

Assignment of Staggered Terms for the Gulf Council Advisory Panels

The Gulf Council, in April, decided to establish three-year terms for advisory panel membership with no term limits. The Council also established a staggered system for appointments whereby a third of the total membership will be reconsidered by the Council each year.

In order to accomplish staggered terms for the advisory panels it was necessary to assign, on a one-time basis, one, two, and three-year terms to the various advisory panels. Thereafter, the appointments will be made every three years. With this new process, the Council will make appointments to one-third of the AP seats on an annual basis rather than making appointments to all the advisory panel seats every two years. Given that people can serve on multiple panels it was deemed too confusing to stagger membership terms within each panel so the panels as a whole were used to establish staggered terms.

Below is a list of the Council Advisory Panels, along with the number of years each panel will serve initially and the future reconsideration schedule.

1 Year Appointment **Number of Members**

Ad Hoc Artificial Substrate	16
Ad Hoc Red Snapper IFQ	17
Data Collection	<u>19</u>
Total	52
Review years: 2016, 2019, 2022, 2025 . . .	

2 Year Appointment

Ad Hoc Reef Fish Headboat	14
Coastal Migratory Pelagics	18
Red Drum	17
Spiny Lobster	<u>6</u>
Total	55
Review years: 2017, 2020, 2023, 2026 . . .	

3 Year Appointment

Ad Hoc Red Snapper Charter For-Hire	19
Shrimp	13
Reef Fish	23
Coral	<u>6</u>
Total	61
Review years: 2018, 2021, 2024, 2027 . . .	

Staff recommends the proposed **Ad Hoc Private Recreational Committee** be considered for a one-year initial staggered term since that group currently has the fewest members and because it is an ad hoc panel.

Staff also recommends that the advisory panel membership reviews be conducted during the summer Council meeting. Staff puts together an annual membership book that includes all Council, SSC, and AP memberships. Moving SSC and AP appointments to the summer meeting will require fewer updates.