Ad Hoc Private Recreational AP

Timeline Status: Discussion on whether to take action to create an AP

Council Input and Next Steps: In June, the Council voted to create an Ad Hoc Private Recreational Committee to discuss possible management changes to the private recreational fishery. However, some Council members wanted to get input on ideas from the private recreational fishing community, including the results for the Council’s RAP sessions and state workshops that were held recently. The Council therefore voted that staff take no action on formation of the Ad Hoc Private Recreational Committee before the August 2015 Council meeting. At this meeting the Committee should review the workshop comments received and:

- 1) Decide whether to proceed with forming the AP. If the Council proceeds,
- 2) Develop a charge and some ideas for topics to be addressed,
- 3) Approve staff to advertise for applicants.

Agenda Item XII: Other Business

Timeline Status: Additional items that can be brought up for discussion, but not action 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. There is currently one item requested under Other Business:

- a. Discussion of gray triggerfish bag and size limits