

**GULF COUNCIL MOTIONS
OCTOBER 24-28, 2011
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

Administrative Policy

Motion: To replace “by majority vote of those present and voting the language” to Section VI.B. of the Administrative Handbook to read: “Decisions by the SSC will be by consensus or majority vote of those present and voting.”

Motion carried.

Motion: To accept the language in blue on Tab I, No. 3 in the SOPPs language on advisory panel member violations, which would replace the language in yellow. The new language would now read:

“Membership on an AP is determined by the Council during a closed session of its Council meetings and is based on the application provided by the applicant as well as the Council members’ knowledge of the applicant. Consideration for appointment may include the appropriate interest, experience, and past performance as well as a record of fishery violations, among other factors. Advisory panel members serve at the pleasure of the Council and may be removed at any time without cause.

Motion carried.

Motion: To continue to develop the Long Range Planning to Facilitate Future Management Decisions for the Gulf Council.

Motion carried.

Advisory Panel Selection

Motion: To appoint the following persons to the Ad Hoc Private Recreational Data Collection Advisory Panel:

Ken Creel	Ed Sapp
F.J. Eicke	Gary Smith
Paul Giordano	David Sowell
Bo Gorham	Ray Weldon
Scott Green	Jason Whitaker
Megan Robillard	Troy Williamson

Data Collection

Motion: To create a Council Ad Hoc Restoration Committee to provide guidance on the development of Gulf restoration programs, plans, or projects.

Motion carried.

Motion: To accept the Ad Hoc Private Recreational Data Collection Advisory Panel charge as follows:

Identify methods for improving private boat recreational data collection through possible additional data collection programs that would supplement data currently collected through MRIP. Programs considered must improve the accuracy and timeliness of catch, effort, and discard data for the private boat recreational sector in the Gulf of Mexico. Preferentially, the considered programs should allow participation in the data collection process by a significant number of private boat recreational anglers whose data is not presently collected because of the small sample size of the existing MRIP survey system. Prioritize identified programs for possible consideration and implementation with the rationale given. Provide detail for the concept of the highest priority program as much as possible.

Substitute motion: To accept the Ad Hoc Private Recreational Data Collection Advisory Panel charge as follows:

To identify methods for improving estimates of catch and effort of private recreational fisheries data in the Gulf of Mexico. Specifically, the advisory panel should address accuracy, precision, discard rates, and timeliness of private boat recreational fishery data and the viability of catch data that could be integrated into current and future scientific stock estimates. The panel should identify methods for stakeholder participation, costs, data collection tools (e.g., electronic, paper, other), identify steps required for implementation, and prioritize objectives of any proposed data collection system. The advisory panel could also recommend strategies for implementation (i.e., specific species or all federally managed species) and/or geographic stratification. Preferentially, the considered programs should allow participation in the data collection process by a significant number of private boat recreational anglers whose data are not presently collected because of the small sample size of the existing MRIP survey system.

Substitute motion carried.

Motion to reconsider.

Motion to reconsider carried with one opposed.

Motion: To accept the Ad Hoc Private Recreational Data Collection Advisory Panel charge as follows:

To identify methods for improving estimates of catch and effort of private recreational fisheries data in the Gulf of Mexico. Specifically, the advisory panel should address accuracy, precision, discard rates, and timeliness of private boat recreational fishery data and the viability of catch data that could be integrated into current and future scientific stock estimates. The panel should identify methods for stakeholder participation, costs, data collection tools (e.g., electronic, paper,

other), identify steps required for implementation, and prioritize objectives of any proposed data collection system. The advisory panel could also recommend strategies for implementation (i.e, specific species or all federally managed species) and/or geographic stratification. Preferentially, the considered programs should allow participation in the data collection process by a significant number of private boat recreational anglers whose data are not presently collected because of the small sample size of the existing MRIP survey system.

Motion failed.

Motion: To accept the Ad Hoc Private Recreational Data Collection Advisory Panel charge as follows:

Identify methods for improving private boat recreational data collection through possible additional data collection programs that would supplement data currently collected through MRIP. Programs considered must improve the accuracy and timeliness of catch, effort, and discard data for the private boat recreational sector in the Gulf of Mexico. Preferentially, the considered programs should allow participation in the data collection process by a significant number of private boat recreational anglers whose data is not presently collected because of the small sample size of the existing MRIP survey system. Prioritize identified programs for possible consideration and implementation with the rationale given. Provide detail for the concept of the highest priority program as much as possible.

Motion carried.

Law Enforcement

Motion: That the enforcement state agency representative of the state in which the Council is meeting be asked to attend that meeting.

Motion carried.

Mackerel

Motion: That staff begin working on a scoping document for Amendments 19 and 20.

Substitute motion: That staff begin working on a scoping document to address problems in the mackerel fishery.

Substitute motion carried with no opposition.

Reef Fish

Vermilion Snapper Update Assessment

Motion: To request that staff prepare a framework action to set catch levels for vermilion snapper and to develop a series of alternatives based on the SSC and AP reports.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Amendment 35 – Greater Amberjack Rebuilding

Motion: That Action 2.1 be moved to the considered but rejected section.

Action 2.1. Establish a Proportional Bag Limit or Vessel Limit for Greater Amberjack

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

Alternative 2. Modify the minimum size limit for greater amberjack to 32” fork length.

Substitute motion: In Action 2.2, that the preferred alternative be **Alternative 1**, no action.

Substitute motion carried.

Motion: In Action 2.3, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 6.

Alternative 6. Modify the recreational season closure to June 1-July 23.

Substitute motion: In Action 2.3, that the preferred alternative be **Alternative 1**, no action.

Substitute motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: In Action 2.3, that Alternative 5 be moved to the considered but rejected section.

Action 2.3. Modify the Recreational Closed Seasons for Greater Amberjack

Alternative 5. Modify the recreational season to close June 1 and re-open the day after red snapper season closes.

Motion carried with no opposition.

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

Alternative 2. Establish a commercial greater amberjack trip limit and maintain March 1-May 31 closed season.

Option c. Establish a 1,000 pound whole weight trip limit for greater amberjack.

Substitute motion: In Action 3, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 2, Option a.

Alternative 2. Establish a commercial greater amberjack trip limit and maintain March 1-May 31 closed season.

Option a. Establish a 2,000 pound whole weight trip limit for greater amberjack.

Substitute motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: That Amendment 35 be approved for public hearings.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Amendment 36 – Restrict Red Snapper IFQ Transfers

Motion: In Action 1, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 4.

Alternative 4. Upon implementation of the final rule for Amendment 36 to the Reef Fish FMP and until the Council modifies the transferability provisions for the red snapper IFQ program, red snapper IFQ shares and allocations can be transferred only to commercial reef fish permit holders.

Motion carried 7 to 6.

Substitute motion: To merge Amendment 36 and Amendment 37 into one amendment.

Substitute motion failed due to a tie vote.

Motion: To request that NOAA Fisheries establish a control date of January 1, 2012, to notify red snapper shareholders that the Council is contemplating a use it or lose it provision, so anyone who owns red snapper shares after January 1, 2012 and is not using them may be at risk of losing them.

Motion carried

Motion: To hold public hearings for Amendment 36 in the following locations:

Port Aransas, TX
Galveston, TX
Kenner, LA
Biloxi area, MS
Mobile, AL
Panama City/Destin area, FL
Tampa, FL

Motion passed with one opposed.

Amendment 34 – Crew Size & Income Requirement

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

Alternative 2. Eliminate income requirements for Gulf commercial reef fish permits.

Motion carried.

Substitute motion: In action 2.1, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 5.

Alternative 5. Modify the current income requirements to allow the Council to suspend the renewal requirements by passage of a motion specifying: (a) the event or condition triggering the suspension; (b) the duration of the suspension; and (c) the criteria establishing who is eligible for the suspension. The Council then requests that the Regional Administrator suspend income requirements according to the terms outlined in the motion.

Substitute motion failed.

Motion: In Action 2.2, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 3.

Alternative 3. Increase the maximum crew size to four for dual-permitted vessels.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Red Snapper Fall Season Regulatory Amendment

Motion: That Action 2 and Action 3 be moved into a separate document.

Action 2. Weekend or Weekday Only During Regular Season

Action 3. Weekend or Weekday Only During a Supplemental Recreational Fishing Season

Motion carried.

Motion: To request that staff develop a Headboat IFQ study design.

Motion carried.

Motion: To request that staff develop a Charterboat Days at Sea study design.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To concur with the interim gag rule extension.

Motion carried with one opposed.

Motion: That the SSC develop options for revising the ABC control rule with special attention to Tier 2.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Shrimp

Motion: To request that staff prepare a letter to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Eric Schwaab, strongly endorsing the agency's continuation of the Electronic Logbook (ELB) program 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.

Spiny Lobster

Motion: In Action 1, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 3, Option a.

Alternative 3. Create new closed areas in the EEZ off Florida consisting of identified *Acropora* spp. colonies with straight-line boundaries.

Option a. In the closed areas, spiny lobster trapping would be prohibited.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 1, to move Alternative 4 to the considered but rejected section.

Action 1. Limit Spiny Lobster Fishing in Certain Areas in the EEZ off Florida to Protect Threatened Staghorn (*Acropora cervicornis*) and Elkhorn Corals (*Acropora palmata*).

Alternative 4. Create new closed areas in the EEZ off Florida consisting of identified *Acropora* colonies with a 500 ft. buffer surrounding each colony.

Motion carried.

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

Motion carried with one opposed.

Motion: To prepare Spiny Lobster Amendment 11 for public hearings.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion: To add a Marathon, FL and a Key West, FL public hearing to the list of those for Spiny Lobster Amendment 11.

Motion carried.

Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem

Motion: To request that staff develop a scoping document on sector separation and provide it at the April 2012 Council meeting.

Motion carried.

Substitute motion: To table the sector separation issue until Amendments 28, 36, and 37 are completed.

Substitute motion failed.

Motion: That the GMFMC convene a panel in conjunction with SAFMC to explore approaches to move the goliath grouper fishery beyond the moratorium and collect information to support an informative assessment that will allow determination of stock status and possible recovery.

Motion carried.

Motion: To send a letter to the South Atlantic Council indicating that the Gulf Council accepts their request for the formation of an ad hoc joint committee (South Atlantic and Gulf Councils) to consider the development of a joint management plan for south Florida fisheries.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Other Motions

Motion: To dissolve the Ad Hoc Allocation Committee.

Motion carried.

Motion: To adopt the proposed Committee Roster, Tab A, No. 4, with the removal of the Ad Hoc Allocation Committee.

Motion carried.