

Reef Fish Committee: Action Schedule for Tab B

Agenda Item IV: SSC Summary

Timeline Status: Report of the September SSC meeting

Council Input and Next Steps: The SSC representative will review the SSC actions and recommendations from its September 1-2, 2015 meeting with respect to reef fish issues. This includes discussions which may be relevant to some of the agenda items on the Reef Fish Committee agenda. The Committee should keep this report in mind when discussing those items. The SSC representative will be available for the entire Committee meeting to answer questions that may arise.

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

Timeline Status: Final Action

Council Input and Next Steps: The Committee should review the draft amendment and recommend Preferred Alternatives for gag recreational minimum size limit, black grouper recreational minimum size limit, and recreational gag season. The Council has previously adopted Preferred Alternatives to increase the recreational minimum size limit for gag and black grouper to 24" TL, and a Preferred Alternative under Action 3 to eliminate the fixed December 3-31 recreational closed season on gag. However, additional recommendations are needed on possible changes to either the recreational season opening or closing date, and to how the February-March partial closed season on shallow-water grouper should be treated for gag if the gag open season includes those months. The Committee should also review the draft codified regulations and recommend whether they should be deemed necessary and appropriate.

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

Timeline Status: Public Hearings in October; Final Action in January

Council Input and Next Steps: The Committee should review the updated public hearing draft and the current preferred alternatives. New tables and figures are included for Action 2. The Committee should discuss the new information and select a preferred alternative. Staff will review the Action 7 alternatives alongside Action 2, and the Committee should ensure the compatibility of the respective preferred alternatives.

Agenda Item VII: Options Paper – Amendment to Define Gulf of Mexico Hogfish Stock, and set ACL and Status Determination Criteria

Timeline Status: Initial options paper

Council Input and Next Steps: The Committee should review the options paper and consider selecting Preferred Alternatives for the boundary of the Gulf hogfish stock, status determination criteria for Gulf hogfish. The Committee should also consider alternatives for revising ACL and optionally ACT for hogfish based on ABC recommendations from the SSC. However, the council had requested a constant catch ABC for the years 2016-2018, which the SSC will be unable to provide until January 2016. For this reason, the Committee may consider a recommendation to split the amendment and proceed only with the stock boundary and status determination criteria actions, leaving the ACL/ACT adjustments for a subsequent regulatory action. There is a priority for setting the stock boundary because the East Florida/Florida Keys hogfish stock is overfished, and the South Atlantic Council must prepare and submit a rebuilding plan (including that part of the stock that falls within the Gulf jurisdiction) within two years.

Agenda Item VIII: Options Paper – South Florida Management Issues

Timeline Status: Revised options paper–

Council Input and Next Steps: The Committee should review the revised Draft South Florida Options Paper (Actions 1-4) and provide feedback to staff about the revised need and updated alternatives. The Committee should also review the remaining actions and outstanding Gulf Committee motions from the June 2015 Council meeting to determine how they want to move forward. Staff will also inform the Committee of any motions made at the September 2015 South Atlantic Council meeting and request that the Committee take any necessary action to advise staff how to move forward with these document(s).

Agenda Item IX: Options Paper – Framework Action to set Mutton Snapper ACL

Timeline Status: Draft options paper

Council Input and Next Steps: The Committee should review the draft options paper and provide feedback to staff about the range of draft action alternatives. The Committee should request to add or remove any alternatives so that staff can move forward data analyses. The Committee should provide any feedback on the proposed timeline and priority status of this action.

Agenda Item X: Discussion – Ad Hoc Private Recreational AP

Timeline Status: Discussion on formation of an AP

Council Input and Next Steps: At the August Council meeting, the Council voted to defer any action on creating an Ad Hoc Private Recreational AP until the October meeting. The Committee should discuss this issue and decide whether to recommend the formation of an AP. If the committee recommends that an AP be created, it should then create a draft charge, and discuss the number and composition of the AP membership.

Agenda Item XI: Options Paper – Adjust Minimum Stock Size Threshold

Timeline Status: Revised options paper

Council Input and Next Steps: The Council reviewed an initial options paper in January 2014 to define minimum stock size threshold (MSST) for stocks with a low natural mortality rate in order to maintain some minimum buffer between the MSY biomass level and MSST, but that options paper was unnecessarily wieldy and complex. This revised options paper simplifies the alternatives based on input from the Council and IPT. It will define or redefine MSST for all stocks (only 6 reef fish stocks currently have an MSST definition) with special consideration for low natural mortality rate stocks. Because the MSY proxy is a part of the MSST definition and is also currently undefined for most reef fish stocks, an additional action has been added to define MSY proxies. The Committee should review the options paper and decide if it agrees with the range of actions and alternatives. The Committee should also recommend whether to proceed with a draft plan amendment based on the options paper.

Agenda Item XI: Reef Fish AP Summary additional items

Timeline Status: Recommendations and feedback on ongoing Council actions

Council Input and Next Steps: The Committee should review the Reef Fish AP recommendations on each action item. The AP's recommendations and rationale should help the Committee discussion and build rationale/motions for actions that are forwarded to the Council. Depending on the stage of the action if the committee agrees with some of the AP recommendations they may want to direct staff to start new documents for any motions/recommendations that are outside of the scope of any of the current documents.

Agenda Item XII: 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.