

**Gulf Council Motions Report**  
**June 23-27, 2014**  
**Key West, Florida**

**Advisory Panel Selection**

Motion: To accept all the names as listed to appoint to the Ad Hoc Red Snapper For-hire IFQ AP.

Gary Bryant	Mark Kelley	Bill Staff
Shane Cantrell	Robbie Langlinais	Mike Sullivan
Daryl Carpenter	Seth Macinko	Skipper Thierry
Troy Frady	Greg Mercurio	Edward Walker
James Green	Mike Nugent	Johnny Williams
Charles Guilford	Richard (Rene) Rice	Troy Williamson
Mark Hubbard	Scott Robson	Bob Zales

Motion: To approve the Draft Charge for the Ad Hoc Red Snapper For-Hire IFQ AP:

The charge of the AP is to make recommendations to the Council relative to the design, implementation and evaluation of a red snapper for-hire IFQ-type program.

Motion carried.

**Administrative Policy**

Motion: To approve the June 2014 draft of the Administrative Handbook.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To accept the changed definition to “depleted” as defined currently in the Senate bill.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To include in the comments on the Senate bill a request to remove the phrase “fish that are harvested in the fishery and retained but not landed”.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To include in the Senate letter a statement to remove the section on appointments to the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils.

Motion failed 6 to 10.

Motion: To recommend that referendum only be required for the initiation of an IFQ program.

Motion carried with no opposition.

### **Data Collection**

Motion: The For-Hire Electronic Reporting Program should:

- a. Cover the entire Gulf-wide federally permitted charter fleet
- b. Be a census electronic reporting system coupled with an estimation process for non-compliance
- c. Be mandatory
- d. Require daily trip reporting
- e. Have accountability measures for compliance in reporting, including suspension of permit for not reporting until trip reports are submitted and received
- f. Include an allowance for paper-based reporting only during extreme events (e.g., natural disasters)
- g. Must use VMS or similar system if determined more cost effective for effort validation, in addition to hail out/hail in. Also consider how incorporate dually permitted vessel who already have a VMS, if at all possible
- h. Should be implemented and tested side by side with MRIP and state's method for at least three years
- i. Validation should include a) Gulf MRIP pilot program methodologies, dockside validation of catch and vessel activity, and whenever practical b) at-sea observers or observations through electronic monitoring technologies, c) fine-scale discard data, d) depths of capture, e) area fished, and f) release mortality.

Substitute motion: Suggestions for the For-Hire Electronic Reporting Program should:

- a. Cover the entire Gulf-wide federally permitted charter fleet
- b. Be a census electronic reporting system coupled with an estimation process for non-compliance
- c. Be mandatory
- d. Require daily trip reporting
- e. Have accountability measures for compliance in reporting, including suspension of permit for delinquent reporting until trip reports are submitted and received
- f. Include an allowance for paper-based reporting only during extreme events (e.g., natural disasters)
- g. Must use VMS or similar system if determined more cost effective for effort validation, in addition to hail out/hail in. Also consider how to incorporate dually permitted vessel who already have a VMS unit, if at all possible
- h. Should be implemented and tested side by side with MRIP and state method for at least three years
- i. Validation should include a) Gulf MRIP pilot program methodologies, dockside validation of catch and vessel activity, and whenever practical b) at-sea observers or observations through electronic monitoring technologies, c) fine-scale discard data, d) depths of capture, e) area fished, and f) release mortality.

Substitute motion carried 13 to 3

Second substitute motion: Suggestions for the For-Hire Electronic Reporting Program could include:

- a. Cover the entire Gulf-wide federally permitted charter fleet
- b. Be a census electronic reporting system, or a system yielding similar results, coupled with an estimation process for non-compliance
- c. Be mandatory
- d. Require daily trip reporting, submitted weekly
- e. Have accountability measures for compliance in reporting, including suspension of permit for delinquent reporting until trip reports are submitted and received
- f. Include an allowance for paper-based reporting only during extreme events (e.g., natural disasters)
- g. Must use VMS or other system if determined more cost effective for effort validation, in addition to hail out/hail in. Also consider how to incorporate dually permitted vessel who already have a VMS unit, if at all possible
- h. Should be implemented and tested side by side with MRIP and state methods for at least three years
- i. Validation should include a) Gulf MRIP pilot program methodologies, dockside validation of catch and vessel activity, and whenever practical b) at-sea observers or observations through electronic monitoring technologies, c) fine-scale discard data, d) depths of capture, e) area fished, and f) release mortality.

Second substitute motion failed.

Motion: To appoint Harlon Pearce and John Froeschke to the Regional Implementation Plan Committee.

Motion carried with no opposition.

### **Joint Coral/Habitat Protection Committees**

Motion: To form a working group made up of Sandra Brooke, Paul Sammarco, Peter Etnoyer, G.P. Schmahl, John Reed, Judy Lang, and Erik Cordes to determine the criteria and boundaries, and other specifics for potential sites, and once that has been determined, that this group meet with representatives of any potentially impacted fisheries and members of law enforcement.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To have staff initiate the appropriate action to modify coral EFH and identify new areas as potential habitat areas of particular concern.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## **Outreach and Education**

Motion: To recommend that the Council rename and modify the structure of scoping workshops to include some of the RAP session protocols, including the following:

- Define a workshop culture that is more collaborative than the formal structure currently associated with public hearings
- Allow participants to speak without a formal comment card and rigid time limits, and ensure that each participants is aware they have an opportunity to comment before anyone can speak twice on an issue
- Create a living document, in real time, as speakers contribute
- Do not attribute comments to individual speakers
- Use informal venues that are more audience friendly
- Schedule during times when greater participation is more likely

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: That the Council approve the revised Strategic Communications Plan with suggested edits.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To reconvene the Outreach and Education AP prior to the April 2015 Council meeting to review the follow-up survey on stakeholder communications.

Motion carried with no opposition.

## **Reef Fish**

### **Gag Stock Assessment**

Motion: To ask the SEFSC to give the SSC a constant catch projection for gag grouper through 2018 so that the SSC can recommend a constant catch ABC for the Council.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Amendment 28**

Motion: To remove Action 2, Recreational Accountability Measures, from Amendment 28 and put it in a standalone amendment.

Motion carried 10 to 5 with one abstention by roll call vote.

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

Motion: To postpone Amendment 28 until all fishery components have accountable management schemes in place.

Motion withdrawn.

Motion: In Action 2.1, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 2.

**Alternative 2.** Apply a 20% buffer to the recreational quota based on the ACL/ACT control rule established in the Generic ACL/AM amendment. The 2015 ACT would be 4.312 mp.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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

Motion: In Action 2.2, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 2.

**Alternative 2.** While red snapper is under a rebuilding plan, if the recreational red snapper quota is exceeded, deduct the full amount of the overage from the recreational quota in the following season. The recreational ACT will be adjusted to reflect the previously established percent buffer.

Motion carried 15 to 1 by roll call vote.

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

Substitute motion: In Action 2.2, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 1.

**Alternative 1.** No action.

Motion failed 3 to 13 by roll call vote.

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

Motion: In Amendment 28, Action 1, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 1, no action.

Substitute motion: To defer all further action on Amendment 28 until the Council has completed Amendment 40.

Substitute motion carried 9 to 6 by roll call vote with one abstention.

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

Motion: To request that the Science center and the SSC continue to analyze slot limits which would include size limits, one fish over the slot limit, and the effects of high grading.

Motion failed 5 to 8.

## **Amendment 40**

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

**Alternative 2.** Establish a red snapper federal for-hire component. The federal for-hire component would include all for-hire operators with a valid or renewable federal reef fish for-hire permit. Establish a private angling component that would include all other for-hire operators and private recreational anglers.

Motion carried with two opposed.

Motion: To add a new Alternative 9 that would incorporate the time intervals from 1986-2003 showing 54.3% for the federally permitted for-hire sector and 45.7% for the private recreational sector.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To add a new Alternative 10 that uses the average percent of catch per vessel for the years 1986-2013 (excluding 2010) as a means of allocating the red snapper quota to the charter for-hire sector.

Motion withdrawn.

Motion: In Action 2.1, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 4.

**Alternative 4.** Allocate the recreational red snapper quota based on average landings between 1996 and 2012. Resulting federal for-hire and private angling allocations would be 47.1% and 52.9%, respectively.

Motion carried 11 to 3.

Motion: To add a new Alternative 10 that would allocate the recreational red snapper quota based on the average landings from 2011-2013.

Motion withdrawn.

Motion: In Action 2.1 the baseline allocation between the federal for-hire and the private angling components that the year 2010 be excluded in all alternatives.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To modify Alternative 8 to include the years 2011-2013.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 3, that Alternative 2 be the preferred alternative.

**Alternative 2.** Establish separate red snapper season closure provisions for the federal for-hire and private angling components. The federal for-hire red snapper season will close when the federal for-hire red snapper quota is projected to be caught. The private angling red snapper season will close when the private angling red snapper quota is projected to be caught.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To send Amendment 40 to public hearings.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To hold public hearings for Amendment for in the following locations:

- Port Aransas
- Galveston area
- Baton Rouge
- Biloxi/Gulfport area
- Mobile
- Orange Beach/Gulf Shores area
- Panama City
- St. Petersburg area

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Codified text**

Motion: To approve the letter to Dr. Crabtree (Tab B, No. 10a) to submit the abbreviated framework action and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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

**Reef Fish Other Business**

Motion: To direct staff to develop a framework amendment to reduce the recreational bag limit and modify accountability measures for red grouper for the purpose of extending the recreational season.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To give guidance to the SEFSC that an update assessment for 2014 not be done and to maintain the schedule for the 2015 standard assessment for red snapper.

Motion failed.

Motion: To direct staff to develop the appropriate document to consider restricting transfer of grouper/tilefish and red snapper IFQ shares to commercial reef fish permit holders beyond the first five years of the IFQ program.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To request a benchmark assessment for red snapper as soon as possible after the 2014 update, including an ABC for the east/west Gulf.

Motion failed by roll call vote.

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

Motion: To request a benchmark assessment for red snapper as soon as possible after the 2014 update.

Motion passed 8 to 7.

Motion: To send a letter to SEFSC asking them to make every effort to complete the update assessment with the calibration workshop results included, and to make every effort to have the information available for the February 2015 meeting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Shrimp**

**Shrimp Amendment 15**

Motion: In Action 1, to add “a stock will only be considered to be undergoing overfishing if the MFMT value is exceeded two years in a row” to Alternatives 2 and 3.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 1.1, that Alternative 2 be the preferred alternative.

**Alternative 2.** The maximum fishing mortality threshold (MFMT) for each penaeid shrimp stock is defined as the maximum apical fishing mortality rate (F) computed for the fishing years 1984 to 2012 plus the 95% confidence limits. Species specific MFMT values will be recomputed during updated assessments, but only among the years 1984-2012. The values for each species will be updated every 5 years through the framework procedure, unless changed earlier by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

- a. Brown shrimp: the apical F value of the model output (3.54) plus the confidence limit (0.14); effective F: 3.68
- b. White shrimp: the apical F value of the model output (0.76) plus the confidence limit (0.01); effective F: 0.77
- c. Pink shrimp: the apical F value of the model output (0.20) plus the confidence limit (0.03); effective F: 0.23

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 1.2, to add, “a stock will only be considered to be overfished if the MSST value is below the recommended value for two years in a row” to Alternatives 2 and 3.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 1.2, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 2.

**Alternative 2.** The minimum sustainable stock threshold (MSST) for each penaeid shrimp stock is defined as the minimum total annual spawning biomass minus the 95% confidence limit for the fishing years 1984 to 2012. Species specific MSST values will be recomputed during the updated assessments, but only among the fishing years 1984-2012. The values for each species will be updated every 5 years through the framework procedure, unless changed earlier by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

- a. Brown shrimp: the MSST value of the model output (11,166) minus the confidence limit (222); effective MSST value: 10,944 metric tons of tails
- b. White shrimp: the MSST value of the model output (125,535) minus the confidence limit (306); effective MSST value: 125,229 metric tons of tails
- c. Pink shrimp: the MSST value of the model output (17,502) minus the confidence limit (3,467); effective MSST value: 14,035 metric tons of tails

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

**Alternative 2.** Modify the shrimp management measures framework procedure to include changes to accountability measures for the royal red shrimp fishery through the standard documentation process for open framework actions, and make editorial changes to the framework procedure to reflect changes to the Council advisory committees and panels. Accountability measures that could be implemented or changed would include:

**In-season accountability measures**

- Closure and closure procedures
- Trip limit implementation or change
- Implementation of gear restrictions

**Post-season accountability measures**

- Adjustment of season length
- Implementation of closed seasons/time periods
- Adjustment or implementation of trip or possession limits
- Reduction of the ACL/Annual Catch Target (ACT) to account for the previous year overage
- Revoking a scheduled increase in the ACL/ACT if the ACL was exceeded in the previous year
- Implementation of gear restrictions
- Reporting and monitoring requirements

Motion carried with no opposition.

**Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem**

Motion: To ask the Ecosystem SSC, in cooperation with the Standing SSC, to develop a set of suggested goals and objectives of an Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management plan that considers possible measurable targets.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To pursue participation in the newly formed Taskforce to develop Blueprint of action for Ecosystems-based Fisheries Management.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To convene a working group comprised of some members from the Ecosystem SSC, Standing SSC, and Socioeconomic SSC of the Council to develop approaches for identifying and prioritizing ecosystem and socioeconomic information needs for the fisheries managed by the Council.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To request SSC feedback on the FWRI “West Florida Shelf ecosystem model’s” ability to evaluate gag and other shallow water grouper harvest strategies, and evaluate whether the model can provide information on ecological and economic tradeoffs in order to help determine best management outcomes, and if possible, for the Council to receive a presentation on the model at the next Council meeting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To have the GOM IEA program work with the Standing and Ecosystem SSC’s to evaluate the current red grouper harvest control rule to determine if it is robust to possible future changes in intensity and frequency of episodic events of non-fishing mortality.

Motion carried with one opposition.

### **Other Council Motions**

Motion: To request the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel to review the utility of decals in the charter for-hire industry.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: That the Council send a letter to the RESTORE 1604 Science Fund that references the needs in our restoration priorities letter of 2012 (enclosed), and particularly highlights habitat mapping as a way they can develop regional scientific information that will assist our priorities, like improving stock assessments.

Motion carried with one opposed.