

Reef Fish Amendment 42: Reef Fish Management for Headboat Survey Vessels



January 2016



Outline

- Participants in the Headboat Management Plan
- Purpose and Need for Action
- Structure of the Amendment
- Summary of Management Alternatives

Headboats and Charter Vessels Definition

The federal for-hire permit for reef fish does not distinguish between headboats and charter vessels. Currently, there are 1,318 federally permitted for-hire vessels.

In Amendment **42**, a vessel is considered to be a **headboat** if it:

- has a federal-for hire permit
- participates in the Southeast Regional Headboat Survey
- **67 headboats**

In Amendment **41**, a vessel is considered to be a **charter vessel** if it:

- Has a federal-for hire permit
- Does not participate in the Southeast Regional Headboat Survey
- **1,250 charter vessels**

Federally-permitted headboats participating in the Southeast Survey

Year	AL	FL	LA	MS	TX	Total
2011	8	35	4	5	17	69
2012	8	35	4	5	16	68
2013	8	36	3	5	16	68
2014	7	37	2	5	16	67
2015	9	36	2	5	15	67

Source: NMFS SRHS database 01/05/16

Purpose and Need

The purpose of this action is to reduce management uncertainty and improve economic conditions for Gulf reef fish headboat operators/owners, and provide flexibility by increasing fishing opportunities for their angler passengers through a management program for Gulf headboats participating in the Southeast Region Headboat Survey.

The need for this action is to prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from the harvest of reef fish by headboats, and taking into account and allowing for variations among fishery resources and participants.

Structure of Reef Fish Amendment 42

Section A - General

- Management Approach
- Species to Include; Units of Measurement
- Allocation to the Headboat Component

Section B - Fishing Quota Programs

- Initial Apportionment
- Transferability

Section C – Cooperatives

- Formation and Management
- Initial Apportionment

Section D – Common Actions

- Caps;
- Reporting; Cost Recovery

Management Approach

Traditional Management



Bag limit
Fishing season
Minimum size limit

Allocation-based Management



Fishing privileges assigned to:



Individual Headboats

Permit Fishing Quota
Individual Fishing Quota

Groups of Headboats

Fishing Cooperatives

Species to Include

Reef Fish species with a sector allocation are considered in Amendment 42:

- Red snapper (preferred alternative)
- Gray triggerfish
- Greater amberjack
- Red grouper
- Gag (preferred alternative)
- Black grouper (low landings)

Measurement Units

Manage the Headboat program and report landings in:

Pounds of fish

- Challenging for operators due to multitude of anglers on headboat vessels

Number of fish

- Requires conversion of quotas
- Regional and temporal variations in average weights

Allocations to the Headboat Component

For each species, what percentage of the recreational quota should be allocated to the headboat component?

Percentages of the recreational quota landed by Headboat Vessels (by species)

Year	Red Snapper*	Greater Amberjack	Gray Triggerfish	Gag Grouper	Red Grouper
2011	15%	6%	11%	7%	6%
2012	14%	7%	7%	4%	5%
2013	5%	5%	6%	2%	3%
2014	10%	5%	4%	5%	3%
Average	11%	6%	7%	5%	4%

Management Approach

Traditional Management



Bag limit
Fishing season
Minimum size limit

Allocation-based Management



Fishing privileges assigned to:



Individual Headboats

Permit Fishing Quota
Individual Fishing Quota
Section B

Groups of Headboats

Fishing Cooperatives
Section C



Traditional Management Approach

Status quo

- Bag Limit
- Size Limit
- Fishing Seasons

Bag limits, size limits, and fishing seasons for headboats could be adjusted using framework actions

Allocation-based Management Approach

For each species, allocate a portion of the recreational annual catch limit (ACL) to headboats.

The headboat allocation is then divided among **individual headboats** or **groups**.

Individual headboats or **groups** could choose when to use their allocation.



Individual Allocation-Based Management

- **Permit Fishing Quota Program (PFQ)** - Shares and allocation associated with a **permit**. Shares can be distributed based on catch history, or different metric.
- **Individual Fishing Quota Program(IFQ)** – Share and allocation held by **individual** headboat owners. Shares distributed based on catch history or a different metric
- Depending on program design, IFQs and PFQs could both achieve the objectives of the management program.
- Compared to PFQs, IFQs allow small shareholders to buy a portion of another participant's shares

Initial Apportionment of Shares

For each species, how should the quota allocated to the headboat component be apportioned among participants?

- Equal distribution
- Proportional distribution (based on catch histories)
- Combination of equal and proportional (percentages?)
- Auction

Transferability

Based on stated objectives of the program, what restrictions should be placed on the transferability of shares or allocation?

- Do not allow transfers
- Require a reef fish for-hire permit
- Require continued participation in Southeast Survey
- Allow unrestricted transfers

Group Allocation-based Management

Fishing Cooperative - a group of headboats acting together

- Number of cooperatives in the program?
 - One coop for all headboats (with or without to option to break away and form smaller coops)
 - How often can participants switch coop membership?
- Fishing Cooperatives could be formed voluntarily by headboat owners/operators without Council's involvement

Group Allocation-based Management

Management within Cooperatives

- Submit an operations plan to NMFS for review (with options to also submit changes to NMFS)
- Required elements of the operations plan

Apportionment of Yearly Catch Allotments to Cooperatives

- Based on number of members in the cooperatives
- Based on catch histories of the coop members

Group Allocation-based Management

Transferability of Yearly Catch Allotments

- Do not allow transfers between cooperatives
- Allow transfers between cooperatives by managers only
- Allow transfers between cooperatives by any member

Additional Actions

Landings Reporting Requirements

- Currently vessels in the SRHS report electronically on a weekly basis. The for-hire electronic reporting amendment could require reporting on a trip by trip basis

Cost Recovery Procedures

Ownership Caps

- For LAPPs, MSA mandates that no participant may acquire an excessive share of privileges

Framework Actions

- Could be used to adjust reporting, monitoring, and permitting requirements

Thank you