

**Gulf Council Motions Report
February 3-6, 2014
Houston, Texas**

Gulf SEDAR

Motion: To add scamp to the benchmark assessments for 2016 and remove gray snapper benchmark assessment for 2016.

Substitute motion: To add scamp to the benchmark assessment for 2016 and remove gray snapper benchmark assessment for 2016 and to make red drum the top priority for 2016 assessment work.

Motion carried 10 to 4.

Mackerel

Amendment 20B

Motion: In Action 2, to deselect Alternative 2, Option a as the preferred alternative.

Alternative 2: Change the fishing year for Gulf group king mackerel season to September 1 – August 31.

Gulf Preferred Option a: For the Western Zone

Motion failed 3 to 11.

Motion: To adopt the recommended language in Action 4.1 and 4.2.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 1, Preferred Alternative 2, that we select Option c as our preferred option.

Alternative 2: Set the commercial hook-and-line trip limit at 2,000 lbs with no reduction.

Option c: For the Eastern Zone Southern Subzone

Motion failed 7 to 9.

Motion: To recommend to the Council that Amendment 20B be submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for implementation and that the regulations be deemed as necessary and appropriate, and that staff be given editorial license to make the necessary changes in the document and codified text. The Council Chair is given the authority to deem any changes to the document and codified text as necessary and appropriate.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Dr. Shipp	Yes	Ms. Bosarge	Absent	Mr. Riley	Yes
Dr. Crabtree	Yes	Mr. Sanchez	Yes	Mr. Pearce	Yes
Mr. Robinson	Yes	Mr. Greene	Yes	Dr. Dana	Yes
Mr. Matens	Yes	Mr. Perret	Yes	Mr. Diaz	Yes
Mr. Williams	Yes	Ms. Bademan	Yes	Mr. Boyd	Yes
Mr. Anson	Yes	Mr. Fischer	Yes		

Framework Action to Modify Spanish Mackerel ACL/ACT

Motion: In Action 1, that Alternative 2 be the preferred alternative.

South Atlantic Preferred Alternative 2. Revise the ACL (including sector ACLs), OY, and ACT for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel for 2014 and 2015. The ABC recommended by the SSC is 6.063 mp ww. Set ACL = OY = ABC, and the recreational ACT = $ACL[(1-PSE) \text{ or } 0.5]$, whichever is greater. The ABC, ACL, and recreational ACT values are based on landed catch only; discards are accounted for in specifying the ABC in terms of landed catch and not total kill. The average PSE from MRIP for 2005-2009 is 13.34. The values would remain until modified.

ACL = OY = ABC = 6.063 mp ww
 Commercial ACL (55%) = 3,334,650 lbs ww
 Recreational ACL (45%) = 2,728,350 lbs ww
 Recreational ACT = 2,363,218 lbs ww

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 2, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 2.

Alternative 2. Revise ACL for Gulf migratory group Spanish mackerel for 2014 through 2016 as shown below, and set ACL = ABC.

ABCs and ACLs for 2014-2016 from the SEDAR 28 Gulf Spanish mackerel stock assessment and the Gulf Council/SSC-approved projections for Gulf migratory group Spanish mackerel. ‘ww’ = whole weight, and ‘mp’ = million pounds.

Year	ABC ww	Total ACL ww
2014	12.7 mp	12.7 mp
2015	11.8 mp	11.8 mp
2016	11.3 mp	11.3 mp

Motion carried with no opposition.

CMP Amendment 24 – Reallocation of Gulf King Mackerel and Atlantic Spanish Mackerel

Motion: To request the SEFSC perform a net benefits analysis of reallocating up to 10% of the TAC of the Gulf migratory group king mackerel from the recreational sector to the commercial sector.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To defer further action on Amendment 24 until after the assessment is complete and reviewed by the SSC.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Amendment 26 – Split Permits between the Gulf and South Atlantic for Spanish and King Mackerel

Motion: To postpone action on Amendment 26 until after the stock assessment is reviewed by the SSC.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Outreach and Education

Motion: To convene the O&E Advisory Panel to review the survey that was done and to evaluate our current communication methods, after which to make recommendations to the Council for improvements.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Reef Fish

Amendment 28 – Red Snapper Reallocation

Motion: In Action 1, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 5.

Alternative 5: If the red snapper quota is less than or equal to 9.12 million pounds (mp), maintain the commercial and recreational red snapper allocations at 51% and 49% of the red snapper quota, respectively. If the red snapper quota is greater than 9.12 mp, allocate 75% of the amount in excess of 9.12 mp to the recreational sector and 25% to the commercial sector. Based on a red snapper TAC of 11 mp, resulting allocations to the commercial and recreational sectors are 5.121 mp and 5.879 mp, respectively.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mr. Perret	No	Mr. Boyd	Abstain	Mr. Riley	No
Mr. Williams	Yes	Ms. Bosarge	No	Mr. Greene	No
Mr. Sanchez	No	Dr. Shipp	Yes	Mr. Robinson	Yes
Mr. Pearce	No	Dr. Crabtree	Abstain	Ms. Bademan	Yes
Dr. Dana	Yes	Mr. Diaz	Yes	Mr. Fischer	Yes
Mr. Matens	Yes	Mr. Anson	Yes		

Substitute motion: In Action 1, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 1.

Alternative 1: No Action – Maintain the allocation set in Amendment 1 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan. The commercial and recreational red snapper allocations remain at 51% and 49% of the red snapper quota, respectively. Based on a red snapper TAC of 11 million pounds (mp), resulting allocations to the commercial and recreational sectors are 5.610 mp and 5.390 mp, respectively.

Substitute motion failed 5 to 9.

Second substitute motion: That we go to public hearings and have no preferred alternative for Action 1.

Second substitute motion failed by roll call vote.

Ms. Bosarge	No	Dr. Dana	No	Mr. Williams	No
Mr. Boyd	No	Mr. Anson	No	Dr. Shipp	No
Mr. Perret	Yes	Mr. Diaz	Yes	Mr. Greene	Yes
Ms. Bademan	No	Mr. Riley	Yes	Mr. Fischer	No
Mr. Robinson	No	Mr. Sanchez	Yes	Mr. Matens	No
Dr. Crabtree	No	Mr. Pearce	Yes		

Motion: In Action 1, to add a new Alternative 7:

Alternative 7: If the red snapper quota is less than or equal to 10 million pounds (mp), maintain the commercial and recreational red snapper allocations at 51% and 49% of the red snapper quota, respectively. If the red snapper quota is greater than 10 mp, allocate 75% of the amount in excess of 10 mp to the recreational sector and 25% to the commercial sector. Based on a red snapper TAC of 11 mp, resulting allocations to the commercial and recreational sectors are 5.35 mp and 5.65 mp, respectively.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Ms. Bademan	No	Mr. Fischer	Yes	Mr. Boyd	Abstain
Mr. Anson	Yes	Mr. Robinson	Yes	Mr. Williams	Yes
Mr. Riley	Yes	Ms. Bosarge	Yes	Dr. Crabtree	Yes
Dr. Dana	Yes	Mr. Matens	No	Mr. Sanchez	Yes
Mr. Diaz	Yes	Mr. Perret	Yes	Dr. Shipp	No
Mr. Pearce	Yes	Mr. Greene	Yes		

Motion: To recommend to the Council that public hearings for Amendment 28 be held in the following locations:

- Corpus Christi, TX
- Houston/Galveston, TX area
- Baton Rouge, LA
- Biloxi/Gulfport, MS area
- Mobile, AL
- Orange Beach, AL
- St. Petersburg, FL
- Panama City, FL area

Amendment: To add San Antonio, TX as an additional meeting location and to change Baton Rouge to Kenner, LA area.

Amendment carried.

Motion as amended: To recommend to the Council that public hearings for Amendment 28 be held in the following locations:

- Corpus Christi, TX
- Houston/Galveston, TX area
- San Antonio, TX
- Kenner, LA area
- Biloxi/Gulfport, MS area
- Mobile, AL
- Orange Beach, AL
- St. Petersburg, FL
- Panama City, FL area

Motion as amended carried.

Motion: To also hold a teleconference or webinar public hearing for Amendment 28.

Motion carried.

Motion: That there be a meeting in May 2014 to take final action on Amendment 28 in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, or northwestern Florida.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Framework Action – Revise Amendment 30B Permit Conditions

Motion: In Action 1, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 1 and that we request that staff stop work on the Framework Action.

Alternative 1: No action – Retain current federal regulations for management of recreational reef fish in the Gulf EEZ. If federal regulations for Gulf reef fish are more restrictive than state regulations, a person aboard a charter vessel or headboat for which a charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf reef fish has been issued must comply with such federal regulations regardless of where the fish are harvested.

Substitute motion: In Action 1, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 3.

Alternative 3: Rescind the provision requiring vessels with a Gulf charter/ headboat permit for reef fish to comply with federal recreational reef fish regulations, if more restrictive than state regulations, when fishing in state waters.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Dr. Shipp	No	Mr. Pearce	No	Mr. Perret	No
Mr. Greene	No	Mr. Fischer	Yes	Mr. Sanchez	Yes
Mr. Riley	Yes	Mr. Robinson	Yes	Mr. Matens	Yes
Dr. Dana	Yes	Mr. Boyd	Yes	Ms. Bademan	Yes
Ms. Bosarge	No	Mr. Anson	No	Dr. Crabtree	No
Mr. Williams	Yes	Mr. Diaz	No		

Motion: To submit the Framework Action to Revise Amendment 30B Permit Conditions to the Secretary of Commerce for implementation, to give staff editorial license to make the necessary revisions, and deem the regulations as necessary and appropriate.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mr. Sanchez	Yes	Mr. Riley	Yes	Mr. Pearce	Absent
Dr. Shipp	No	Mr. Boyd	Abstain	Mr. Diaz	No
Mr. Fischer	Yes	Mr. Robinson	Yes	Mr. Anson	No
Dr. Dana	Yes	Dr. Crabtree	No	Ms. Bademan	Yes
Mr. Matens	No	Mr. Greene	No	Mr. Perret	Yes
Mr. Williams	Yes	Ms. Bosarge	Yes		

Amendment 39 – Regional Management of Recreational Red Snapper

Motion: To direct staff to develop a framework action for red snapper slot limits in the recreational fishery.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Amendment 40 – Sector Separation

Motion: To add a new action to Amendment 40 to require electronic reporting for federally permitted charter for-hire vessels.

Motion carried 8 to 5.

Substitute motion: To add a new action to require reporting for federally permitted charter for-hire vessels.

Substitute motion withdrawn.

Substitute motion: To draft a framework action to require electronic logbooks or other approved methods to gather information presently generated by the charter boat survey.

Motion failed 2 to 11.

Second substitute motion: To direct the Southeast Fisheries Science Center to develop a program for electronic reporting in the charter for-hire industry and report back to the Council at our April 2014 meeting.

Motion failed 2 to 11.

Motion to reconsider.

Motion: To add a new action to Amendment 40 to require electronic reporting for federally permitted charter for-hire vessels.

Motion carried 8 to 5.

Motion to reconsider carried 11 to 3.

Substitute motion: To direct staff to develop a framework action to establish electronic reporting or other approved methods within the federally permitted reef fish and coastal migratory pelagics charter fishery.

Substitute motion carried 9 to 7.

Second substitute motion: To remove from Amendment 40 the requirement for electronic reporting in the charter boat sector.

Second substitute motion withdrawn.

Other SSC Issues

Motion: That the Council instruct staff to begin an amendment process to adopt F_{MAX} instead of F_{MSY} in lieu of the 26% F_{SPR} as the proxy for red snapper.

Motion carried 11 to 4.

Joint GMFMC/SAFMC Issues

Motion: To form a subcommittee of the Gulf and South Atlantic SSCs to explore methods to determine stock status of warsaw grouper and speckled hind and make a list of suggestions for next steps.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Other Business

Motion: To request that staff draft a letter of support for NOAA and the Marine Sanctuary Program to designate the limited area that contains cypress stumps as a protected reserve, provided fishing is maintained or allowed.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Shrimp

Motion: In Action 1.1, Alternative 2, that the values for each species be updated every 5 years.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 1.2, Alternative 2, that the values for each species be updated every 5 years.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 1.1 and 1.2, Alternative 3, that the values for each species be updated every 5 years.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 1.2, Alternatives 2 and 3, to add the word “minimum” before “total” so that the alternatives would read:

Alternative 2: The overfished threshold is the minimum sustainable stock threshold (MSST), defined as the minimum total annual spawning biomass, i.e., the sum of the monthly spawning biomass estimates from 1984-2012, including the 95% confidence limits. The values for each species will be updated every X years through the framework procedure, unless changed earlier by the council.

- a. Brown shrimp: 11,166 ± 222 metric tons of tails
- b. White shrimp: 125,535 ± 306 metric tons of tails
- c. Pink shrimp: 17,502 ± 3,467 metric tons of tails

Alternative 3: The overfished threshold is the MSST, defined as the minimum total annual spawning biomass, i.e., the sum of the monthly spawning biomass estimates, from 1984-2012, as recommended by the SSC, without confidence limits. The values for each species will remain until changed through a framework procedure, as recommended by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

- a. Brown shrimp: 11,166 metric tons of tails
- b. White shrimp: 125,535 metric tons of tails
- c. Pink shrimp: 17,502 metric tons of tails

Amendment: In Alternatives 2 and 3, on the second line, after the word “the” and before the word “sum”, the word “smallest” is inserted.

Amendment carried.

Motion as amended: In Action 1.2, Alternatives 2 and 3, to add the word “minimum” before “total” so that the alternatives would read:

Alternative 2: The overfished threshold is the minimum sustainable stock threshold (MSST), defined as the minimum total annual spawning biomass, i.e., the smallest sum of the monthly spawning biomass estimates from 1984-2012, including the 95% confidence limits. The values for each species will be updated every X years through the framework procedure, unless changed earlier by the council.

- a. Brown shrimp: 11,166 ± 222 metric tons of tails
- b. White shrimp: 125,535 ± 306 metric tons of tails
- c. Pink shrimp: 17,502 ± 3,467 metric tons of tails

Alternative 3: The overfished threshold is the MSST, defined as the minimum total annual spawning biomass, i.e., the smallest sum of the monthly spawning biomass estimates, from 1984-2012, as recommended by the SSC, without confidence limits. The values for each species will remain until changed through a framework procedure, as recommended by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

- a. Brown shrimp: 11,166 metric tons of tails
- b. White shrimp: 125,535 metric tons of tails
- c. Pink shrimp: 17,502 metric tons of tails

Motion as amended carried.

Motion: On Page 18 of the Amendment 15 document, number 4, to change “may” to “shall”.

4. Prior to taking final action on the proposed framework action, the Council shall convene its SSC, SEP, or AP advisory committees and panels, as appropriate, to provide recommendations on the proposed actions.

Motion failed.

Motion: To accept the staff’s revised language with the provision that “shall” reverts back to “may”.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To request that staff develop an amendment to address the issues with Royal Red shrimp quotas and that an options paper be presented at the April Council meeting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To send a letter from the Council to Eileen Sobeck, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries at NMFS, requesting that the agency comply with the Congressional directive set forth in the FY 2014 Omnibus Appropriations by implementing a one to two year transition program beginning immediately by fully funding the LGL program to operate side-by-side with the agency’s new program, the federal share of which is already funded. The letter should be copied to Senate Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski and Ranking Member Richard Shelby.

Motion carried.

Motion: To request that staff come to the April 2014 Council meeting with a proposed timeline for addressing the permit moratorium.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem

Motion: To start a new framework action to address the ACL quota issue for IFQ species complexes managed under the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish FMP.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Other Council Business

Motion: That prior to the February 19, 2014, closing of the Deepwater Horizon Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement comment period, a letter be sent from the Council to Kathryn Sullivan, Acting NOAA Administrator, that reiterates the Council's priorities in restoration and address issues of concern with proposed projects outlined in the draft letter reviewed at the February 2014 Council meeting.

Motion carried with no opposition.