

Reef Fish Committee: Action Schedule for Tab B (revised 5/28/2015)

Agenda Item IV: Options Paper – Joint South Florida Management

Timeline Status: Review and provide guidance to staff on major decision points

Council Input and Next Steps: The committee will review a presentation from the State of Florida that will provide background information about South Florida management issues. Staff will review the Joint Options Paper on South Florida management issues and the IPT proposed restructured and consolidated actions and alternatives.

The Committee should make recommendations in preparation for the Joint Councils meeting on Thursday. For example, Actions 9-11 overlap and are not structured for comparative analysis. The Committee needs to provide guidance to staff on objectives of the actions and attempt to consolidate alternatives based on some of the following major decision points.

- One major decision in the document is delegating yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper, and recreational management of black grouper to the State of Florida.

Another is determining whether the Gulf Council wants to proceed with establishing sector annual catch limits (ACLs) for yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper, and black grouper. In the Gulf of Mexico the recreational and commercial ACLs are undefined because it is included in the shallow-water grouper complex for both sectors.

Agenda Item V: SSC Review of Alternative Red Snapper MSY Proxies

Timeline Status: Information

Council Input and Next Steps: The SSC representative will review an analysis of possible FMSY proxies for red snapper from 40% SPR to 20% SPR and possibly lower, including the pros and cons of the alternative proxies as biological reference points. Based on the analysis, the Committee should decide whether to recommend that staff proceed with development of plan amendment to revise the MSY and FMSY proxy for red snapper

Agenda Item VI: SSC Review of the effect of recalibrated recreational removals and recreational selectivity on estimates of OFL, ABC, and MSY for Gulf Red Snapper

Timeline Status: Information

Council Input and Next Steps: The SSC representative will review analysis by the SEFSC that was requested by the Amendment 28 IPT, consisting of:

1. Sensitivity runs to evaluate the effect of recalibrated recreational removals and recreational selectivity on estimates of OFL, ABC, and MSY for Gulf red snapper, and using pre-MRIP recalibrated estimates; and,
2. The effect of alternative allocations for the recreational and commercial red snapper fisheries in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

The Council should consider the results of these analyses and determine whether it will be warranted to ask the SSC to reevaluate red snapper OFL and ABC once the Council selects a preferred alternative for allocation.

Agenda Item VII: Options Paper – Framework Action to set Gag ACL and Recreational Season

Timeline Status: Draft Framework Options paper; Final Action (August 2015)

Council Input and Next Steps: The SSC representative will review an analysis of recent trends in gag CPUE indices that was requested by Council staff in response to anecdotal information that the stock is not doing as well as suggested by the SEDAR 33 stock assessment. Council staff will present a revised options paper that includes projected recreational season dates under various ACLs, and the decision tool (spreadsheet) used to calculate those seasons. Council should be aware that the projected dates are preliminary and subject to change. The Committee should review the alternatives and determine if they provide a reasonable range of alternatives, or if some other alternatives should be considered. Based on Council input, staff will prepare a framework action for final action at the August Council meeting. Any changes to the gag ACL, ACT and recreational season will take effect in 2016.

Agenda Item VIII: Hogfish and Mutton Snapper OFL and ABC

Timeline Status: Approval of ABC and initiation of framework actions to adjust ACL/ACT

Council Input and Next Steps: The SSC previously reviewed and accepted the SEDAR 37 hogfish assessment and SEDAR 15A mutton snapper update assessment prepared by Florida FWC. There are three hogfish stocks, a West Florida shelf stock, a Florida Keys/Eastern Florida stock which extends into Gulf waters, and a Georgia through North Carolina stock. Mutton snapper is a single stock that crosses the South Atlantic/Gulf jurisdictions. At its May 20, 2015 meeting the SSC reviewed OFL and ABC projections for these stocks. The SSC representative will review the ABC recommendations made by the SSC for the West Florida hogfish stock. The SSC also reviewed the OFL/ABC decision made by the South Atlantic SSC for the Florida Keys/Eastern Florida stock and the mutton snapper stock, to determine if it concurs with their recommendations. The Committee should recommend whether to direct staff to begin work on a framework action to adjust ACL and ACT for these stocks. The Committee should also consider how to best coordinate management with the South Atlantic Council for the overfished Florida Keys/Eastern Florida hogfish stock.

Agenda Item IX: Updated Draft Amendment 28 – Red Snapper Allocation

Timeline Status: Revised Public Hearing Draft

Council Input and Next Steps: The Committee will review a revised public hearing draft including the Council’s new preferred alternative. In addition, the Committee is expected to consider a timeline for final action.

Agenda Item X: Draft Framework Action to Allow NMFS to Withhold a Portion of the Commercial Red Snapper Quota in 2016

Timeline Status: Options Paper

Council Input and Next Steps: The Committee will review management alternatives to withhold a portion of the 2016 commercial quota. The Committee is expected to consider a timeline for final action.

Agenda Item XI: Revised Alternatives – Amendment 39 – Regional Management of Recreational Red Snapper

Timeline Status: Revised Actions and Alternatives

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff will review the revised actions and alternatives which were presented at the March/April Council meeting. In Action 6, the resulting allocation proportions for the new Alternative 8 are provided for Committee discussion. Finally, the Committee should review all preferred alternatives and discuss their intended direction and timeline for the amendment.

Agenda Item XII: Scoping Summaries – Amendment 36 – Red Snapper IFQ Modifications

Timeline Status: Scoping workshops completed

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff presented the Scoping Workshop summaries at the April 2015 meeting, but due to a lack of time, the Committee was unable to thoroughly address this agenda item. The scoping document and scoping workshop summaries are provided in the briefing book for the Committee’s information. Staff will review the items included for potential modification in Amendment 36, and the Committee should provide further direction as to the removal, retention, or further clarification for each of the items. If appropriate, the Committee should request the modified list of items be developed into an options paper.

Agenda Item XIII: Grouper/Tilefish IFQ 5-Year Review

Timeline Status: Information

Council Input and Next Steps: The Committee will be briefed on the studies and surveys scheduled to be included in the 5-year review of the grouper/tilefish IFQ program. If warranted, The Committee could suggest additional studies to include in the review.

Agenda Item XIV: Report of the Ad Hoc Red Snapper Charter For-Hire AP

Timeline Status: AP recommendations for Amendment 41

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff will present the summary report from the AP meeting, including AP recommendations as to the design and implementation of flexible measures for the management of red snapper by the charter for-hire fleet. The Committee should discuss the potential management measures to be included in Amendment 41. The Committee is also expected to consider a timeline for Amendment 41.

Agenda Item XV: Report of the Ad Hoc Reef Fish Headboat AP

Timeline Status: AP recommendations for Amendment 42

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff will summarize the recommendations made by Headboat AP during its May 2015 meeting. The Committee will discuss potential management measures to be included in Amendment 42. The Committee is also expected to consider a timeline for Amendment 42.