

**GULF COUNCIL MOTIONS
JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 2, 2012
MOBILE, ALABAMA**

Artificial Reef

Motion: To request that staff review Essential Fish Habitat designation for artificial structures (e.g. fishing reefs and oil and gas production facilities) in current Fishery Management Plans. Staff will provide a summary of the review indicating artificial structure Essential Fish Habitat status within each Fishery Management Plan and determine if Essential Fish Habitat language for this habitat is consistent among the Fishery Management Plans. If it has been determined that Essential Fish Habitat designation has not been assigned to artificial structures in any Fishery Management Plan, staff will develop an outline to include appropriate action(s) the Council must follow in order to designate Essential Fish Habitat status for artificial structures.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Data Collection

Motion: To recommend approval of the Generic Amendment for Dealer Permits and Electronic Reporting for scoping hearings to be held in conjunction with Mackerel Amendments 19 and 20 at the following locations:

Galveston, TX	Mobile, AL
Port Aransas, TX	Destin, FL
Grand Isle, LA	Key West, FL
Biloxi area, MS	Fort Myers, FL

Amendment: To add Kenner, LA or St. Rose, LA location for the dealer license scoping.

Amendment carried.

Motion as amended: To recommend approval of the Generic Amendment for Dealer Permits and Electronic Reporting for scoping hearings to be held in conjunction with Mackerel Amendments 19 and 20 at the following locations:

Galveston, TX	Biloxi area, MS
Port Aransas, TX	Mobile, AL
Grand Isle, LA	Destin, FL
Kenner, LA or St. Rose, LA	Key West, FL
	Fort Myers, FL

Motion as amended carried.

Motion: To convene the Ad Hoc Private Recreational Data Collection Advisory Panel and to provide them with the following charge:

1. Evaluate current phone apps/internet systems for possible adoption in the Gulf of Mexico. To begin the process with a discussion with the appropriate MRIP staff as part of their evaluation of the systems. Examples include Anglers Journals in Virginia and North Carolina.
2. Evaluate current fish tag systems for possible adoption in the Gulf of Mexico.
3. Develop a process to educate the private recreational anglers on the issues relating to data collection, emphasizing MRIP.

Deliverables:

1. Contact the various states for the pros and cons of their systems. A written evaluation and possible prototype for a phone app/internet system for private recreational anglers.
2. What are the pros and cons of a fish tag system? Is it a feasible program for the Gulf of Mexico recreational anglers?
3. A list of possible actions that would educate the private recreational anglers on the issues of data collection, including MRIP.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Joint Mackerel/Reef Fish/Red Drum

Motion: To request that staff prepare a generic amendment to establish default status determination criteria for species that do not already have approved criteria.

Motion carried.

Mackerel

Motion: To accept the South Atlantic Council's deletions to Action 1 of the Mackerel Amendment 19 Scoping document.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 2, to accept the South Atlantic Council's additions and changes as highlighted.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 3, to have staff revise Sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 to include a broader range of years, poundage, and level of participation.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: That Section 3.1.3 be removed from the scoping document.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Section 3.2, to accept the South Atlantic Council's deletion of this section.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Section 3.3, that staff reword the language such that the 2 for 1 permit reductions apply to transfers, not renewals.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 4, that cobia be added to the alternatives.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 5, to accept the South Atlantic Council's addition as highlighted.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 6, to accept the South Atlantic Council's proposed modifications and the deletion of Action 7.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In the Amendment 20 Scoping Document, Action 4, that staff develop a separate action to include alternatives for endorsements by subregions.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To send the Scoping Documents for CMP Amendments 19 and 20 to the scoping process.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To hold scoping meetings for Mackerel Amendments 19 and 20 in the following locations:

Galveston, TX	Mobile, AL
Port Aransas, TX	Destin, FL
Grand Isle, LA	Key West, FL
Biloxi area, MS	Fort Myers, FL

Motion carried with no opposition.

Reef Fish

Red Snapper Regulatory Amendment to Revise Fall Recreational Fixed Closed Season

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

Alternative 2: Set the stock ACL in 2012 and 2013 at 8.080 mp and 8.690 mp respectively, and do not use annual catch targets. Based on the 51%:49% commercial and recreational allocation of red snapper, the commercial and recreational sector ACLs would be 4.121 and 3.959 mp respectively in 2012, and 4.432 mp and 4.258 mp respectively in 2013. Quotas would be set equal to the sector ACLs.

The increase in the stock ACL in 2013 is contingent upon the stock ACL not being exceeded in 2012. If the stock ACL is exceeded in 2012, the stock ACL, sector ACLs and quotas would remain at the 2012 levels unless the best scientific information available determines maintaining the ACLs and quotas from the previous year is unnecessary.

Year	Stock ACL	Comm ACL (51% of ACL)	Rec ACL (49% of ACL)
2012	8.080 mp	4.121 mp	3.959 mp
2013	8.690 mp	4.432 mp	4.258 mp

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To send the Regulatory Amendment for Red Snapper Fall Closed Season and 2012 and 2013 Annual Catch Limits to the Secretary of Commerce and deem the regulations appropriate and necessary.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Dr. Shipp	Yes	Mr. McKnight	Yes	Mr. Pearce	Yes
Dr. Crabtree	Yes	Mr. Greene	Yes	Dr. Dana	Yes
Mr. Robinson	Yes	Dr. McIlwain	Yes	Mr. Perret	Yes
Dr. Abele	Yes	Ms. McCawley	Yes	Mr. Boyd	Yes
Mr. Anson	Yes	Mr. Fischer	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Ms. Williams	Absent	Mr. Riley	Yes		

Red Snapper Weekend/Weekday Openings Options Paper

Motion: In Action 1, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 1, no action.

Alternative 1: No Action – The recreational red snapper season will be open continuously during open season.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 2, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 1, no action.

Alternative 1: No Action – If it is determined that the recreational quota has not been met following a quota closure, the authority for the Assistant Administrator to reopen a fishery currently exists under 50 CFR 622.43(c).

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To table the Options Paper for Red Snapper Weekend/Weekday Openings.

Motion to table carried.

Gray Triggerfish Update Assessment

Motion: To direct staff to prepare an interim rule to reduce the gray triggerfish Annual Catch Limits and Annual Catch Targets in accordance with the new Acceptable Biological Catch and adjust the Accountability Measures as necessary to provide in-season closure authority.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To direct staff to prepare a framework amendment for gray triggerfish to incorporate the necessary Annual Catch Limits, Annual Catch Targets, Accountability Measures, rebuilding scale, and other management measures.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Amendment 34 – Crew Size and Income Requirement

Motion: To approve Amendment 34 and subsequently forward to the Secretary of Commerce for implementation and that the regulations be deemed necessary and appropriate.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mr. Steele	Yes	Mr. McKnight	Yes	Mr. Fischer	Yes
Dr. Shipp	Yes	Mr. Pearce	Yes	Mr. Anson	Yes
Mr. Boyd	Yes	Mr. Riley	Yes	Mr. Greene	Yes
Ms. Williams	Absent	Ms. McCawley	Yes	Dr. Abele	Yes
Dr. McIlwain	Yes	Mr. Perret	Yes	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Robinson	Yes	Dr. Dana	Yes		

Amendment 35 – Greater Amberjack Rebuilding Plan

Motion: To adopt the language change staff has proposed to indicate a discussion that, in the case of an Annual Catch Limit overage, both the Annual Catch Target and the Annual Catch Limit will be reduced the following year, and to adopt the codified language in Tab B, No. 15(a).

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To delay final action on Reef Fish Amendment 35 – Greater Amberjack until the April 2012 Council meeting.

Motion carried.

Substitute motion: To increase the recreational size limit of greater amberjack to 32” fork length.

Substitute motion failed.

Second substitute motion: To have a recreational greater amberjack closure for the months of March, April, and May.

Second substitute motion failed.

Red Snapper IFQ 5-Year Review Survey Results

Motion: That the Council request that the Science Center initiate a socioeconomic analysis regarding allocation options for red snapper as required by the five-year review.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Amendment 36 – Restricted Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota Transfer

Motion: To table further work on Amendment 36 and to move this issue into Amendment 37 where it can be addressed in a broader context.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Vermilion Snapper Annual Catch Limit Framework Action Options Paper

Motion: To add a new Alternative 5 that would specify the annual catch limit at 75% of the yield at the overfishing limit.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To refer the discussion of vermilion snapper back to the Scientific and Statistical Committee until further clarification is received.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Reef Fish Amendment 30B

Motion: To request that staff prepare a framework action that would remove the sentence dealing with the closure of shallow water grouper in the event that the gag and red grouper quota is exceeded.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Shrimp

Motion: That the Council support the Cooperative Texas Closure for 2012 throughout the Exclusive Economic Zone off Texas to the 200-mile limit in conjunction with the closure of Texas' state waters.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: That staff prepare a letter to the NOAA Assistant Administrator strongly endorsing the Agency's continuation of the electronic logbook (ELB) program in FY2012 and beyond for collecting and analyzing shrimp fishing effort as necessary to perform shrimp stock assessments, implement the red snapper rebuilding plan, and conduct other critical bycatch reduction efforts.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To authorize the Shrimp Committee chairman or his designee to attend the Shrimp Stock Assessment Workshop in Galveston on February 14-16, 2012.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Spiny Lobster

Motion: To subdivide proposed closed area 2 into two closed areas, proposed area 15 into three closed areas, and proposed closed area 30 into two closed areas.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To send Spiny Lobster Amendment 11 to the Secretary of Commerce for implementation and deem the regulations as necessary and appropriate.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mr. McKnight	Yes	Mr. Boyd	Yes	Mr. Perret	Yes
Dr. Shipp	Yes	Mr. Robinson	Yes	Mr. Anson	Yes
Mr. Fischer	Yes	Dr. Crabtree	Yes	Ms. McCawley	Yes
Dr. Dana	Yes	Mr. Greene	Yes	Dr. McIlwain	Yes
Dr. Abele	Yes	Ms. Williams	Absent	Mr. Gill	Yes
Mr. Riley	Yes	Mr. Pearce	Yes		

Motion: To disband the Stone Crab Advisory Panel and to change the name of the Special Spiny Lobster/Stone Crab Scientific and Statistical Committee to the Special Spiny Lobster Scientific and Statistical Committee.

Motion carried.

SSC Selection – Closed Session

Ryan Gandy was appointed to the Special Spiny Lobster Scientific and Statistical Committee and to the Special Shrimp Scientific and Statistical Committee.

Walter Jaap and Andrew Shepard were both appointed to the Special Coral Scientific and Statistical Committee.

Theresa Bert was removed from the Special Spiny Lobster Scientific and Statistical Committee.

SSC Selection

Motion: That staff explore Option 3 of the SSC Structure.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Other Motions

Motion: To approve the membership of the Ad Hoc Restoration Committee with the addition of Harlon Pearce.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: That the charge of the Ad Hoc Restoration Committee be as follows:

Charge of the Ad Hoc Restoration Committee:

This committee will engage relevant restoration planning authorities such as the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and NOAA as the relevant federal Trustee addressing offshore Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (DHOS) restoration. The committee will provide input on the draft DHOS Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, work with the Task Force on implementation of the Gulf of Mexico Regional Restoration Strategy, and respond to other marine or fishery restoration matters on an as needed basis. This committee will provide input on development of a broader Gulf of Mexico ecosystem restoration program created with Trustee/BP settlement monies or Clean Water Act fines.

This committee will identify suitable restoration projects for fishery resources and the marine environment in response to the DHOS Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) and submit these to NOAA after Gulf Council approval for consideration. The committee will consider NRDA restoration projects in the form of improvements to data collection, monitoring, research (in accordance with the Council's 5-year research plan), stock assessments, technology (e.g., fishing gear), Essential Fish Habitat enhancement, and management. The committee will consult the Scientific and Statistical Committee, SERO, and/or Southeast Fisheries Science Center for input on restoration projects on an as needed basis.

Motion carried with no opposition.