

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

259TH MEETING

FULL COUNCIL SESSION

Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort Clearwater Beach, Florida

JUNE 22-23, 2016

VOTING MEMBERS

- Kevin Anson (designee for Chris Blankenship).....Alabama
- Leann Bosarge.....Mississippi
- Doug Boyd.....Texas
- Roy Crabtree.....NMFS, SERO, St. Petersburg, Florida
- Pamela Dana.....Florida
- Dale Diaz.....Mississippi
- Myron Fischer (designee for Patrick Banks).....Louisiana
- Johnny Greene.....Alabama
- Martha Guyas (designee for Nick Wiley).....Florida
- Kelly Lucas (designee for Jamie Miller).....Mississippi
- Campo Matens.....Louisiana
- Robin Riechers.....Texas
- John Sanchez.....Florida
- Greg Stunz.....Texas
- Ed Swindell.....Louisiana
- David Walker.....Alabama
- Roy Williams.....Florida

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

- Glenn Constant.....USFWS
- Jose Jimenez.....USCG
- Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC

STAFF

- Steven Atran.....Senior Fishery Biologist
- Assane Diagne.....Economist
- John Froeschke.....Fishery Biologist - Statistician
- Douglas Gregory.....Executive Director
- Beth Hager.....Administrative Officer
- Morgan Kilgour.....Fishery Biologist
- Ava Lasseter.....Anthropologist
- Mara Levy.....NOAA General Counsel
- Emily Muehlstein.....Fisheries Outreach Specialist
- Ryan Rindone.....Fishery Biologist/SEDAR Liaison
- Claire Roberts.....EFH Specialist
- Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager
- Charlotte Schiaffo.....Research and Human Resource Librarian

1 Bryan Schoonard.....GIS Analyst
2 Carrie Simmons.....Deputy Director
3
4 **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**
5 Tom Ard.....Orange Beach, AL
6 Patrick Banks.....LA
7 Luiz Barbieri.....GMFMC SSC
8 Hannah Bartges.....
9 Randy Boggs.....Orange Beach, AL
10 Steve Branstetter.....NMFS
11 Eric Brazer.....Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance
12 J.P. Brooker.....Ocean Conservancy, St. Petersburg, FL
13 Shane Cantrell.....Charter Fishermen's Association
14 Jim Clements.....Carrabelle, FL
15 Mike Colby.....Clearwater, FL
16 David Dale.....NMFS
17 Jason Delacruz.....FL
18 Brian Dinning.....FL
19 LeRhonda DuBose.....FL
20 Elizabeth Fetherston-Resch.....FLRACEP
21 Traci Floyd.....MDMR, Biloxi, MS
22 Maxie Foster.....Clearwater, FL
23 Suzanne Foster.....Clearwater, FL
24 Brad Gorst.....Clearwater, FL
25 Buddy Guindon.....TX
26 Ken Haddad.....American Sportfishing Association, FL
27 Chad Haggert.....Clearwater, FL
28 Chad Hanson.....Pew Charitable Trusts
29 Chad Harreld.....St. Petersburg, FL
30 Scott Hickman.....Galveston, TX
31 Mike Jackson.....Clearwater, FL
32 Bill Kelly.....FKCFA
33 Bobby Kelly.....Orange Beach, AL
34 Mike Larkin.....NMFS
35 Michael Lokey.....FL
36 Morgan Lynch.....Tampa, FL
37 Eric Mahoney.....Clearwater, FL
38 Rich Malinowski.....NMFS
39 Jack McGovern.....NMFS
40 David Mott.....
41 David Naumann.....FL
42 Bart Niquet.....Lynn Haven, FL
43 Chris Niquet.....FL
44 Dennis O'Hern.....FL
45 Bonnie Ponwith.....SEFSC
46 Sid Rice.....
47 Lance Robinson.....TX
48 Charles Rowley.....

1 Lisa Schmidt.....Madeira Beach, FL
2 Mark Shea.....FWC
3 Jason Sherrill.....Venice, FL
4 Sunny Snider.....NMFS
5 Vance Tice.....FL
6 Steve Tomeny.....Port Fourchon, LA
7 Helen White.....FL
8 Jim White.....FL
9 Wayne Werner.....Alachua, FL
10 Bill Zack.....

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TABLE OF MOTIONS

PAGE 54: Motion to accept the recommendations of the Data Collection Technical Committee and have staff include in the Generic For-Hire Electronic Reporting Amendment. The motion carried on page 54.

PAGE 58: Motion to direct staff to compile and cross-reference various state data collection programs to identify key minimum data elements. The motion carried on page 58.

PAGE 63: Motion to convene the Data Collection Technical Committee to meet after the August council meeting. The motion carried on page 64.

PAGE 66: Motion to move the gray triggerfish benchmark assessment to 2017 and to move gray snapper to 2018. The motion carried on page 73.

PAGE 73: Motion to draft a letter to the SEFSC requesting that the fall plankton (larval) survey samples from the U.S. Gulf of Mexico for calendar year 2008 forward be processed in time for the next gray triggerfish benchmark assessment scheduled in 2017. The motion carried on page 74.

PAGE 77: Motion to request council staff to work with the Southeast Fisheries Science Center staff to evaluate data-poor species, to determine which species are good candidates for future data-poor assessments. The motion carried on page 78.

PAGE 120: Motion in Action 5 to eliminate Option c. Option c is assign the permit to a vessel that is of at least X length on the application. The motion carried on page 121.

PAGE 121: Motion to add to the SSC agenda a risk assessment for the threshold permit values in Action 3 relative to the turtle-related constraints in the shrimp fishery. The motion carried on page 122.

PAGE 123: Motion to direct staff to start work on an amendment to revise the ACL, including an option based on the review panel recommendation, which was 1991/1992 through 2015/2016. The motion carried on page 123.

PAGE 123: Motion that there be a lower landing trigger based on the average of the three low landings years, which were 2001/2002, 2002/2003, and 2003/2004, that would initiate a

1 review panel if below this average for two consecutive years.
2 That would be equivalent to a 5.3-million-pound total catch.
3 [The motion carried on page 123.](#)

4
5 [PAGE 125:](#) Motion that, at the August 2016 meeting of the Coral
6 SSC, Coral AP, and Shrimp AP, that the group identify and rank
7 the most important coral areas and provide this information to
8 the council in a report. Staff will use this report and council
9 input to draft a scoping document for evaluating HAPC or deep-
10 sea coral areas. [The motion carried on page 126.](#)

11
12 [PAGE 126:](#) Motion that staff begin drafting a letter with
13 council comments relative to the DEIS for the Flower Garden Bank
14 Sanctuary expansion. [The motion carried on page 127.](#)

15
16 [PAGE 127:](#) Motion to direct staff to develop a letter or a white
17 paper addressing fishing regulations relative to the DEIS for
18 the Flower Garden Banks Sanctuary expansion. [The motion carried](#)
19 [on page 130.](#)

20
21 [PAGE 133:](#) Motion to add an alternative to redistribute red
22 snapper shares among grouper-tilefish shareholders in proportion
23 to their grouper tilefish shares and redistribute grouper and
24 tilefish shares among the red snapper shareholders in proportion
25 to their red snapper shares. [The motion carried on page 136.](#)

26
27 [PAGE 136:](#) Motion to add an alternative to redistribute unused
28 red snapper shares to grouper-tilefish allocation-only account
29 holders and unused grouper-tilefish shares to red snapper
30 allocation-only account holders. [The motion carried on page](#)
31 [137.](#)

32
33 [PAGE 137:](#) Motion in Action 2.2 to move Alternative 4 to
34 Considered but Rejected. Alternative 4 is redistribute the
35 shares equally among small participants, Action 2.3. [The motion](#)
36 [carried on page 143.](#)

37
38 [PAGE 143:](#) Motion in Action 2.2 to modify the wording in
39 Alternative 5 to distribute the annual allocation associated
40 with the shares through a NMFS quota bank each year. Option 5a
41 is distribute the allocation equally among participants. Option
42 5b is distribute the red snapper allocation equally among
43 participants who are fishing and landing red snapper in the
44 eastern Gulf. [The motion carried on page 145.](#)

45
46 [PAGE 147:](#) Motion in Action 2 to move Alternative 3, Options b
47 and c to the considered but rejected section. [The motion](#)
48 [carried on page 149.](#)

1
2 [PAGE 153:](#) Motion in Action 2 to specify spawning months as
3 April through June. [The motion carried on page 153.](#)
4
5 [PAGE 153:](#) Motion in Action 3 to specify spawning months as
6 April through June. [The motion carried on page 153.](#)
7
8 [PAGE 154:](#) Motion in Action 1 to add, under Alternative 3,
9 Option 3c, every five years, and in Action 2, to add Option 2d,
10 every five years. [The motion carried on page 155.](#)
11
12 [PAGE 155:](#) Motion in Action 2 to clarify that vessels are
13 presumed to be under the program unless they exercise some
14 affirmative action to opt out. [The motion carried on page 155.](#)
15
16 [PAGE 155:](#) Motion in Action 3, Alternative 5a, to change 2012
17 to 2013. Option 5a is average landings for years 2003 to 2012,
18 excluding landings in 2010. [The motion carried on page 155.](#)
19
20 [PAGE 155:](#) Motion to ask staff to evaluate the recreational for-
21 hire red snapper season to open April 20 through May 31 and
22 reopen in September, and open June 1 through June 30, and reopen
23 October 1 until the projected end of the season. [The motion](#)
24 [carried on page 156.](#)
25
26 [PAGE 158:](#) Motion to recommend to change the language in Action
27 3, Preferred Alternative 3, from 219,000 pounds to 159,300
28 pounds after 2018. Preferred Alternative 3 is a constant catch
29 ACL is set at 219,000 pounds wet weight based on the constant
30 catch ABC recommendation for the years 2016 through 2018 of the
31 SSC. The ACL will revert to 219,000 pounds after 2018, until
32 modified by rulemaking. [The motion carried on page 158.](#)
33
34 [PAGE 159:](#) Motion in Action 4 to change the Preferred
35 Alternative from Alternative 4 to Alternative 2. Alternative 2
36 is set the hogfish minimum size limit at fourteen inches fork
37 length. [The motion carried on page 159.](#)
38
39 [PAGE 159:](#) Motion that the council approve Amendment 43, Hogfish
40 Stock Definition, SDC, ACL, and Size Limit, and that it be
41 forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review and
42 implementation, and deem the codified text as necessary and
43 appropriate, giving staff editorial license to make the
44 necessary changes in the document. The Council Chair is given
45 the authority to deem any changes to the codified text as
46 necessary and appropriate. [The motion carried on page 161.](#)
47
48

1 [PAGE 161](#): Motion to recommend the council approve Amendment 45,
2 Extend or Eliminate the Sunset Provision on Sector Separation,
3 and that it be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review
4 and implementation, and deem the codified text as necessary and
5 appropriate, giving staff editorial license to make the
6 necessary changes in the document. The Council Chair is given
7 the authority to deem any changes to the codified text as
8 necessary and appropriate. The motion was tabled on page 164.
9 [The motion carried on page 170.](#)

10
11 [PAGE 164](#): Motion in Action 2.1 to make Alternative 2, Option
12 2b, the preferred alternative. Preferred Alternative 2, Option
13 2b, is five calendar years, to be effective through the end of
14 the 2022 fishing season. [The motion carried on page 167.](#)

15
16 [PAGE 170](#): Motion that the council assemble an Ad Hoc Advisory
17 Panel of private boat recreational fishermen and charge them to
18 develop fair and effective ways to mitigate the red snapper
19 derby and populate this Committee and convene them for their
20 first meeting after hearing results from the Recreational Angler
21 Focus Group by January 2017. [The motion carried on page 174.](#)

22
23 [PAGE 174](#): Motion that the council begin a plan amendment to
24 specify ACL and MSY proxy for vermilion snapper. [The motion](#)
25 [carried on page 176.](#)

26
27 [PAGE 177](#): Motion to direct staff to start a framework action to
28 develop a method to carry over the unharvested red snapper ACL
29 to the following season. [The motion carried on page 177.](#)

30
31 [PAGE 177](#): Motion to recommend the council establish an ad hoc
32 workgroup, with the Executive Director's discretion in
33 appointments, to assist the SSC in addressing MSY proxies. [The](#)
34 [motion carried on page 177.](#)

35
36 [PAGE 178](#): Motion to ask the council to direct the Science &
37 Statistical Committee, for its August 2016 meeting, to review
38 analyses for red snapper at Fmax, F 20 percent SPR, F 22 percent
39 SPR, and F 24 percent SPR and provide advice regarding the risk
40 of overfishing if any of these potential reference points were
41 used for red snapper, given their life history characteristics,
42 and new scientific information regarding the generic
43 relationship between life histories and productivity. [The](#)
44 [motion carried on page 182.](#)

45
46 [PAGE 183](#): Motion to direct staff to create a new amendment for
47 management of red snapper for the private recreational fishery
48 in the Gulf of Mexico, considering all options, including

1 regional management, with input from the Ad Hoc Private
2 Recreational Advisory Panel. [The motion carried on page 204.](#)
3
4 [PAGE 208](#): Motion in Action 1 to have staff replace the original
5 Alternative 2 with the revised Alternative 2, as presented by
6 staff in full council. [The motion carried on page 209.](#)
7
8 [PAGE 212](#): Motion in Action 1 to approve the new language for
9 Alternative 5, as presented by staff at full council. [The](#)
10 [motion carried on page 213.](#)
11
12 [PAGE 213](#): Motion in Action 1 to accept Alternatives 1, 3, and 4
13 as written. [The motion carried on page 213.](#)
14
15 [PAGE 214](#): Motion in Action 2 to modify Alternative 2 to replace
16 the current in-season AM with a post-season AM. If the
17 recreational ACL, as adjusted in Action 1 is exceeded, the bag
18 limit will be reduced to two fish per person per day. [The](#)
19 [motion carried on page 216.](#)
20
21 [PAGE 217](#): Motion to remove the words "as adjusted in Action 1"
22 out of all three of the alternatives in Action 2. [The motion](#)
23 [carried on page 217.](#)
24
25 [PAGE 217](#): Motion to accept the three alternatives in Action 2
26 as modified. [The motion carried on page 217.](#)
27
28 [PAGE 218](#): Motion in Action 1 to make Alternatives 2 and 3 the
29 preferred Alternatives. Alternative 2 is to remove the
30 restriction on retaining the recreational bag limit of king
31 mackerel on a vessel with a federal pelagic commercial permit
32 for king mackerel that is fishing recreationally when the Gulf
33 of Mexico commercial zone in which the vessel is fishing is
34 closed. Alternative 3 is remove the restriction on retaining
35 the recreational bag limit of Spanish mackerel on a vessel with
36 a federal pelagic commercial permit for Spanish mackerel when
37 the Gulf of Mexico commercial Spanish mackerel fishing season is
38 closed. [The motion carried on page 218.](#)
39
40 [PAGE 218](#): Motion to request the SEFSC provide the SSC with
41 updated OFL and ABC yield streams for Gulf migratory group king
42 mackerel for the 2017/2018 to 2019/2020 fishing seasons. [The](#)
43 [motion carried on page 218.](#)
44
45 - - -
46

1 The Full Council of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management
2 Council convened at the Doubletree by Hilton Clearwater Beach
3 Resort, Clearwater Beach, Florida, Wednesday afternoon, June 22,
4 2016, and was called by Chairman Kevin Anson.

5
6 **CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND INTRODUCTIONS**
7

8 **CHAIRMAN KEVIN ANSON:** Welcome to the 259th meeting of the Gulf
9 Council. My name is Kevin Anson, Chairman of the Council. If
10 you have a cell phone, pager, or similar device, we ask that you
11 keep them on silent or vibrating mode during the meeting.

12
13 The Gulf Council is one of eight regional councils established
14 in 1976 by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act, known
15 today as the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

16
17 The council's purpose is to serve as a deliberative body to
18 advise the Secretary of Commerce on fishery management measures
19 in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. These measures
20 help ensure that fishery resources in the Gulf are sustained,
21 while providing the best overall benefit to the nation.

22
23 The council has seventeen voting members, eleven of whom are
24 appointed by the Secretary of Commerce and include individuals
25 from a range of geographical areas in the Gulf of Mexico and
26 with experience in various aspects of fisheries.

27
28 The membership also includes five state fishery managers from
29 each Gulf state and the Regional Administrator from NOAA's
30 Southeast Fisheries Service, as well as several non-voting
31 members.

32
33 Anyone wishing to speak during public comment should sign in at
34 the kiosk located near the entrance to the meeting room. A
35 digital recording is used for the public record. Therefore, for
36 the purpose of voice identification, each member is requested to
37 identify him or herself, starting on my left.

38
39 **MS. LEANN BOSARGE:** Leann Bosarge, Mississippi.

40
41 **MR. JOHNNY GREENE:** Johnny Greene, Alabama.

42
43 **MR. DAVID WALKER:** David Walker, Alabama.

44
45 **MR. ED SWINDELL:** Ed Swindell, Louisiana.

46
47 **MR. PATRICK BANKS:** Patrick Banks, Louisiana.
48

1 **MR. MYRON FISCHER:** Myron Fischer, Louisiana.
2
3 **MR. CAMP MATENS:** Camp Matens, Louisiana.
4
5 **MR. ROY WILLIAMS:** Roy Williams, Florida.
6
7 **MR. JOHN SANCHEZ:** John Sanchez, Florida.
8
9 **DR. PAMELA DANA:** Pam Dana, Florida.
10
11 **MS. MARTHA GUYAS:** Martha Guyas, Florida.
12
13 **MS. ANNA BECKWITH:** Anna Beckwith, South Atlantic liaison.
14
15 **MR. GLENN CONSTANT:** Glenn Constant, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
16 Service.
17
18 **MS. MARA LEVY:** Mara Levy, NOAA Office of General Counsel.
19
20 **DR. ROY CRABTREE:** Roy Crabtree, NOAA Fisheries.
21
22 **DR. STEVE BRANSTETTER:** Steve Branstetter, NOAA Fisheries.
23
24 **DR. BONNIE PONWITH:** Bonnie Ponwith, NOAA Fisheries.
25
26 **MR. ROBIN RIECHERS:** Robin Riechers, Texas.
27
28 **MR. DOUGLAS BOYD:** Doug Boyd, Texas.
29
30 **MR. GREG STUNZ:** Greg Stunz, Texas.
31
32 **DR. KELLY LUCAS:** Kelly Lucas, Mississippi.
33
34 **MR. DALE DIAZ:** Dale Diaz, Mississippi.
35
36 **CAPTAIN JOSE JIMENEZ:** Captain Jose Jimenez, U.S. Coast Guard,
37 8th District.
38
39 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DOUGLAS GREGORY:** Douglas Gregory, council
40 staff.
41

42 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
43

44 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. The first item that we have is the
45 Adoption of the Agenda. Everyone has the agenda in front of
46 them, Tab A, Number 3. Are there any changes to the agenda? Is
47 there a motion to adopt the agenda as written? So moved. Is
48 there a second? Second by Martha. Any opposition to accepting

1 the agenda as written? Seeing none, the agenda is carried.

2
3 Next is Approval of the Minutes, Tab A, Number 4. Are there any
4 edits that need to be made to the last meeting's minutes?
5 Seeing none, is there a motion to adopt the minutes as written?

6
7 **MR. RIECHERS:** Move to adopt the minutes.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Mr. Riechers. It's seconded by Mr.
10 Greene. Any discussion? Any opposition to the motion? Seeing
11 none, the motion carries. That will take us to Item Number III,
12 Review of Exempted Fishing Permit Applications and Dr. Crabtree.

13
14 **REVIEW OF EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

15
16 **DR. BRANSTETTER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have an EFP
17 officially, but we thought we would ask Bill Kelly to brief you
18 again on an EFP application he has submitted to us to look at
19 trying to capture lionfish, and we will bring that back to you
20 for formal consideration at the August meeting.

21
22 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Mr. Kelly.

23
24 **MR. BILL KELLY:** Mr. Chairman and council members, Bill Kelly
25 with Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association. I think,
26 as most of you know, we've had a request for an exempted fishing
27 permit for a trap testing program in both the Gulf of Mexico and
28 the South Atlantic to address invasive lionfish.

29
30 The South Atlantic Council has given approval to our plan, and
31 we're waiting for some PRD considerations to take place. The
32 issue was addressed by this council, and the consensus opinion
33 was that, provided PRD signs off on this, that we can move
34 forward.

35
36 Just an update on this. We would deploy a total of 400 traps,
37 100 in four different locations, those being Murrells Inlet,
38 South Carolina; Ponce Inlet, Florida; Marathon in the Florida
39 Keys; and the Tampa/St. Pete area here in the Gulf of Mexico.
40 There would be four different designs, twenty-five of each, and
41 the deployment of that gear would coincide with rules and
42 regulations appropriate to each jurisdiction in terms of soak
43 time, et cetera, so as not to interfere with right whale
44 migrations and turtle nesting, et cetera, et cetera, and so
45 we're cautiously optimistic that this may come to fruition here
46 in the immediate near future.

47
48 Just to put an additional information perspective on it, some of

1 you, many of you, may have seen it, but just one diver, Rachel
2 Bowman, who many of you have met, she dives with the goal in
3 mind of eradicating lionfish, and she is consistently catching
4 in the neighborhood of 10,000 pounds per year by herself. Her
5 and just a handful of other divers are now -- They have reached
6 such a harvest level that they, in a major announcement just a
7 week-and-a-half ago, they are supplying Whole Foods, twenty-six
8 Whole Foods stores, with lionfish. That's just one diver with
9 assistance from several others.

10
11 We have one high-liner in our operation alone, Gary Nichols, who
12 is harvesting anywhere from 7,000 to 10,000 pounds a year in his
13 deepwater lobster traps, strictly as bycatch. We have learned,
14 over the years here, with the frequency of catching, identifying
15 geographical distributions and population densities, that we can
16 take modified traps that are currently in use in the fisheries
17 on both sides and modify the funnels. Knowing where and when to
18 deploy these traps, we can most likely harvest exclusively
19 lionfish with only minimal bycatch. Any questions?

20
21 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you for that update, Mr. Kelly. Anyone
22 have any questions for Mr. Kelly? Mr. Matens.

23
24 **MR. MATENS:** Mr. Kelly, first of all, I always appreciate your
25 comments. They're always well thought out, but, more
26 importantly, I want to tell you that you, sir, just look spiffy
27 today.

28
29 **MR. KELLY:** You've certainly been a great influence on me over
30 the years, especially in improving my efforts at public comment.
31 Thank you, sir.

32
33 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Bill, and we wish you luck as well
34 in getting your approval, and we certainly look forward to
35 results when you do.

36
37 **MR. KELLY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

38
39 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. That takes us to our next item on
40 the agenda, which is Public Comment. For that, good afternoon.
41 Public input is a vital part of the council's deliberative
42 process, and comments, both oral and written, are accepted and
43 considered by the council throughout the process.

44
45 The Sustainable Fisheries Act requires that all statements
46 include a brief description of the background and interests of
47 the person in the subject of the statement. All written
48 information shall include a statement of the source and date of

1 such information.

2
3 Oral or written communications provided to the council, its
4 members, or its staff that relate to matters within the
5 council's purview are public in nature. Please give any written
6 comments to the staff, as all written comments will be posted on
7 the council's website for viewing by council members and the
8 public, and will be maintained by the council as part of the
9 permanent record.

10
11 Knowingly and willfully submitting false information to the
12 council is a violation of federal law. If you plan to speak and
13 haven't already done so, please sign in at the iPad registration
14 station located at the entrance to the meeting room. We accept
15 only one registration per person.

16
17 Each speaker is allowed three minutes for their testimony.
18 Please note the timer lights on the podium, as they will be
19 green for the first two minutes and yellow for the final minute
20 of testimony. At three minutes, the red light will blink, and a
21 buzzer may be enacted, if needed. Time allowed to dignitaries
22 providing testimony is extended at the discretion of the Chair.
23 First, we will have Ken Haddad, followed by Buddy Guindon.

24
25 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

26
27 **MR. KEN HADDAD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I obviously got here
28 early. I am not usually first up here. I'm Ken Haddad with the
29 American Sportfishing Association, the trade organization for
30 the sportfishing industry.

31
32 I will cover a couple of topics, and hopefully I can get through
33 them. On CMP 29, we're not opposed to thinking about allocation
34 sharing. We do think extreme caution is needed. Some of the
35 things I've seen so far in the discussions, there seems to be a
36 thought that there's a requirement to meet OY.

37
38 Magnuson doesn't require that, that I'm aware of, and we ask, as
39 you think about things like king mackerel, that you consider
40 there may be a value in the recreational community for actually
41 leaving fish in the water, and that's something I don't feel has
42 been explored at all, but recreational fishermen often fish
43 through encounter, and we would want to make sure, in moving
44 forward, that anything done will not change the chance of the
45 current rate of encounter of our fishermen to be able to fish
46 for king mackerel.

47
48 I don't understand Alternative 4. It seems to promote fishing

1 ACL, in order to keep your allocation. It seems like a bad
2 incentive program. It reminds me of a federal government
3 budget. If you don't spend it, somebody else will take it from
4 you, and it just doesn't lead to good things. I think it needs
5 to be thought about.

6
7 From the recreational sector perspective, we should make sure,
8 in this process, that we would never be penalized unless we go
9 over 68 percent, and I couldn't quite tell, in all of this, that
10 that was the case. In fact, it seemed like it wasn't, and so
11 the recreational sector is happy with king mackerel, one of the
12 few fish, federal, that we are, and so please don't screw it up.

13
14 On the AP, you got my notes on Amendment 45, and I'm not going
15 to talk about them, due to time. I want to thank you for
16 agreeing not to convene your full AP before the Gulf Angler
17 Focus Initiative report is available at the beginning of the new
18 year.

19
20 It is disappointing that some of you publicly discount our
21 efforts, when some of you, in the same case, have been, in the
22 past, asking for us to come to you with ideas and solutions. We
23 are putting a lot of effort and resources into a professionally-
24 facilitated process, and that isn't even done in an AP.

25
26 This process has been designed to be inclusive, more than just
27 like-minded participation. We will have a two-day meeting in
28 the fall to specifically include for-hire, commercial, and NGO
29 participation, and so I want to thank those of you who put
30 enough trust in us to let us finish this process before starting
31 what is going to be a very difficult effort for any AP you
32 create to deal with recreational issues. They're not going to
33 be easy. There is no silver bullet, and we're finding that as
34 we dig deep into many of the issues that often come up in
35 discussion here, and so thank you very much.

36
37 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Ken. Next, we have Buddy Guindon,
38 followed by Bart Niquet.

39
40 **MR. BUDDY GUINDON:** I guess if I just start talking, the timer
41 will come on. Steve, I want to thank you for your service to
42 our country. I know I've caused you a lot of work, but you've
43 done a great job of helping this body get its work done and
44 making sure they stayed on course, and so enjoy your retirement,
45 and thank you for your service. Roy Williams, we are going to
46 miss you. You were very colorful the last few meetings, and we
47 enjoyed that, and so thank you for your service.

48

1 I want to talk first about Amendment 36, the redistribution of
2 the shares. I think the first thing you consider is a goal.
3 What do you want to accomplish with these? I know it's not a
4 lot of fish, and there will probably be less before you get to
5 dole them out somewhere, but pick a goal and then strive to
6 achieve that goal. It will be the most productive thing, and
7 take into consideration the industry's input. It is our
8 industry, and we should have some ability to tell you what our
9 problems are and what we would like you to address.

10
11 The requirement to hail-in, it's very important that people that
12 commercially fish and spend their time out on the water call the
13 government and tell them when they're coming home, because it's
14 one of the loopholes that allows landings that are not traced,
15 in the State of Texas and elsewhere that I hear of.

16
17 They catch a few of them, but it would make it a lot easier to
18 catch the people that are doing bad things if we had a hail-in
19 for all fish. Not only a hail-in, but then we would like to
20 include a time of unloading. When you hail-in, if you're not
21 going to unload when you get to the dock, then give them a
22 three-hour notification of when you're going to unload those
23 fish from the boat. It will give a determined time to secure
24 those fish from the boat to the fish house, and there won't be
25 anything slipping off the dock into the back door.

26
27 I would like to talk a little bit about the quota withholding.
28 I think, if you're going to reallocate, change the quota up or
29 down, we should figure out a way to do that by December 31 for
30 the following year. In the commercial fishery, we've been given
31 a great gift with the IFQ system. It allows us to run our
32 business based on the exact number of fish we're going to be
33 able to land that year, and it really gives us a great business
34 plan. It's economically beneficial to all the fishermen.

35
36 When you change that in the middle of the year, it creates some
37 problems. It creates either a glut of fish or a shortage of
38 fish, depending on which way you bet on the increase or the
39 decrease. I wish you would consider these facts, and I wanted
40 to talk a little bit about the Flower Garden Banks, but I'm
41 done.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Buddy. Any questions? Ms. Bosarge.

44
45 **MS. BOSARGE:** I would like to hear your comments on the Flower
46 Garden Banks, since we are in the public comment phase at this
47 point, and, as a council, we'll be writing a letter, and I would
48 like to hear that, if it's something quick.

1
2 **MR. GUINDON:** It will be something quick. GP is a great guy.
3 He runs a great organization over there, and I'm a part of the
4 Flower Garden Banks Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, and it
5 was very shocking, to I would think every one of us, what came
6 out of Washington last week. We had worked on a plan that
7 really encompassed a lot of people's hard work and discussion
8 and understanding of the needs of the industry, and then the
9 thing that came out of Washington was unrecognizable by the
10 council members.

11
12 I would like to see, as much as possible, we work on fishing
13 regulations that allow access to these areas. Now, I'm talking
14 about anchoring in these sanctuaries. Without anchoring in the
15 sanctuaries and the expansion they have done and they intend to
16 do over the years, our vermilion snapper fishery and our grouper
17 fishery will fail. It will not be able to be executed.

18
19 They call these environments pristine. We've been fishing there
20 for almost a hundred years, and they're pristine. They said
21 they see gear there. They saw some monofilament. Monofilament
22 stays on the bottom for many, many, many years, forever. It
23 doesn't go away in the water.

24
25 When they see some monofilament on the bottom, they have to
26 understand that there's been millions of miles of monofilament
27 laid in that Gulf of Mexico, millions of miles over the past
28 thirty years, and, if they were leaving it everywhere, you would
29 see big balls of monofilament, but they're seeing single strands
30 and in certain areas.

31
32 They see a few shrimp nets. That's still the same thing. It's
33 a net. It doesn't go away underwater, and so what I would like
34 for people to understand is that, with the electronics we have
35 now, with the ability to plot, with the ability to understand
36 the bottom and the satellite charts and everything that shows
37 you exactly where these structures are, we have the ability to
38 avoid that.

39
40 Don't put us in a box. Give us exactly determined coordinates
41 of where the coral is, and we will stay off of it, because it's
42 beneficial to us not to lose our gear, not to lose our anchors,
43 and not to lose our fishery. Thank you.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. We have Bart Niquet, followed by
46 Chris Niquet.

47
48 **MR. BART NIQUET:** Bart Niquet, Panama City, Florida. I've been

1 fishing for the best part of seventy years, anyway, and, from
2 what I heard yesterday from the presentation by the man from the
3 Flower Garden group, it seems that the council may be redundant
4 and we don't need to come through you people to operate. Oh,
5 well, but that's the way it goes.

6
7 In response to several comments made to Emily during the public
8 hearings, the commercial discards of red snapper is mandated by
9 federal regulations concerning size limits and the current low
10 TAC. Either of these problems could be cured right here in the
11 council.

12
13 Another problem I see is the proclivity of the council to
14 nitpick and impose unneeded regulations. You have many more
15 whys and wherefores than the IRS when it comes to timely
16 reports. If you don't believe it, check that document you've
17 got back here about the charter/headboat reports. You don't
18 leave any room to solve problems or take advantage of new
19 developments.

20
21 Yesterday, the council heard a report from Dr. Barbieri
22 concerning the vermilion snapper. He said that they were not
23 overfished and not being overfished. In fact, they're under
24 harvested. Why then the rush by the council to set up another
25 poorly-conceived management plan? Leave well enough alone.

26
27 It was also discussed about the possibility of the red snapper
28 fishery being under harvested by the recreational and what to do
29 with the uncaught quota. A suggestion was made to add it to the
30 next year's quota. When this problem happened in the commercial
31 side, you wanted immediately to add it to the recreational quota
32 or allocation. If it was fair then, why isn't it fair now to
33 give us any unused quota? Fair is fair. I would rather see the
34 fish stay in the water, where they belong.

35
36 In summary, on red snapper, I believe status quo should be
37 maintained, and a few suggestions. Whittle down and stabilize
38 your charter/headboat reporting, leave the vermilion snapper
39 alone, don't extend the Flower Garden area, and possibly raise
40 the red snapper TAC.

41
42 I believe the council means well and does a good job. However,
43 I think you put too much faith in the SSC and not enough into the
44 people that are actually in the field. Some additions should
45 also be given to changes occurring in the Gulf.

46
47 We have corals appearing on the reefs off of Panama City and on
48 the jetties where they never have been before, in sixty years.

1 We have new species of fish showing up in that area. We are
2 catching yellowtail snapper. We're catching rainbow runners.
3 We're catching lookdowns. We never caught those before in
4 Panama City, or not very often, and there's a lot of things that
5 just should be changed there or should be looked at that we're
6 not doing. I thank you for the time, and I just believe that we
7 could do better. Thank you.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Mr. Niquet. Next, we have Chris
10 Niquet, followed by Bill Kelly.

11
12 **MR. CHRIS NIQUET:** Chris Niquet from Panama City, Florida. I'm
13 here to talk about the recreational under harvesting of the red
14 snapper. My idea would be to take the under harvesting of the
15 permitted red snapper TAC that you say nobody is using. It's
16 sitting there and nobody is using it. It's probably 30,000
17 pounds a year. Match it with a similar poundage from the
18 recreational sector and leave it out there in the Gulf of Mexico
19 to breed and make more snapper. Let's speed up this timeline
20 from 2032 to something more reasonable. Probably most of us in
21 this room and this council will be old before that happens, and
22 a lot of us will be dead. I would like to see fruition of this
23 thing in my lifetime, if possible.

24
25 Another thing we need to consider is this, talking about red
26 snapper and the state season. I don't know if any of you all
27 fish for red snapper from Cedar Key south in state waters, but
28 there ain't none. Folks, look around. Check with these
29 captains and deckhands and charter people and private
30 recreational. There ain't no red snapper in state waters south
31 of Cedar Key. If you give them one day or 101 days, they ain't
32 catching them in nine miles.

33
34 Now, I don't know if you need to amend the miles or give them a
35 longer season and a farther place offshore to go catch them. I
36 don't know if it takes something from a lawyer's standpoint to
37 do it or go see the federal government, but, right now, the rule
38 is akin to telling me if I want to hunt deer that I can kill
39 caribou in the Everglades. I can get all the permits I want,
40 but it ain't going to happen. Folks, let's use some common
41 sense in this thing and give these people in South Florida a
42 chance to access the fish the same as we do up in the Panhandle,
43 from Pensacola down to Cedar Key. That's all I've got to say,
44 and thank you for your time.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. We have Bill Kelly, followed by
47 Steve Tomeny.

48

1 **MR. KELLY:** Mr. Chairman and council members, Bill Kelly,
2 representing the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's
3 Association. I wanted to talk to you briefly about kingfish
4 allocation, or the lack thereof.

5
6 The SSC approves X number of pounds for harvest, and, if that
7 isn't achieved, we have now seen, in proposed actions here to
8 reduce these quotas over the next three years, that underfishing
9 can be just as detrimental as overfishing. I think that what's
10 happening here in this proposed reduction in kingfish over the
11 next few years makes it even more incumbent on the councils to
12 allocate appropriately, so that we can reach OY.

13
14 Thirty-million pounds left on the table by the recreational
15 sector in the last ten years, a thirty-year rebuilding plan
16 that's been one of the finest anywhere in fisheries management,
17 and we're looking at reductions in ACLs for the sectors over the
18 next few years. It's absolutely ludicrous.

19
20 You heard the presentations by Mr. Rindone this morning, I think
21 two viable plans now. We've got the Number 2, the Bosarge Plan,
22 and I have discussed this with the Vice Chair there. What's
23 blatantly missing though in that plan proposal is what do we do
24 on the backend here? Why do we revert to the status quo, which
25 only takes us back to the initial problem that we had? Why
26 don't we wrap the backend of the Bosarge Plan exactly the same
27 way that we started it? We're doing an annual review, and so,
28 when we hit that trigger, we reallocate back in 5, 10, 15, or 20
29 percent increments, whatever is appropriate.

30
31 Then we have a slightly more complex form in terms of a
32 recommendation presented by Mr. Rindone, which I think will take
33 a bit more time for all of us to digest, but there's two viable
34 options here, and I think staff should run the numbers on both
35 and see which one is going to work, but, most importantly, which
36 one will give the councils the most flexibility. That has been
37 the constant that we've needed to change here and that we're
38 desperately waiting for to achieve in Magnuson reform, and so
39 that's the primary concern there.

40
41 Again, I think it's incumbent on the councils now, more than
42 ever, to allocate appropriately, because there is no benefit to
43 leaving that buffer out there. It's not helping anyone. The
44 SSC has approved those fish for harvest.

45
46 Also, just briefly, on lobster, thank you for the kind words and
47 the direction that we've received from this council and the
48 South Atlantic Council and the review panels. I think, most

1 importantly there, we need to examine trends that are taking
2 place in the Caribbean that are influencing the number of larvae
3 that could be reaching Florida here, changes in the current
4 flows, and we have Nicaragua and several other countries down
5 there that have closed seasons, an emphasis on not scrubbing
6 eggers, and so forth.

7
8 It's definitely making improvements, since most of our harvest
9 is dependent on external recruitment. It could be climate
10 changes, where we're seeing more migrations of mature lobsters
11 into our area, just as we are seeing occurring, up in the New
12 England area -- Look at Maine. We've got those lobsters are all
13 now packing their passports and their bags and they're headed
14 for Canada, over just a two-degree temperature change, and so
15 there's a lot of major dynamics taking place in our fisheries,
16 and we need to take a look at it. Thank you.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Mr. Kelly. We have Steve Tomeny,
19 followed by Eric Brazer.

20
21 **MR. STEVE TOMENY:** Good afternoon. I'm Steve Tomeny. I run a
22 charter/headboat operation in Port Fourchon, Louisiana, and
23 we're running one boat. We have two, and probably top on my
24 list is to see the sunset on Amendment 40 eliminated or
25 extended. Five years is better than three, the longer we have,
26 and you can see, in some of the discussions yesterday, that
27 Amendment 41 and 42 are complicated. They move along at their
28 pace, and I want to see them keep moving, and let's get that
29 work done, but it may take time, and we want the time to be able
30 to effectively get good plans for both the charter boats and the
31 headboats.

32
33 It's really important to those of us in the industry. It's just
34 how we plan on continuing to exist, and we've got all of our
35 eggs in this federal management program, and we've come a long
36 way since I've started coming to the meetings, and I think we're
37 on a good path. We've just got to keep plugging along.

38
39 I wanted to mention that I'm also on the board of the
40 Shareholders' Alliance, and we do have a quota bank, and so, in
41 some of these Amendment 36 discussions yesterday -- There is
42 28,000 pounds or so left to distribute. If we can figure out a
43 way to do it for the bycatch that isn't -- I saw that the
44 conversations bogged a lot in how complicated that got, and I
45 would just like to suggest that, if it easier, legally easier,
46 and just a quicker way to do it to just redistribute it to the
47 present shareholders, I will pledge all of mine back to our
48 quota bank that we have that does distribute the fish. We

1 usually all of us -- Most of the board members are donating
2 snapper for this purpose anyway, but any little bump we got out
3 of that, mine will just go back to the eastern Gulf, and we can
4 probably get some buy-in from our members for that.

5
6 I only mention that as just, if anything gets too complicated
7 over where to go with 28,000 pounds and the legal easier way to
8 do it is to put it back and the original shareholders
9 proportionally get a piece. We'll make sure it gets back into
10 the eastern Gulf for bycatch. Thank you.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. We have Eric Brazer, followed by
13 Randy Boggs.

14
15 **MR. ERIC BRAZER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and council. My name
16 is Eric Brazer. I'm the Deputy Director of the Gulf of Mexico
17 Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance. First and foremost, I would
18 like to Roy and Steve for your service. We really do appreciate
19 you guys. We may not have always agreed on everything, but you
20 guys have shown a lot of leadership in your time here, and you
21 will be missed.

22
23 With the sappy stuff out of the way, Amendment 45. We continue
24 to support the removal of the sunset provision. You guys
25 approved it, NMFS approved it, the court upheld it, and the
26 majority of the fishermen you hear at these meetings support it.
27 If you continue to hold this kill-switch over everybody's head,
28 you're setting a precedent. You're entering a dangerous
29 territory, where we start managing by sunsets, and I don't think
30 anybody wants to manage by sunsets, and so please eliminate the
31 sunset provision.

32
33 For the ad hoc panel, we are looking forward to seeing what the
34 focus group comes up with, and we just urge you to move this
35 forward as quickly as possible. Please do not drag out this
36 process. It already moves slowly. We've heard that yesterday,
37 and we're hearing it today. Let's move it forward and set a
38 hard deadline of January 30. The AP will be populated and the
39 meeting will be schedule and recommendations in hand, to show
40 that -- So you guys can show to the private anglers that you're
41 taking this seriously, and so please move it forward as quickly
42 as you can.

43
44 With Amendment 36A, Alternative 1, we would like to see
45 enforcement take a look at some of the information that wasn't
46 available to them at the time. We're supportive of measures
47 that do close loopholes that would otherwise undermine the IFQ
48 program, and we are looking forward to working with you guys to

1 flesh this out a little bit more.

2
3 For Action 2, we do support closing of the accounts that have
4 never been activated. This red snapper discard issue in the
5 grouper fishery is a problem, and we appreciate you guys trying
6 to take this allocation and use it to solve a problem.

7
8 Like Steve mentioned earlier, we've started a quota bank. I
9 came to you guys last year and talked to you a little bit about
10 it. I would love to talk with you guys offline more about it.
11 It's a program that we have on the ground that's running today.
12 We've got fifteen fishermen from eleven communities throughout
13 Florida, and we're on track to put out up to 75,000 pounds this
14 year to reduce red snapper discards. We want to work with you
15 between now and August, to figure out how this program, this
16 grassroots program, can help you guys and maybe take some of the
17 burden off of the council and the agency.

18
19 With my last thirty seconds, just a quick comment on H.R. 3094.
20 We really appreciate Louisiana's recent leadership and
21 commitment to fiscal responsibility. We've heard similar
22 concerns coming out of the State of Florida. We hope that this
23 unfunded mandate will be withdrawn and that this public and
24 transparent council will be allowed to keep doing its job.
25 Sometimes we love you and sometimes we hate you, but this is the
26 way that fisheries, federally-managed fisheries, should be
27 managed, and so please maintain this. Thank you for your time.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Eric. We do have a question from
30 Mr. Williams.

31
32 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Eric, a quick question. You probably know more
33 about quota banks than anybody else in here. Are you aware of
34 any cases where NMFS, the federal government, has allocated to a
35 quota bank? I'm thinking of other ways to work that extra
36 29,000 pounds of red snapper that's never been activated. Are
37 there any precedents, that you're aware of, to take that and
38 allocate it to a private group?

39
40 **MR. BRAZER:** I am not aware of any. I don't know for sure, but
41 I know various regions -- Agency offices in various regions are
42 aware of the quota bank work that's done in their regions. You
43 know, we have quota banks in Alaska and California, and we have
44 a lot of them up in New England. The agency is aware, in those
45 regions, of what quota banks have done and what their capacity
46 is, but, at this time, I don't know if there's precedent for
47 them allocating to a quota bank. Thank you.

48

1 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. We have Randy Boggs, followed by
2 Dave Mott.

3
4 **MR. RANDY BOGGS:** I'm Randy Boggs from Reel Surprise Charters in
5 Orange Beach, Alabama. We would like to see the sunset moved to
6 five years, at least. Maybe we can get something done in the
7 meantime, and keep working forward on 41 and 42. We've had a
8 couple of good AP meetings, and good things have come out of it.

9
10 I listened to the coral presentation yesterday, and it's very
11 troubling to see them try to extend this area as much as it has.
12 The coral seems to be in pristine and good shape. Fishing line
13 drifts and nets drift.

14
15 I mean no fisherman wants to be in there, and nobody wants to
16 tear that coral up, but one of the things too that, with the VMS
17 system that the commercial boats have on them, when they get
18 close to these closed areas, they ping more. It's costs more
19 money, and it's an economic hardship if you fish on those areas,
20 because the more they ping -- It's about twenty-five-cents per
21 ping. Every time you get closer to them, the ping rates go up
22 and the more money that they spend.

23
24 The coral appears to be in good shape, and so, if we haven't
25 damaged it in all of these years of fishing, the odds are not
26 too great that we're going to damage it. It's nice to hear that
27 it came through the BP oil spill that well. Roy, thank you for
28 all of your service. Steve, you will be truly be missed. We
29 appreciate all you've done for us. Thank you, guys. You all
30 have a great day.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Randy. Dave Mott, followed by
33 Morgan Lynch. Dave Mott? Morgan Lynch, followed by Shane
34 Cantrell.

35
36 **MR. MORGAN LYNCH:** Good afternoon. My name is Morgan Lynch.
37 I'm a recreational fisherman from Tampa, Florida. I appreciate
38 the opportunity to speak today. It's an opportunity that a lot
39 of us in public comment here have taken personal calls, and
40 we've taken it with the intent to have the council afford us a
41 meaningful opportunity to participate in the regulation of a
42 public resource.

43
44 It's an opportunity I took despite recent history, where the
45 council has been accused of disregarding recreational anglers'
46 sentiment in public comment, because I don't believe that's
47 true. I want to be clear that I want to talk about Amendment
48 45.

1
2 I didn't agree with Amendment 40 when it was implemented, and I
3 still don't agree with it now. Irrespective of my opposition to
4 Amendment 40, I think we can all agree that the implementation
5 of sector separation as a management tool was a pretty vast
6 change in management tact. The change was so significant that a
7 three-year sunset was needed to pass Amendment 40. It was a
8 critical, substantive portion of the amendment, and it was
9 included to allow for the evaluation of sector separation's
10 effect on this as a management tool, after the passage of an
11 appropriate amount of time.

12
13 I don't need to tell anywhere in here that fisheries management
14 is not a sportscar. It's more of a tractor-trailer, and its not
15 quick, and it's not necessarily nimble, and this council here is
16 not here to preserve business models for a small percentage of
17 the Gulf's fishermen. It's here to manage a fishery in a manner
18 that's most beneficial to all of our stakeholders.

19
20 The evaluation of the impact of sector separation hasn't been
21 conducted at this time, and it's my feeling that the elimination
22 of the sunset provision of Amendment 40 is not only contrary to
23 the substance and the spirit of the original amendment, but it
24 also wrongly assumes that sector separation has been evaluated
25 as an objective success, and that's not the case.

26
27 Because of this, I feel that the original sunset provision in
28 Amendment 40 needs to stay unchanged, and the Alternative 1 to
29 Amendment 45 has to be selected as the appropriate management
30 decision.

31
32 I appreciate the opportunity to speak today. I encourage the
33 council to listen to the voices of all the stakeholders that we
34 have who have entrusted you with the management of the Gulf and
35 not just the voices of a few, and so please select Alternative 1
36 to Amendment 45 and keep the original end of sector separation
37 at the end of the 2017 fishing year. Thank you.

38
39 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Morgan. We have Shane Cantrell,
40 followed by Eric Mahoney.

41
42 **MR. SHANE CANTRELL:** I am Captain Shane Cantrell, the Executive
43 Director of the Charter Fishermen's Association. I will make it
44 pretty short and sweet here today. We support Action 1,
45 Alternative 3, removing the sunset altogether. I believe we've
46 laid out a pretty good case in the past, looking at the results
47 of the first year of data. We learned really quickly that the
48 ability to manage the charter/for-hire permit holders, a known

1 universe of federally-permitted charter boats, you have much
2 more management certainty in setting a season and allowing these
3 businesses to go ahead and operate, and you stayed well within
4 your ACL and your ACT.

5

6 We also learned that we've got the ability to better forecast
7 the private angling component, even though they were over their
8 ACT, not to their own fault, but they were kept within the ACL.
9 Amendment 40 allowed that to happen, and it stopped years and
10 years of overages. It's also accomplished through these 20
11 percent buffers that are not necessarily the best way to manage
12 fisheries, but they also have some working to it, but we now
13 have the situation where we have Amendment 41 and 42 going down
14 the track.

15

16 We've also got the opportunity to go ahead and address the next
17 portion of this fishery, in the recreational community, to get
18 them also on track for a management system that meets their
19 needs. Amendment 40 makes that possible. It makes your job
20 easier. It let's you go ahead and get these things in place.

21
22 I would love to see a recreational AP started and populated,
23 ready to go when the Gulf Angler Focus Group gets their
24 findings, and be able to hit the ground running for these guys.
25 They need some relief.

26

27 We've got some data collection issues that need to be resolved
28 in the charter boat fishery. We've got some industry-led pilots
29 up and going with the ELB project. We're working on getting one
30 started up and going in Texas, but this is the way we need to
31 get this amendment moving forward. The industry has been asking
32 for that since I started coming to these council meetings a
33 long, long time ago.

34

35 I would like to see this amendment moved forward. The
36 recommendations out of the IPT were very, very good. They seem
37 to meet most of the industry's needs, and it's not pigeonholing
38 us into any one form or fashion of a reporting device. That's
39 the direction we need to be going in and get some data issues
40 resolved.

41

42 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Shane. Eric Mahoney, followed by
43 Wayne Werner.

44

45 **MR. ERIC MAHONEY:** Thank you, Chairman and council members. I'm
46 Eric Mahoney. I fish right across the street in Clearwater
47 Beach. I should be snapper fishing right now, but I blew a
48 motor about four or five days ago, and so I'm probably going to

1 be out for about twelve or thirteen days, in the middle of a
2 derby, where I'm not going to be able to make any money, and
3 this is the problem.

4
5 While 40 is great, and it's nice having the longer snapper
6 season, when you put us in a derby like we're in now, something
7 like happens to me, which happens all over the Gulf, to private
8 recreational and to charter guys. I lose a motor and I'm out
9 thirteen days, and I'm stuck. I have a short period of time to
10 be able to catch those snappers, and so I want to see the sunset
11 removed from 45, just for the fact that we need time to keep
12 working on 41 and 42.

13
14 This is a slow process, as everybody knows, and I'm hurting
15 right now, and it just doesn't happen to me. I hear every year
16 of guys going down in the middle of a derby season, and it puts
17 a real hurting on them, and so we need the time to get 41 where
18 it needs to be and 42, and so eliminate 45, and that's about it.
19 I would like to thank Roy. I appreciate all the hard work
20 you've done for us over the last -- I hope you guys are enjoying
21 Clearwater Beach, and hopefully you can have more meetings here
22 in the future. Thanks.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Eric. Wayne Werner, followed by
25 Chad Haggert.

26
27 **MR. WAYNE WERNER:** Good afternoon. I'm Wayne Werner, owner and
28 operator of the Fishing Vessel Sea Quest. Thanks, Steve, and
29 thanks, Roy. Good job, guys, for a lot of years. Of course,
30 your second was a lot shorter than your first one.

31
32 I would like to talk about the Flower Garden Banks stuff that I
33 heard today, because I've been paying attention to it. I went
34 to a couple of meetings. I've been keeping tabs on it a little
35 bit, and I would like to talk about some of the consequences
36 that aren't being mentioned here from a fisherman's perspective,
37 and that is you get outside of forty fathoms, on the edge of
38 these real coral structures, you start getting into a lot of
39 50/50 bottom, where half of it is sand and mud and half of it is
40 coral.

41
42 Now, what we're going to end up having to do is just saying
43 we're going to have to power fish this stuff, because, just like
44 Leann had brought up, is 90 percent of this is where we fish,
45 and so now we're going to end up having to fish it in this
46 manner. Before, we were anchoring. We were putting our anchor
47 in the soft bottom, laying in the hard bottom. We lay pretty
48 still, relatively still. We're swinging a little bit.

1
2 Now we're going to have to take boats in all conditions and try
3 to hold them up over this bottom, and we're going to start
4 losing a lot more gear into that bottom, a lot more weights, a
5 lot more hooks, a lot more line. I mean there's just no way
6 around it.

7
8 I've been fishing since I was ten years old, fishing off of
9 edges and reefs and stuff, and we try not to put our anchors
10 into reefs, and, as you get older, you learn don't put your
11 anchors into reefs. You fish around this stuff, and we're
12 talking about twenty or twenty-five boats down there that are
13 basically fishing the west of the river, from there to a little
14 bit west of Galveston, through that strip.

15
16 The economic impact of these boats is big, because I don't know
17 one of them that's not catching probably less than 125,000
18 pounds of fish a year, and so it's not a big impact from a lot
19 of boats, but you're fixing to change it as we do this, and we
20 had some talk, and I was at some of these meetings, about
21 permits and education and stuff, because if you have new boats
22 come over, everybody has a little learning curve. I just don't
23 want to see this continue on this path, to where we become more
24 destructive in trying to fix something. Thank you.

25
26 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Wayne. We have Chad Haggert,
27 followed by Mike Colby.

28
29 **MR. CHAD HAGGERT:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and good afternoon,
30 council members. My name is Chad Haggert. I am the owner and
31 operator of Double Eagle Deep Sea Fishing Fleet right across the
32 street here in the marina. It's a family headboat business.
33 We've been in business here since 1967.

34
35 I would like to ask that the council remove the sunset clause
36 from the amendment, or, at the very least, extend it to five
37 years. As I stated in the public hearings, we've got something
38 good moving forward. Amendment 41 and 42 are making their
39 rounds through. They look like they're going to help the
40 headboats and the charter boats.

41
42 I would also like to ask that they do populate and convene the
43 rec AP as early as possible. We all know that they are looking
44 for some relief in what they are doing and their fishing
45 seasons.

46
47 The sector separation is good even if you're moving forward with
48 41 and 42. If you lump us all back together, what might work

1 for the private rec fishermen might not work for the charter
2 businesses. I know there's been a lot of talk about weekend-
3 only seasons and whatnot, and I'm not privy to what the focus
4 group has come up with, but just keep that in mind, that we have
5 a pretty successful model to look at with the headboat pilot
6 program that I was a part of, and so I would like to ask that
7 the sunset be removed from that and that you move forward with
8 41 and 42 and keep those rolling. Thank you.

9

10 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Mike Colby, followed by Tom Ard.

11

12 **MR. MIKE COLBY:** Thank you, council. Mike Colby, and I'm a
13 headboat and charter operator here in Clearwater, and I'm
14 President of the Clearwater Marine Association. I've got a
15 comment, and I've just got a little FYI of what I was thinking
16 as of last night at Roy's going-away party up in the restaurant
17 up there.

18

19 It reminded me of the council members that I met, Robin and Dr.
20 Lucas, last week in Baton Rouge, at the GOMA Conference, and I
21 was on a panel discussion about what do a healthy Gulf and a
22 resilient Gulf mean to fishermen and what do fishermen mean to
23 it.

24

25 I saw us all gathered upstairs, in that brand new, spanking
26 restaurant, and I used to remember where we were drinking up
27 there. It used to be the dentist's office, and many ports of
28 call had dental offices. Shipboard guys would come in with sore
29 teeth, and they would go to the dentist, and I thought about all
30 of the varied members of the association that I'm president of,
31 from the barber, to the jet-ski people, to the headboats, to the
32 fishing boats, and we're an amorphous group.

33

34 We're a little microcosm of what we talked about in Baton Rouge,
35 about how we're residual, how we support each other, how non-
36 fishing businesses support fishing businesses, how a healthy
37 coastal economy is important for all of that, and so I know
38 that, since you folks were there, you have a better appreciation
39 of what I'm saying, but I think it was an interesting comment
40 that I needed to make about that.

41

42 When you look at this Gulf Council, here you are in Clearwater,
43 as you are in Panama City or Orange Beach or Galveston. You're
44 in all of these coastal communities, and you're part of that
45 process. You're part of that process that GOMA talks about,
46 about healthy and resilient. You're part of that pathway.

47

48 It just dawned on me last night, as we were sipping the Michelob

1 Ultras, that Roy was standing right over by the dental chair
2 that used to be there, but my other comment is on the sunset,
3 and I said it at the public hearing. There is no reason, I
4 think, to placate fishermen with 41 and 42 and yet keep the
5 sunset in place. I think we need to let that sunset go.

6
7 I know there was an earlier comment that we should keep it,
8 because we haven't made a determination of the impacts of
9 Amendment 40, and, frankly, over the last seven years, Amendment
10 40 has probably been vetted better than the Farm Bill. I don't
11 know of any amendment that was vetted so much and surveyed so
12 much, and, again, frankly, the effects, the impacts, of
13 Amendment 40 and sector allocation for red snapper, to me, is
14 clearly seen.

15
16 You've got huge access now for hundreds of thousands, millions
17 perhaps, of fishermen who don't own boats. That impact is
18 clearly seen around the Gulf. Our charter businesses are
19 booming. They are providing access to that segment of the
20 fishery that was going to lose out, and so I am all in favor of
21 I believe it's Alternative 3 to let the sunset go away. Thank
22 you.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Mike. Tom Ard, followed by Chad
25 Hanson.

26
27 **MR. TOM ARD:** Hello. I'm Tom Ard. I'm a charter operator and
28 owner out of Orange Beach, Alabama. I have three charter boats
29 now, federally-permitted. We're at Zeke's Marina. I'm also a
30 board member in the OBFA. Me and Bobby both were the
31 representatives, I guess you would say, of OBFA, but I'm
32 basically here to speak on my own today. I've got four little
33 points here that I want to go over.

34
35 The first is the electronic monitoring, the VMS, the pilot
36 program that was presented to us this year. I was one of the
37 guys that didn't want it. I will admit it. I didn't want it.
38 I wanted a phone app-based system. I thought it would be
39 better, it would be cheaper, the whole nine yards. Like I said,
40 I have three boats. They're fishing right now. I can show you
41 where they're at.

42
43 That little feature right there is worth the money for me. I
44 can tell you exactly where all three of my boats are. Actually,
45 right now, they're all at the marina. They're fixing to do
46 their second trip, and so I know that the first trip went good,
47 and I didn't get no phone calls, and so that was all good.

48

1 I like it. Some of the things I like about it is the ability to
2 report at sea after I'm fishing. I had no problems really with
3 the Alabama app, except I had to have phone range to be able to
4 use that app, and, now, once we get through fishing -- How many
5 fish have we got? Twenty. Cool. I have my VMS and put it in
6 there and throw it up on the dash and then I'm done.

7
8 When we get close in, I don't have to stop the boat and do it
9 when I get into phone range, and so I do like that feature. I
10 like the ability to be able to email. If we have a problem and
11 I need to get a part or something, boom, I can email it in. I
12 don't have a satellite phone, or if I have any emergencies or
13 anything, I can email and tell somebody I'm okay or whatever.

14
15 I guess the number one thing is I like the ability to see my
16 boats, where they're at, because if one of them don't come to
17 the dock, and they don't have email or whatever -- I know where
18 he's at, and we can go back out there and get him or whatever,
19 and so I like that.

20
21 Number two, Amendment 45, I would say just do away with the
22 sunset. I don't think we need it. Sector separation only took
23 three days away from the private recreational this year, and,
24 actually, only one day, since they got their two days back. It
25 gave forty-six days of access to the American public, which the
26 business is booming. They are coming down to catch red snapper.
27 It's all good.

28
29 Triggerfish, man, I told you all that we had a ton of
30 triggerfish off of Alabama, and I was not lying. We caught a
31 bunch of them. In the eighty-eight trips that my boats ran,
32 probably about 90 percent of the trips we caught a limit.
33 That's a bunch. Do not open it back up in August. We probably
34 already went over it, because you gave us such a long season,
35 which I asked for a shorter season and one fish, but we probably
36 went over. Do not open it back up in August. It's going to be
37 bad if you do.

38
39 Amendment 41 and 42 needs to keep moving along. I think 41 and
40 42 basically is for charter boats. If one gets ahead of the
41 other, I think the other one needs to wait on the other one
42 before it becomes law, so when they get implemented, they get
43 implemented together, so you don't have an unfair economic
44 advantage over one boat sitting next to the other boat. They're
45 both charter boats. They take the same people fishing. They
46 drive up in the same cars, and they get on this boat or they get
47 on this boat. Every marina in Orange Beach except for one has
48 headboats, and they sit next to ten, fifteen, twenty, and thirty

1 charter boats. I like the idea of both of them. Let's keep
2 them working together, but, when we have the final say,
3 implement them together.

4

5 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Tom, your time is up.

6

7 **MR. ARD:** That's all I have. Thank you very much.

8

9 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. We have Chad Hanson, followed by
10 Dennis O'Hern.

11

12 **MR. CHAD HANSON:** Good afternoon, Chairman Anson and the rest of
13 the council. My name is Chad Hanson with the Pew Charitable
14 Trusts. Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you
15 today.

16

17 First things first, Steve, thank you for your many years of
18 service to the fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico and elsewhere,
19 and congratulations on your pending retirement. Roy, of course,
20 it's been a pleasure working with you again for the last three
21 years, and we appreciate all of your hard work, and so thanks
22 for your service.

23

24 A couple of comments on a few issues today. For Amendment 45,
25 we support eliminating the sunset provision that was established
26 in -- In Amendment 40, there was a sunset provision for sector
27 separation. Maintaining the sector separation provides a higher
28 certainty and the framework for developing management plans for
29 each of those components, and it gives them the proper design to
30 do that and the structure.

31

32 For the electronic logbook amendment, the amendment provides the
33 overarching formwork for designing the logbook amendment, and we
34 support the council maintaining focus on providing that
35 background, that framework, for developing that program while
36 maintaining some flexibility within that, so that, in the design
37 phase, as new technology and new policies come into play, those
38 can be accommodated within a logbook program and not get so
39 hemmed in on what the actual design should be in the amendment
40 itself, and so make sure it's providing that flexibility to
41 accommodate all the different management strategies.

42

43 We support putting together a summary table that provides an
44 overview of the program, similar to the South Atlantic. Make it
45 Gulf-specific, of course, but that could be a good education and
46 outreach tool for the public and the stakeholders, and it
47 provides a clear picture of what that logbook program will be
48 and why those components are important for monitoring the

1 charter fisheries. Lastly, on that, we recommend putting
2 together the charter AP to have a look at that logbook amendment
3 as it's nearing its final stages.

4
5 For deep-sea corals, we support initiating an amendment to look
6 at potential protections for deep-sea corals. There's been some
7 recent research over the past decade or more that is looking at
8 these corals that can be hundreds to over a thousand feet deep,
9 and it has provided the new insights, if you will, to the
10 complexity, the diversity, the fragility, of these corals down
11 at the bottom, and these corals can be slow-growing.

12
13 They live, some of them, for hundreds to over a thousand years
14 old, and they provide habitat for a whole host of organisms,
15 including important recreational and including commercial
16 fishery species, such as deepwater grouper, but, with the
17 process in the AP and the SSC level for over a year now, I think
18 it's time to bring that to the full amendment phase, so we can
19 have public and stakeholder input into that process.

20
21 Then the last issue is the EBFM Road Map. Tomorrow, you will
22 hear a presentation on NOAA's Climate Science Action Plan, which
23 dovetails into the EBFM Policy and Road Map, which we suggest
24 putting together the Sustainable Fisheries and Ecosystem
25 Committee for the October meeting, to look at both of these
26 plans as they come into the final versions, and that would be a
27 good opportunity for the council to begin discussing developing
28 regional implementation plans for both. With that, I will
29 close, and so thank you.

30
31 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Chad. We have Dennis O'Hern,
32 followed by Jason Delacruz.

33
34 **MR. DENNIS O'HERN:** Good afternoon, council. I'm Dennis O'Hern,
35 Executive Director of the Fishing Rights Alliance. I'm also
36 Past President of the St. Pete Underwater Club. I've got two
37 things I wanted to discuss today.

38
39 First off, I want to commend the council on their discussion
40 yesterday on hogfish. I thought that committee discussion was a
41 great discussion. It actually mirrored the public input that
42 Martha ran in St. Pete, and, in that room, there were
43 commercial, charter, and recreational interests on hogfish, and
44 it was really cool.

45
46 It turned into a large group discussion. It wasn't a little
47 rote, one-by-one input, and Martha basically conveyed the whole
48 essence of the outcome of that discussion, and so I heard the

1 way you all talked about it yesterday and considered moving it
2 forward, and we pretty much support everything that's in there.
3 It should be noted that I was the lone opposition to the
4 powerheads, and I just said, well, why not? What if I get
5 attacked by a raging hogfish? I might need to defend myself.

6
7 That being said, I don't think anybody has ever killed a hogfish
8 with one. My concern, down the road, is that there might be a
9 point in time where, because they're forbidden to use to harvest
10 hogfish, I might be limited into I couldn't carry a powerhead
11 for protection on me while I was hunting for hogfish, and so
12 that's my only concern. I know it's not on the books to do it
13 that way.

14
15 Now, when we talk about Amendment 45, I think everybody knows
16 that I oppose sector separation vehemently and in court, and I
17 would like to remind everybody where I stand. I'm an angler. I
18 don't commercially fish. I don't take people fishing for money.
19 I am one of the roughly three-million people in the Gulf that
20 live in coastal counties that just fish for recreation. We
21 spend our money.

22
23 If you wonder why there is not 500 people here today complaining
24 about this, I told them it probably would be a waste of their
25 time. I don't think they would really change your minds by
26 having all the numbers here, and I think they would be a little
27 upset if we had 500 days of work lost, 500 days of income lost,
28 to come and do something that, quite frankly, I think the
29 majority of you already have your minds made up on.

30
31 What I would like to point out is that, out of the twenty-one
32 million fishing trips in the Gulf of Mexico in saltwater in
33 2014, 11.6 million were on private boats, and less than a
34 million were on paid boats.

35
36 Also, that unbridled recreational fishing activity, check the
37 Fisheries Economics of the United States in 2014. From 2005,
38 there was a 10 percent decline in recreational saltwater trips.
39 From 2013 to 2014, there was a 17 percent decline. My time is
40 up. I have a plan, if anybody wants to hear it. Register the
41 anglers and survey them. Thank you.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Dennis. We have Jason Delacruz,
44 followed by J.P. Brooker.

45
46 **MR. JASON DELACRUZ:** Believe it or not, this time, I might
47 actually have a note or two. It doesn't mean it's going to work
48 out that way, but we'll see. First, I do want to thank Steve

1 and Roy both. It's been really good to have you back, Roy. I
2 remember when you were here the first time. You're a very
3 rational and a great guy. Steve is always there to help us,
4 give a call back or do whatever we need. I really appreciate
5 that, guys.

6
7 First, on Amendment 36A, I am a dealer, and so this is a big one
8 for me. I absolutely think we need a three-hour notification
9 for anybody landing any kind of reef fish, and I think they need
10 to land at the same criteria for a landing location as anyone
11 else. That's the one hole in our system that I don't like, and
12 it's always bothered me. I do everything I can to follow the
13 rules as absolutely to the letter of the T as I can, and I
14 think, if we tighten up our system, it just helps rebuild the
15 fisheries faster and better, and I think there is no downside to
16 it.

17
18 When it comes to something that actually Buddy said, I'm
19 actually agreeing with some of that, too, and we've talked about
20 it. Even though it would be very onerous on me, I think there
21 needs to be a three-hour unloading notice, so that you ask a
22 dealer three hours, and he has to tell you three hours ahead of
23 time when he's going to unload. That way, it gives time for
24 enforcement to be there, if they choose to. I think that's a
25 wise idea, and that would help tighten up some of the holes in
26 the system.

27
28 Some of the things that we've seen come out of the Northeast and
29 in our region that really are questionable and make us look
30 really bad, that doesn't make me feel right, no matter what I
31 do.

32
33 When it comes to Amendment 45, let's, at the very least, extend
34 this thing for five years, or just do away with it all. We move
35 at the speed of -- This council moves at the speed of
36 government. That's what it's, unfortunately, supposed to do,
37 and it's a good thing, but don't shoot these guys in the leg.
38 These guys that fish at my dock that are charter boat fishermen,
39 they're running trips, and they're making money, finally. They
40 are starting to get a little belief in you guys again. Let's
41 not take it away from them and make them hate you again, and so
42 at least we're working in that right direction. Let's keep
43 those charter boat guys fishing.

44
45 I am going to talk a little bit not so much about Flower Garden
46 Banks, but I'm going to talk about my area, which is the
47 Pulley's Ridge area, which is the next thing that's coming up on
48 the Sanctuary issue, and I think Buddy hit the nail on the head.

1
2 We have been fishing down on Pulley's Ridge, longlining and
3 vertical line fishing, forever, and, in that whole timeframe,
4 everybody always called it the Cabbage Patch, but, yet, when
5 they found it, magically it was pristine and perfect, but we had
6 been down there fishing forever, and so we think that there
7 needs to be some fishing exemption. It seems patently unfair to
8 me that we give exemptions to the oil and gas industry, and
9 they're harvesting a natural resource for our country, and so
10 are we, and so give us that same exemption. Give us that same
11 opportunity. Maybe we're not as big of a business, but we think
12 we provide a resource that's very useful to the United States.

13
14 On hogfish, fourteen inches is fine. I can live with that.
15 I've always kind of pushed for the fifteen, just because I
16 always like to protect those things. Those are my babies. I
17 love those things, and it's still what I do, and so I would
18 appreciate that.

19
20 Then one last thing on H.R. 3094. I would like to applaud the
21 State of Louisiana for being fiscally responsible and making
22 some good decisions. I think the State of Florida, my state,
23 kind of feels that way, too. They've made comments to that, and
24 I think this might give them some cover to kind of agree with
25 it, and let's use this opportunity to bring regional management
26 back to the council, where it lives under Magnuson, where it
27 should be. Let's bring 39 back up. Let's talk about 39 again.
28 Let's start doing it for the pure private rec anglers. Let's
29 develop something good. Thank you.

30
31 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Jason. J.P. Brooker, followed by
32 David Naumann.

33
34 **MR. J.P. BROOKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My comments will be
35 brief. I'm J.P. Brooker, and I'm an attorney with the Ocean
36 Conservancy, based in St. Petersburg. We are a membership-based
37 organization, numbering over 120,000 concerned individuals from
38 across the country. Our members are conservationists, anglers,
39 boaters, divers, surfers, and everyday Americans in love with
40 the sea. Ocean Conservancy seeks to give these stakeholders a
41 voice at the council.

42
43 On behalf of our members, we urge the council to fully eliminate
44 the sunset provision currently applied to sector separation.
45 Sector separation allows for better management of the red
46 snapper fishery by stabilizing the federal for-hire component's
47 participation in the sector, increasing access of anglers who do
48 not own their own vessels, creating a base for further

1 management focused on maximizing opportunities for each
2 component, and reducing discard mortality, as well as reducing
3 the likelihood of continued quota overages in the recreational
4 sector.

5
6 The charter/for-hire component of the recreational fishery has
7 already seen considerable success in developing management
8 alternatives that best suit their individual needs, and
9 expanding these successes to the private recreational fishery
10 provides the prospect of increased angler satisfaction in that
11 component, and it will aid the continued recovery of the stock.

12
13 Simply put, eliminating the sunset will make the benefits of
14 sector separation permanent, and so we recommend the council
15 selects Alternative 3 as the preferred in Amendment 45. Thanks
16 for the opportunity.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. David Naumann, followed by Mike
19 Jackson.

20
21 **MR. DAVID NAUMANN:** Thank you. I've been to a couple of
22 meetings, and there's only been a few people. This is a little
23 spooky, and I know we're all here for the same reason, to
24 protect our resources.

25
26 I moved to Florida in 1960. I've been fishing in Florida since
27 I was twelve years old. My whole teaching career has been from
28 Hernando County to Sarasota, and I have fished Perdido Key to
29 Pensacola, from Cedar Key to Chokoloskee, and I have lived on
30 the nature and culture coast for most of my life.

31
32 I am also a captain. I found out that's not my biz, but I am.
33 I'm concerned about some of the stuff that I've heard. I'm
34 against anything that has to do with separating recreational
35 fishermen from charter fishermen, fishermen for-hire, vessels
36 for-hire.

37
38 We all know that every ten miles you go out from the beach,
39 there is a far less number of vessels that get there, and we're
40 not talking about that many people who would take their vessels
41 out there, especially in a nine-day window that you give us,
42 which is usually messed up with weather. I give up on red
43 snapper, but I don't give up on recreational fishermen getting
44 red snapper. Just a few things.

45
46 I personally cannot understand why if any one of the eight U.S.
47 fisheries councils were to adopt a single policy, any policy,
48 that was previously refused by the other seven councils, why

1 isn't that cause for immediate review by the Department of the
2 Interior? I can't imagine why seven councils don't want to do
3 this, but we insist on doing it here.

4
5 Although some of the council -- We're all interested in the
6 fisheries, but we've changed our direction from fish to
7 fishermen. There should be no distinction between the
8 recreational fishermen and the charter, for which I am both.

9
10 I understand sector separation exclusively punishes Florida
11 Peninsular Gulf Coast recreational fishermen. We already heard
12 once today of why isn't there a zone, why isn't there an
13 extended season, why isn't there a tag? All I hear is greed.
14 We're worried about charter captains and headboats keeping their
15 money, but they're not competing against -- I can't imagine how
16 many people actually get out there with their personal boats.
17 It's not that many, and I don't know why we're protecting it.

18
19 I also believe that you can't manage what you can't count, and I
20 can count wildebeests, but there is no way I can count anything
21 on M1 off of Sarasota, and I understand that problem, but I did
22 read a guide to fisheries stock assessment from Dr. Andrew B.
23 Cooper, and Cooper starts off by saying we use complex math to
24 iron out the details. Already, it's vague, and I'm concerned.

25
26 Later on, it says we use -- Dr. Cooper defines a tact where he
27 gives five fish to dependent data and five to fishery-dependent
28 data, but they all end up saying use the best available data. I
29 hope my best available information is as good as the available
30 information on these statistics. Thank you.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, sir. Mike Jackson, followed by Chad
33 Harreld.

34
35 **MR. MIKE JACKSON:** Good afternoon, council. My name is Mike
36 Jackson from Clearwater, Florida. I'm a recreational angler,
37 and I guess I will add to that that I'm outnumbered today.
38 Today, I'm here to thank those members of the council who voted
39 no on sector separation. In my opinion, your ethics, integrity,
40 clarity of vision as it relates to the ambiguous language
41 contained in Magnuson, helped lead to the vote against the
42 sector separation scheme. I, along with the remaining 97
43 percent of the recreational anglers out there who were opposed
44 to this, thank you.

45
46 Thank you for not succumbing to the immense pressure brought to
47 bear on you to vote otherwise. Your votes demonstrated that you
48 had no other agenda than to uphold the law as it pertains to

1 Magnuson and that you take your position seriously, with all of
2 your constituents in mind, not just a fortunate few. Thank you
3 once again.

4
5 Amendment 40 is unlawful, because it provides an economic
6 allocation, a violation of National Standard 5. Amendment 40 is
7 not fair and equitable, as it now provides 42 percent of a
8 rapidly increasing biomass of red snapper to an ever decreasing
9 number of for-hire permit holders, creating an unbelievable
10 financial windfall for the for-hire sector. Sector separation
11 privatizes a resource for private financial gain.

12
13 All recreational anglers were forced to sacrifice during red
14 snapper recovery efforts, and now a privileged few cannot be
15 allowed to siphon off the recovery benefits for the sole purpose
16 of enriching themselves.

17
18 I am disappointed, but not surprised, that the sector separation
19 advocates are back at the feeding trough so early, attempting to
20 have this temporary windfall now extended into perpetuity
21 without first demonstrating even an iota of evidence of
22 conservation benefits to the red snapper stock, but, since
23 conservation was never Amendment 40's purpose, there are no
24 conservation benefits, nor will there ever be.

25
26 I am disappointed that the recreational angling community has
27 been forced to take to the federal courts, again, our case
28 against the very agency that should be protecting our rights to
29 the fish, but, instead, retroactively established property
30 rights and reallocated a federal resource to a small group of
31 charter vessels, who themselves are protected from new
32 competition in the future, based upon a permit moratorium that
33 has long been in place. Amendment 40 should have failed
34 miserably, due to the crushing weight of its unlawful actions.
35 Unfortunately, it did not. It should now, and I urge you to let
36 sector separation die at the three-year sunset provision. Thank
37 you.

38
39 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. We have Chad Harreld, followed by
40 Lisa Schmidt.

41
42 **MR. CHAD HARRELD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and council members.
43 My name is Chad Harreld. I'm a recreational angler out of St.
44 Pete, Florida. I'm an avid diver. I support the fourteen-inch
45 hogfish, an increase to fourteen inches, that two-inch increase.
46 I think that's good. Sixteen is overkill, completely. Diving
47 near-shore waters, you can forget finding a bunch of sixteen-
48 inch hogs.

1
2 Most of the guys can't see in that sort of visibility, the way
3 the winds are. You have to get out in a little bit deeper water
4 to find those fish, and you're going to just kill the
5 recreational sector on that, and so fourteen I think is good for
6 the stock size overall.

7
8 Catch limits, I think catch limits should be increased for hogs.
9 The data are saying that there's no shortage of hogs out there.
10 I am not seeing any shortage of hogs, and neither is anybody
11 else. In fact, I have seen more this year than I have in the
12 last three years, and so even an increase couldn't be a bad
13 thing.

14
15 Powerheads, kind of a point on that. If a diver wants to shoot
16 a hogfish with a powerhead -- I don't know why he would, but if
17 he wants to, let him make that choice. The result is the same.
18 You're going to have a fish on the boat. If he wants to use a
19 powerhead to do it, let him do it. It doesn't hurt a thing.

20
21 If the Keys are having a hogfish shortage, adjust the Keys.
22 Leave the west coast stock out of any of the proposed changes.
23 The west coast is doing fine, and the Keys aren't. I got it.
24 The Keys need a decrease, but the west coast doesn't.

25
26 I support Alternative 1, no action, on the sunset provision. I
27 would love to shoot some American reds, but I had to work that
28 week. Thank you.

29
30 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Lisa Schmidt, followed by Scott
31 Hickman.

32
33 **MS. LISA SCHMIDT:** Thank you, Chairman Anson and the Gulf
34 Council, for the opportunity to speak. Many of you will
35 remember my husband, John Schmidt, who passed away last year. I
36 am Lisa Schmidt, his wife, and I now own three commercial
37 grouper boats in Madeira Beach.

38
39 Can you imagine that owning a fishing business was not on my
40 bucket list? It was more about scuba diving, hiking, and
41 kayaking in exotic places, but it has been a rewarding
42 adventure. John always spoke highly of the council and National
43 Marine Fisheries, and, while he didn't always agree with every
44 decision, he genuinely liked you as individuals and respected
45 the decision-making process.

46
47 Since John passed, I have had to bring myself up to speed, not
48 only with how to run a commercial fishing business, but also

1 able to understand the process by which rules and regulations
2 are made. These very rules and regulations have very real
3 impacts on my boats and my captains, and so I am determined to
4 learn more about you, the council and National Marine Fisheries.

5
6 There are so many people who have already gone out of their way
7 to help me get on my feet that I cannot thank them enough. Ava,
8 Andy Strelcheck, commercial fishermen from all over the Gulf,
9 also Jessica and Janet from the IFQ program, Wendy from Permits,
10 the Shareholders' Alliance members, Eric, Jim, Jason, and Buddy,
11 to name a few. Thank you, all.

12
13 Please bear with me as I continue to learn more about the
14 business and about you. The only comment I want to make today
15 about the regulations you are discussing is that I believe the
16 sector separation sunset provision should be done away with. It
17 seems to me that, even as little as I know, that the sector
18 separation has given charter and headboat fishermen a longer and
19 more sustainable season, and taking it away would cut that
20 season close to what it was before. I support leaving the rules
21 as they stand and removing the sunset.

22
23 With that, thank you again for giving me the chance to speak. I
24 plan to attend more of these meetings, so I will be able to get
25 to know you better individually. In the spirit of John and his
26 never-ending optimism, I know you are doing important work and
27 doing it well. I look forward to meeting each of you. Thank
28 you.

29
30 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Ms. Schmidt. Scott Hickman,
31 followed by Bobby Kelly.

32
33 **MR. SCOTT HICKMAN:** Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the
34 Gulf Council. Thanks for letting us speak today. First off, I
35 would like to thank Roy Williams for his incredible service to
36 our fishery and our nation, and the same thing for Steve
37 Branstetter. We're going to miss Steve, especially some of his
38 views on the world, as they are, at the bar, after some of these
39 meetings. We will miss you, buddy. You're an interesting guy.

40
41 First off, I would like to say we appreciate everything you all
42 did with Amendment 40, and we want to extend or do away with the
43 sunset provision on Amendment 40. I would like to see the
44 council untable Amendment 39 and make it a purely recreational
45 private boat amendment. I can tell you that I run out of the
46 largest marina west of the Mississippi River in Galveston,
47 Texas, the Galveston Yacht Basin.

48

1 Our folks drastically want something better. We don't have a
2 viable state-water fishery on the upper Texas coast like they do
3 the lower Texas coast, and so my friends and neighbors in the
4 marina, time and time again, will be offshore thirty or forty
5 miles and catch red snappers. The thing is dead. They don't
6 want to throw it back. Those fish come back inshore. It's not
7 right. They shouldn't have to look over their shoulder. Civil
8 disobedience is not the way to run this fishery.

9
10 Let's use this council to do what's right and move Amendment 39
11 forward for the private recreational guys and come up with a
12 great management system like we have for the commercial fleet
13 and like we're developing for the charter boat fleet.

14
15 House Resolution 3094, anything coming out of Congress is
16 generally not very good for the folks of this country these
17 days, and I applaud Louisiana for making it apparent that the
18 states having to accept this burden of paying to run this whole
19 fishery is not the right thing, and your states' governors
20 appointed you all to do the job and to serve the people in these
21 coastal communities, like Captain Mike from Double Hook was
22 talking about.

23
24 You all can do it. You did a good job with the commercial guys,
25 we're doing it with the charter boats, and let's finish the job
26 with the recreational people and make everybody happier, where
27 everybody is not biting at each other's heels all the time.

28
29 I support the three-hour unloading notice for the commercial IFQ
30 trips. That's a good way to tune that up, and, other than that,
31 I appreciate all of you all's time, and you have a fantastic
32 day.

33
34 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Scott. We have Bobby Kelly,
35 followed by Jason Sherrill.

36
37 **MR. BOBBY KELLY:** Good afternoon, council. My name is Bobby
38 Kelly. I hail from Orange Beach, Alabama. I both commercial
39 fish and charter fish out of there. First of all, I want to
40 thank the council, first and foremost, for the healthy, robust
41 triggerfish season we had this spring. It really helped our
42 spring out with the charter customers coming there. What can
43 you catch? Triggerfish, big ones, lots of them.

44
45 I do ask that the council highly scrutinize the landings and do
46 not open up triggerfish on August 1. We do not want to overfish
47 them. With triggerfish being a payback fish, we ask that you
48 err on the side of caution for this.

1
2 Please don't forget that we also asked you to move the
3 triggerfish season opening from January 1 to March 1, and I
4 think we asked you guys to do a sixteen-inch fish limit on that,
5 and so don't forget the progress that's still got to be made a
6 little bit there. I know you guys are working real hard to do a
7 benchmark model on this stuff, and so just the triggerfish are
8 very important to us in Orange Beach.

9
10 I ask that the sunset be completely removed from Amendment 40.
11 A sunset looming over many small businesses does not provide the
12 stability for these businesses. We want to do long-term growth,
13 and, with the sunset hanging over our heads, it's hard to plan
14 for that. Our fleet stayed under the ACT from 2015. From what
15 I'm seeing on the docks that we're catching this year, we're
16 also going to stay under for 2016. Amendment 40 is working. We
17 are staying under.

18
19 I have read all the options for Amendments 41 and 42 over the
20 last few weeks. It's been a pretty good discussion amongst my
21 friends and I. I said I believe both amendments should be
22 implemented at the same time, regardless of the timeframe in
23 which they are approved.

24
25 The EFP, while although it provided great knowledge and data for
26 the headboats on how to do an allocation-based management
27 system, it provided an unfair economic advantage for these
28 vessels, and if 41 or 42 was implemented before the other, it,
29 again, would have the unfair economic advantage.

30
31 After using the VMS, I fully support the data collected from
32 them, and I think that it is the best idea when we're moving
33 forward, when we're talking about an allocation-based management
34 system, that we use data before we even talk about how to split
35 up these fish, because we don't know what everybody is catching.

36
37 I think the council would be greatly benefitted in starting some
38 type of AP panel for these private recreational anglers. They
39 need something. You all have done such a fine job over the last
40 couple of years with the charter fishing and the commercial
41 fishing, and I think it's time that you guys can get together
42 and also move something forward with that.

43
44 I would like to thank the State of Louisiana for their response
45 to H.R. 3094. That was courageous, and it shows that you guys
46 do have the responsibility for managing the resource, and you
47 all put that ahead of everything else, and so I hope that my
48 home state of Alabama will also take the same state that

1 Louisiana takes also.

2
3 Dr. Crabtree, if you can extend the private recreational angler
4 season by two days for a lost storm, I think you can do it for
5 my charter boats as well. I just wanted to throw that in there,
6 and, Dr. Dana, congratulations on your cobia. It was a good
7 one. Thanks.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Bobby. We have Jason Sherrill,
10 followed by Vance Tice.

11
12 **MR. JASON SHERRILL:** Hello. My name is Jason Sherrill. I own
13 two charter boats down in South Florida, in Venice, Florida, and
14 I would like to talk about the Amendment 40 and how well it's
15 worked, and I think the sunset provision should be either
16 extended five years or done away with permanently.

17
18 There is no state red snapper season in South Florida. There is
19 no red snapper inside of 150 foot of water, and so there needs
20 to be some sort of boundary from Cedar Key south. I understand
21 the recreational guys are all upset because they get nine days,
22 which isn't fair, and so something needs to change, because
23 you're turning honest men into outlaws. That's about all I have
24 to say about it. I mean it's working well, and I just think we
25 need to do something different, create some sort of different
26 boundary zone.

27
28 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. We have Vance Tice, followed by
29 Charles Rowley.

30
31 **MR. VANCE TICE:** Hi. My name is Vance Tice. I'm an FRA member,
32 a CCA member, and an angler of Florida for fifty years. I just
33 want to say that I'm really dismayed how our public resource of
34 red snapper has been deeded away to such a minority of people,
35 and it's done such devastation to some of our coastal
36 communities that our state had to thumb their nose at you and
37 try to at least throw the Panhandle a bone. That doesn't speak
38 well for the fisheries management, to me.

39
40 Do you all take any credence in what your former Chairman, Dr.
41 Bob Shipp, his papers he puts out at all? Does his papers carry
42 any weight with the council at all or no, or is it because he
43 says that this is the worst case of fisheries management in the
44 history of fisheries management, is the red snapper management
45 in the Gulf of Mexico? That's not very nice to you all, but he
46 is the leading scientific expert on the fishery.

47
48 He says we could have a six-month season, two fish a day to four

1 fish a day, like we used to have, and we wouldn't hurt the fish,
2 because there's way more red snapper in the Gulf than you guys
3 give credit for. I would think the leading expert would have
4 some weight on your decision. Anybody? Will anybody answer me
5 why it has no weight?
6

7 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Sir, we typically don't engage in
8 back-and-forth until after you give your testimony. If the
9 council has any questions, they will ask you.
10

11 **MR. TICE:** Well, as a tackle shop owner, you guys put me out of
12 business a couple of years ago. Your regulations just choked my
13 business, because I had such an offshore business, down to
14 nothing. I've been coming to these meetings since 2002, and I
15 am just dismayed how the recreational fisherman is treated by
16 this council, and I'm really offended that you allowed these
17 pseudo environmentalists to hijack our council, and that's what
18 has happened through the last few years.
19

20 Their ultimate goal is we get so mad that we don't fish at all.
21 I don't know what that achieves, but -- I don't mean to be rude,
22 but I do, and I am really disgusted with what has gone on, and
23 I've been coming here, and the fact that the biggest
24 recreational response to your original time of the sector
25 separation was ignored, and, the next year, you kind of sneak it
26 back through and then we're voting on it again. It was
27 overwhelming against it, but it's pushed down our throats.
28 Thank you.
29

30 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, sir. We have Charles Rowley,
31 followed by Bill Zack. Charles? Bill Zack. Brad Gorst.
32

33 **MR. BRAD GORST:** Thank you, all. My name is Brad Gorst. I've
34 been in front of you all plenty of times before. I'm from
35 Clearwater here. I run three charter boats here. I manage and
36 captain one of them. I live in Palm Harbor. I've been doing
37 this for about twenty-eight years.
38

39 First off, I would like to say Amendment 40, Action 1,
40 Alternative 3, do away with the sunset altogether. If you're
41 going to buy a house, you want to make sure that you get a good
42 mortgage and a good term, right? Otherwise, you're not going to
43 buy it. Amendment 41 and 42, they go together, kind of like
44 sausage and gravy.
45

46 I would like to applaud the State of Louisiana for their stand
47 on 3094, and I hope the State of Florida follows suite. Florida
48 followed our request on gags, and it's working for me, and I've

1 had snapper trips, and so we're not really getting the dead
2 discards on the gags, which was the ultimate goal of June, and
3 so I think that was a good move.

4
5 I would like to see an advisory panel comprised of regular,
6 common people. I would like to refer to him as Joe the Plumber,
7 and not John from industry of Shimano or whatever tackle
8 manufacturer. It needs to be the regular guy, because those are
9 the guys that are really getting lost. I talked to the guy at
10 the boatyard, and I explained to him -- These people are just
11 regular working guys, and they understand, if explained to them
12 properly, instead of getting the action alert emails, and so it
13 needs to be comprised of those people.

14
15 I have explained to them about -- They were saying about the
16 weather and getting short seasons and whatnot. Well, in this
17 area, you hear a lot of people say we don't have a state red
18 snapper season. Well, you get nine days, and so why not have a
19 tag program for the private recreational angler, where they can
20 use their nine days whenever they want.

21
22 That's the way that needs to go. For me, a season does not
23 work. I need year-round access for our business, because, in
24 this area -- You all have been in this town probably long enough
25 to notice the traffic is a nightmare. Why? Because there's a
26 lot of people. Look at the hotels on this beach. This area has
27 a year-round season, 365 days, we have the potential.

28
29 We're not like the north Gulf, where they run the summers.
30 That's their season, and, in the wintertime, they all go home.
31 We don't have that here. I don't have that luxury, and so, in
32 order to be crammed into that short window does really work for
33 a successful business here.

34
35 Industry-led ELB programs, keep that moving forward, and, like I
36 said, the tagging program is what is going to work for the
37 private recreational anglers. I have heard it from many people
38 I've talked to out there in the real world.

39
40 One other thing. I do have a boat down in the yard. I came
41 here today. We've been having engine problems for the last, and
42 I'm putting a new engine in, for the last month-and-a-half or
43 so, and so it's not fun being in the boatyard and not fishing.
44 Thank you.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Brad. We have Jim White, followed
47 by Helen White.

48

1 **MR. JIM WHITE:** Hello. Thanks for the opportunity to come out
2 here and speak with you. I am a recreational fisherman for the
3 last forty-five or fifty years. I have a captains' license. I
4 don't do captains. I have to sell real estate for a living. I
5 sell a lot of waterfront homes. We sell a lot of waterfront
6 properties to people who come down to Florida that want to be
7 able to go out and fish.

8
9 I've been fishing since the late 1970s, and I've been diving
10 since the late 1970s. I have seen the fishery, the decline of
11 the red snapper fishery, and I've seen the rebound of the
12 fishery. I think you have to manage the fishery the right way,
13 and, if you look at Pinellas County, Pinellas County is the
14 number one density, population-wise in the State of Florida. In
15 fact, we were number nine in the whole country. There's a lot
16 of people right here in Pinellas County that do not have an
17 opportunity to fish if you're a recreational fisherman.

18
19 That's been given away and allocated to the commercial, which I
20 understand the commercial and the charter/for-hire have to make
21 a living. That's what they do for a living, but there has to be
22 a better system in place. There has to be something provided
23 for the recreational people who have been fishing for their
24 whole lives and people who just moved down to Florida. Why not
25 give us an opportunity to fish?

26
27 When you go to the marina on the weekends, when the grouper
28 season closes on December 1, in the previous years, if you go
29 the next weekend, which I've done, there is no boats in the
30 marina. The weekend before, when the grouper season opens,
31 there is boats everywhere. They're selling bait, they're
32 selling gas, and they're selling tackle. You're helping the
33 businesses, but, as the gentleman said before, it's running
34 businesses into the ground, all these regulations.

35
36 In the federal waters out here off of Tampa Bay, from Cedar Key
37 down to Naples, and even further south, you cannot catch a red
38 snapper in state waters, and so, really, nine days, we have no
39 opportunity to catch red snapper, and I'm asking you to do the
40 right thing.

41
42 The resource should be for the benefit of the most people and
43 the resource as well and do the right thing, and I am asking you
44 to go with Alternative 1, end the red snapper separation. Thank
45 you.

46
47 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Helen White, followed by Michael
48 Lokey.

1
2 **MS. HELEN WHITE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and council members.
3 I am a recreational fisherwoman. I really truly would like to
4 see the sector separation of the red snapper ended at the end of
5 the 2017 fishing year. I am for Alternative 1. With your help,
6 we can manage the fisheries for the most benefit of the most
7 people and for the fish stock themselves. Thank you for your
8 time.

9
10 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Michael Lokey, followed by Dave
11 Mott.

12
13 **MR. MICHAEL LOKEY:** Good afternoon. I would like to thank
14 everyone for taking time to be here today on both sides of the
15 podium. My name is Michael Lokey, and my family has been here
16 for several years. We're a family of watermen. We're a family
17 of concerned citizens. We're a family of conservationists.
18 We've grown up in the water. I'm thirty-nine years old, and I
19 think I've probably spent about thirty-four of them in the water
20 doing something.

21
22 I would like to point out that I'm a recreational diver, and you
23 guys are vastly overcompensating on what you think I'm taking
24 from the water. I think if you actually did a real good survey,
25 and I would like to see that happen, of all the recreational
26 anglers out there of what they're actually bringing in on any
27 given day, it would be embarrassing for us all, and it would be
28 a good experiment, if not in thought, in practice.

29
30 I would also like to thank you for the good and logical approach
31 to hogfish. I fully support the fourteen-inch length. I think
32 that, as we all know, the Key West fishery is dynamically
33 different. If you don't believe that, ask a realtor or a
34 charter captain. Obviously we have some pressure down there
35 that's different, and I think sixteen can be supported down
36 there, but it should not be here.

37
38 Even as a bad fisherman, I could take you guys off about five
39 miles and drop you on fourteen-inch hogs pretty regularly. We
40 see quite a few of them, and that's true for the club that I
41 belong to too, which is the St. Pete Underwater Club.

42
43 I would like to also say that, in terms of the sunset provision,
44 sunsets were part of the fundament reason for the passing of
45 these rules from the get-go. I think they're a fundamentally
46 important part of this legislation, and they work as like a
47 blow-off prevention valve against the policy turning south on
48 us. If you live on the Gulf Coast, you understand what the

1 ramifications can be of a faulty blow-off valve.

2
3 I'm actually in the biofuel business. That's what I do. It
4 usually keeps me from being able to get to a lot of these
5 meetings. I'm very lucky to be here today talking about
6 recreational fishing.

7
8 In the biofuel business, we had the same problem in reverse.
9 Big oil would prevent several loans that we depend on to be an
10 existing business, and the only reason they do that is because
11 we have a sunset on IRS tax credits. Sunsets are a very
12 important part of leverage for policy makers, for commercial
13 influence, and for recreational people and the general public,
14 and so what I would say -- I heard a gentleman before me
15 speaking about the crushing pressure of commercial fishing.

16
17 I know that Walmart and other large corporations have a lot of
18 force to bear on everybody involved in this process, and I think
19 that the, like I said, the sunset clause allows everybody a
20 plausible prevention against this policy derailing from
21 conservation of fish stocks to conservation of private equity
22 stocks for small corporations and large.

23
24 Therefore, when it comes to Amendment 45, Alternative 1, I would
25 suggest no action, or I would push you to consider this for a
26 five-year term. I would like to thank you all for your time. I
27 appreciate both the commercial and the recreational aspects of
28 this issue, and I would like to thank you all for helping make
29 this a meaningful process.

30
31 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Michael. Dave Mott, followed by
32 Suzanne Foster. Dave? Suzanne. Maxie Foster, followed by Sid
33 Rice.

34
35 **MS. SUZANNE FOSTER:** Hello. My name is Suzanne Foster, and I'm
36 part owner, with my husband, of three federally-permitted
37 charter boats here in Clearwater, Gulf Stream Charters, and we
38 hire six people, not including my husband and I. I have
39 actually worked in the industry for over forty years, and I
40 would like to see the sunset provision ride off into the sunset.
41 I think it's a good place for it, and I think you guys have done
42 a great job listening to us. I appreciate your time, and we
43 would like to see you move forward with Amendment 41 and 42.
44 Thank you very much.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Maxie Foster.

47
48 **MR. MAXIE FOSTER:** Hello, everybody. I'm Maxie Foster, a

1 Florida cracker, born and raised in Florida. I have fished my
2 whole damned life, and my old man always said if you take a
3 fisherman and put his best three pair of pants on him, you can
4 still see his ass.

5
6 Anyway, I don't have a lot to say since the boys have retired me
7 and kicked me to the curb, but I would like to say that you guys
8 are doing a good job at getting the red snapper straightened
9 out, and hopefully you've found a way to bring the gag groupers
10 back, because now they've disappeared, but I would like to see
11 the sunset provision go away and work on 41 and 42. Thank you
12 very much.

13
14 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, sir. Sid Rice, followed by Brian
15 Dinning.

16
17 **MR. SID RICE:** My name is Sid Rice, and my father, Charlie Rice,
18 was the founder of John's Pass Seafood Company, and he pinned
19 the name Fish Famous John's Pass. We were the largest seafood
20 processor and producer for commercial fishing, along with retail
21 for the tri-county area for many, many years. I'm a past owner
22 of a commercial fish house, Sid's Seafoods, and I'm a past owner
23 of commercial boats, and I'm a recreational angler now. I'm not
24 retired, and I'm still working.

25
26 I go out as much as I can on weekends and stuff. I have seen
27 the fishery where we're catching more black grouper now than we
28 were twenty years ago, and that's probably because of the
29 fisheries and what you all have done.

30
31 Back in the 1950s and 1960s and early 1970s, we didn't have any
32 of those regulations. I remember offloading grouper at
33 nineteen-cents a pound and American red snapper at forty-nine
34 cents a point at John's Pass Seafood there is John's Pass
35 Treasure Island.

36
37 The Alternative 1 is a good one. One thing we have here, and I
38 have fished up in the Panhandle, running away from Hurricane
39 Ivan, and I remember going out eight miles and catching all the
40 snapper you want. Here, we have to run forty miles, thirty-five
41 miles, thirty miles. If you find a sweet spot, you might get
42 something at twenty-five miles. Nine days of fishing, that's
43 ridiculous.

44
45 We go out there so many times and we're bringing up snapper, and
46 we have to vent them. You know a lot of people don't know how
47 to do that, and we're losing a lot of fish. You need to figure
48 out to make it a little bit more equal.

1
2 Our continental shelf is real long out here compared to the east
3 coast and compared to up to the Panhandle, and so the
4 Alternative 1 is a good thing, with the separation of fishing
5 and stuff, and, being a long experienced angler and a family
6 with seafood, people came to Florida to get seafood, and now
7 we're protecting our fisheries, and we need to continue to do
8 so, and people come to Florida to go fishing.

9
10 If they can't catch the fish of the -- American red snapper is
11 the jewel of the fishery, in my opinion. It's better eating
12 than anything else, but if you can't take your friends out
13 fishing because we only have nine days, that's sort of
14 ridiculous, a little bit more restrictive. Again, being a long-
15 time angler, resident, born at Mound Park Hospital, you need to
16 change that. Thank you.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, sir. Brian Dinning, followed by
19 Charles Rowley.

20
21 **MR. BRIAN DINNING:** Hi. My name is Brian Dinning. I'm a local
22 captain for a fishing and scuba diving business, of which is
23 predominantly spearfishing. I just wanted to kind of echo the
24 thoughts of the hogfish that have been already said. I do
25 support the move to fourteen inches. I don't think it was
26 warranted, but I do support it for protection of the resource.
27 We have a distinct population of hogfish found in the Gulf here,
28 and a move to sixteen would be totally unwarranted and totally
29 unfair, and so thank you.

30
31 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Charles Rowley. Bill Zack. Last
32 call for Dave Mott. Is there anyone in the audience who would
33 like to speak who has not already spoken that would like to
34 speak now? That concludes our portion of the full council
35 public testimony.

36
37 Before everyone leaves though, we have a couple of items we
38 would like to take care of before we go to break, and that would
39 be to present a couple of the folks who have received some
40 accolades here this afternoon a token of the council's
41 appreciation for their service towards managing the fisheries of
42 the nation and the Gulf of Mexico.

43
44 The first person we would like to give a small token of our
45 appreciation from the council is Roy Williams. Roy, could you
46 come up? Roy, you served on the council, in this stint, for
47 three years. We appreciate your dedication and your hard work
48 in trying to get some of the things done as relative to managing

1 the fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. As a token of our
2 appreciation, we have the clock, and there it is. It's in honor
3 of your dedicated service to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery
4 Management Council, 2013 to 2016.

5
6 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Thank you very much.

7
8 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We also have your tumbler, and so don't forget
9 that.

10
11 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Thank you.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** The second person is Dr. Steve Branstetter.
14 Steve, same thing. Thank you for your service in working with
15 NOAA Fisheries and in helping the council get the information
16 and to resolve the issues that the council has to deal with in
17 managing the Gulf's fisheries, and we appreciate your service of
18 eighteen years in NOAA Fisheries, and good luck to you in your
19 retirement.

20
21 **DR. BRANSTETTER:** Thank you.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** With that, we will go ahead and take a short
24 recess of fifteen minutes, and we will jump into some other
25 items that are remaining on our agenda. Thank you.

26
27 (Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)

28
29 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Obviously we had scheduled more time that was
30 needed today to do public testimony, and so we are ahead of
31 schedule, and we've got a little over an hour before 5:00. I
32 figure it we can go until 5:00, that would be great, I think.

33
34 If council members will oblige me, I would like to go ahead and
35 knock out one or two of the committee reports this afternoon, so
36 that we can maintain being ahead of schedule going into
37 tomorrow, whereby tomorrow we will pick up on our presentations,
38 as they're listed here, and then the schedule on the agenda will
39 follow tomorrow, minus whatever we get done this afternoon, and
40 so, due to some staff issues, we're going to skip Shrimp and
41 Spiny Lobster, and we're going to move into Data Collection.
42 Dr. Stunz, are you ready for the Data Collection Committee
43 Report?

44
45 **DR. STUNZ:** I am ready when you are.

46
47 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Go right ahead, sir.

48

1
2
3
4 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
5 **DATA COLLECTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

6 **DR. STUNZ:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Data Collection
7 Committee met on June 20, 2016. We did an Update on the
8 Commercial Electronic Reporting Pilot Program.

9 Dr. Ponwith gave a presentation describing a pilot project using
10 electronic reporting technology on commercial vessels
11 participating in Gulf, South Atlantic, and Highly Migratory
12 Species fisheries. In this pilot study, fisheries data are
13 collected at the set rather than trip level, greatly improving
14 the resolution of these data.

15 The pilot program uses eLog software that has been well-
16 developed by industry, and this software could also allow
17 reporting in other sectors for dually-permitted vessels. The
18 program and infrastructure is being expanded to allow vessels to
19 voluntarily participate in this program beginning in 2017.
20 Consideration is necessary regarding funding requirements for
21 this program, and a cost analysis is being prepared by the SEFSC
22 staff for presentation to the council at an upcoming meeting.

23
24 Next, there was Discussion of 2016 Appropriations for Gulf of
25 Mexico Research. Dr. Ponwith provided an update on 2016
26 appropriations for Gulf of Mexico reef fish research. Full
27 research proposals are due on by July 15, 2016, and the
28 objective of this research is to estimate absolute abundance of
29 red snapper on both artificial and natural reefs in the Gulf.
30 This work is anticipated to provide an independent estimate of
31 abundance that will be compared to the existing approach.

32
33 Next, For-Hire Electronic Reporting Program Recommendations and
34 Modifications to Charter Vessel and Headboat Reporting
35 Requirements were discussed. Dr. Froeschke provided a summary
36 of the June 6, 2016 Technical Committee meeting.

37
38 The committee discussed options to implement electronic
39 reporting in the Gulf for-hire fisheries and made the following
40 recommendations: a for-hire census program that includes all
41 federally-permitted for-hire vessels; trip level electronic
42 reporting of catch and effort; start of trip notification and
43 submission of catch information prior to returning to the dock;
44 location data would be collected passively through a device, for
45 example GPS-enabled tablet or equivalent; ping frequency of
46 approximately thirty minutes. Location data could be archived
47 and transmitted later or enhanced with real-time location
48 capability. The proposed program would be integrated into

1 existing dockside validation programs, with a target
2 implementation of January 1, 2018.

3
4 **A motion followed, and that was the committee recommends, and I**
5 **so move, to accept the recommendations of the Data Collection**
6 **Technical Committee and have staff include in the Generic For-**
7 **Hire Electronic Reporting Amendment. I will stop there to**
8 discuss that motion.

9
10 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. We have a committee motion. Is
11 there any discussion on the motion? **Is there any opposition to**
12 **the motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.**

13
14 **DR. STUNZ:** Mr. Fischer requested additional discussion and
15 input from the National Marine Fisheries Service about the
16 minimum data elements necessary in this program. Council staff
17 has provided a list of data elements currently collected in the
18 Southeast Region Headboat Survey and a list of core variables
19 being considered during the development of the South Atlantic
20 Council's for-hire electronic reporting program. Mr. Chairman,
21 this concludes my report.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Dr. Stunz. Do you have a comment?

24
25 **DR. STUNZ:** Before we move on, I do have a few things that maybe
26 we could discuss, if you're okay with that, Mr. Chairman.

27
28 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Yes, go ahead.

29
30 **DR. STUNZ:** I know we had a lot of discussion, particularly from
31 Myron, about these data elements. During the time since we've
32 met, I had Dr. Froeschke pull up what the South Atlantic was
33 doing, so we could see. I also have a motion, if we decide we
34 might want to make this, that might help with some of the
35 concerns that you and your group have, Myron, about these data
36 elements.

37
38 While he's pulling that up, essentially what it is, I thought it
39 might be a good idea if we directed staff to look at what are
40 your minimum data elements in LA Creel, what's going on in
41 Snapper Check, and we could provide iSnapper, and sort of see
42 what the commonalities are on those minimum data collection
43 fields. I can't imagine that they're not virtually 95 percent
44 overlapped, at least the minimum.

45
46 We can kind of see what we would like to have in this, the must-
47 haves, what we would like to have, and what would be really
48 great if we really had the time or whatever. Then I think we

1 can really whittle that down. If you're agreeable to that, I
2 can put forth or one of you, if you want, can put forth a simple
3 motion.

4
5 The other thing that I just want to clarify is we're really
6 talking about two things. One is the actual mechanism of the
7 data delivery with that spreadsheet, and the other is what would
8 be included in terms of data elements, and so they're really not
9 exactly the same. Ideally, we would have a variety of devices
10 that would deliver a prescribed set of data elements that we
11 would decide here at some point or the next meeting.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Is there any questions or comments to what Dr.
14 Stunz -- Leann.

15
16 **MS. BOSARGE:** I think that sounds like a great idea. I think
17 the flow chart was a help, to start to see something in writing
18 and on paper on that side of what we have to do, what we're
19 tasked to do, and I think if we could start on some conversation
20 to come up with the list the way you described it, that would be
21 a great avenue to start to go down.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** To that point, Dr. Stunz?

24
25 **DR. STUNZ:** To that point, and just to maybe curb any of Doug's
26 issues, this is a pretty minor exercise. What I'm talking about
27 is just a few hours of work. I mean it's pretty much just
28 consolidating what we're all collecting. As an example of that,
29 if Dr. Froeschke pulls that up, I think we'll see what that is.

30
31 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Froeschke, are you ready now, or do you
32 want to come back in a couple of minutes?

33
34 **DR. JOHN FROESCHKE:** No, I'm ready. What I think we should do
35 on the document is scroll down first, and then, after we've sort
36 of wrapped this up, then I've worked with SERO staff, and we've
37 prepared some additional or revised language that we're
38 proposing and we would like to get your input on about revising
39 the alternatives to reflect what we think you are wanting, and
40 so I would like to get some input on that. If you're agreeable
41 or have specific changes you want me to make, we could go ahead
42 and incorporate that into the next version of the document.

43
44 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Okay. Great, and so before we get into
45 reviewing the document and it comes up on the board, I had a
46 couple of folks. Myron, did you have a comment?

47
48 **MR. FISCHER:** Yes, I did, Mr. Chairman. It goes back to when we

1 were making the comment about the directors mentioning what data
2 elements are in their specific programs, but keep in mind we
3 still have to keep up with what Bonnie's needs are and what's in
4 the existing MRIP program and make sure that we're not leaving
5 out any of those data elements that they need, because, of
6 course, they're the end user, and I always think we should go to
7 the end user and request what they need, and then we fulfill
8 those needs.

9
10 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Good point. Doug.

11
12 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** The only thing I wanted to bring to
13 your attention is I was contacted, probably three or four months
14 ago, by the gentleman with CLS that's doing the VMS stuff with
15 the NFWF million-dollar project that started a year ago, and he
16 wanted to give a presentation to the council, and I redirected
17 him the technical committee, because I was uncomfortable having
18 a private vendor come and talk to the council, but we don't know
19 anything, or at least I don't, or our staff doesn't, about the
20 NFWF program.

21
22 I said to Harlon, who is very involved in it, if he or somebody
23 from the industry could come to the council in August and give
24 us more information about what they're doing. I don't know if
25 John has the data elements of what that program is collecting,
26 but that would be another set of data elements, because I would
27 be curious as to how they came up with the data elements they
28 came up with.

29
30 **DR. STUNZ:** To that point, we ran out of time in committee,
31 Doug, but it would be really nice to get a report of where they
32 are and what the program is working like. Again, it's still two
33 different things. That's one vehicle that could be used, but,
34 also, these data elements, in getting that information, I think
35 what we would find, just having done this, is I can't imagine
36 that we don't have 95 percent overlap with at least the key
37 minimum data elements, or maybe 100 percent.

38
39 Then, of course, there's all the extra stuff that we would like
40 to collect, and, of course, that would have to mesh with what
41 Bonnie wants as well, but having this first cut of see what
42 everyone is collecting and what's similar and what is not would
43 give us at least a departure point where we could start making a
44 decision of what we really want.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Myron.

47
48 **MR. FISCHER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and, Gregg, I agree, and

1 also, what we need -- We're building a program that we want to
2 be installed for quite a while. It's going to be an electronic
3 program, and it's going to be costly. We want to do it right
4 the first time, and I have no problems if we convene this
5 technical committee a few times to review documents, even if
6 it's webinars or asking them to review in Tampa, St. Pete, but I
7 think, for what we're trying to get out of this -- When you look
8 at the dollar figures on that flow chart, getting over \$10
9 million, we want it right the first time.

10
11 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Ponwith.

12
13 **DR. PONWITH:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and certainly I do
14 appreciate recognition of end users of the data being
15 incorporated into setting the minimum data standards. That's
16 going to require some really close coordination between the
17 Southeast Fisheries Science Center and the current MRIP program,
18 as well as the headboat program.

19
20 I see that you've got this document up right now. I'm sorry
21 that I missed the introductory portion of this, and this looks
22 like it's the table from the South Atlantic Council meeting.
23 The thing that you have to keep in the back of your mind is that
24 the South Atlantic Council, the reason that the two councils
25 sort of divorced their efforts from one another, is that
26 different management approaches were being contemplated, and so
27 just keep in the back of your mind that, if there are management
28 measures you're contemplating here that aren't being used there,
29 it could influence what those minimum data requirements are, and
30 so that's something you have to keep in the back of your mind.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** John might have covered that, but, John, do you
33 want to go ahead at this time to kind of just briefly just go
34 through this table?

35
36 **DR. FROESCHKE:** Yes, and, as Dr. Ponwith noted, this is the
37 minimum core variables that was provided by the South Atlantic
38 Council, that I think they're relying on for the development of
39 their document. As she noted, that's on a different path.

40
41 The other table that I put in the document, and it's also in the
42 generic for-hire reporting document, and that's simply a table
43 of what is currently being collected in the electronic headboat
44 reporting program, and so that gives you some contrast with the
45 sorts of things that are being collected.

46
47 I looked at those lists, focusing on the headboat and trying to
48 think how -- We certainly would want to make this as simple as

1 possible, and I noted that there are some of those, for example
2 how many people were on the vessel and things, that could be
3 completed as part of probably the hail-out process or something,
4 or before they ever left, that could simplify that at-sea
5 reporting obligation that we're sensitive, because of time and
6 safety at sea and those sorts of things.

7

8 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. Dr. Stunz.

9

10 **DR. STUNZ:** If you so desire, I would be willing to make a
11 motion to move this along, so for next time we could consider
12 this, and then have this in a -- I'm thinking of a very simple
13 exercise, where it's an example of what are the key data
14 elements, and then, obviously, I think we need to leave this
15 open a little bit, from some of Bonnie's earlier comments from
16 yesterday or the day before. We don't want to prescribe the
17 science too much, to where we really constrain her, but that she
18 has some ability to change or modify as she sees fit, and so I
19 don't know how we walk that line, but, if you're okay with it, I
20 will go ahead and make the motion.

21

22 **That's to direct staff to compile and cross-reference various**
23 **state data collection programs to identify key minimum data**
24 **elements.** That's the end of the motion, and I'm envisioning
25 something here that would just be a big Excel spreadsheet, or
26 just a table that shows the states doing that, and maybe rank
27 them, where they're all similar and where they begin to depart.

28

29 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a motion on the board to direct staff
30 to compile and cross-reference various state data collection
31 program to identify minimum key data elements. Is there a
32 second to the motion?

33

34 **DR. LUCAS:** Second.

35

36 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** It's seconded by Dr. Lucas. Is there any
37 discussion on the motion? **Is there any opposition to the**
38 **motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.** Do you have one other
39 item?

40

41 **DR. STUNZ:** It was just -- So Dr. Froeschke had provided that
42 text that I guess Mr. Greene requested, and that is, if you have
43 time and we want to look through that, that would save some time
44 for next time.

45

46 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Froeschke.

47

48 **DR. FROESCHKE:** If you would like, I would be happy to walk you

1 through sort of the changes that we've proposed, based on the
2 discussion, and explain what it is and how it would move into
3 the document, if you're happy with that.

4

5 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Please go forward.

6

7 **DR. FROESCHKE:** Can you bring that page 1 up of the
8 Modifications to Charter Vessel/Headboat Reporting Requirements?
9 Okay. What we did, we worked with the Regional Office staff,
10 and they helped. We focused on Action 1, which is essentially
11 requiring the method and reporting frequency for charter
12 vessels. It would be the same for headboats in Action 2, once
13 we agreed on some language, I think, but we tried to separate it
14 out into the various components that we discussed.

15

16 Preferred Alternative 4 is, again -- It requires a federally-
17 permitted charter permit, submit a fishing record for each trip
18 via electronic reporting before hitting the dock, and so we put
19 in there some options. One, we talked about the hailing-out, or
20 the start-trip notifications. Options a and b, we could either
21 have this provision or not, and so you would select one of the a
22 and b. The technical committee recommendation was this Option
23 b, which is essentially to hail out.

24

25 Option c and d are the hail-in provisions. It either would
26 require you to notify someone of your intent to return or not.
27 Again, Option d was the technical committee recommendation, to
28 use a hail-in provision.

29

30 The last subsection of this, there are three options, and they
31 essentially encapsulate the types of reporting technology that
32 were discussed at the meeting in this good, better, best
33 scenario. Option e essentially is a tablet-based or phone. It
34 could work on cellular data, where the location information are
35 archived and then transmitted once back in range.

36

37 Option f, and this was sort of brought to light based on the
38 presentation of Michael Kelly from CLS, and he discussed a
39 tablet-based VMS technology that they're developing. It differs
40 from a traditional VMS that might be on a commercial vessel,
41 where it's permanently installed on the vessel. This is a
42 handheld that works over the satellite system. It has global
43 coverage, but it's portable, and it's cheaper.

44

45 Then Option g is consistent with what you would think of as a
46 VMS system that operates on a commercial vessel that is
47 permanently affixed to the vessel and has that sort of
48 capability.

1
2 What the committee discussed is the Option e meets the minimum
3 reporting requirements, as the group understood it, for the
4 program that you proposed. However, if you wanted to do more,
5 you could, or the possibility that someone already had a working
6 VMS, because they were dually-permitted, they would certainly
7 want that to suffice, and so that's the logic that we're
8 proposing. If you have changes or want us to throw it out and
9 start over, we could certainly -- It would be nice to get that
10 feedback now.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Mara.

13
14 **MS. LEVY:** I guess I see Options e, f, and g fitting under
15 Preferred Alternative 4 that's currently in the document.
16 Meaning that's basically saying that you're going to require the
17 permitted vessels to submit records via electronic reporting for
18 each trip and then those options are addressing what type of
19 electronic reporting we're talking about.

20
21 I guess I'm just wondering if it would be easier, for analytical
22 purposes, to separate out the hail-out and hail-in into their
23 own actions, because the way it's going to be now is you're
24 going to have Alternatives 1, 2, and 3. 2 and 3 have no options
25 under them. They're not necessarily applicable, especially e,
26 f, and g. Then you're going to have 4 that has all of these
27 options, and you've got to choose three of them. I just see the
28 discussion, in terms of the analytics and the effects, getting
29 pretty confused, and so I don't know if anyone has any thoughts
30 about that.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Mr. Riechers.

33
34 **MR. RIECHERS:** That was my same thought, that I really see those
35 three -- You've got the hail-in and hail-out option, and that's
36 an option in and of itself, and you can choose between those
37 four items that are there, but then this is really what kind of
38 reporting device you use, and so it's really a different
39 question, and there may be a different set of analysis
40 associated with cost and different costs, et cetera, that would
41 go with this e, f, and g.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Any other comments? Dr. Froeschke.

44
45 **DR. FROESCHKE:** I think the IPT, we could certainly work to
46 restructure that. The other thing, in terms of restructuring
47 actions, it's my understanding that if we dealt with these sub-
48 options, if you will, or groups, that the Action 3, as we

1 currently have it, that deals with the location reporting, could
2 go away, and, based on my tenuous understanding of how this
3 would all be restructured, but that's my current thinking.
4

5 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Is there any further discussion? Is there any
6 opposition to including what's on the board into the document,
7 with those recommendations or comments relating to how to
8 organize it? Do you understand all of that, John?
9

10 **DR. FROESCHKE:** Yes, and I think the general idea, if you're
11 consistent with this, is we'll bring this back to you for the
12 next -- Noting the actions that they might be contained in might
13 be moved around quite a bit.
14

15 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Okay. It appears that no one has any
16 opposition to that. Johnny.
17

18 **MR. GREENE:** I'm not in opposition. I certainly just wanted to
19 thank John and the staff for all of the work between the
20 committee and this to get it in there, and this is basically
21 exactly what I had in mind, was just trying to tease it down to
22 where everybody could see and understand what it was.
23

24 I mean I'm a gearhead, and I appreciate a flow chart as much as
25 anybody, but it was just overwhelmingly to look at all of that,
26 and I think this does a good job of encompassing that, and so
27 good job to John and the staff and anyone who helped with this,
28 but I'm certainly not in opposition.
29

30 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. I agree. Anything else? Does
31 anyone else have anything else on data collection? Dr.
32 Froeschke.
33

34 **DR. FROESCHKE:** Any feedback as to timeline, as to how you see
35 this development? If we restructure the document and bring it
36 back in August, then do you want to review it and then take
37 final action in October, or can we deal with that then? I'm
38 just trying to think of what kind of document you want to see
39 next time.
40

41 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Stunz.
42

43 **DR. STUNZ:** I would just say we're adding a lot to this
44 document. I would like to obviously see it and give some time
45 to think about it. If you remember when we floated this generic
46 amendment the first time, I think everybody was supportive, but
47 then, all of a sudden, we got a lot of pushback from the
48 fishermen, because they weren't real sure what they were

1 getting, and so I don't want to rush it too fast without having
2 them have some time to really think about it too, and so I don't
3 necessarily have a recommendation, but I just want to make sure
4 we give plenty of time for people to see what the final document
5 is going to look like.

6

7 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** John.

8

9 **DR. FROESCHKE:** So not final action document? That's what I'm
10 hearing, and that's okay? That's mostly what I wanted to know.
11 If you wanted a document that you could take final action on, I
12 needed to know that.

13

14 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I would probably agree with that. I mean, as
15 clean and as much information as possible, certainly, but that
16 October might be a little aggressive, as far as our final action
17 timeline. That does it for Data Collection. Next on the
18 alternate agenda is -- Myron, I'm sorry.

19

20 **MR. FISCHER:** In the process, when we're getting to the
21 rewriting or cleaning the document up and trying to get
22 something prepared, are we going to incorporate the technical
23 committee into it again, being they are our technical advisor?

24

25 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Is there much need for that?

26

27 **DR. STUNZ:** Well, at the last meeting, Myron, it was kind of
28 like, well, okay, what else can they do? I guess we would have
29 to give them very clear guidance on what we would want them to
30 do, and I don't know -- I mean they're kind of waiting on us to
31 get this document final.

32

33 Like Bonnie was saying, I'm sure the Science Center is going to
34 want to have some input on really what the data is going to look
35 like, and so I think we're going to have that meeting, even if
36 we want it or not, because they're all just going to have to
37 talk, and so I don't know if I would recommend it. If Mr.
38 Fischer has some specific guidance we would like to charge them
39 with, then maybe so, but if not --

40

41 **MR. FISCHER:** I just want to make sure a non-technical person
42 like me can get guidance from our technical committee.

43

44 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Relative to the timing comment, then I wonder
45 if we shouldn't schedule or have them start looking at
46 scheduling a meeting after the August meeting, sometime after
47 the August meeting, but maybe before the October meeting, trying
48 to meet that final action kind of deadline thought process.

1 John is shaking his yes, and if everyone agrees that would be
2 appropriate.
3
4 **DR. STUNZ:** I think that's appropriate, and then they can kind
5 of give the final blessing from their side of where we're at
6 with the document.
7
8 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Myron.
9
10 **MR. FISCHER:** Keep in mind we know who is on the committee, and,
11 basically, it's the technical data person from each state and
12 Greg Bray from Gulf States, and it's the people who work with
13 this data and supply it down the pipeline and get it to Miami,
14 and so I think these are the type of people we should get advice
15 from, because I would hate for our people to come to us and say,
16 what did you do, and so I just want to make sure we have those
17 people's blessing on it before it goes forward.
18
19 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I think, in prior meetings for the technical
20 committee, it came through a motion, as I recollect, and we
21 might be good to go ahead and offer a motion.
22
23 **DR. STUNZ:** Am I supposed to do that as the Chair?
24
25 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** You're not supposed to, but it would be nice if
26 you could.
27
28 **DR. STUNZ:** If someone wants to make one or not, but I could
29 move it. Okay. **I so move we convene the technical committee --**
30 John, what are they called again, exactly?
31
32 **DR. FROESCHKE:** Technical committee is what we're --
33
34 **DR. STUNZ:** **Data Collection Technical Committee to meet after**
35 **the August council meeting.** If we hold off there, do we want to
36 put -- I mean obviously we want it before the October meeting,
37 but, Doug, do you have any timing of how that would -- In other
38 words, do I want to add anything else to that? I mean we want
39 some products coming out of this meeting, and so I'm trying to
40 figure out how to structure the motion of what do we really want
41 to get out of that last meeting.
42
43 **MR. FISCHER:** Can we just complete the motion at the August
44 meeting? We can convene them, and we could give them the charge
45 at that meeting, and then it gives us time to think about -- As
46 this works out and gets closer to fruition, we can think about
47 that charge.
48

1 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Maybe that motion might be a little premature
2 if we want to wait until the document comes in August. Maybe
3 that might be more appropriate, and come up with a -- I'm just
4 thinking of timing, you know trying to get a doodle poll and
5 people to get responses. I was trying to fill a slot in, trying
6 to meet, again, that October time schedule. I don't know. We
7 can maybe complete the charge at the August meeting, but go
8 ahead and give the authority to go ahead and start rounding up
9 the folks and have them have it on their calendars.

10
11 **DR. STUNZ:** That would work for me, rather than withdrawing the
12 motion. At least we let them know it's coming, and we can
13 refine another motion with the charge next time.

14
15 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a motion on the board to convene the
16 Data Collection Technical Committee to meet after the August
17 council meeting. Is there a second to the motion?

18
19 **MR. FISCHER:** Second.

20
21 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Second by Myron. Any discussion on the motion?
22 **Is there any opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the motion**
23 **carries.** Anything else under Data Collection? That will take
24 us to our next committee report after Data Collection, which
25 would be Outreach and Education and Mr. Williams.

26
27 **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

28
29 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Staff reviewed the
30 proceedings from the June 1 and 2, 2016 Outreach and Education
31 Technical Committee meeting and provided the council Outreach
32 and Education Committee with highlights from the most recent
33 stakeholder survey, along with analytics on the council website,
34 Facebook page, and blog.

35
36 Staff then reviewed the communication challenges identified by
37 the O&E Technical Committee and the tactics the committee and
38 staff will use while working together to address those
39 challenges.

40
41 The council committee requested a copy of the Five-Year
42 Strategic Communications Plan, as well as the communication
43 analytics that staff has compiled to date regarding visits and
44 viewing of the council website, Facebook page, video
45 presentations, and blog user groups. Staff will provide the
46 requested information via email. This concludes my report, Mr.
47 Chairman.

48

1 **GULF SEDAR COMMITTEE REPORT**

2
3 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Mr. Williams. Any questions? Since
4 we are waiting on reports for the next several, the Gulf SEDAR,
5 Tab I, is complete. Again, I would like to shoot for 5:00, but
6 this might be the last report for the day.

7
8 Let's just go to the SEDAR Committee. That's Tab I. The SEDAR
9 Steering Committee Review, staff reviewed the proceedings from
10 the May 9, 2016 SEDAR Steering Committee webinar. The Steering
11 Committee supported the Data Best Practices Panel recommendation
12 for a multi-species stock ID and meristics workshop in 2017.

13
14 When asked if yellowmouth grouper should be added to the
15 proposed stock ID and meristics workshop to address species ID
16 concerns, it was noted that it would be better to include
17 yellowmouth grouper to the scamp research track assessment
18 proposed for 2018.

19
20 The Steering Committee also supported a stock ID evaluation for
21 gray snapper as part of the benchmark process. Multiple stocks
22 apparently exist in the Gulf of Mexico. Others supported future
23 procedural workshops include Gulf of Mexico shrimp bycatch
24 estimation and data limited method improvements/best practices.

25
26 The council is asked to report to the Steering Committee in
27 October 2016 on its progress in reviewing and applying the stock
28 assessment prioritization tool. The Gulf Council's position is
29 to request that the SEFSC draft the initial and weighting
30 factors for consideration by the SSC. Though the council is not
31 required to use the tool exclusively to prioritize stock
32 assessments, they are encouraged to justify deviating from the
33 prioritization tool recommendations.

34
35 Research Track/Operational Track Assessment Approach, the SSC
36 received a presentation on the research track proposal at their
37 June 2016 meeting. The process was viewed favorably by SSC
38 members, so long as it did not result in fewer assessments. The
39 first test application of the research track approach is planned
40 for the Gulf of Mexico/South Atlantic scamp assessment,
41 scheduled for 2018.

42
43 The SSC indicated in their review of the proposal that they
44 would be interested in seeing some set of best practices
45 included in the standard operating procedures, prior to fully
46 endorsing the change in assessment structure. The SEFSC
47 indicated that the SSC would be instrumental in developing the
48 standard practices for the proposed assessment methodology.

1
2 SEDAR Schedule, staff reviewed the SEDAR schedule with the
3 committee. It was noted that, in the SEDAR 49 data-poor
4 assessment, three species are unlikely to have enough data to
5 produce stock assessments useful for management advice, almaco
6 jack, lesser amberjack, and wenchman. Committee members thought
7 that more front-end work should be done ahead of these data-poor
8 assessment efforts, to ensure a higher probability of a useful
9 assessment for candidate species, and the SEFSC indicated that
10 was an agreeable approach.

11
12 A committee member recommended adding as many stocks as
13 possible, in order of priority, to the list of proposed
14 assessments each year. The goal of this effort would be to
15 indicate to the region and to Congress the priorities of the
16 council and the volume of assessments which the council
17 determines to be necessary. This would make assessment
18 scheduling an iterative process for the council, since not all
19 proposed species may be able to be assessed in a given year.

20
21 Staff reviewed the species selected by the council, in order of
22 priority, for MRIP calibration updates. These updates are for
23 MRIP data only for the selected species. Staff noted that it is
24 not required of the council to conduct these data updates, and,
25 if the council has other priorities, some of the proposed
26 updates could be exchanged for another assessment, which is
27 likely for a true update assessment.

28
29 The committee discussed moving gray triggerfish up in the
30 schedule, noting it as a priority for the council. **The**
31 **committee recommends, and I so move, to move the gray**
32 **triggerfish benchmark assessment to 2017 and to move gray**
33 **snapper to 2018.** We have a committee motion. Is there any
34 discussion on the motion? Dr. Ponwith.

35
36 **DR. PONWITH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After this motion passed
37 in committee, I've been working with staff to look at what the
38 repercussions of this motion would be on the schedule, and there
39 is some concern. The gray snapper data deadline, under the
40 original schedule, is quite soon, and so the Southeast Fisheries
41 Science Center scientists, as well as partner scientists, have
42 been working fairly frantically to make sure that the biological
43 samples are processed for that and that the data we need to meet
44 the data workshop deadline are pulled together.

45
46 The whole reason that we scheduled with using the SEDAR process
47 for this is to avoid the practice of getting quite well along in
48 preparing for a stock assessment and changing our mind. Now,

1 certainly I recognize that there's a lot of pressure on this
2 stock to get a better understanding of the status of this stock,
3 but I just want to make clear that there are repercussions.

4
5 Basically, the gray triggerfish are aged using spines, and,
6 while we're working to prepare the stocks that were scheduled
7 for 2017, we've accumulated a backlog of spines for gray
8 triggerfish, which was originally intended to happen in 2018 or
9 2019, and so what we would have to do is move those up in the
10 queue to be able to do that, and, because we're working with
11 spines, the precision of aging those spines is more difficult
12 than some of the other species. It's one of the most difficult
13 species to age that we work with, and so it requires quite a
14 great deal of analysis to be able to make sure that we are aging
15 those spines in a way that's uniform across the enterprise, to
16 give us good data for that.

17
18 The other thing is that our folks that are working on the
19 regularly-scheduled things, we would have to pull off rather
20 abruptly and essentially have them drop everything else they
21 were doing to make it possible to get that work done in time for
22 2017, and so there may be some ripple effect repercussions for
23 the workshops that we have reached agreement on, the SEDAR best
24 practices workshops and best practices timeline.

25
26 Again, we're looking at this carefully. We want to make sure we
27 do a careful analysis of what the repercussions are, but I want
28 to raise this to your attention. I think it's important to
29 raise it to your attention now, because, in speaking with Mr.
30 Gregory about finalizing this decision, the decision, under our
31 process, would be discussed here in full council, based on the
32 committee's recommendation, and then that would go to the SEDAR
33 Steering Committee for final approval.

34
35 The challenge is that meeting is in October, and that puts us
36 even that much closer to when gray snapper would be ready to get
37 up and running, and it almost makes that change even more
38 challenging, and so I want to bring these things to your
39 attention from just a logistics standpoint.

40
41 Then the other thing that I wanted to mention is it was
42 suggested in the motion that this would be carried out as a
43 benchmark stock assessment, and, in discussing this with the
44 analysts, they can see no reason why gray triggerfish couldn't
45 be done as an update assessment or, at the very most, in terms
46 of rigor, a standard assessment, to be able to revisit some of
47 the decisions that were made in the last one, and so I would put
48 that to your attention and see if there are any questions.

1
2 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a couple. Dr. Crabtree.

3
4 **DR. CRABTREE:** Bonnie, do you recall, with the -- The last
5 assessment was the benchmark, right? What was the last year of
6 data? How many more years are we adding if we do it, because my
7 concern is, if we do an update, we want to make sure we're
8 adding enough years in it that we're going to be able to see if
9 anything has changed, and so do you recall?

10
11 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Simmons.

12
13 **DR. CARRIE SIMMONS:** Yes, and thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
14 terminal year of data was 2013, I believe, and that was a
15 standard assessment that was done, but the problem was, and I
16 think this is the committee's next motion, was that wasn't the
17 terminal year of data for all the fishery-independent indices.

18
19 **DR. CRABTREE:** So if it was 2013 and we do this in 2017, then we
20 would be able to add 2014, 2015, and 2016 would be the terminal
21 year? So we would be adding three more years of data? I
22 understand the need for gray triggerfish, and I am concerned
23 that we've gotten too crunched up against the timing of it, and
24 I hate to see a lot of wheels spinning and wasted effort,
25 because we're getting ready to have another meeting, I think
26 after this one, to try and figure out how to get more
27 assessments, and I think one of the keys to getting more
28 assessments is more efficiency, and I think more efficiency
29 means that we don't come in at the last minute and flip-flop the
30 schedule on the Science Center, and so I think -- I agree with
31 Bonnie that you guys ought to give this some careful thought.

32
33 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I have Ryan, followed by Dr. Lucas.

34
35 **MR. RYAN RINDONE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the reasons
36 for pushing for a benchmark-style assessment this time around
37 was also to explore the potential for there to be a split in the
38 stock of triggerfish between the eastern and western Gulf that
39 was mentioned in the last standard assessment, but, because it
40 was a standard assessment, it wasn't able to be explored,
41 because that, in itself, results in a big change in the model.
42 By doing a benchmark assessment the next time, it allows that
43 dynamic to be explored.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Lucas.

46
47 **DR. LUCAS:** I may be remembering this wrong, because it seems
48 like I've been here for two weeks, but there was a discussion

1 where we were talking about 2013 being the terminal year, and so
2 was not some of the data, like the terminal year of some of the
3 data, of some of the indices, were like 2007 or something. That
4 seemed extremely distant in time.

5
6 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Ponwith.

7
8 **DR. PONWITH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, and, to that point,
9 I believe the data stream that you are referring to is the
10 larval index, and, behind the scenes, when this motion went
11 through, I have been able to touch bases with our staff, and the
12 data processing for the data that would go into updating the
13 larval index is up to date, and so, fortunately, because that's
14 another extremely onerous, laborious process of getting those
15 data processed, those data could be incorporated in, to be able
16 to round out that data stream to the terminal year.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** That's the larval index you said is up to date
19 through 2014 or 2015?

20
21 **DR. PONWITH:** Yes, the larval index, I believe, is up to date
22 through 2013 at this point, or possibly beyond. I would have to
23 go and look at my notes, but they've made considerable progress
24 on that.

25
26 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Crabtree.

27
28 **DR. CRABTREE:** I don't know if they're -- Usually, when we use a
29 larval index, it's used as an index of spawning stock biomass
30 and not as an index of recruitment. I don't know how it's used
31 particularly in this assessment, but I guess my question is,
32 Bonnie, is there and -- The real question here is what's
33 happening with recruitment, and is it staying low, still
34 declining, or are we seeing better recruitment?

35
36 We're hearing things from fishermen that would lead you to think
37 we've seen some improvements in recruitment, and I'm wondering
38 if there's a way to get at that, short of an assessment, by
39 maybe updating an index or looking at something that would give
40 us some basis for reaching some conclusion about recruitment
41 without going through the whole assessment process.

42
43 **DR. PONWITH:** To that point, I don't know the answer to that
44 question off the top of my head. I would have to consult with
45 our analysts to see what they're using to monitor changes in
46 recruitment and what it would take to actually update those data
47 or that index, as kind of a leading indicator of the direction
48 this stock is doing, and I also, similarly, would have to

1 consult regarding the notion of splitting this assessment into
2 two, east and west.

3
4 **DR. CRABTREE:** To follow up on this, in order to really make
5 this decision, it's got to go to the SEDAR Steering Committee,
6 and I think, Bonnie, you said that was in October. Is it
7 possible for us to postpone voting on this motion until the
8 August meeting, and allow Bonnie to explore some of these
9 questions with her staff and come back and we talk about it
10 then? That is still before the SEDAR Steering Committee, and I
11 don't know if that would change the workload issues we have or
12 anything, but does that make sense?

13
14 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** It makes sense, in some light. Robin.

15
16 **MR. RIECHERS:** I think it does make sense in some light, but
17 then the light of Bonnie suggesting that if we're going to turn
18 the car, we need to do it quickly, and so, I think, in that
19 respect, if we could make a decision while we're here, it then
20 allows them to go ahead and make those adjustments now, as
21 opposed to waiting for a couple more months to kind of get down
22 the road with making those adjustments.

23
24 **DR. CRABTREE:** I guess my follow-up to that though would be does
25 the car start turning now, or does it have to wait for the SEDAR
26 Steering Committee before the car starts turning? If the car is
27 not going to turn until the SEDAR Steering Committee, then we
28 don't lose anything, and I guess we need Bonnie to give us some
29 guidance.

30
31 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Ponwith.

32
33 **DR. PONWITH:** That's the challenge. I've tried to do as much
34 homework behind the scenes as possible to be able to drive this
35 to a decision. The challenge is the feedback that I'm getting
36 from staff is that, to make this happen -- First of all, let me
37 step back. The protocol for SEDAR is this.

38
39 If a change to the schedule is contemplated by a council,
40 proposed by a council, through whatever their process is, and
41 that change has zero ripple effect impacts on the rest of the
42 system, that decision can be evaluated basically internally, and
43 then the decision is floated to the SEDAR Steering Committee,
44 and we do a remote concurrence.

45
46 If the decision has repercussions to the larger SEDAR
47 enterprise, then it takes a SEDAR Steering Committee vote to be
48 able to do that. The challenge that I'm looking at right here

1 is I'm not 100 percent certain that we don't trigger that need
2 for a larger SEDAR vote, and it's because staff that would have
3 to be shifting to almost on an emergency basis, working on
4 getting those spines processed and some of those indices
5 processed, may have to be completely pulled off of other SEDAR-
6 related work to be able to do that, and so, at this point, it
7 sounds like it would trigger the need for a SEDAR vote, which
8 means it would happen in October, which almost makes it too late
9 to do in 2017, and so that's the challenge that we're faced
10 here.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I had I guess a comment or a question related
13 to the first challenge that you proposed, relative to the
14 processing of the spines. Do you have any idea, from your
15 communication with staff regarding this most recent request or
16 topic, as to the number of spines that you would need to
17 process? That would be interesting to know.

18
19 The states have that capacity, and they follow the same
20 protocols that your staff uses in aging those, and they might be
21 able to -- I'm not saying that the states will, but, if the
22 number is relatively small, I mean the states have some capacity
23 and could help kind of reduce that concern.

24
25 **DR. PONWITH:** Right, and that -- Actually, I appreciate that as
26 a possible solution. I won't hold you to it, because I know
27 it's difficult to -- It requires consultation, but what I'm
28 seeing here is that the spines are all caught up through 2013,
29 the terminal year of the last stock assessment, and, since then,
30 we've accumulated about 2,000 spines.

31
32 What it would take is the time to process those spines and then,
33 if other states pitched in to help, we would have to have some
34 very carefully coordinated cross-collaboration, because, again,
35 and we've learned this through hard knocks in the South
36 Atlantic, these are notoriously difficult to age, and they do
37 require some very careful sort of blind tests, to make sure
38 we're interpreting those readings the same.

39
40 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Okay, and so we have still a motion on the
41 board.

42
43 **MR. SWINDELL:** I am looking at a schedule here of May 9, 2016,
44 the SEDAR schedule. Have you looked at this chart? This is
45 Item Number I-5. You have gray triggerfish listed for MRIP
46 calibration in 2017, and then gray triggerfish 2017 update,
47 along with greater amberjack, red snapper, red grouper, and so
48 forth, starting in the fall of 2017 and through the summer of

1 2018. How are you going to do that if you've got have that
2 data, I assume, in order to continue with an update?

3
4 **DR. PONWITH:** That is a very keen observation, and the
5 explanation for that is these calibration updates are simply to
6 take the MRIP new estimates, based on the new modifications
7 they've done to their survey, and generate the new numbers for
8 those and drop those into the last stock assessment, up to the
9 terminal year of the last stock assessment.

10
11 The purpose of that is to be able to see if the difference
12 between the old MRIP numbers and the new MRIP numbers are large
13 enough to trigger a need for adjustments to management, and so
14 those are calibration updates that would not require us to
15 update the indices of abundance to present date, nor the age
16 composition to present date. It's simply taking those adjusted
17 MRIP numbers and putting them into the terminal year of the last
18 assessment, which would be 2013 in this case.

19
20 **MR. SWINDELL:** But do you need to do this before you do the
21 benchmark or do they happen at the same time? Is that possible?

22
23 **DR. PONWITH:** The way this would work is let's just
24 hypothetically say that we found out this is doable. If we
25 found out we could do a gray triggerfish benchmark stock
26 assessment update or standard, whichever variety we end up
27 landing on, and we could do it 2017, we would do that in lieu of
28 the calibration update. We would throw the calibration update
29 away.

30
31 The idea of those calibration updates is that they give us
32 information that's usable, that we can use to bridge us to the
33 next actual stock assessment. If the next actual stock
34 assessment happens in 2017, then there is no need to do the
35 calibration update.

36
37 **MR. SWINDELL:** Okay. I just wanted to make sure this wasn't
38 going to hold up the process you were looking for.

39
40 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** First, we have an announcement. There was a
41 member of the audience that was here during public testimony
42 that misplaced their keys, their car keys, and so if anyone in
43 the audience or here at the table has found a set of car keys
44 that aren't theirs, if they could take them to Emily. Thank
45 you, Emily.

46
47 We have a motion on the board. That is to move the gray
48 triggerfish benchmark assessment to 2017 and to move gray

1 snapper to 2018. Any other discussion on the motion? **All those**
2 **in favor of the motion, please signify by raising your hands.**

3
4 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Fifteen.**

5
6 **CHAIRMAN ANSON: All those opposed.**

7
8 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Zero opposed. It's fifteen to**
9 **zero.**

10
11 **CHAIRMAN ANSON: I thought it would be more. It's late in the**
12 **day. I apologize. Dr. Crabtree.**

13
14 **DR. CRABTREE: I abstained on that, because I was clearly**
15 **outnumbered, but I do think it is worth, nonetheless, revisiting at**
16 **the August meeting and see where we stand, so that we have a**
17 **better feeling as to whether this is possible and what's going**
18 **to happen before we go into the SEDAR Steering Committee meeting**
19 **in October, and maybe, Bonnie, if you could give us any insights**
20 **as to whether we could get at some of these recruitment issues**
21 **without going through this whole process, that would be useful**
22 **information.**

23
24 **CHAIRMAN ANSON: I guess, going back to my comment or question**
25 **regarding the volume, I might go ahead and contact the states or**
26 **the state reps that are here at the table. If you could maybe**
27 **see what, if any, capacity you might have, I would assume some**
28 **time at the end of the year or early next year, to kind of work**
29 **through, and we kind of divvy them up maybe, and come back with**
30 **an answer in August as well, so we have that information at**
31 **least, for Bonnie, depending upon which way we go.**

32
33 Continuing on with the SEDAR Committee Report, the committee
34 also directed staff to provide a list of species with
35 assessments at full council for consideration of the committee's
36 desire to establish a prioritized list for stock assessments to
37 the Steering Committee.

38
39 Lastly, the committee made a motion, with respect to data, to be
40 made available in the upcoming gray triggerfish assessment. **The**
41 **committee recommends, and I so move, to draft a letter to the**
42 **SEFSC requesting that the fall plankton (larval) survey samples**
43 **from the U.S. Gulf of Mexico for calendar year 2008 forward be**
44 **processed in time for the next gray triggerfish benchmark**
45 **assessment scheduled in 2019.**

46
47 We found out some new information. I think the motion can still
48 apply, maybe for those subsequent years, but any discussion on

1 the motion?

2

3 **MR. GREENE:** Does the year 2019 need to be changed to 2017?

4

5 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Yes, that would probably be good to match with
6 the previous motion. Anyone have any discussion on the motion?

7 **Is there any opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the motion**
8 **carries.** That concludes my report. Dr. Lucas.

9

10 **DR. LUCAS:** Did we wish to review the SEDAR schedule that Mr.
11 Rindone came up with?

12

13 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Yes, and so, if that has not been distributed,
14 if you could at least put it on the board. This is the
15 schedule, Dr. Lucas, as you kind of envisioned during the
16 committee?

17

18 **DR. LUCAS:** Yes, and I just had them put it in the category of
19 like ten each year. I didn't specify species or anything like
20 that, but I believe Mr. Rindone had some explanation on why he
21 put the species he did where.

22

23 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Ryan, do you want to go through the list?

24

25 **MR. RINDONE:** Sure, Mr. Chair. I started in 2018, since, for
26 the most part, 2017 is well wrapped up with what we're actually
27 going to be doing, and I talked to Dr. Lucas and Mr. Anson a
28 little bit on this, and it was their notion that we should have
29 about ten assessments listed for each year, to try to get at
30 assessing as many species as possible, but with reasonable
31 spacing between them, and so I tried to space the assessments
32 out about two to four years between them, and I also tried to do
33 it in such a way that management issues, which are currently in
34 front of the council, could benefit from an assessment being
35 conducted sooner rather than later, in some circumstances.

36

37 One example is hogfish being done in 2018, and so, as you go --
38 There's obviously a lot to see here, but, as you go through the
39 list, one of the things that you might notice is -- You notice
40 that you start seeing not only some species that we haven't had
41 updates for in a while start showing back up, but also some new
42 faces are in here from the data-poor workshop, which we
43 currently have going on, like red drum, lane snapper, and then,
44 later on, you would see snowy grouper and speckled hind.

45

46 Requesting this many assessments, like Dr. Ponwith said, could
47 be an iterative process for the council to have to deal with,
48 because we might not get everything we ask for every year, but

1 it does demonstrate intent, and so we have to adjust what's
2 where, in terms of priority, maybe once every six months or so,
3 to make sure that the council's needs are adequately reflected,
4 but one of the things that you will notice is that we're getting
5 just about everything assessed in a much more regular fashion
6 when we have this many spots.

7
8 The other thing you will notice is that there are a lot more
9 update assessments, because we'll already have benchmark
10 assessments or a research track or what have you on the books,
11 and update assessments can be conducted much more quickly than
12 the more time-intensive alternatives.

13
14 I also added a data-poor assessment to 2020, which takes care of
15 the majority of the rest of the species that are actually in our
16 FMPs that we don't have assessments for, that we haven't tried
17 to put through the data-poor system, and there are seven species
18 there, and I listed that as a research track assessment.

19
20 Then the last research track assessment that I listed was 2021
21 for goliath grouper, since we just finished that one, and it was
22 determined that there just simply aren't enough data to deal
23 with doing an assessment. Are there any questions on this? I
24 know it's a lot of species listed over four years.

25
26 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thanks for putting this together, Ryan, in a
27 short time. We have a lot of species that are on our plate, and
28 so it's, I guess, good to see them in one location, and kind of
29 distributed as you've attempted to do. Does anyone have any
30 questions about this or comments?

31
32 I guess one comment or question I have is, Dr. Ponwith, Ryan has
33 put up here the updates, the benchmarks, and then he has put
34 down research tracks for a few of the species, or data-poor
35 suite of species, and so I was kind of under the impression
36 that, going after this initial run of a couple of research
37 tracks, and you're kind of working out the bugs, to speak, and
38 developing the SOPPs through the SSC, that you would be doing
39 them all essentially as -- As a species popped up, it would be a
40 research track and so you would go through, and so that's not
41 the case?

42
43 **DR. PONWITH:** Thank you. First of all, just for clarification,
44 research track has not been officially created via the SEDAR
45 Steering Committee, but what we are hearing from both the South
46 Atlantic and the Gulf Council is an interest in pursuing this.
47 What I'm hearing from the Gulf Council, from your own
48 discussions, was that you would be eager to see how, first, a

1 research track behaved itself, to be able to weigh in on that,
2 and so to try it as a pilot.

3
4 My recommendation would be then, in a circumstance like that,
5 would be to go to the SEDAR Steering Committee and say, if
6 indeed that's a condition of the approval of establishing the
7 research track, rather than wasting a lot of time writing
8 elaborate SOPPs, we would write a term of reference for that
9 particular research track, and then use what we learned from
10 that experience to convert that very specific terms of reference
11 into a generic SOPPs.

12
13 Now, as we envisioned the research track working, it would not
14 be the predecessor for every stock assessment. It would be the
15 predecessor for a stock assessment that would have been
16 traditionally carried out as a benchmark, and so that would be -
17 - The example would be a stock that's never been assessed, and
18 so you would do a research track to make decisions on what type
19 of data you include in the assessment, what modeling approach
20 you use for the assessment, and any other questions, you know
21 environmental variables and things like that. Once those
22 decisions are made, then the research part is done, and carrying
23 out the stock assessment becomes operational, essentially.

24
25 Another example might be where a stock assessment has been done
26 one way for years, but you would like to explore doing it a
27 different way. Another example for a research track would be it
28 isn't an assessment at all and you want to talk about building a
29 unified approach to ABC control rules or a unified approach to
30 proxies for MSY, and you want to discuss them in concert with
31 the South Atlantic Council's SSC and council members, and so it
32 would become sort of the new special topics, SEDAR special
33 topics, approach.

34
35 For stocks that are straightforward in the way the assessments
36 are being carried out, those would be carried out as operational
37 stock assessments from that point forward, until something
38 changed that actually did trigger the need for a research track.

39
40 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Dr. Lucas.

41
42 **DR. LUCAS:** I just wanted to thank Ryan for his work in putting
43 that together. Certainly when I look at this, I really feel
44 better about it, just looking at it on paper and seeing that we
45 would get more timely assessments. I am not naïve. I realize
46 the reality of getting those ten will be really tough, but
47 raising the bar so that it shows our intent and it shows that
48 we're trying to get timely data to make management decisions

1 that are important is certainly justifiable, and so thank you,
2 all.

3

4 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Any other comments? Dale.

5

6 **MR. DIAZ:** Not about this.

7

8 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Not about this. Okay. Any other questions or
9 comments about this list? We will be seeing this list next time
10 we are reviewing our SEDAR schedule. Thank you, sir. All
11 right. Mr. Diaz.

12

13 **MR. DIAZ:** I would like to make a motion. My motion is to
14 request council staff to work with the Southeast Fisheries
15 Science Center staff to evaluate data-poor species, to determine
16 which species are good candidates for future data-poor
17 assessments. If I get a second, I will explain it.

18

19 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a second by Mr. Boyd.

20

21 **MR. DIAZ:** There would be no real rush on this, but we did try
22 to do this data-poor thing, and several species do not have
23 enough data for us to even do the evaluation, and I just want to
24 make sure that the next time we look at data-poor species that
25 enough work has been done to evaluate the data that we have to
26 make sure that they're candidates, where we actually can get a
27 work product and we don't lose opportunity to get as much as we
28 can out of a slot in the assessment schedule. Thank you, Mr.
29 Chair.

30

31 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. Thank you. We have a motion. Do
32 we have discussion? Dr. Ponwith.

33

34 **DR. PONWITH:** Thank you. I think this is an excellent motion,
35 and it really is almost a Catch-22. The Southeast Fisheries
36 Science Center actually did weigh in on candidate species for
37 the data-poor, and often what it takes then is getting it
38 slotted and actually doing a very careful evaluation of what
39 data exists, and, of those data, what data are appropriate.

40

41 In other words, they meet the time series requirements and the
42 data quality requirements for inclusion, and then finding out
43 that, okay, yes, this does rise to a data-poor approach and this
44 one doesn't.

45

46 Now, all of those steps are important. There are a couple of
47 ways to do that. One is for us to take a look at, based on our
48 instincts on what we have for data and through communications of

1 the states, put them up as likely candidates and then do the
2 evaluation as part of the assessment itself. The other approach
3 would be to have almost sort of an informal data scoping in
4 advance of the data-poor, actually listing what species are
5 going to be in that data-poor, and we can break it into two
6 pieces.

7
8 It doesn't make it any less work. It takes a lot of work and a
9 lot of collaboration with our data collection partners to know
10 whether it rises above, and so that's something we can explore.

11
12 What I would like to do, in that event, is have a discussion
13 with staff and ask them what are the merits of breaking that
14 into two pieces, so that, when you do your data-limited
15 assessment, you know in advance that these stocks do have the
16 data you need. If that's of interest, then this motion makes a
17 lot of sense.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Any other discussion on the motion? **Is there**
20 **any opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.**
21 We have concluded the SEDAR Report. We've kind of come up to
22 the end of the day, our regularly-scheduled day, and so we'll go
23 ahead and recess for today. We'll come back tomorrow at 8:30 to
24 start the presentations for tomorrow.

25
26 (Whereupon, the meeting recessed on June 22, 2016.)

27
28 - - -
29
30 June 23, 2016

31
32 THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

33
34 - - -
35
36 The Full Council of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management
37 Council reconvened at the Doubletree by Hilton Clearwater Beach
38 Resort, Clearwater Beach, Florida, Thursday morning, June 23,
39 2016, and was called by Chairman Kevin Anson.

40
41 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Yesterday, we kind of deviated from the
42 agenda, since we had some extra time, but we took care of a few
43 committee reports, but we're going to carry on today, starting
44 with the first items that were on the agenda, the presentations.
45 Our first presentation is by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
46 and Mr. Glenn Constant. He's going to be talking about their
47 restoration activities.

48

1
2 These are the three main funding streams, and, if you live this
3 everyday, I understand if you get up and get some coffee or have
4 a doughnut, because it's redundant, but the civil penalties are
5 basically Clean Water Act violations that came through that part
6 of the settlement. The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Fund,
7 or RESTORE, is broken up into five different parts that are
8 specifically outlined to deal with those Clean Water Act
9 violation fines.

10
11 The dark-red boxes, for Fish and Wildlife Service, indicate
12 places where we have a stronger connection or obligation to deal
13 with funding. The light-red boxes indicate places where we are
14 connected, but don't necessarily have an obligation to direct
15 funding. We're in more of a review role, or an assistance role,
16 and then there are boxes, like the first one in the RESTORE Act,
17 where the direct component of these funds were allocated to
18 states for very state-centric application of those dollars to
19 state natural resource needs, which we all know, at all the
20 states, was underfunded prior to this, and so those dollars are
21 going towards things that the states had already acknowledged as
22 important restoration activities.

23
24 Skipping to third, spill impact component of the funds, it's
25 very similar, the same thing. It's allocation to the states.
26 We have a little bit more of a role in review, but, again,
27 mostly this bucket is assigned to states to do those things that
28 they had already identified. It comes with a little bit more of
29 a requirement to have a game plan, and that's where we come in.
30 We kind of help, and so do some of the other federal partners,
31 in reviewing those projects, but that's about the extent of our
32 involvement there.

33
34 The council-selected restoration component is what folks here --
35 They talk about it in buckets, but this is not so specific to
36 states, and this is one of those areas where Fish and Wildlife
37 Service has a lot bigger role in helping to determine what kind
38 of restoration activities get moved forward, and I will talk a
39 little bit about what those look like in a little bit.

40
41 Then there is the NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program, which is
42 about the science of dealing with oil spill restoration and to
43 help the activities of agencies like ours, the Fish and Wildlife
44 Service, and bodies like this with the science that is necessary
45 to appropriately define and monitor restoration.

46
47 We will hear a little bit, in the next presentation, about the
48 Centers of Excellence, and so I will kind of let that one go for

1 the next presentation. Then there is the criminal penalties.
2 Fish and Wildlife Service, obviously, has a strong role in the
3 North American Wetland Conservation Act. That's mostly about
4 birds, those violations, Migratory Bird Treaty Act violations
5 and injuries to waterfowl.

6
7 The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund is a second bucket of
8 allocation from the criminal penalties associated with the oil
9 spill. Again, another very state-specific allocation funding
10 that, at this point, is really very well on its way to being
11 completely identified, in terms of the types of projects and
12 funding allocated for those projects.

13
14 The National Academy of Science has a final part in this. They
15 issue RFPs to assist in very specific ways to engage a broader
16 array of the society, and so they do things like connecting
17 societal issues related to the Gulf oil spill, work improvement
18 programs, kind of socioeconomic assessments and science, and I
19 think there's another RFP coming out from them pretty soon as
20 well.

21
22 The third and final funding stream is the Natural Resource
23 Damage Assessment, and this is the process, the federal process,
24 of assessing things like oil spills and other natural resource
25 catastrophes in deciding what resources were injured in
26 allocating specific amounts through this well-defined process,
27 and so that's kind of the more painful part of this
28 presentation, is outlining the pathways of money and
29 understanding the reasoning behind it, but I think, again, it's
30 important in the context of how we engage, as Fish and Wildlife
31 Service, and how you might consider to engage as the council.

32
33 The last time I spoke to the council, we had this vision for a
34 healthy Gulf. It was our first cut at addressing our intent,
35 our needs, and our mandate to deal with our trust resources and
36 how we envisioned that might look for our foot forward in
37 restoration.

38
39 To do this, we assembled a team of about fifteen or so people.
40 I am one of those people, and our directives were to connect to
41 the state natural resource agencies and to entities like the
42 council and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, in my
43 case. I'm the fish and aquatic conservation point of contact.
44 We have similar folks for the refuge system, for migratory birds
45 and ecological services that are trying to do the same thing.

46
47 Just as an aside, it's been very helpful, to me, as part of the
48 council, even though I seem to be sitting there kind of silently

1 most of the time, the experience here has helped to bring to
2 this effort and our review, in support of different parts of
3 Gulf restoration, a perspective of what is important to the
4 council and even to the individual state partners, and so it's
5 the purpose behind building this team, and I think it's working
6 pretty well for us.

7
8 Since that initial vision for a healthy Gulf, where we defined
9 our intent in that manner in a very kind of fuzzy way, in
10 generalities, we're coming up with a new document that gets a
11 little bit more specific. It will help us to engage with folks
12 at a more local level, and so we kind of defined those fuzzy
13 boundaries a little more clearly. If we zoom into it, we can
14 kind of take a look at what that looks like from a regional
15 perspective, and so these boundaries were drawn around existing
16 conservation initiatives.

17
18 Some of these, if you're familiar with joint ventures, the
19 migratory bird folks had these boundaries already drawn. They
20 had specific biological objectives, from the Service's
21 perspective and from our partners' perspectives, about what
22 might be done in this part of the world or in these different
23 sections of the Gulf toward restoration of those things that
24 were injured.

25
26 The way we talk about things internally, of course, is within
27 the mandate that we're given from the federal government, and so
28 we deal with threatened and endangered species, those species
29 that are proposed as candidate species, National Wildlife Refuge
30 System, migratory birds, and interjurisdictional fish species.

31
32 We can, in those different regions of the Gulf, have those
33 internal conversations about what those restoration actions
34 might be, but those conversations are much better, and they go a
35 lot easier, when we talk about those restoration activities with
36 our partners, the individual states or entities like the
37 council, in terms of the habitat and the resources to be
38 restored.

39
40 While we might talk about the benefits to Gulf sturgeon in one
41 region or to turtles or to manatees in one of those particular
42 focal areas, when we discuss these things with our partners,
43 it's a lot easier when we talk about let's create some marsh or
44 let's improve the coastal quality of our estuaries, and it helps
45 to frame the kind of things that we would like to see funded in
46 a broader ecological sense, as opposed to our very mission-
47 specific species.

48

1 I think the first part of our investment in activities in the
2 Gulf have gone pretty well. We have been more engaged in
3 helping to coordinate, within these different focal areas, the
4 kinds of things that have been proposed and funded. In this
5 list of things that -- If you've seen the projects that have
6 been funded in this list of funded priorities, I think in the
7 RESTORE Act it's called, but these are the kinds of things that
8 have been done. We have focused mostly on supporting oyster
9 reef restoration and marsh creation and wetland enhancement and
10 those kinds of things with our partners, and we continue to --
11 The directives of this team is to continue to find and
12 coordinate, at a Gulf-wide scale, hopefully, those same kinds of
13 things.

14
15 What does that look like, potentially, from the council's
16 perspective? How do you navigate? Which one of these boxes is
17 worth some investment of your time, and what are the kind of
18 products or restoration activities that you would like to see
19 take place?

20
21 From my perspective, being here for a couple of years now and
22 listening to things, I think the most likely places that would
23 be worth your investment and time would be, one, the Natural
24 Resource Damage Assessment has some very specific language in it
25 that deals with injury associated with the resources that the
26 council manages, and I will highlight that in a second.

27
28 The other place, I think, might be the NOAA RESTORE Science
29 Program, and there is a current RFP out now that could
30 potentially do some things. We heard yesterday about deep coral
31 reefs and the expansion of the Flower Gardens, and those kinds
32 of things that -- There may be some science-related projects or
33 products that could come through that funding stream too, but,
34 overall, in the entirety of this network of funding
35 opportunities, I think these are probably the places where, if
36 you had an opportunity and you had so chosen to invest some
37 time, that these might be the appropriate avenues.

38
39 The Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage and Assessment is
40 done. The restoration portion of it has gotten underway. This
41 document describes what the damage assessment was and the
42 interpretation of how those resources were injured and some very
43 specific allocations about what amount of money should be spent
44 to restore those resources.

45
46 If you flip to Chapter 5 in this document, if you choose to dig
47 into this, it will give you a very specific listing, and you
48 can't see this very well, but there are a number of columns in

1 the governance of how these dollars are to be distributed and
2 administered. There are these trustee implementation groups. I
3 know some folks here are part of these groups.

4
5 They are state-specific along the columns, with the exception of
6 this Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group and the Region-Wide
7 Trustee Implementation Group. I think the one that fits the
8 council's activities would be Open Ocean. The administration
9 and the trustee implementation groups consist of four federal
10 partners, and so there's a four-partner group or administration
11 group that will determine what are appropriate expenditures for
12 the things listed in this column, how they're administered,
13 where there are different types of restoration or different
14 types of activities that will be acceptable.

15
16 That group is being assembled now. I expect that in the next
17 month or so that there will be some clarity on how they intend
18 to operate. The guidance for whether there is going to be RFPs
19 and who can submit and how they're going to be reviewed and
20 those kinds of things are still underway, and I can update the
21 council on whatever frequency you think is valuable in that
22 respect.

23
24 On the rows, there are listed specific resources. In the
25 document, it spells out exactly what these resources mean, in
26 terms of fish and water column invertebrates. There is \$380
27 million in that injury pot of money. That's a lot of money, and
28 so there's going to be a lot of interest in determining what
29 exactly that money gets spent on.

30
31 Sea turtles, and we heard yesterday a lot about coral reefs, are
32 the other two rows, resources that I think are pertinent to the
33 council's interest. Again, in the document, there is an
34 explanation about what each of those resources means to these
35 trustee implementation groups, and so, in the fish and
36 invertebrates section, for example, it lists specifically things
37 like tuna, and it describes why these resources were allocated
38 and what those dollars are to be spent on.

39
40 It also describes, in the types of restoration, for example,
41 things that I think are specifically in the council's mandate,
42 and so, when we talk about reducing mortality and reducing
43 bycatch and fisheries interactions, ultimately, that is, in my
44 opinion, going to involve the council in some way.

45
46 Again, I think the NRDA is a place the council would benefit
47 from some engagement. The NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program I
48 think is also a place where the council might seek to engage. I

1 said there is an RFP out now. I think it's about \$17 million.
2 \$12 million of that is to develop science around addressing
3 restoration, and another \$5 million is to develop decision
4 support tools. Again, yesterday, we heard some need in that
5 regard, and so I think there's probably opportunity, if you
6 would like to pursue that.

7
8 We are, this team of folks, continuing to engage with the
9 council and individual states to develop kind of -- To develop
10 things that are not only going to be of common interest across
11 the Gulf, but are going to be useful in viable products that are
12 going to mean something in terms of implementing restoration,
13 and so we continue to engage, and, if you have any ideas or
14 interest in developing those things, feel free to contact me in
15 that role. I think it's part of my role here in being on the
16 council. Hopefully that was as painless as it can be to deal
17 with Deepwater Horizon issues, but I hope that meets your needs
18 for digesting the network, and so thank you.

19
20 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Glenn. Do we have any questions?
21 Mr. Greene.

22
23 **MR. GREENE:** Thank you, Glenn. I think you did a masterful job
24 of taking one of the most confusing things I've ever seen and --
25 I'm not even going to tell you that I even try to pretend to
26 read a lot of that stuff, and so one of the biggest challenges I
27 think we're facing right now is the invasive lionfish deal. Is
28 there anything, throughout any of the avenues that you know,
29 that could potentially help us with the lionfish? I know we
30 talked about different types of stuff, but I didn't see anything
31 in there about invasive species. Can you shed some light on
32 that for us?

33
34 **MR. CONSTANT:** I think part of the future is that opportunities
35 to make a case for what a healthy Gulf ecosystem needs is still
36 to be determined, and so, from that perspective, places like
37 this Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group and the funding
38 sources in that column are still kind of up for discussion, and
39 I think that open ocean section is probably a good place to
40 start.

41
42 As you move into the other state-specific trustee implementation
43 groups, it becomes a little more difficult to do Gulf-wide kinds
44 of assessments. It's not impossible, but, again, it's kind of
45 pick and choose where you invest time, and so the other thing I
46 can tell you about the invasive species issue is that we have
47 been working, behind the scenes, to develop -- We haven't
48 submitted any of these things yet, but we're working with the

1 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, and James Ballard has
2 been instrumental in kind of leading that effort to develop a
3 proposal that would address lionfish and some other issues with
4 invasive species. If you're interested, Dave, I'm sure we could
5 kind of coordinate and help you to understand what that looks
6 like today.

7
8 At this point, it's not even a given where that proposal might
9 go, but certainly that Open Ocean resource column might be a
10 place it could go into other funding sources, and, in addition
11 to that, Fish and Wildlife Service has an invasive aquatic
12 species program, which, beyond the Gulf funding, could help to
13 address that, but I understand the need for lionfish, certainly.

14
15 **MR. GREENE:** Thank you, Glenn. Your insight is always helpful,
16 and we appreciate the presentation.

17
18 **MR. CONSTANT:** Thank you.

19
20 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Any other comments or questions? All right.
21 Glenn, thank you very much. Our next item is an Update on the
22 Florida RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence Program and Libby
23 Fetherston-Resch. Is she here? There she is. Good morning,
24 Libby.

25
26 **UPDATE ON THE FLORIDA RESTORE ACT CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM:**
27 **FISHERIES MONITORING AND RESEARCH IN THE GULF OF MEXICO**

28
29 **MS. ELIZABETH FETHERSTON-RESCH:** As you can see, I've made my
30 name longer and my title longer since the last time I saw you
31 guys, and, in response, you guys gave me much more time to talk
32 to you, which I genuinely appreciate.

33
34 Glenn did a spectacular job of describing or untangling really
35 some of the landscape of funding opportunities from the
36 Deepwater Horizon incident, and so I tried to really drill down
37 into fisheries-specific elements that might be of most interest
38 to you, assuming that, after ten years, I could make some
39 inference about your interests, and hopefully I got that right.

40
41 This is a similar chart to what Glenn showed you, but this has
42 the actual figures of funding after the settlement on it, and I
43 don't expect any of you to commit this to memory, but I wanted
44 this to be in the PDF for if you ever later wanted to go back
45 and see how much money Mississippi was getting from the NFWF.
46 You have it all sort of on one page.

47
48 These are the programs that have funded fisheries-related

1 projects or have the potential to fund fisheries-related
2 projects. You will see the dashed line around the RESTORE
3 council component. They have not funded a fisheries project,
4 but they did fund a monitoring and assessment program, which
5 has, embedded in it, a pretty important component of habitat
6 mapping for the Gulf of Mexico, which, of course, underpins
7 improving fisheries stock assessment, and so that's sort of a
8 question mark if you want to call that fisheries. I would,
9 because it has the mapping component.

10
11 Again, this is really meant for you to go back to as a reference
12 later, but, in my previous role with Ocean Conservancy, I
13 dissected all of the funding through December of last year and
14 pulled out each of the elements that had a fisheries focus, or
15 potential to have a fisheries focus, and so this is a reference
16 for you later, should you choose to go back to it.

17
18 I will just highlight a couple of things here. In the NRDA
19 portion that Glenn referenced as a pretty good home for council
20 interests and concerns, given, one, their focus on marine
21 fisheries and injury, and, two, the sheer volume of money
22 available in that bucket. It's upwards of \$350 million for
23 marine fish and water column invertebrates.

24
25 However, the initial approaches to restoration really focus on,
26 as Glenn mentioned, reducing mortality in sort of a bycatch
27 reduction kind of technology way. There's a number of
28 approaches there on the far right.

29
30 Many of them get at this reducing other sources of mortality,
31 but, in the NRDA program, there's a whole focus on monitoring
32 and adaptive management, and the way to monitor the success of
33 these kinds of programs is to do fishery-dependent and
34 independent data collection, which will tell you if your
35 programs are working, and so I mention that because there isn't
36 a specific focus or a called-out pot of money for fishery-
37 dependent or independent data collection within NRDA funding, or
38 really any of these, but fisheries monitoring for success of
39 other restoration projects is a fully-funded activity through
40 NRDA, and so I just want to highlight that for your
41 consideration, that when you hear monitoring and adaptive
42 management, that a number of your interests in fisheries data
43 collection may well be serviced in that area.

44
45 NFWF, as many of you know, has funded fishery-independent data
46 collection in Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi. Florida has
47 also an extensive habitat mapping and fisheries assessment
48 grant, to the tune of about \$28 million over three years, which

1 is doing some really interesting things.

2
3 The RESTORE Council's Monitoring and Assessment Program, their
4 goals are listed there. As Glenn mentioned, the NOAA RESTORE
5 Act Science Program has a number of research-focused projects
6 from their first FFO, some of which focus on fisheries, all of
7 which focus on ecosystems studies and ecosystem health, which
8 will support and serve fisheries. Their FFO has been announced,
9 and so I could have probably filled in the "TBD" in the last
10 week, but I did not.

11
12 Here is where our program, the Florida RESTORE Act Centers of
13 Excellence, lives. Our first RFP was focused on coastal
14 fisheries and wildlife. We'll get into a little bit more detail
15 on these projects, particularly the ones that may be of interest
16 to you. Johnny, there is two lionfish projects that were funded
17 with our first FFO. Our second one is comprehensive ecosystem
18 monitoring with a focus on fisheries, and we'll talk more about
19 that shortly.

20
21 Just to give you a sense of the kind of largess the Florida
22 RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence Program is dealing with here,
23 you will see that we are the microscopic pile of money on top of
24 Florida's bar there, which amounts to about \$1.2 million a year
25 over the fifteen years of the BP settlement, and so we are not
26 going to be able to support all of your data collection needs
27 and wants, but we are hoping to support some of them or help
28 catalyze others and leverage across the other Centers of
29 Excellence and the NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program, and
30 potentially even the RESTORE Council, to try to leverage funds
31 to answer important questions for fisheries and, ultimately, for
32 the health of the Gulf of Mexico.

33
34 We did a scoping process that was Florida-wide. The RESTORE Act
35 sets out five goals. We scoped the issue, and the public helped
36 us select these three. Our first funding opportunity focused on
37 the first, our second funding opportunity focused on the second,
38 which, if we're successful, will support the third, and so this
39 is the like boring logistics segment of the program. It's time
40 to check your emails briefly, and I will get into the stuff you
41 actually care about here shortly.

42
43 The transition settlement of \$4 million, we've already spent
44 that money in the first RFP, and then the second one on
45 fisheries monitoring, and our program management team is meeting
46 in July to talk about how we want to spend that \$22 million from
47 the BP settlement.

48

1 Our second RFP, long-term monitoring, has the potential to fund
2 fisheries monitoring for seventeen years, but that's a \$400,000
3 commitment every year, which reduces the other monies available
4 for other projects, and so we think the management team will be
5 interested in continuing to do things like RFP 1, which was
6 smaller, almost kick-starter-type grants, to try to spur some
7 innovation in things like fisheries and wildlife research and
8 monitoring, and then maybe do another long-term monitoring
9 project to really support those kinds of fifteen-year or
10 seventeen-year datasets that are really valuable for things like
11 stock assessments.

12
13 All of that is up in the air, but that's up for discussion, and
14 I welcome your recommendations on the direction we should go in
15 order to best serve you and serve fisheries.

16
17 At a glance, without reading the names of all the actual
18 grantees to you, these are the kinds of things that the RFP 1
19 covered, and those were two-year grants, a total of on the order
20 of \$300,000 for each grant, but we were hoping to really provide
21 funds to give money to people with good ideas, but no other
22 place to get them funded.

23
24 As Glenn mentioned, it's kind of a tricky thing to fund specific
25 fisheries or ocean research or monitoring through restoration
26 funding. There just aren't a lot of pathways for that.
27 However, the Centers of Excellence have a little more latitude
28 in how they conduct their business, and so things like looking
29 at the effect of invasive lionfish on both natural and
30 artificial reef ecosystems off of Alabama was a really
31 interesting question that needed a modest amount of money to
32 sort of get started and fund, and so these are the kinds of
33 things that we were funding.

34
35 Our second RFP, as I mentioned, is an initial two-year grant,
36 \$800,000, with \$100,000 in ship time from the Florida Institute
37 of Oceanography. It's looking at sort of early life history and
38 ecosystem dynamics, to try to inform the early life history
39 portion that is missing in some of the stock assessments,
40 thinking about how do you integrate that with environmental data
41 to really tell you something about this fish species, and,
42 again, our hope is that the two years will be successful and
43 that we'll continue funding this program on for fifteen
44 additional years and provide a long-term dataset for things like
45 SEDAR assessments.

46
47 The fishery projects of interest from our program, I mentioned
48 the invasive lionfish study. That's also a part of an ecosystem

1 model project, to be able to not just study reefs in Alabama,
2 but say something more broadly about the impact on the Gulf of
3 Mexico, and I will say that we expect results and published
4 papers from these at the end of the two years, and so they sort
5 of end of 2017, and so hopefully we'll have something to send
6 you all or come back and tell you about after then.

7
8 The recreational data project is really interesting, in terms of
9 how do you use existing data, but add surveys to tell you more
10 information about recreational fishing and the economic impact
11 to places like Florida.

12
13 Artificial reefs versus natural reefs in ecosystem productivity
14 is a question of interest for many people for some time, and so
15 the reducing cost and improving quality of fishery-independent
16 data, how can we do these things better, faster, and cheaper, I
17 will pause a moment on the second little checkmark there, to
18 talk a little bit about the opportunity to use genomics to
19 identify larval fish.

20
21 Right now, we sort of send buckets of larval fish to Poland for
22 a bunch of folks to identify by eye, which is actually, as you
23 might imagine, quite difficult, but you can use genomics to
24 identify these things right down to the species level, and so a
25 USF researcher has finished the genomics part and has now an
26 index of different Gulf of Mexico larval species and is
27 investigating how you might use this to generate a new fishery-
28 independent stock assessment model that is far cheaper, but uses
29 what you know about spawning fish in the area, the larval eggs
30 you can collect the day after they spawn, and then what that
31 tells you about population size.

32
33 In terms of better, faster, cheaper assessments, this is a very
34 interesting project, but one that sits pretty comfortably
35 outside of the sort of MARFIN-type grants you might be able to
36 get, and I will say that Dr. Peebles is doing this for a modest
37 \$87,000, and so, for us, this was a pretty interesting
38 investment, to see what we get out of it.

39
40 Oil impacts on deepwater species, as it turns out, the deepwater
41 sharks are retaining carcinogens from Deepwater Horizon oil at
42 really sort of startling rates. The fish, and even shellfish,
43 metabolized those PAHs pretty quickly, but the deepwater species
44 that remained in the oiled environments, no surprise, are
45 retaining that oil. To what end, we don't know, but we funded
46 two years of this, which will give it a seven-year time series,
47 and so hopefully we'll be able to say something about deepwater
48 communities and impacts of oil.

1
2 For us, our grantees, as I said, are going to continue
3 collecting data. They're all required to publish the results of
4 that data by 2018 and make all those datasets public, as many of
5 the funders these days are doing. This July, we're going to
6 select a long-term fisheries monitoring proposal for funding and
7 then determine, as I said, that sort of long-term strategy for
8 spending the BP funds.

9
10 With that, I will take any questions you guys have about
11 fisheries, and I will say that I'm very grateful for the
12 opportunity to tell you about the great work that our Centers of
13 Excellence Programs are doing, and I return you to your good
14 work here.

15
16 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Libby. Any questions for Libby?
17 Libby, I have a question for you, if you don't mind. Regarding
18 the reference to the fish identification, larval fish
19 identification, lab in Poland, I've heard here that they have
20 attrition. People retire and leave, and they have a hard time
21 trying to find folks that will want to do the type of work that
22 they do.

23
24 I'm wondering, at the level of the Centers of Excellence, if
25 there's been much discussion about trying to establish some
26 university as taking the lead, and I know this is finite money,
27 but fifteen years as maybe a replacement for the lab in Poland,
28 so that we can continue those types of efforts. Has there been
29 any discussions relative to that?

30
31 **MS. FETHERSTON-RESCH:** I, some years ago, had an interesting
32 discussion with Frank Hernandez and Ernst Peebles about how you
33 might set up a replacement program, using genomics, and where
34 would you house this and what would it look like and what would
35 it cost.

36
37 Ultimately, I don't know that there's a clear pathway with
38 Deepwater Horizon funding. The Centers of Excellence, I don't
39 think, has -- Even combined, has the kind of sustained funding
40 for that.

41
42 The first step is, of course, to demonstrate utility, which I am
43 confident that Dr. Peebles work will do, in terms of the genetic
44 identification and how rapidly and cheaply you can do that. The
45 question is then how do you detangle the federal money that goes
46 to Poland to pay for this and direct it somewhere else to invest
47 in a domestic processing and sorting facility, which has a
48 physical component. You have to process samples, and then you

1 have to do the work and all the quality control.

2
3 I think your question is an excellent one, and there's an
4 opportunity, potentially, for states and federal agencies to
5 combine powers, in maybe the region-wide bucket of the NRDA, to
6 think about what this particular idea could do for cost savings
7 and efficiency in identification and stock assessments, but I
8 feel like that's a little bit beyond our scope, but this is an
9 idea that I've been interested in for some time, and I think the
10 opportunity for this particular project to serve as a catalyst
11 is very real, and I welcome the opportunity to talk with you
12 further about how to really sort of move that forward.

13
14 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Ms. Bosarge.

15
16 **MS. BOSARGE:** You peaked my interest when you talked about the
17 deepwater sharks and the fact that you may see some of these
18 carcinogens increasing and staying in their system. What type
19 of research proposals are you getting relative to that? I mean
20 what kind of information do you think you're going to be digging
21 into? That's pretty interesting to me.

22
23 **MS. FETHERSTON-RESCH:** There is only a few people that I know of
24 that are particularly interested in this topic, and Dean Groves
25 from Florida State, who is our grantee, got some NRDA money to
26 look at this. He had been interested in deepwater sharks for
27 some time, but they go out and they do three-week long deepwater
28 longline cruises to catch these animals and then take them back
29 to the lab and process that, which is a pretty expensive
30 endeavor.

31
32 There's not a lot of people playing in the field of deepwater
33 large animals and the effects of Deepwater Horizon oil on those,
34 and so I'm not sure what happens to Dean's dataset or his
35 funding after his grant with us runs out in 2017. Hopefully
36 we'll get some money from somewhere to continue that work and
37 have a look at it, but I don't know of anyone else doing that
38 work, which doesn't mean it's not there, but it just means it's
39 not somewhere where I can grab it.

40
41 I do think that the implications are pretty troubling. Where
42 you have oil settling on the bottom and animals that live and
43 feed there, those impacts have longevity, which has implication
44 for things like golden tilefish, which are a commercially-caught
45 species, but they burrow in deep areas, where there may or may
46 be oil. That doesn't really answer your question, but it's
47 something that doesn't get a lot of attention, and hopefully,
48 with Dean's papers being published, we'll get some momentum

1 around that.

2
3 **MS. BOSARGE:** I was actually kind of thinking about in a more
4 positive light, somehow or another, and just thinking about the
5 fact that sharks are beasts that we see -- They don't really get
6 cancer. We don't have much evidence of that, and so now we have
7 this surplus of carcinogens in their system. It's not a happy
8 scene, but, from a research perspective, I just hope that, when
9 this data is collected and however it's analyzed, that it can be
10 collaborative maybe, in some sense, if there's something that
11 could be utilized from that data, from a medical perspective,
12 that those researchers and scientists will collaborate.

13
14 **MS. FETHERSTON-RESCH:** See, now you peaked my interest in the
15 connections to the human health element, which I think has some
16 interesting funding opportunities and how you sort of cross-
17 pollinate there, and so I'm going to think on that, and, if I
18 come up with anything brilliant, I will connect back with you.

19
20 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Mr. Matens.

21
22 **MR. MATENS:** Thank you. I have a couple of questions, and
23 forgive me for exposing my ignorance, but how deep is deep?

24
25 **MS. FETHERSTON-RESCH:** Probably in the 3,000 to 5,000-foot
26 range.

27
28 **MR. MATENS:** My next part of this is do we have good background
29 on these animals with PAHs?

30
31 **MS. FETHERSTON-RESCH:** So Dean was studying deepwater sharks
32 before the spill. I don't know that he was looking at PAHs
33 specifically. I think that kind of comparison would come out,
34 potentially, in his paper. I will pull up his proposal, and I
35 will get back to you on that, because, if he has that baseline,
36 it would show up in his proposal, and I will let you know.

37
38 **MR. MATENS:** Great. I am really curious about that. One last
39 point is anyone here, anyone else, studying the effect on other
40 deepwater species?

41
42 **MS. FETHERSTON-RESCH:** That's an excellent question, and I am
43 confident that someone looked at that and it's somewhere in the
44 like tractor trailer of NRDA impacts information. When they
45 released the damage assessment program, they gave us access to
46 the archives of data and summarized it in a chapter, but it
47 didn't get into the specifics, and so I'm sure the information
48 is out there on things like rock shrimp or other deepwater

1 species, but that wasn't summarized and offered to us, and
2 someone might be able to go fishing for it.

3
4 One thing that I'm interested in thinking about, as a funder, is
5 how do you incentivize people to go back through the millions of
6 pages of NRDA data and start summarizing it and telling us what
7 it means from a different perspective than the government's
8 legal case. I don't know if I'm going to be able to pull that
9 off, but it's something -- I think there's a lot of information
10 that will trickle out as people dig through it, but that's one
11 of them. I know someone looked at it as a part of the NRDA
12 case, but I just don't know where it's hiding.

13
14 **MR. MATENS:** Thank you very much. That's very interesting.

15
16 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Stunz.

17
18 **DR. STUNZ:** Thanks, Libby, for a very informative presentation.
19 To answer Camp's question, yes, I think there's a lot of work
20 going on. It just hasn't quite risen up to the level where it's
21 becoming readily available, but a lot of work that I know of
22 personally going on.

23
24 She did a great job of summarizing overall what has been done in
25 fisheries, and especially in Florida, but I just wanted to
26 remind the group that there is one of these Centers of
27 Excellence in each state, and I can't speak for necessarily the
28 middle coast, but I know in Texas that there's a lot of similar
29 type of work going on, and I can't imagine there's not in the
30 other regions that are going to be directly related to us, and
31 so it might be informative, in the future, just to see what's
32 going on in these other regions as well. I'm pretty confident
33 that it's going to fill some of our missing data gaps we have
34 for stock assessments and things, and so, overall, that's a good
35 thing.

36
37 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Mr. Riechers.

38
39 **MR. RIECHERS:** Libby, you peaked my interest with the notion or
40 the discussion of lionfish, and, of course, we've got some work
41 going on in Texas, similar to the trap discussion that was gone
42 on with -- You weren't here yesterday, but we got updated
43 quickly on an EFP that will be coming to us regarding traps.

44
45 Has the Centers of Excellence, as you all have talked about
46 invasives -- I mean obviously an area that really is an across-
47 the-Gulf notion, but have you all thought about leveraging, or
48 are you doing that? I mean you mentioned specifically the

1 Florida work, but is there a push to kind of think about that
2 lionfish work across the Gulf?

3
4 **MS. FETHERSTON-RESCH:** You know there's not, and that's a fair
5 question. Our Center, the Florida Center of Excellence, to
6 Greg's point, there are indeed five. We have chosen fisheries
7 and wildlife as a central focus. Louisiana has chosen the delta
8 and the uplands. Mississippi is designated, and Alabama is not
9 yet designated, and so everyone is in sort of different states
10 of pulling themselves together.

11
12 Because our areas of focus are so different, we've had a hard
13 time coming up with a concept that would help us leverage funds
14 across centers, but the RESTORE Act Science Program is very
15 interested in leveraging funds, to which I can't speak for Larry
16 McKinney, but Larry and the Florida Center have talked about
17 leveraging funds across to do monitoring.

18
19 The lionfish question is, I think, both timely and tricky, and
20 it would take time, effort, and money sustained across the Gulf
21 to really deal with, and so that's, I think, a great
22 recommendation for me to take back to our management team and
23 really think about is there a part of this we can bite off or
24 catalyze with the money that we have and are there partnerships
25 we can pull in.

26
27 I will just say that, in my previous role, I was looking at
28 ways, across the spectrum of Deepwater Horizon funding, to get
29 at the lionfish issue, and, if you think of it as a source of
30 mortality on impacted reef fish, then it might dovetail into
31 NRDA, but it's a little bit of sort of fuzzy math to get there.

32
33 Somebody like the Fisheries Council might be able to make that
34 case in a way that the NRDA folks can really appreciate, and so,
35 if this is becoming a very serious issue, in terms of
36 competition for space or resources, I think you guys have a
37 platform to really make a push that the NRDA folks ought to look
38 at this in one way.

39
40 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Ponwith.

41
42 **DR. PONWITH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the update
43 on where you are. You're exactly right that there's so much
44 going on and so many moving parts that it's easy to get caught
45 up in the swirl and miss sort of the details as each of these
46 programs find their identify and evolve to doing excellent work
47 in the Gulf of Mexico, and so I appreciate you taking the time
48 to get us up to speed.

1
2 Regarding the RESTORE Act Science Program, just as a context,
3 like this program, it is also 2.5 percent of the 80 percent.
4 The council has a unique voice in the RESTORE Act Science
5 Program, and so if you see things here that look like they are
6 good candidates for leveraging against the RESTORE Act Science
7 Program, the voice you have is any of -- I serve on the
8 Executive Oversight Board of that, and I believe Ryan is your
9 representative on the advisory panel under MAFAC for that.

10
11 It does give us a really unique opportunity to have a voice in
12 the way those decisions are made, so that we can gain as much as
13 we can in furthering the goals of the fishery management
14 council, and so, as Libby had pointed out, and Glenn as well,
15 there is an RFP out for the RESTORE Act Science Program.
16 Letters of intent are due, I believe, on the 8th of July.

17
18 There are two focus areas. One is living marine resources and
19 the other is for decision support tools, basically taking
20 information and making it more accessible for decisions made by
21 managers. If you have question on that, feel free to come and
22 talk to me about that.

23
24 Again, it's a small enough amount of money that its ability to
25 do major, long-term data collections, in terms of base
26 monitoring, would be challenging, but the real focus of the
27 Science Program is integration, and, in that vein, integrating
28 across to the Centers of Excellence I think is an excellent
29 touch point and kind of a slam-dunk with the mission of the
30 Science Program.

31
32 **MS. FETHERSTON-RESCH:** I will just offer that that group is
33 having a strategy meeting in August. The Centers of Excellence
34 invited participants to that workgroup, and so all of your
35 states should be represented there, unfortunately except
36 Alabama, who hasn't been designated yet, and so, as many times
37 as me and my colleagues have asked you to write a letter on
38 different things, it does seem that the Science Program is
39 thinking about its long-term strategy, and if you have ideas or
40 needs or interests or wants, this might be a useful time to both
41 send a letter and send Ryan with some ideas to that August
42 meeting, as they set up the structure for their long-term
43 thinking on how to spend this money as well. I like spending
44 other people's money, and so I'm all for helping you do it.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I have a couple of people. Dr. Simmons.

47
48 **DR. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to tell

1 the council that I'm the representative, and that meeting, I
2 believe, is August 23 and 24 in Port Aransas, Texas, and so if
3 you want me to take some ideas, and I've taken some notes on the
4 discussion, I can certainly carry that to the meeting, and that
5 will be after our August council meeting. Thank you.

6
7 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Glenn.

8
9 **MR. CONSTANT:** I just wanted to make one more point. These
10 different funding streams are separate, but they're not
11 disconnected. If things that are done through the NOAA RESTORE
12 Science Program or through the Centers of Excellence, it can be
13 helpful in illustrating things that the council might put forth
14 as restoration, for example stock assessments. We heard last
15 meeting about the need and the lack of funding for stock
16 assessments.

17
18 I think it would be worth a look at making the connection
19 between the science developed through those avenues to support
20 the idea that appropriate restoration in deepwater environments
21 is through management of the stocks through harvest or that kind
22 of -- Maybe it's observer programs, whatever it takes to make
23 those stocks healthy. I think you can still make that case,
24 especially in that NRDA Deep Water or Open Ocean environment,
25 that that is appropriate restoration, and I think those science
26 products tie into that.

27
28 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Libby.

29
30 **MS. FETHERSTON-RESCH:** My parting shot is that my contact
31 information has been staring you in the face for some time now,
32 but, please, any and all ideas you have for how the Florida
33 RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence can support fish and wildlife
34 research and monitoring, I welcome your thoughts.

35
36 I may not be able to fund them myself, but we do, as Glenn said,
37 have an interconnected network of science representatives from
38 these various programs, and I think we all succeed when this
39 group gets the science and information that it needs, and so I
40 really welcome the chance to help you do that.

41
42 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Thank you for coming. That was a
43 very good presentation. We had some good discussion here, and I
44 guess, since there was some information that was provided to us,
45 maybe to help kind of help answer some of these questions about
46 how much money and who is it going to to and maybe what it could
47 be used for, we might want to look at it, considering the
48 meetings that's coming up the week after our next council

1 meeting.

2

3 Maybe we can try to set up a committee for the next meeting to
4 have some more discussion and maybe some thoughts that Carrie
5 could take forward or we, as a council, could take forward to
6 maybe offer our voice in the decision making process, and so
7 thank you.

8

9 Next on the list is a Joint Law Enforcement Presentation.
10 Instead of Lieutenant Commander Wells, we have Mark Shea. Is
11 Mark here? Good morning.

12

13

JOINT LAW ENFORCEMENT PRESENTATION

14

15 **LT. MARK SHEA:** I'm Lieutenant Mark Shea with the Florida Fish
16 and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Law
17 Enforcement. I'm a member of our Offshore Patrol Vessel Team.
18 I've been with the agency since 2007, and I've been in the
19 Offshore Patrol Vessel Program since 2010.

20

21 Like you said, Lieutenant George Wells was supposed to be here
22 to give this presentation, but his patrol vessel out of St. Pete
23 was tapped to assist in the Coast Guard search and rescue for
24 the missing boaters that is currently underway, and so I drove
25 up here at five o'clock last night to fill in for him, and I
26 will do my best to present the information he's provided in the
27 PowerPoint.

28

29 I started in the Offshore Patrol Vessel Program at the bottom,
30 with one of our Interceptor Class Vessels, and, from there, I
31 moved up to a fifty-foot offshore patrol vessel, the Orion,
32 which was decommissioned a few years ago. After that, I went to
33 one of our twelve-meter Boston Whaler impact platforms, and I
34 currently captain the sixty-five-foot patrol vessel C.T. Randall
35 out of Marco Island, and so I've been with the program for quite
36 a while.

37

38 The mission of the Offshore Patrol Vessel Program is pretty
39 simple. We're out there to educate the public. One of the
40 biggest things is our presence alone helps keep the honest
41 people honest, and it keeps the other people, all the dishonest
42 people, on their toes, looking over their shoulders to see where
43 we're at and what we're doing out there.

44

45 We have three vessel classes. As I said, I've served on all of
46 these classes. The heavy endurance class, we have two vessels,
47 the Gulf Century and the C.T. Randall. Those vessels are
48 capable of multi-day trips. Our average trips are from three to

1 five days, and we do extended deployments, for example with
2 Deepwater Horizon, or hurricane deployments, to provide law
3 enforcement offshore in those areas that need it.

4
5 The medium endurance class is a cabined, air-conditioned vessel,
6 but smaller, similar to the Coast Guard SAFE boats. Most of
7 them are Boston Whaler impacts. We do have two SAFE boats in
8 the fleet. The intermediate patrol class are our Fincats, which
9 are our little fast boats. Their top speed is up to seventy
10 miles per hour, and those boats really come out of nowhere when
11 the people are out there, mostly commercial fishing, commercial
12 fishermen, and they don't see those boats come, and we're able
13 to get out there and get on scene pretty quick, especially to
14 habitats of particular concern and closed areas to certain types
15 of fishing.

16
17 As far as our assets in the Gulf of Mexico, you can see we've
18 got a Fincat and a Guardian up in the Panhandle and a Fincat in
19 the Crystal River. Now, the Fincats are aluminum-hulled.
20 They're a catamaran, kind of a racing-style catamaran boats,
21 with twin 300 horsepower engines on them. The Guardian is a
22 larger, diesel-powered platform, and it's a boat that can do
23 about a twenty-four-hour patrol before it needs to come back in.

24
25 The Fincats, their ability is about a sixteen-hour patrol,
26 although, when I was in a Fincat, I pushed some twenty-six-hour
27 days in them, and so once you make a case offshore eighty miles,
28 you have to go eight knots back with that boat back to port if
29 you seize that product, and so it takes a long time.

30
31 Gulf Century has recently moved from Carrabelle down to St.
32 Petersburg. My boat, the C.T. Randall, is out of Marco Island,
33 and then we have a twelve-meter Boston Whaler Impact down in Key
34 West. Also, out of Key West, we have another boat that we crew,
35 a NOAA boat, the Peter Gladding, which its primary area of
36 patrol is out to the Dry Tortugas, the Florida Keys National
37 Marine Sanctuary, and Pulley Ridge.

38
39 **DR. DANA:** Where in the Panhandle are your boats? The Panhandle
40 is kind of big.

41
42 **LT. SHEA:** One is over by the Air Force base.

43
44 **DR. DANA:** So Eglin? The Destin/Fort Walton Beach area?

45
46 **LT. SHEA:** Yes, and then the other large vessel is out of
47 Carrabelle. George has some significant cases that he has
48 included in the PowerPoint. I don't know all of the details of

1 the cases that are on the PowerPoint, because they're cases he
2 has made from his platform. I will just go briefly over my last
3 patrol, four-day patrol. Its mission was to target the
4 enforcement of the mutton snapper spawns down south, in the
5 Gulf, and around the other side of the Keys, in the Atlantic.

6
7 Regular patrol is south from Marco Island out to eighty miles
8 and south down to Key West and out to the Eastern Dry Rocks and
9 patrol that area over there. No significant cases on the
10 Atlantic side. Coming back into the Gulf, on our return trip,
11 the first shrimp boat we stopped, all of the turtle excluder
12 devices on the boat were not in compliance, and so citations
13 were written for that, federal citations.

14
15 The next boat we stopped was a fishing vessel that happened to
16 be out of Marco Island, where my home port is, a father and son,
17 and that vessel had marine life violations, as far as marine
18 life that they have to land alive. It was more for the aquarium
19 trade, but they were using it for bait. They were also -- That
20 was written state. Federal cases on that boats, they were using
21 red grouper for bait. They had filleted red grouper, undersized
22 red grouper, and I believe that was it on that particular boat.

23
24 The next boat that we stopped, out toward the wreck of the
25 California, that fishing vessel was out of Key West, but heading
26 to Fort Myers to land. It was currently fishing, trolling, when
27 we stopped it. Onboard was over 1,300 pounds of barracuda.
28 That is now a closed area for the take of barracuda in both
29 state and federal waters off of Monroe and Collier County, and
30 so they were actively fishing when we stopped them.

31
32 We did the inspection. They were allowed to have four barracuda
33 onboard, and they ended up having over 1,300 pounds onboard, and
34 so that was a good stop, and to see that they were landing in
35 Lee County, which is to avoid the closure area. All of his
36 landings prior to that had been historically in Key West, and so
37 he was just trying to circumvent the rules in order to land his
38 fish, and so that was another good case for us.

39
40 I will go over what George has here real quick. Like I said, I
41 don't know all the details of his cases, but they're common
42 violations that we do see with these type of vessels. The
43 Fishing Vessel Honey Bee was longlining inside the twenty-fathom
44 line with possession of prohibited coral, which they hook and
45 bring up quite often, but they can't keep it. Interference with
46 a law enforcement officer, and we seized all the product in that
47 case, and that case has been finalized with a NOVA of \$50,000.

48

1 The Fishing Vessel Juma, again, common violations we see.
2 They're using the undersized or illegal fish that they can't
3 land for bait, using shark as bait, and longlining with over
4 1,200 hooks. Of course, they can only have 750 hooks rigged at
5 any time. That case is still pending. You can see the baited
6 hooks and how we have to band them and count them, which takes
7 us quite a bit of time offshore during the inspections.

8
9 Two cases here, one commercial and one recreational. The Miss
10 Ruby was longlining, again, with more hooks than they're
11 allowed, and that comes down to just the officers counting the
12 hooks. That's all it takes to make that case. You can do that
13 on quite a few of the longline boats, when you actually go
14 through their gear, and this boat had no reef fish permit and no
15 longline endorsement, and so they were really in the wrong here,
16 and that case is still pending.

17
18 Another thing we see commonly with recreational boats out at
19 those distances that we're patrolling offshore is that they're
20 filleting and hiding the grouper. The advantage to us
21 patrolling offshore, as opposed to sitting at a pass and waiting
22 for boats to come in, is that the product is well hidden by the
23 time they come to the pass, and so one-officer small patrol
24 boats that normally would do an inspection, they tie up to the
25 boat and they do as good of an inspection as they safely can by
26 themselves, which means they're not climbing through all of the
27 different spaces that could hold the fish, and so being able to
28 patrol offshore definitely has an impact, and I've seen it,
29 especially through all the different platforms that I've been
30 able to use offshore.

31
32 Our program does quite a bit of outreach. Lieutenant Wells is
33 lucky, because he's up at the Fish and Wildlife Research
34 Institute in St. Pete. He gets to interact in Marine Quest on
35 an annual basis with his different platforms, and we bring a lot
36 of different stuff to the event. The kids really like looking
37 through all the law enforcement gear that we have onboard,
38 looking through our thermal vision and the different things that
39 we do out there.

40
41 We focus a little bit on boating safety. You can see George is
42 teaching them to throw a life ring on the aft section of the
43 boat there, and so the kids have to throw a life ring and
44 retrieve it, and it's a good interaction with the kids. It
45 breaks it up a little at the event, as most everything else is
46 science-based there for them.

47
48 If I had made this PowerPoint, this would be a picture of my

1 boat and not George's boat. This is the Gulf Century, our
2 eighty-five-foot boat out of St. Pete. Here is a list of
3 significant cases, again, that George has made this year, just
4 common things you see, again, reef fish for bait, gag grouper
5 closed season, a charter captain without Coast Guard
6 credentials. That's something we battle with charter captains
7 all the time.

8
9 Again, reef fish as bait and king mackerel as bait. Again, no
10 Coast Guard credentials for a charter, and we work closely, at
11 least I do in my area, with Coast Guard to help with that type
12 of enforcement. Again, here's pictures of the illegal bait, and
13 it really comes down to a lot of officer experience. I'm on the
14 sixty-five-foot boat, and I send a small boat over to inspect a
15 fishing boat from my boat.

16
17 It takes a lot of time, and we have a lot of crew turnover, but,
18 if you look at all those pieces of bait in the basket, they have
19 to be able to take them out, not being a scientist, being a law
20 enforcement officer, and be able to identify those, and so
21 working with our science-related partners is important, to me
22 anyway in the program, to help educate our officers on species
23 identification.

24
25 If we can't see the violation, we can't enforce it, and I pride
26 myself in knowing quite a bit, and the guys tend to take
27 pictures. They will send the boat back over and have me look at
28 a lot of pictures on my platform and ask me what the different
29 things are, like the marine life case that we made on our last
30 trip. Without me knowing all the different species of eel and
31 being able to identify it by just a chunk of meat with skin on
32 it, that case wouldn't have been able to be made, and so,
33 really, that species identification needs to really, I think, be
34 improved in our agency, especially with our officer turnover.

35
36 George is currently on a search and rescue down south. This is
37 one he did while on one of his patrols, assisting the Coast
38 Guard with a basket lift off of his vessel. They went over to
39 the vessel and took the injured person over to their vessel and
40 lifted the basket up and had them taken for emergency medical
41 care. I hope I did that justice, having a few hours of sleep
42 and one chance to look at this. Any questions?

43
44 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** That was very good. Thank you. Do we have any
45 questions? Johnny.

46
47 **MR. GREENE:** Probably being one of the only council members up
48 here that's actually been boarded by the FWC, and on a fairly

1 regular basis at that, I just want to thank you for your
2 professionalism and your service and your duty.

3
4 **LT. SHEA:** Thank you, sir.

5
6 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I have a question. You mentioned eighty miles
7 was the range on one of your --

8
9 **LT. SHEA:** That's a normal patrol range for one of our patrols
10 on the Randall. Off of Naples, the commercial fleet tends to
11 fish from sixty to really 180 miles offshore, and so those are
12 long days on the patrol boat and out to those areas.

13
14 Without those heavy endurance platforms like the Gulf Century
15 and the C.T. Randall, the enforcement couldn't occur in those
16 areas, other than a hit-and-run, where we'll run out and, using
17 tools like VMS from NOAA, be able to hit a specific target that
18 we see in a closed zone and then running back in, because of
19 fuel concerns and also we have things to deal with like the
20 union contracts on how many hours a guy can work in a day, and
21 so there's a lot of logistics into that, whereas, on the big
22 platforms like mine, I can berth seven, and I believe the Gulf
23 Century is up to fourteen, and so we can have quite a few
24 officers out there with us.

25
26 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Mr. Riechers.

27
28 **MR. RIECHERS:** This question may be to you, but it may be to
29 Doug Gregory as well. First of all, thank you for everything
30 you do, and I certainly know that all the state directors here
31 know how much our law enforcement, our individual state law
32 enforcement, how much you all put into it and the hours and the
33 amount of patrols that you do.

34
35 There's been some people questioning that at the podium from
36 time to time, and we used to receive a report that had listed
37 the patrol hours and the amount of effort by state and by Coast
38 Guard and by National Marine Fisheries Service effort. I don't
39 want anyone to create any extra work here, but I don't know if
40 that report is still being produced on a quarterly basis or not
41 or whether we could find out. Maybe Tracy Dunn can answer that,
42 or maybe you can answer it, and I'm sure you all report, due to
43 your JEA, and I know that we do as well, but I just don't know
44 whether that's aggregated anywhere anymore.

45
46 **LT. SHEA:** They are aggregated. I know we turn in JEA reports
47 for every mission that we do that is federal fisheries-oriented.

48

1 **MR. RIECHERS:** Again, thank you for what you do. Doug, maybe
2 you could just check with Tracy next time you see him. He was
3 in the room earlier yesterday, but I haven't seen him since.
4

5 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** We will follow up on that, but we
6 certainly haven't received any reports in the last three years
7 to that effect.
8

9 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Glenn.
10

11 **MR. CONSTANT:** I was just curious. I have a hard enough time
12 keeping our biologists on their toes to identify whole fish. Do
13 you have a key or something? How do you identify pieces and
14 parts of species down to species?
15

16 **LT. SHEA:** It comes down to experience and self-education as an
17 officer, because -- I hate to say it, but, in our agency, there
18 is not a lot of species identification training. When you first
19 join, like I joined in 2007, we did some species identification
20 in the Academy, but that's it.
21

22 I would say my education is more self-taught. Being active in
23 the fisheries yourself definitely helps, and I do fish offshore
24 when I can, and I also just enjoy species identification in
25 general. I kind of lean towards the science side of things
26 myself, and so I'm good at identifying the tropical fish as well
27 as the pelagics, the reef fish.
28

29 For me, it's been self-education, and it's enjoyable for me, but
30 I do see the hole in the knowledge base of our officers and
31 being able to identify that. Like I said, if they can't see it
32 as a violation -- I mean if they see someone run a red light,
33 they know that's a violation. If they see a piece of eel on a
34 hook and they can't identify it, they can't see that violation.
35 To them, it's just another piece of bait.
36

37 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you again for your presentation. Thank
38 you for coming.
39

40 **LT. SHEA:** Thank you.
41

42 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Next, we have an update or a discussion on the
43 Draft Gulf of Mexico Climate Science Action Plan. Doug, are you
44 going to be --
45

46 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** That's Dr. Snider, Sunny, from the
47 Southeast Fisheries Science Center who is going to be giving the
48 presentation, and we have a draft letter in the briefing book

1 from the council to comment on this Regional Action Plan. We've
2 been getting National Action Plans and Regional Action Plans,
3 but the rubber meets the road in these Regional Action Plans,
4 and so our input there is really, really important, and so take
5 a look at the draft letter, and we would need approval from the
6 council to send that letter, or a modification of that letter,
7 after this meeting. Thank you. Thank you, Dr. Snider.

8
9 **DRAFT GULF OF MEXICO CLIMATE SCIENCE ACTION PLAN**

10
11 **DR. SUNNY SNIDER:** Good morning, everyone. I am Sunny Snider.
12 I'm Chief of Staff at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center.
13 As Bonnie mentioned earlier this week, I've been there for just
14 over a year. This is my first council meeting, and I wanted to
15 say that it's been an absolute pleasure to be here with you guys
16 this week and to meet everyone this week. I look forward to
17 continuing to work with you, and I thank you for your time this
18 morning to discuss the Gulf of Mexico Climate Science Regional
19 Action Plan.

20
21 The NOAA Fisheries Climate Science Strategy was developed to
22 help the agency meet its growing need for climate information to
23 use in management decisions. That national strategy called for
24 Regional Action Plans in all of the NOAA Fisheries regions
25 across the country, as you see depicted.

26
27 Each of these regions is facing or is going to face different
28 climate challenges. They have different needs and they have
29 different capabilities, and so this Regional Action Plan process
30 allows each region to customize a plan for climate science data
31 and to work with their local partners, such as their councils,
32 to develop these plans.

33
34 Of course, in the Southeast, we have jurisdiction over the
35 Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the South Atlantic
36 ecosystems, and so each of those ecosystems within the Southeast
37 Region is going to face some of its own climate challenges, and
38 so we are currently working on three different Regional Action
39 Plans to meet the needs for climate science in each of these
40 three ecosystems.

41
42 Today, of course, I'm going to talk to you about some action
43 items that we've created specifically for the Gulf of Mexico.
44 We have shared a draft or a strawman action plan, like Doug
45 said, with the councils and with the Gulf States Marine
46 Fisheries Commission and with some of our other partners, so
47 that we can make sure that we are really addressing the climate
48 science needs of this region.

1
2 If you haven't had a chance to look at the plan, we are going to
3 be putting that plan out for public comment in probably mid-
4 July. I encourage you to have a look at the action items within
5 the table within this plan, because that really is the heart of
6 the plan, and that's really where we talk about the needs that
7 we think we see in the Gulf of Mexico. If you have input on
8 those action items, we would really like to hear that.

9
10 If you have information on identifying additional partners,
11 maybe partners that we have inadvertently missed that should be
12 a part of this process, that's another thing that we would
13 really like to hear from you.

14
15 The National Climate Strategy sets out seven objectives, and,
16 when we set up our plan, we structured our action items under
17 each of these seven objectives. The objectives are loosely
18 oriented around three themes, which you can see in different
19 colors in this pyramid, and you've got the infrastructure at the
20 bottom, at the base of the pyramid, and you've got a couple of
21 science objectives and a couple of more management-related
22 objectives, and so that's how I'm going to go through our action
23 items.

24
25 We've got about almost sixty action items. I am not going to
26 walk you through all sixty action items. You are welcome. I am
27 just going to pick some highlights underneath each of these
28 objectives and talk about those today, and I'm going to start
29 with Objective 7 and move up, because I think that's a little
30 bit more palatable that way.

31
32 The first thing I'm going to talk about is the science
33 infrastructure needed to deliver climate science data for the
34 Gulf of Mexico. Now, under these objectives, we really thought
35 long and hard about what infrastructure we need to get these
36 climate data, and we really started to think that, number one,
37 we need a data needs assessment. What data do we have? What
38 data do we need? How do we prioritize the data that we need for
39 climate science information?

40
41 Then we started to think about, well, we've also go to think
42 strategically about the research cruises and the research
43 surveys that we're conducting in the Gulf of Mexico. Are we
44 using those as efficiently as possible to collect all of the
45 different types of data that we need?

46
47 If we have a research survey that's going out to collect
48 ecosystem data or oceanographic data, are there opportunities to

1 collect some of the biological data that we need? Likewise, if
2 we're having -- If a NOAA ship is going out to collect some
3 biological data, are there opportunities for collecting the
4 ecosystem and oceanographic data that really could be -- Are
5 there shared needs across our different line offices in our
6 agency that are shared needs with other regional partners?
7 Really strategically thinking about making what we're calling
8 multi-mission cruises in the Gulf of Mexico.

9
10 Then we started to think, well, what we would really, really
11 like to do is to get together with all of our partners in the
12 region and create a comprehensive and collaborative monitoring
13 plan in the Gulf of Mexico, and so we're getting together and
14 really assessing what are those data, science, and climate
15 information that we need in the Gulf of Mexico and how can we
16 best collect those across the entire Gulf?

17
18 We know that this is going to take a lot of upfront effort, but
19 we really think it is the best way to figure out what
20 information we need, when we need it, and put it to its best
21 use, and that is minimizing the impacts of climate change in the
22 future and increasing the resiliency of our coastal and fishing
23 communities to climate changes.

24
25 We would also like to consider whether or not a citizen science
26 effort, similar to what's happening in the South Atlantic, might
27 be something that we could do here in the Gulf of Mexico that
28 would be a part of this overall data and monitoring plan.

29
30 Moving up our pyramid, the sixth objective is really about
31 tracking trends and identifying early warnings, where we can,
32 and so our scientists really felt that one of the most important
33 actions under this objective is to collect those critical
34 baseline data that meet our science needs in the Gulf of Mexico,
35 and we have included that sort of general action in the plan,
36 but we've also included some very specific examples of some of
37 the baseline data we feel should be collected.

38
39 We would also like to create a plan for updating the ecosystem
40 status report in the Gulf of Mexico. We think that that report
41 already includes a lot of information that can be useful to
42 tracking trends and providing early warnings, and if we could
43 find a way to provide regular updates to that plan, it could be
44 a really great tool.

45
46 The fifth objective is about identifying the mechanisms of
47 climate change, the mechanisms of how will climate change impact
48 our species and communities and ecosystems in the Gulf of

1 Mexico, and the National Climate Strategy calls for each region
2 to conduct vulnerability assessments, and so here, in the
3 interaction plan, is where we consider executing and planning
4 our vulnerability assessments for the Gulf of Mexico.

5
6 Vulnerability assessments are based on risk assessment
7 practices, and they basically are -- You look at a species or a
8 habitat or a community and you ask how sensitive is this species
9 to climate change or how resilient is this species to climate
10 change?

11
12 Once we get the outcome of some of those vulnerability
13 assessments for species and habitats in the Gulf of Mexico,
14 social scientists can adapt the sort of ongoing or existing
15 community social vulnerability indices that are ongoing in the
16 Gulf of Mexico with the results of our vulnerability assessments
17 for the species and the habitats in the Gulf of Mexico.

18
19 Objective 4 is focusing on creating robust projections of future
20 conditions in the Gulf of Mexico, and this objective is really
21 where we're including our efforts to implement and execute
22 predictive modeling in the Gulf of Mexico, and this would
23 include studies that are applying existing models to ecosystems
24 and habitats and species in the Gulf of Mexico.

25
26 For example, we have some ongoing work that is looking at down-
27 scaled climate models and bluefin tuna. We might think about
28 how we could extend that type of predictive modeling to other
29 species in the Gulf of Mexico. We would also like to develop a
30 standard modeling toolbox under this objective, where we can
31 kind of keep track of best practices for conducting these
32 predictive modeling studies, because they are -- I mean they're
33 predictive modeling studies. There's a lot of uncertainty
34 there, and so we want to really have a nice modeling toolbox for
35 making these predictions under different climate scenarios.

36
37 We're moving up to the top of our pyramid here, and so we're
38 getting to action items in our plan that are really a little bit
39 more focused on management decisions. Objective 3 is focusing
40 on designing adaptive management processes. Here, one of the
41 things that we would like to do is to be able to provide
42 quantitative advice for management decisions under different
43 climate change scenarios.

44
45 We would also like to be able to really increase or strengthen
46 our capacity to respond to events in real time, and so, if there
47 is a fish kill, if there is a red tide, if there's some other
48 event that could be climate related, we want to have the

1 capacity to collect additional data, to analyze that data and to
2 possibly incorporate those results into our models, into our
3 management decisions, and so we really want to strengthen that
4 ability to respond to these events when they happen in real
5 time.

6
7 Here, we also want to be able to establish maybe a more formal
8 method for talking with fishermen about the trends that they're
9 observing when they're out on the water. Fishermen, you guys
10 are out on the water so much, lots of times during the year.
11 Some of you have been fishing for so many years, and you are
12 observing possible changes that could be turned into scientific
13 hypotheses, and so what we would really like to do is strengthen
14 that dialogue.

15
16 Sometimes we talk about it a little bit like a reverse MREP,
17 where we're learning about the observations that you're seeing
18 on the water, so that we can respond to those changes that
19 you're observing and see whether or not they are potential
20 hypotheses that we can investigate and turn into adaptive
21 management.

22
23 Objective 2 is focusing on creating robust management
24 strategies, and you're probably thinking some of these
25 objectives are pretty interrelated, and that's true. Here, we
26 include action items in our plan that are looking at things like
27 management strategy evaluations for the Gulf of Mexico. Here,
28 we would want to create control rules, harvest control rules in
29 the Gulf of Mexico, that would remain effective even if there
30 were various climate changes.

31
32 We want to make sure here that we're creating robust management
33 strategies by defining collaboratively our management
34 objectives, and, by working with the council and by working with
35 fishermen, by working with other local stakeholders -- Here,
36 it's important to point out, in the Gulf of Mexico, that that
37 does include our international partners.

38
39 We're also looking at across the NOAA Fisheries region and
40 across some of the things our other partners are doing. For
41 example, in Alaska, we saw that, at the Alaska Fisheries Science
42 Center, they're using a document called an Ecosystem
43 Consideration Summary that they're providing with their stock
44 assessments, with their biological opinions, or with other
45 documents for management decisions, and it's a tool to use along
46 with those. We don't know if it's right for the Gulf of Mexico,
47 but it's something that we would like to look into and see if
48 it's something that would assist with these robust management

1 strategies, in light of climate change.

2
3 Finally, reaching the tip-top of our pyramid here, which is an
4 objective for having climate-informed reference points, and I
5 mean we struggled with this one. This is tough. This is going
6 to be a hard one. We don't know how to do this in every case.
7 We have some great ideas for how we're going to consider climate
8 as we develop reference points.

9
10 We've got some ideas for modifying some of the processes we've
11 already got in place. I'm sure many of you know that we've been
12 able to incorporate some red tide information into some of our
13 assessments, and sort of modifying that process to bridge to
14 these climate-informed reference points. That's one of our
15 ideas in this action plan.

16
17 We also have some practical ideas in this area, where we would
18 like to get together with our regional partners, with scientists
19 in the region, and then with scientists across NOAA Fisheries,
20 across the country, just to try and brainstorm ideas or talk
21 about approaches that have been effective.

22
23 Just a quick note on next steps. We have received input from a
24 number of different groups, and we are refining our action items
25 now and incorporating that input. We are going to -- I think I
26 said that we're trying to push this to public comment in mid-
27 July, and we will hopefully finalize all the regional plans in
28 October, but, again, we would love to have your input if you do
29 have -- If you do have a chance to read over the action plan and
30 you have any questions or you have any comments or things that
31 you would like to add or things that you're concerned about,
32 please do reach out to me. My email address is there, and I
33 would be happy to chat with anyone about the action items in the
34 Regional Action Plan, and so that is it for now. Thank you, and
35 I will take any questions.

36
37 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Dr. Snider. Any questions? Dr.
38 Ponwith.

39
40 **DR. PONWITH:** Thanks very much for the presentation, and I
41 appreciate the opportunity to have this on the agenda, because,
42 while there is an awful lot of science involved in a Regional
43 Action Plan for NOAA's Climate Science Program, implementing
44 that, the purpose of that science is really to be able to
45 provide stronger information to the management side.

46
47 We are seeing cases that are actual scientifically-demonstrated
48 cases of shifts in either the center of a distribution or

1 animals or shifts in the population levels of animals that are
2 directly relatable to climate patterns that we're seeing, and
3 the better we can be prepared for how you would like to address
4 those in your management decisions, the better we're prepared to
5 provide that underpinning science you will need to answer those
6 questions, and so, again, I think this is just a great
7 opportunity to be working in lockstep, to see the science and
8 the management enterprises advancing in lockstep with one
9 another, so we're ready for this, because it's happening now.
10 Thanks very much.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Just to follow up a little bit, Dr. Snider, to
13 your comment regarding your desire to kind of contact directly
14 the fishermen as part of the citizen science portion of your
15 strategy or plan here, that's very interesting, and I think they
16 kind of bridge the gap between what's going on on the water
17 right now, and then they're also affected by the regulations
18 that we as a management body implement, and then obviously
19 that's as a result of the science that is collected, and so I
20 think that's very interesting and holds some real good potential
21 as far as trying to mine or finding out maybe some connections
22 that could help direct the specific items that are selected to
23 look into, and so that will be interesting to see how that
24 develops. Anyone else? All right. Thank you.

25
26 **DR. SNIDER:** Thank you.

27
28 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. We have the issue of the draft
29 letter. You mentioned that it's in the briefing book materials,
30 and so does anyone have any comments? Do you want to talk about
31 that a little bit more, Doug?

32
33 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** It's Tab A, Number 10(b). It's in
34 response to this presentation, and we do have a Regional Draft
35 Plan. Was there a deadline for wanting to get comments from us,
36 because I just realized that we forgot to put in the briefing
37 book the actual document itself.

38
39 **DR. PONWITH:** You're talking about this letter, or are you
40 talking about additional comments?

41
42 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** No, this particular letter. We've
43 had the presentation, but the council hasn't seen the actual
44 document itself. I just realized that, and so I was wondering
45 if we could put off the letter until August or if you needed a
46 response before then.

47
48 **DR. PONWITH:** The response, sooner is better, and the reason is

1 because we are incorporating input that we're receiving from the
2 council, from the commission, right now in the plan. Then,
3 ultimately, we'll put the plan out for public comment. Within
4 two or three weeks, that will be out for public comment, and
5 then we'll close, to give us time to incorporate those responses
6 to the document and still have it completed by the end of the
7 fiscal year, and so that's kind of the timeline that we're
8 looking at.

9
10 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Thank you very much. Then I would
11 ask the council if they're comfortable with this. The letter
12 itself basically is very complimentary of the efforts, and we do
13 suggest that the climate work needs to be integrated with
14 ecosystem work, that they're inseparable at this point, and so
15 that's one of our suggestions.

16
17 The other thing we had that should have been attached to this
18 letter, but is not, is just track changes on the document
19 itself, and I apologize for that oversight, but if you're more
20 comfortable waiting until you see the full document, we can put
21 this off until August, or you could give the Chair and I the
22 authority to wordsmith this letter. It's basically a supportive
23 letter. There's no real critical comments at all.

24
25 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Anyone have any thoughts on that, on what
26 direction to take? Roy.

27
28 **MR. WILLIAMS:** My thoughts are the Chair and the Executive
29 Director ought to handle this. I don't think it really requires
30 any action by the council. I don't know if you need a motion to
31 that effect or not, but that would certainly be my thoughts.

32
33 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I don't know necessarily if we need a motion.
34 There doesn't appear to be much dissention from your opinion.
35 Based on that, we will go with that then and go ahead and send
36 out the letter.

37
38 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Thank you very much.

39
40 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Next on our list of presentations for this
41 morning is the NMFS Southeast Regional Office Landings Summary
42 and Dr. Branstetter.

43
44 **NMFS-SERO LANDINGS SUMMARIES**

45
46 **DR. BRANSTETTER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Dr. Larkin
47 mentioned the other day, we just now got Wave 1 recreational
48 data down to the Center. They are doing their post-

1 stratifications on it right now. I do have a little bit of
2 information on gray triggerfish, since it is an item of
3 interest, I think, and Dr. Larkin indicated that Wave 2 is
4 expected within a week or so, and so that will give us a lot
5 better idea of where we're moving forward.

6
7 For commercial, I just wanted to highlight that we only have few
8 few species that have actual recreational and commercial
9 allocations in the Gulf, and, as you can see with this chart,
10 it's Tab A-11. Almost all of our stocks have stock ACLs, and a
11 large number of these stocks are primarily harvested
12 recreational, and so the percent landed of the commercial
13 landings isn't very indicative of where we're at a lot of times
14 and whether or not we're approaching an ACL and we might have to
15 kick in accountability measures.

16
17 This chart is trying to -- What I've put up here is these were
18 the landings in early June, and I have compared those to the
19 landings in early April and the percentages and then also where
20 we stand compared to a year ago.

21
22 As you can see, like for triggerfish, there's been a slightly
23 greater amount of triggerfish caught this year than last year in
24 June. Greater amberjack is about the same, and I do have an
25 update on -- We've had a couple of landings updates since this
26 was submitted for the briefing book.

27
28 For greater amberjack, right now, we have documented that about
29 67 percent of the quota has been caught. With projections for
30 late reporting and underreporting, as much as 79 to 80 percent
31 of the quota may be caught. Compared to a year ago at this same
32 time period, the numbers are very similar. Instead of 67
33 percent, it was 70, and 79 percent and 79 percent with
34 projections.

35
36 Last year, we closed at the end of September. We exceeded the
37 ACT, which is the commercial quota, but we were under the ACL by
38 97 percent, and so it may be very similar this year, depending
39 on how fishing behaviors change. Right now, our early
40 projections are all over the place, anywhere from closing the
41 first week of July to mid-September.

42
43 Triggerfish numbers are still about the same as what's here.
44 It's about 50 percent. Last year, as you know, the commercial
45 triggerfish catch did not even approach the ACT, and commercial
46 fishermen were asking for a trip limit increase. It's up
47 substantially this year. Last year by this time, they had only
48 caught 33 percent of the quota. This year, it's already at 50

1 percent.

2
3 My last little tidbit here is I did ask my staff to check with
4 Dr. Larkin on recreational triggerfish, and so these would be
5 preliminary, because, again, the Science Center is still doing
6 post-stratification work on these numbers, but, for Wave 1,
7 approximately 66,000 pounds was recorded. This has been a big
8 shift, and I'm not sure if it's the changes in the MRIP Program,
9 but, the last two to three years, Wave 1 has had a very high
10 spike in it compared to previous years.

11
12 Wave 2, in the past, has been in the 20,000 to 30,000-pound
13 range. Two or three years ago, it was 100,000 pounds, and I
14 think sometimes that's noise more than reality, but what I'm
15 hoping -- We've got an ACT, or the recreational quota, of almost
16 160,000 pounds, and we've got an ACL of approximately 180,000
17 pounds this year, and so I'm hoping that, once we get some
18 better numbers on this and we're able to project it, I am very
19 expectant that we won't reopen in August.

20
21 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Anyone have any questions for Dr.
22 Branstetter? All right then. Dr. Simmons.

23
24 **DR. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a question, to make
25 sure that I'm understanding the table. These are commercial
26 landings in 2016 during the month of June, which is the closed
27 season, June and July? Is that correct?

28
29 **DR. BRANSTETTER:** These are annual landings up to the first of
30 June this year.

31
32 **DR. SIMMONS:** Thank you.

33
34 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. That will take us to our break.
35 We're a little ahead of schedule, but we'll go ahead and take
36 our break now and come back at 10:30.

37
38 (Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)

39
40 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Next on the agenda is the CCC Meeting Summary,
41 Tab A, Number 12, and Dr. Simmons.

42
43 **CCC MEETING SUMMARY**

44
45 **DR. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is Tab A, Number
46 12, the Council Coordinating Committee Summary. I'm just going
47 try to go through and hit the high points, the items of interest
48 that the council might want to look at. It was a two-day

1 meeting, May 25 and 26. We heard an update of the recreational
2 fisheries work, the National Policy Implementation Plan, and
3 what they're currently working on. The agency has completed
4 year one of four, and the timeline for this plan has included a
5 total of sixty-nine projects to date.

6
7 We also heard an update on the MRIP transition plan, and they
8 talked about the upcoming recreational fisheries initiative to
9 cohost the artificial reef program, that meeting that was in
10 D.C., and Dr. John Froeschke and Dr. Greg Stunz attended that
11 meeting for us, and we will hear a summary of that meeting
12 probably in August.

13
14 We also heard some budget updates for the 2016/2017, the
15 calendar years. The councils have received the remaining 2016
16 funds. Those have been released. For the 2016 budget, there
17 were some line items that might be of interest to the Gulf
18 Council. There was an increase of \$7 million in funding for
19 electronic monitoring and reporting. There was also funding to
20 expand annual stock assessments for Gulf of Mexico reef fish,
21 and so that was increased by \$5 million, in total for a \$75-
22 million-line-item.

23
24 We also talked about the 2016 through 2019 budget cycle, and
25 several questions were asked by the Executive Directors and
26 Chairs regarding the budget and the fact that we had been
27 directed to budget for a 10 percent increase over the next five-
28 year budget planning cycle. That starts in 2015.

29
30 However, in 2015, we had only received a 3 percent increase in
31 funding level from the agency, and so we're going to work on
32 that and bring that back to the council, probably at the August
33 meeting, to look at that projected out for the remaining years,
34 because that 10 percent increase we're being told was a little
35 bit too high, and so we should go back and adjust that, and so
36 we'll bring that back to the council as well, I think probably
37 in August.

38
39 We also heard an overview of the S-K proposal process and how
40 that was going. We heard some legislative updates, but there's
41 been a lot of changes since we heard those updates, that have
42 happened since that May meeting and this council meeting, and so
43 I'm not going to go into that.

44
45 We heard a summary of the Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management
46 Road Map and presentation, and Dr. Morgan Kilgour has -- We
47 drafted a letter, and she's going to take the council through
48 that letter and our comments regarding that road map, because

1 the comments are due by July 10.
2
3 They asked us to focus our comments on a figure that was in the
4 road map, Figure 2, and so we think we've done that. Staff has
5 drafted something for you to look at, and she will go through
6 that next.
7
8 We did talk briefly about the catch share policy. You remember
9 the council drafted a letter and reviewed that, and they have
10 taken those comments into account from all the councils, and we
11 saw a new draft policy, and I think the committee, the Council
12 Coordinating Committee, was very happy with all the changes that
13 were incorporated.
14
15 They did note the allocation policy the councils completed was
16 maintained in the catch share policy and that NMFS' allocation
17 policy should be finalized next month for the councils to review
18 or to look at.
19
20 We did talk briefly about the bycatch discussion and the letters
21 that the councils had written. I think we wrote one after the
22 April council meeting about the standardized bycatch reporting
23 methodology, and they were looking at those comments, and we
24 will see another draft of that policy later on.
25
26 We did briefly talk about the regional operating agreements.
27 Just in regards to our council, we will need to update our
28 regional operating agreement. It seems like we just did that,
29 but we'll need to do that again by September of 2016, and so
30 we'll be working with the Regional Office staff to do that.
31
32 We talked about the electronic monitoring and reporting.
33 Specifically, there was an update on the 2016 funding for the
34 regional electronic technologies and implementation, and, for
35 the Southeast Region, there was approximately \$768,000 that was
36 appropriated in 2016 to the original base funding of \$341,000,
37 and so it was over \$1 million that's now a line item for that.
38 In addition, there was \$3 million awarded by the National
39 Fisheries Wildlife Fund, NFWF, and they have that call for
40 proposals that we've been talking about here, I think, today and
41 throughout the council meeting.
42
43 The agency is planning a second National Electronic Monitoring
44 Workshop, and they anticipate that will be held in Seattle. We
45 don't have the dates yet. Probably later in the year I think is
46 when that will occur. We heard an EFH Summit update. You all
47 heard that yesterday from Ms. Roberts, and the CCC did pass a
48 motion regarding that EFH Summit and the working group, and they

1 asked that the CCC remain involved in the agency discussions in
2 the next two meetings of the Council Coordinating Committee.

3
4 The Communications Group met early this year, in February, and I
5 think Charlene Ponce on our staff attended this meeting and has
6 been actively involved in working on the Magnuson
7 reauthorization document, the forty-year anniversary, and there
8 is some printed materials that all the councils outreach and
9 public information officers have worked on, and I don't know if
10 we brought any of those or if those are out on the table, but
11 they worked really hard on those, and so those were showcased,
12 as well as a regional fisheries management council website.

13
14 That website link is in the report, and so you can take a look
15 at that. That's something new. Each council can update their
16 own part of that webpage, and so we'll be doing that, and it
17 will be one location that all of those materials, when we have
18 CCC meetings, can be hosted, in addition to the NMFS website.

19
20 We did talk briefly about compliance with the National Standard
21 2 and the best scientific information available. The agency is
22 working with stock assessment scientists at the Science Center
23 to develop a white paper to address those concerns, and a
24 presentation was made that just provided a brief overview of how
25 different councils, regional councils, determined the best
26 available science, based on their committees and panels, and how
27 that process is vetted.

28
29 In general, it was a good conversation. It's a cooperative
30 process used by NMFS and the councils to develop amendments, and
31 it confirms that the best available science is used, but I just
32 wanted to talk a little bit more about that, and so they're
33 working on a white paper, and that's supposed to be released
34 this summer.

35
36 Under Other Business, the CCC drafted and signed a letter to the
37 President noting the successes of the Magnuson-Stevens Act after
38 forty years of successful management, and requests that any
39 closed areas in the U.S. EEZ be made through the Act rather than
40 through the Antiquities Act of 1906, which is done without any
41 transparent public process, and so all of the Chairs, I believe,
42 of each council signed that letter and that was submitted.

43
44 Then the last item was the next National SSC Meeting. That's
45 going to be held at the end of 2017. We're going to be working
46 with our Chairs, Chair and Vice Chair, of the SSC and staff to
47 come up with a list of potential agenda items for those groups
48 to work on, and there is a draft of items. I think it's on the

1 Pacific Council's website. We will be working on that and bring
2 it back to the council here in the next couple of meetings.
3 That concludes my report.

4
5 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Dr. Simmons. Any questions? Thank
6 you. Mr. Swindell.

7
8 **MR. SWINDELL:** Are we in line here to -- In this regional
9 operating agreement that we need to review, the regional
10 operating agreement, and submit any revisions to NMFS by
11 September of this year? That's not far away.

12
13 **DR. SIMMONS:** I don't think we have a lot of changes to make.
14 My understanding is it's some internal processes with reviewing
15 that have changed with the Regional Office, and so we have a
16 draft, and we can certainly aim to bring that to the council at
17 the August meeting.

18
19 We will have to bring it to the council at the August meeting,
20 in order to get it submitted by September, but I don't foresee
21 it as a whole lot of changes from the last agreement we had.
22 It's basically just how we operate with amendments and get
23 things done between our staff and the Regional Office staff, the
24 Science Center, and NOAA General Counsel.

25
26 **MR. SWINDELL:** Okay. I just don't want us to miss anything that
27 we need to do to keep this thing going, and so thank you.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Dr. Kilgour, are you ready to take
30 over the next item, Tab A, Number 12(b)?

31
32 **EBFM ROAD MAP**

33
34 **DR. MORGAN KILGOUR:** I sure am. I wrote the letter for the road
35 map, and one of the first things that I wanted to highlight is
36 they have six guiding principles that is the outline of the road
37 map. It's to implement ecosystem-level planning, advance our
38 understanding of ecosystem processes, prioritize vulnerabilities
39 and risks to ecosystems and their components, explore and
40 address tradeoffs within an ecosystem, incorporate ecosystem
41 considerations into management advice, and to maintain resilient
42 ecosystems.

43
44 Throughout the road map, they reference each guiding principle
45 and have a list of tasks and how easy these tasks will be to be
46 accomplished and whether or not they've already been
47 accomplished, and so that's pretty much how I outlined the
48 letter.

1
2 The first thing I thought was that the Guiding Principle 1
3 probably should be, if this is linear, then it should probably
4 be following Guiding Principle 3, in that you need to understand
5 the ecosystem processes and the vulnerabilities before you can
6 implement ecosystem planning.

7
8 I also talk about Figure 2, which was something that was
9 highlighted in the document. It's a very complex figure with
10 all of the different agencies, state and federal, that are all
11 working together towards ecosystem planning, and I thought that
12 it would be really helpful if there was a lot more collaboration
13 and talking to each other to simultaneously work on issues of
14 ecosystem-based fisheries management instead of working side-by-
15 side and all doing similar projects and not speaking to each
16 other.

17
18 I also wanted to highlight that the road map suggests that every
19 council come up with a fishery ecosystem plan, and, when you're
20 looking at how they outline what a fishery ecosystem plan is, we
21 already have a lot of these components in our fishery management
22 plan, but we're lacking some of the ecosystem components, like
23 trophic relationships and population dynamics, and so perhaps it
24 would be helpful to have an ecosystem plan that encompasses
25 these issues that can be used as some sort of reference
26 document.

27
28 They also highlight climate change in part of their guiding
29 principles, and I thought that that was an important thing that
30 should kind of be brought to the forefront with these shifting
31 baselines and shifting distributions. We need to understand
32 that better in forecasting for stock assessments, et cetera.

33
34 They also, in Guiding Principle 4, outline an analytical
35 toolbox, which is similar to some of these decision support
36 tools that you've been seeing at this meeting, and I thought
37 that that would be really helpful for ecosystem approaches to
38 fisheries management.

39
40 The last thing was, in Guiding Principle 6, I thought the
41 council would like to stress that social and economic data play
42 an important role in our decision processes, and these need to
43 be highlighted in incorporating them into ecosystem-based
44 fisheries management, and so, if there are any questions, I
45 would be happy to help try and answer them, but that's pretty
46 much the highlights of the letter.

47
48 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Any questions for Dr. Kilgour? Any

1 questions about the letter content? Seeing none, then we will
2 go ahead and send that off, in order to meet their deadline for
3 requests about the plan. Thank you. That takes us into our
4 committee reports, and we will start with the Shrimp Committee
5 and Ms. Bosarge.

6
7 **COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)**
8 **SHRIMP COMMITTEE REPORT**
9

10 **MS. BOSARGE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our Shrimp Committee
11 Report, Overview of Modifications to the Bycatch Reduction
12 Device, BRD, Testing Manual, Dr. Branstetter informed the
13 committee of how the testing manual has changed, by removing
14 some unnecessary forms and some updates to the manual to remove
15 obsolete instructions. The committee did not suggest any
16 changes to what was proposed.

17
18 Options Paper for Shrimp Amendment 17B, Dr. Barbieri provided
19 the summary of the SSC comments on the Shrimp Aggregate MSY/OY
20 Working Group. The SSC accepted the estimates and agreed with
21 the methodological approach for both aggregate MSY and aggregate
22 OY. The SSC had no major concerns about any of the actions or
23 alternatives presented in Shrimp Amendment 17B. The SSC has not
24 conducted a risk assessment for the threshold permit values in
25 Action 3 yet relative to the turtle-related constraints in the
26 shrimp fishery.

27
28 The committee reviewed the actions and alternatives presented in
29 Amendment 17B. It was requested that the management metrics
30 relative to TEDs be highlighted in the history of management.
31 The committee discussed the eligibility requirements for a Gulf
32 Shrimp Reserve Pool Permit. Removing the eligibility
33 requirements from the document for discussion at a later date
34 was discussed, but the committee decided that, as long as there
35 were thresholds in the document in Action 3 that would
36 immediately initiate a permit pool, the eligibility requirements
37 needed to stay in the document.

38
39 There was discussion on what the appropriate length would be for
40 Action 5, Option c. The committee decided that a minimum vessel
41 length requirement was not a requirement it would like to
42 pursue, but instead determined a U.S. Coast Guard dockside
43 safety inspection for fishing activity beyond three miles would
44 be a more appropriate requirement.

45
46 **The committee recommends, and I so move, in Action 5 to**
47 **eliminate Option c. Option c is assign the permit to a vessel**
48 **that is of at least X length on the application.**

1
2 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Is there any
3 discussion on the motion? **Is there any opposition to the**
4 **motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.**

5
6 **MS. BOSARGE:** For Action 5, Option e, staff needs some feedback
7 to determine if the landings requirement is intended to be an
8 annual requirement or if it is a one-time requirement for a
9 reserve pool permit renewal. The committee discussed that, as
10 it moves forward with Action 3, it would drive discussion and
11 decisions on this item. That will conclude my report.

12
13 Now, going back to the second paragraph and the SSC looking at a
14 risk assessment for the threshold permits relative to the
15 turtle-related constraints in the shrimp industry, I would like
16 to have a motion that hat be put on the SSC agenda for one of
17 their future meetings. I don't know if I want to nail down a
18 meeting, per se, because I know there will probably have to be
19 some data put together and collected for them to look at, and I
20 want to make sure whatever schedules that involves, that that
21 will all jibe.

22
23 **The motion would be to add to the SSC agenda a risk assessment**
24 **for the threshold permit values in Action 3 relative to the**
25 **turtle-related constraints in the shrimp fishery. That's my**
26 **motion.**

27
28 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** That's your motion?

29
30 **MS. BOSARGE:** Yes.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. We have a motion on the board. Is
33 there a second to the motion?

34
35 **MR. GREENE:** Second.

36
37 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** It's seconded by Mr. Greene. Is there any
38 discussion on the motion? Dr. Crabtree.

39
40 **DR. CRABTREE:** Do we need -- Are we asking that the Science
41 Center or someone provide some information or some sort of
42 analysis of this to go before the SSC for their review?

43
44 **MS. BOSARGE:** Yes, and I kind of left it open-ended on the date
45 for that reason, because I'm sure that Dr. Jim Nance will
46 probably need to provide some of his data for the SSC to have in
47 front of them when they go to analyze this.

48

1 **DR. CRABTREE:** Then, Kevin, the council is going to send a
2 request to Bonnie outlining what we want and you will work out
3 some sort of timeline for whoever is going to do it and when it
4 can be delivered?
5

6 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Yes, it sounds like we'll be able to do that.
7 Any other discussion on the motion? **Is there any opposition to**
8 **the motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.** Thank you for
9 your report, Ms. Bosarge. That will take us to Spiny Lobster
10 and Ms. Guyas.
11

12 **SPINY LOBSTER COMMITTEE REPORT**

13

14 **MS. GUYAS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Staff presented spiny
15 lobster landings from the 2014/2015 fishing season and the
16 preliminary landings from the 2015/2016 fishing season. In the
17 2014/2015 fishing season, the ACT was exceeded. In the
18 2015/2016 fishing season, both the ACT and ACL were exceeded.
19

20 Staff reviewed how the ACT, ACL, and MSY are calculated. The
21 ACL has been exceeded two times in the past four years, and the
22 ACT has been exceeded in three of the past four years. If the
23 ACL is exceeded twice in a four-year time period, the council
24 needs to take action, and, thus, the council will need to take
25 action to address the ACL and AMs for this fishery.
26

27 Staff informed the committee of the outcomes of the review
28 panel, which was convened on March 28, 2016. The review panel
29 recommended using the entire time series to calculate the ACL
30 for spiny lobster and also presented two alternative ways of
31 calculating the ACL, i.e., using a rolling average and using
32 landings to effort.
33

34 Staff reviewed the Joint AP summary. The AP made the following
35 three motions: to recalculate the ACL based on the entire
36 landings time series, which is 1991 to 2015/2016; to make the
37 spiny lobster a priority fishery for data collection; and to
38 create a lower landing trigger that would initiate a review
39 panel if the fishery failed to meet a minimum landings value.
40

41 Mr. Padron, Vice Chair of the Gulf Spiny Lobster AP, commented
42 on how the fishery has changed in both how the lobster fishery
43 is prosecuted and the market. Mr. Padron also commented on the
44 lack of current scientific information on spiny lobster fishery,
45 such as size at age structure of the stock and working more
46 closely with Caribbean counterparts.
47

48 Dr. Barbieri presented the SSC summary for spiny lobster. After

1 reviewing the original justification for setting the ABC and OFL
2 for spiny lobster, the SSC felt that the methodology that was
3 used in calculating the ABC should be maintained, but the years
4 used to calculate the ACL should include the entire time series.
5 The committee discussed the recommendations that were presented.
6

7 **The committee recommends, and I so move, to direct staff to**
8 **start work on an amendment to revise the ACL, including an**
9 **option based on the review panel recommendation, which was**
10 **1991/1992 through 2015/2016.**

11
12 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Is there any
13 discussion on the motion? **Is there any opposition to the**
14 **motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.**

15
16 **MS. GUYAS:** One more motion. **The committee recommends, and I so**
17 **move, that there be a lower landing trigger based on the average**
18 **of the three low landings years, which were 2001/2002,**
19 **2002/2003, and 2003/2004, that would initiate a review panel if**
20 **below this average for two consecutive years. That would be**
21 **equivalent to a 5.3-million-pound total catch.**

22
23 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Is there any
24 discussion on the motion? **Is there any opposition to the**
25 **motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.**

26
27 **MS. GUYAS:** Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.
28

29 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. That will take us to the next
30 committee that was scheduled that we didn't take care of
31 yesterday, and that is the Joint Habitat/Coral Committee and Mr.
32 Williams.
33

34 **JOINT HABITAT/CORAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

35
36 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was a joint
37 committee meeting between Habitat and Coral. Dale Diaz is the
38 Chair of Habitat, but I chaired the whole meeting. Council
39 staff presented on the progress of the Gulf Council portal site.
40 The presentation highlighted previous grant milestones,
41 expanding digital content, data portal visual products, Gulf of
42 Mexico coral and coral reefs viewer, data uses, and future grant
43 steps.
44

45 Then staff gave a brief summary of the deep-sea coral workshop.
46 NOAA Fisheries convened a priority-setting workshop from
47 November 18 to 20 of 2015 to discuss and refine priorities for
48 this science initiative.

1
2 The workshop was designed to glean information on priority
3 research questions and priority locations within each
4 jurisdiction and to encourage and facilitate collaboration and
5 partnership throughout the Southeast Region. The official
6 workshop summary is not yet available.

7
8 Staff presented an update on progress regarding the EFH five-
9 year review, the update highlighted textual and web elements
10 that will be completed during the review, emphasizing habitat
11 association tables, species profiles and mapping.

12
13 The EFH Summit Meeting was discussed, focusing on the wide
14 variability between regions regarding EFH designation and
15 cooperation between NOAA and the councils. Mr. Diaz gave
16 feedback on his takeaways from the EFH Summit and informed the
17 council that he is interested in discussing the EFH consultation
18 process and the level of council involvement at a future
19 meeting.

20
21 Staff then presented the comments from the Reef Fish AP, Shrimp
22 AP, Law Enforcement Technical Committee, and Spiny Lobster AP.
23 Overall, the APs would like continued input from fishermen
24 during the evaluation of the recommended HAPCs. Staff updated
25 the committees on the upcoming joint meeting of the Shrimp AP,
26 Coral AP and Coral SSC.

27
28 We then moved on to Flower Garden Banks. GP Schmahl,
29 Superintendent of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine
30 Sanctuary, presented the Draft EIS for the Flower Gardens
31 expansion.

32
33 The Draft EIS has five alternatives for expansion, including one
34 no action alternative, and proposes extending current Flower
35 Garden Banks regulations to any expansion of the sanctuary.
36 These regulations include no anchoring, no discharge,
37 prohibition on taking corals and invertebrates, and only hook
38 and line fishing is allowed.

39
40 The sanctuary is requesting that the council look at the
41 proposed fishing regulations and determine if the fishing
42 regulations are appropriate. The committee discussed the
43 differences between fishing impacts on these areas and impacts
44 from other sources, such as oil and gas.

45
46 Mr. Schmahl reviewed the proposed areas and the criteria for the
47 proposed areas. Most of the proposed areas in the sanctuary's
48 preferred alternative are existing HAPCs. There was

1 considerable discussion about the content of the DEIS, and some
2 recommendations to improve both the maps and the DEIS were
3 provided to Mr. Schmahl. The council has until August 19, 2016,
4 to submit public comment, and has 180 days to provide input on
5 the fishing regulations for the Flower Garden Banks National
6 Marine Sanctuary. Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.

7
8 I would note we might want to have some discussion of commenting
9 on the fishing regulations, as to whether we're going to do them
10 or to accept theirs.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Ms. Bosarge.

13
14 **MS. BOSARGE:** Thank you. I actually have three motions
15 prepared, because I mentioned during committee that I was ready
16 to make that motion, to get us started on the HAPC document, and
17 then we ran out of time. Then we got these other two deadlines
18 that we realized that we had now. We've got a comment period of
19 August 19 for the Flower Garden Banks, and so that's a letter
20 that will need to be drafted with those comments from the
21 council.

22
23 Then we have a six-month window to draft some sort of document,
24 possibly a letter, possibly a white paper, regarding how we
25 would want to see the regulations and any possible fishing
26 exemptions for the proposed expansion of that sanctuary, and so
27 if staff will -- Are you ready? I didn't give it to you ahead
28 of time.

29
30 I would like to present a motion for the document for the HAPCs
31 first. **The motion would be to request that, at the August 2016**
32 **meeting of the Coral SSC, Coral AP, and Shrimp AP, that the**
33 **group identify and rank the most important coral areas and**
34 **provide this information to the council in a report. Staff will**
35 **use this report and council input to draft a scoping document**
36 **for evaluating HAPC or deep-sea coral areas.**

37
38 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** That's your motion, right?

39
40 **MS. BOSARGE:** Yes.

41
42 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a motion on the board. Is there a
43 second to the motion? Second by Mr. Sanchez. Is there any
44 discussion on the motion? Dr. Crabtree.

45
46 **DR. CRABTREE:** Leann, you're wanting them to rank the areas that
47 have the highest value corals in them and should be protected,
48 or are you asking them to rank the areas that would have the

1 most impact on fisheries?

2
3 **MS. BOSARGE:** I think it will probably be a spreadsheet approach
4 with several different criteria, and what they will do is that
5 spreadsheet, I would think, would be built upon, because that
6 will be the input from coral people, who are probably going to
7 have slightly different priorities and rankings than the shrimp
8 people, which will also be at that meeting, and so that would be
9 two criteria and ranking categories.

10
11 Then the Reef Fish AP has also commented, and we have that
12 documentation as well, as to certain priorities for them, and so
13 I would think it would be a pretty detailed spreadsheet, which
14 is why the council would probably need to look at it and have
15 some discussion as to what our final document would look like.

16
17 **DR. CRABTREE:** Yes, and I just want to ensure that we get impact
18 not only on which would be the areas that are valuable to the
19 corals, but also which areas are of concern to fishermen and
20 likely to have economic impacts on them, so that we can balance
21 those two things properly.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Any other discussion or comments on the motion?
24 **Is there any opposition to the motion on the board? Seeing**
25 **none, the motion carries.** Leann, do you have another one?

26
27 **MS. BOSARGE:** Then, backing up to the deadlines that we have in
28 front of us, I would like to make a motion that staff begin
29 drafting a letter with council comments relative to the DEIS for
30 the Flower Garden Bank Sanctuary expansion.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Do we have a second to the motion on the board?
33 It's seconded by Mr. Sanchez.

34
35 **MS. BOSARGE:** Just to elaborate, so our deadline on that is
36 August 19, which is actually like the last day or the day after
37 our next meeting, and so if staff could drafting that, then they
38 could bring it back to us for review and submission that week,
39 and so that's something we have to kind of get rolling on.

40
41 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dale.

42
43 **MR. DIAZ:** Just a timing issue. I believe that this letter is
44 due the same week that we're meeting, and so the 19th would be
45 the second day of our meeting. We wouldn't have gone into full
46 council at that time, and so can it be approved at a committee
47 level or how we would approve that letter?

48

1 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** The 19th is Friday of that week.
2
3 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Any other discussion for the motion on the
4 board? Mara.
5
6 **MS. LEVY:** I don't know if staff has this question, and if
7 they're fine with what types of comments they're supposed to be
8 drafting, then I'm okay with it, but, when I just read that, it
9 doesn't give me any indication of what types of comments or any
10 input that the council would have relative to the DEIS, or is it
11 based on the questions you asked, Leann, of the DEIS?
12
13 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** It will be based largely on the
14 analysis that staff conducts. We just got the document. We
15 really haven't had a chance to look at it. For instance, one
16 thing that comes to mind is they talk about threats and fishing
17 gear. Is that a general statement that covers all of the
18 expansion or do they have that kind of data by bank?
19
20 We might want to comment and say we need these analyses by bank,
21 or information by bank, because, for the DEIS, I think our
22 comments are not the regulations, per se, but should this bank
23 or that bank be included, and why or why not? We just have to
24 do that analysis, and so we'll bring whatever staff comes up
25 with and, anything that any council member reads and wants to
26 look at, we will incorporate it in the letter, either before the
27 meeting or during the meeting.
28
29 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Martha.
30
31 **MS. GUYAS:** My question was along those lines, but it sounds
32 like if council members, between now and August, review the DEIS
33 and have some ideas about what needs to go in the letter, that
34 they could just transmit those to staff and those could be
35 considered for the letter as well.
36
37 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I agree. Good point. Any other discussion for
38 the motion? **Any opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the**
39 **motion carries.** Leann.
40
41 **MS. BOSARGE:** The last motion is relative to the six-month
42 deadline that we have to draft essentially what we would hope
43 that the regulations would look like for the preferred
44 alternative in the sanctuary expansion document Draft
45 Environmental Impact Statement.
46
47 **The motion would be to direct staff to develop a letter or white**
48 **paper addressing regulations relative to the DEIS Flower Garden**

1 **Banks Sanctuary expansion.**

2
3 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a motion on the board. Is there a
4 second to the motion? It's seconded by Mr. Walker. Any
5 discussion on the motion? Ms. Levy.

6
7 **MS. LEVY:** Can I just suggest that you make it specific fishing
8 regulations, because that's what they're asking for.

9
10 **MS. BOSARGE:** Yes, I will accept that friendly amendment. Thank
11 you.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** The seconder agrees? Okay. Any discussion on
14 the motion? Leann.

15
16 **MS. BOSARGE:** As far as timing, because we only have six months,
17 and so I was looking at the calendar. From my understanding, it
18 would not be an amendment, simply because we cannot promulgate
19 these regulations. All we can essentially do is give them our
20 best case scenario of this is what we would envision if we were
21 the ones that could do this, and so it would be a white paper,
22 if it gets pretty involved, or a letter, if we streamline it
23 enough, but six months.

24
25 Staff would have to start on that and bring it back to us in
26 August for us to look at, hopefully maybe get some more public
27 comment and do any tweaks that we want, and bring it back to us
28 in October, and it would have to get finalized, because it would
29 have to be submitted before the end of the year. It would have
30 to be submitted by December 10, I guess.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Mr. Williams.

33
34 **MR. WILLIAMS:** A question for Mara. Mara, do you know whether
35 they typically write their own regulations? I mean, in the
36 past, has the Flower Garden Banks -- Have their staff done their
37 own regulations, or do we have regulations concerning this?

38
39 **MS. LEVY:** We have fishing regulations, and so we can implement,
40 under the Magnuson Act, Magnuson Act fishing regulations, but
41 the sanctuary has its own authority to implement regulations for
42 the sanctuary, which include fishing regulations. I believe
43 that's correct.

44
45 I believe they're two separate authorities, and I think what
46 they're looking for here is what the council would like to see
47 as fishing regulations in the sanctuary, but I think,
48 ultimately, the Secretary decides whether those proposed fishing

1 regulations that the council submits are consistent with the
2 purposes of the sanctuary, and can decide not to implement them.

3
4 I think they're sort of concurrent, somewhat, authority, but I
5 think, ultimately, the sanctuary has control over what happens
6 in the sanctuary, and I have it on one of my to-do lists to look
7 into exactly the interplay, and so, if you have more questions
8 at the next meeting, hopefully I can have answers. You won't
9 have more questions, but someone might.

10
11 Also, I will look at exactly what the sanctuary is looking for
12 in terms of what they would expect to receive from you if you
13 want to propose fishing regulations, in addition or different
14 than what's currently there, what they're proposing, and I
15 suspect that a letter or a white paper would be fine, but I
16 haven't really communicated with the Sanctuary Program about
17 that, but I can do that before the next meeting.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Doug.

20
21 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** I spoke briefly in the hallway with
22 him, after the presentation, to try to clarify things for my
23 mind, and what I was told is, if we were to propose regulations
24 different than what they have in their proposal, they would
25 consider it. They could agree with our request. If there was a
26 disagreement with our request, somebody higher up within NOAA
27 would make a decision as to which way to go, but they write the
28 fishing regulations, ultimately. In some instances in the past,
29 like at Riley's Hump, both organizations did fishing
30 regulations, but that's not necessary.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Robin.

33
34 **MR. RIECHERS:** I am fine with the motion here, but certainly the
35 white paper would inform a letter, but if we're going to
36 officially ask them to do something different than they're
37 doing, or even officially suggest that what they've recommended,
38 which is to extend the current regulations to the new areas, and
39 we have no issue with that, ultimately it has to be a letter
40 sent to them from this body, but I think the white paper is
41 first, to inform us about what we want to do, and then the
42 letter.

43
44 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** We will do both, because we have to
45 get these comments in after the October meeting. We don't have
46 the luxury of waiting until January, and so we may just have a
47 long letter as the combination white paper/letter.

48

1 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** David.

2
3 **MR. WALKER:** I would just like to add that yesterday we heard
4 some testimony. I think Buddy Guindon was one. He's on the
5 Flower Garden Banks Advisory Council or panel, whatever they
6 call them, and they had discussion of whether the commercial
7 industry would be able to anchor around these areas without
8 getting their anchors into the coral.

9
10 Then we came back, and that's why I kept asking him for the
11 charts yesterday, was because the lines they had drawn on the
12 charts, they would not have enough line and be able to have
13 enough scope to be able to anchor, and that's one of the things
14 that the industry had already communicated with them, and they
15 agreed, but they squared off the lines, and I think that's
16 something we need to discuss.

17
18 I mean if they're going to be able to fish in there, you're
19 going to have more problems trying to hold up with your gear
20 than you are for anchoring. I know for a fact. I have fished
21 the Butterfly Lumps down there, and I have dropped my anchor and
22 sat there for three days without moving, and so I mean there's
23 times when people can anchor and your interaction is going to be
24 a lot easier than just sitting there trying to hold your boat up
25 and trying to fish these, and so the industry is concerned.
26 They would still like to have the opportunity to anchor in there
27 and set their anchor in the mud around the coral.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Dale.

30
31 **MR. DIAZ:** I thought it was interesting. I think Wayne Werner
32 might have brought it up, but he was concerned that, because
33 they're going to have to be holding their boats up, they're
34 going to have to use heavier gear, and actually those drop rigs
35 might actually be more detrimental than some of the other gear
36 or allowing anchoring might be on the area. I don't know if
37 there's any research to validate that or not, but I thought that
38 was a good point. It's certainly something I had never thought
39 of before.

40
41 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Maybe perhaps staff can look into that and see
42 if there is some documentation to that method of fishing and the
43 impact it might have. Does anyone else have any comments? The
44 motion on the board is to direct staff to develop a letter or a
45 white paper addressing fishing regulations relative to the DEIS
46 for the Flower Garden Banks Sanctuary expansion. **Is there any**
47 **opposition to this motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.**

48

1 Anything else from anyone? Does that address your concerns,
2 Roy, about getting to the regulations portion of the discussion?
3 Okay. Very good. Doug.
4
5 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Before we leave the coral report, I
6 would like to say something.
7
8 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Go ahead and say it.
9
10 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Given the activity we've done in
11 working on these coral HAPCs and now what we're doing to look at
12 the Flower Garden expansion, I just want to say that what we
13 plan to do, and I would like council concurrence, is to start a
14 scoping document to look at these priority areas, because we've
15 been working on these coral things without really going in a
16 direction for a particular type of document, and so, if we can
17 come back in October with a scoping document, we would like to
18 go that way, and so I'm saying this because, if there's any
19 opposition to us doing this, I need to hear that.
20
21 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Anyone have any comments to that?
22
23 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Doug, didn't the very first motion say that,
24 after those APs looked at it, that we would start a scoping
25 document? I think it did.
26
27 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** I apologize.
28
29 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Staff will use this report and council input to
30 draft a scoping document for evaluating HAPC or deep-sea coral
31 areas.
32
33 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** I missed that. I'm sorry.
34
35 **MR. WILLIAMS:** She's way ahead of you.
36
37 **MS. BOSARGE:** Yes, I think that was the intent. I mean that's
38 what we put in there, and I think, in the fall of this year,
39 we're going to get another big draft environmental impact
40 statement on another expansion of a sanctuary, the Florida Keys
41 Sanctuary, and so I'm sure that will have a lot of bearing on
42 priorities and where we go. Of course, I'm sure they also will
43 be under the gun again with another comment period and
44 regulation period for that one too, but we'll get there.
45
46 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. That puts us just about at our
47 scheduled lunch break, and so we will go ahead and take our
48 lunch break and reconvene at the scheduled time of 1:00 P.M.,

1 and we will begin the Reef Fish Committee at 1:00 P.M.

2
3 (Whereupon, the meeting recessed for lunch on June 23, 2016.)

4
5 - - -

6
7 June 23, 2016

8
9 THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

10
11 - - -

12
13 The Full Council of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management
14 Council reconvened at the Doubletree by Hilton Clearwater Beach
15 Resort, Clearwater Beach, Florida, Thursday afternoon, June 23,
16 2016, and was called by Chairman Kevin Anson.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We're going to reconvene and carry on with the
19 rest of the agenda for today. I was asked by a couple of folks
20 as to my predictions as to when we will finish, and it's my goal
21 to finish today. We might go a little extra, if needed, but my
22 goal is that we try to finish it all up today, so just to let
23 everyone know.

24
25 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** As far as travel goes, we've told
26 ADTRAV, if you got the ticket through ADTRAV, to go ahead and
27 process any changes in your plane ticket preapproved. As far as
28 lodging goes, there is a one-night penalty, which is
29 understandable, for the hotel, but that's okay. We have
30 factored all that in, if you leave today instead of Friday, but
31 you're welcome to stay until Friday also.

32
33 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** That will take us to our next committee report,
34 which is Reef Fish and Mr. Greene.

35
36 **REEF FISH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

37
38 **MR. GREENE:** Thank you, Chairman Anson. The Reef Fish Committee
39 met on June 20 and 21, 2016. Draft Amendment 36A, Red Snapper
40 IFQ Modifications, staff reviewed the document's actions and
41 alternatives. The committee discussed requiring all commercial
42 reef-fish-permitted vessels to hail-in before landing.

43
44 It was suggested that the Law Enforcement Committee review the
45 action again, with the accompanying data on the additional
46 vessels and trips that would be required to hail-in. It was
47 also noted that if vessels are not required to land at approved
48 landing sites accessible to law enforcement, compliance may not

1 be improved through this action. With that, I'm going to turn
2 to Ava for a correction.

3
4 **DR. AVA LASSETER:** Thank you very much. I, unfortunately,
5 misspoke about something on Action 1, and I just wanted to
6 clarify it. There was a difference in Alternative 2 and
7 Alternative 3, and Dr. Crabtree pointed this out. He noted that
8 the phrase "from Gulf waters" was included in Alternative 2, and
9 he asked why it was not included in Alternative 3, and I
10 mistakenly said that it was a typo, there was an oversight, but,
11 in fact, it should not be included. This Alternative 3 would
12 address anybody, any commercially-permitted reef fish vessel,
13 making landings of any commercially-caught species, whether or
14 not those species were caught in Gulf waters.

15
16 If they're landing at a Gulf port, that's who Alternative 3 is
17 addressing, and that is specifically addressing South Florida
18 vessels that may have been fishing in South Atlantic waters, but
19 are returning to Gulf ports, and so I just wanted to make that
20 clarification. Thank you.

21
22 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Crabtree.

23
24 **DR. CRABTREE:** But it would only apply if they were landing them
25 at a Gulf port, right?

26
27 **DR. LASSETER:** Correct.

28
29 **DR. CRABTREE:** Okay. I'm fine.

30
31 **MR. GREENE:** The committee discussed the methods for
32 redistributing shares held in inactive accounts. There was
33 support for distributing the shares to assist with bycatch
34 reduction. The committee then passed the following motions.

35
36 **By a voice vote with no opposition, the committee recommends,**
37 **and I so move, in Action 2.2, add an alternative to redistribute**
38 **red snapper shares among grouper-tilefish shareholders in**
39 **proportion to their grouper-tilefish landings and redistribute**
40 **grouper and tilefish shares among the red snapper shareholders.**

41
42 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Any discussion?
43 Dr. Lasseter.

44
45 **DR. LASSETER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, I think this was
46 a small -- I didn't quite catch this when the motion was made,
47 but I believe that the word "landings" there should be replaced
48 with "shares" and it should be "grouper-tilefish shares".

1
2 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Okay. We have made that change in the motion.
3 Is there any discussion on the motion? **Is there any opposition**
4 **to the motion?** Mr. Riechers.

5
6 **MR. RIECHERS:** We are redistributing red snapper shares among
7 grouper-tilefish shareholders in proportion to their grouper-
8 tilefish shares. I am just making sure that's the change we
9 just made. Then redistribute grouper-tilefish shares among the
10 red snapper shareholders.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Crabtree.

13
14 **DR. CRABTREE:** Yes, and I mostly just want to see this analyzed
15 and be able to take a look at what this would do. I suspect it
16 would have to be tweaked and some changes to it, but the idea
17 was to try and get -- We know we've got these grouper guys that
18 are going out, particularly in the longline fishery, and they're
19 catching red snapper.

20
21 Some of them don't have enough red snapper shares to cover that.
22 We have seen the discards are pretty high in some of the
23 observer things, and so the idea is to redistribute some of this
24 to try and achieve reductions in discards, and, in effect, allow
25 them to bring fish in that they're killing anyway. Now, whether
26 this can do that at all or this is at all workable or not, I'm
27 not sure of it.

28
29 The other thing that's in the amendment that I think is worth
30 considering carefully is the idea of a quota bank that I think
31 the industry has a lot of support for, and we may be able to do
32 some of those kinds of things, but it's not clear to me yet how
33 that would work and what we could or couldn't do, and so that's
34 my intent, is to look at this.

35
36 Maybe it needs to not be shares and it needs to be something
37 else, because, if you had a shareholder who was leasing all
38 their shares out, it's the people leasing the shares that are
39 actually going to have the discards, and so it wouldn't be
40 effective if that's the way -- I don't know if that's a problem
41 really or not, and so this is -- At least at this point, to me,
42 this is just something I wanted to see analyzed and looked at.

43
44 **MR. RIECHERS:** Do you want to make a change in the motion so
45 that they bring that to us next time, as opposed to adding it in
46 already? Because I'm a little worried about we're fixing to
47 give shares to the people who may not be the issue here.

1 **DR. CRABTREE:** I'm okay with the way it is, and then, if we see
2 it at the next meeting with some analysis and we don't think
3 it's workable, we can just move it to considered but rejected.
4 Either way, I think it gets you to the same place.
5

6 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Would it save time to have them do the analysis
7 at one time of the shares and landings, so that you can look at
8 either case and make sure that there isn't any problems? I know
9 it would be some additional work, but it might be quicker to go
10 ahead and include it at this time. I have a question over here
11 from Myron.
12

13 **MR. FISCHER:** Ava also had her hand up, but all mine was is I
14 don't know what the intent is, and this does change the intent,
15 but did you want to add, at the very end of the sentence, "in
16 proportion to their shares", after "red snapper"? If not, then
17 you're distributing them to all of the red snapper shareholders
18 possibly equally and not in percentage to what their allocation
19 is.
20

21 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Does anybody have any discussion? Dr.
22 Lassetter.
23

24 **DR. LASSETER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to point
25 out that the next motion that the committee had made is then to
26 the ones making the landings only, and, how I understood the
27 discussion in committee, it was that that was the purpose of
28 making these two motions, adding these two alternatives, and so
29 you're adding one alternative that would distribute amongst
30 shareholders, existing shareholders, and then there's another
31 alternative you're adding that would be distributing these
32 inactivated shares to just those with the landings, those people
33 with the landings, and so that is the next motion coming up.
34

35 I would also concur with Myron. Staff understood that it was
36 kind of assumed that it's distributing to the red snapper
37 shareholders in proportion, but it would be more accurate to --
38 It would be more complete to append the phrase that Myron
39 pointed out.
40

41 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Myron, do you want to -- I can add it. After
42 "red snapper", at the end of the motion -- Mara.
43

44 **MS. LEVY:** Just because we're changing a lot of the language,
45 can we just make a substitute motion? Keep the committee motion
46 and make a substitute motion, to make it more accurate, so that
47 we have an understanding of where we were and where we went.
48 Thanks.

1
2 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Great idea.
3
4 **MR. FISCHER:** I think it's "red snapper shareholders in
5 proportion to their snapper shares".
6
7 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** That's it, Myron?
8
9 **MR. FISCHER:** Yes.
10
11 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** As Mara suggested, to keep the original
12 committee motion, we need to go back up and change "shares" to
13 "landings", after "grouper-tilefish". We have a substitute
14 motion on the board.
15
16 **DR. CRABTREE:** Did someone actually make that motion and second
17 it?
18
19 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have it on the board.
20
21 **MR. FISCHER:** I didn't have a second yet, Roy. You can second
22 it.
23
24 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** There is a substitute motion on the board.
25 Myron made it, and then it needs a second. Is there a second?
26 Seconded by Dr. Crabtree. Any other discussion on the
27 substitute motion? **Is there any opposition to this substitute**
28 **motion? Seeing none, the substitute motion carries.**
29
30 **MR. GREENE:** By a voice vote with no opposition, the committee
31 recommends, and I so move, in Action 2.2 to add an alternative
32 to redistribute unused red snapper and grouper-tilefish shares
33 to the allocation-only account holders.
34
35 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Is there any
36 discussion on this motion?
37
38 **MS. LEVY:** The way I read that is redistribute unused red
39 snapper and grouper shares to the allocation-only account
40 holders, and so red snapper to red snapper allocation-only
41 account holders or grouper to grouper or are we trying to cross,
42 like in the prior one?
43
44 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I think that's one-to-one, red-snapper-to-red-
45 snapper and grouper-tilefish-to-grouper-tilefish. That's my
46 understanding. Roy.
47
48 **MR. WILLIAMS:** This was in the context of accounts that had

1 never been opened, that 29,000 pounds of red snapper or
2 something like that?

3
4 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** That's what I remember it being.

5
6 **MR. WILLIAMS:** So it seems, to me, we would be trying to
7 distribute that 29,000 in the grouper-tilefish fishery who were
8 allocation-only account holders rather than shareholders, and so
9 I think we're trying to give them to the other side, to the
10 opposite, to their complement.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Myron.

13
14 **MR. FISCHER:** I agree with Roy. When he makes that motion, I
15 think we would second that.

16
17 **MR. WILLIAMS:** It would be a substitute motion then to -- It
18 would be the same language, to add an alternative to
19 redistribute unused red snapper to grouper-tilefish allocation-
20 only shareholders. Does that sound right? It would be
21 allocation-only account holders. Add an alternative to
22 redistribute red snapper to grouper-tilefish allocation-only
23 account holders and -- Can I put "and vice versa"? Should I let
24 Mara do it?

25
26 **MS. LEVY:** You might want to say to add an alternative to
27 redistributed unused red snapper shares to grouper-tilefish
28 allocation-only account holders. That seems okay. Then you
29 just need to do the opposite, unused grouper-tilefish shares to
30 red snapper allocation-only account holders.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Is that your motion, Roy?

33
34 **MR. WILLIAMS:** That's my motion, yes.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** That's your motion. Is there a second to the
37 motion? Myron seconds. Any discussion on this motion? **Is**
38 **there any opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the motion**
39 **carries.**

40
41 **MR. GREENE:** By a voice vote with no opposition, the committee
42 recommends, and I so move, in Action 2.2, move Alternative 4 to
43 Considered but Rejected. Alternative 4 is redistribute the
44 shares equally among small participants, Action 2.3.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Any discussion on
47 the motion? Mr. Boyd.

48

1 **MR. BOYD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I assume "shares" there
2 means the undistributed shares, but it doesn't say that, and
3 then, secondly, in this motion and the next one, Alternative 4
4 and Alternative 5, we're doing away with the ability to give
5 these shares, these unused shares, to small shareholders, and
6 we're making an arbitrary decision here to give those shares to
7 larger shareholders, and I'm having a hard time with that,
8 because, as I thought about it last night, it seems like it's
9 very arbitrary and it's not fair that we would be favoring one
10 group over another group of like people. I'm not opposed to
11 redistributing the shares. I think that's appropriate, but I am
12 just concerned, by doing this, we take the alternatives away
13 that would give it to the smaller shareholders and help them.
14 Thank you.

15
16 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Crabtree.

17
18 **DR. CRABTREE:** I understand what Doug is saying, and I wouldn't
19 object to leaving this in, but then we're going to have to
20 define what "small" means, which we haven't gotten to yet, and
21 we're not necessarily, Doug, remember, saying we're not going to
22 give it to the small shareholders, because the allocation-only
23 folks are folks who have no shares, and so they are, in fact, no
24 shareholders, and so we still have a range, but if folks are
25 still willing to try and figure out what "small" means, which is
26 what we're going to have to do, and we think that's the way to
27 go, then we could vote this down and leave it in, but we are
28 going to have to give some guidance as to what is small.

29
30 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Martha.

31
32 **MS. GUYAS:** I've thought about this too, and I think I would be
33 in favor of keeping it in. I mean the previous two motions that
34 we just passed kind of work crosswise, where if you have a lot
35 of grouper shares and don't have much in red snapper, then you
36 have an opportunity to pick some up and reduce some discards,
37 but I think this would address maybe the smaller red snapper or
38 grouper shareholders that maybe don't have enough to offset
39 their discards. Maybe they're not in the other fishery, and so
40 I think I would be willing to continue working on this and
41 defining small participants, to move forward with it.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Roy.

44
45 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Rather than small participants, could we call
46 them allocation-only account holders, that is those people with
47 no shares that have to rent every year?

48

1 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Lasseter.

2
3 **DR. LASSETER:** Jessica is coming over to help, just in case I
4 don't explain this correctly, but just because the account --
5 Those allocation-only accounts do not have shares, but they
6 could be held by the same person that has another account that
7 is a shareholder account. Each account is not represented by a
8 distinct individual.

9
10 Using this allocation-only account is -- It would encompass
11 those people who are doing only leasing of shares, but it would
12 also include people that have created additional separate
13 accounts, say for their vessel or just a different account, and
14 that they do not have shares in, but they just transfer
15 allocation into that account, et cetera, and so it's not
16 overlapping neatly, no.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Crabtree.

19
20 **DR. CRABTREE:** Would it make sense to define "small
21 participants" as those whose shareholders are in the bottom 25
22 percentile of shareholders or something like that, Ava, or,
23 Jessica, if you're back there? Meaning that they're
24 shareholders that 75 percent of them have more than they have.

25
26 **DR. JESSICA STEPHEN:** I think we still might need to think about
27 the related account aspects of that. A lot of people do
28 incorporate every vessel they have, and that has its own
29 account, and that account might be in the small 25th percentile,
30 but they might actually be related to other accounts that are
31 much further past that. The idea of a small participant is a
32 very complicated idea. It might be helpful to bring up the list
33 that we had in the document.

34
35 **DR. CRABTREE:** That's kind of where the problem comes in. The
36 notion of giving it to the small participants sounds good, and I
37 am philosophically okay with it, but, at the end of the day, it
38 sounds like a very difficult thing to get to, and I can tell you
39 where I sort of am on this.

40
41 If we can think of some way to figure this out so that it makes
42 sense, I would be okay with it, but if it all gets completely
43 complicated, I am likely, at the end of the day, to say just
44 divvy it up equally among all the shareholders and move on.

45
46 I think we're going to need staff to really -- I could give some
47 general guidance that, to me, small means like the bottom 25
48 percent of shareholders, but I can't figure out how to get to

1 that, because I don't have enough understanding of all the
2 intricacies of this, so that if you guys, Jessica and Ava, can
3 figure out a way of how we could get it to something like that,
4 I would like to see it.

5
6 I think staff is going to need to be kind of creative with what
7 we're doing here, to try and do what we say do, but then, if you
8 need to do something different to get us to what we meant to
9 say, but didn't quite say, I think you need to bring some things
10 like that to us and kind of guide us.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Every time we get into deep conversations about
13 this, I seem to lose grasp as to the allocation versus
14 shareholder definitions, and so, at one point, I thought, when
15 Jessica was just answering the question related to allocation
16 accounts, I can understand how a vessel might be part of under a
17 shareholder account umbrella, and so there might be multiple
18 vessels or other entities or whatever, and they might fall under
19 this 25 percent, and it may not necessarily qualify as small,
20 because it's related to the shareholder, and so what about just
21 the shareholders then as being under some sort of 25 percent,
22 because those remain the same.

23
24 Don't the shareholder accounts remain with the individual that
25 was given the original shares and then, whether or not they've
26 got multiple allocation accounts established under that share,
27 so be it, but at least it would be one entity, one individual or
28 company, that would be identified as a shareholder, and I think
29 that would be the cleanest. Am I just not seeing it correctly?
30 Jessica.

31
32 **DR. STEPHEN:** I think it's a little bit more confusing than
33 that, because sometimes we have that same business involved in
34 multiple accounts, and identifying it just in one that looks
35 like it's -- Say it is one that has shares, and it happens to be
36 less, but they're also related to a multitude of other accounts.

37
38 Then you're giving someone who is not truly probably a small
39 participant information in there -- This is kind of where we
40 struggled at. You have shareholder accounts, which the same
41 type of account is the same for what we call our allocation-only
42 holder accounts. It's the same physical structure in the
43 database.

44
45 Those, every account holder is a unique entity of some sort, and
46 so say it's John Smith and Jane Smith together. That's one
47 unique entity and they have an account, whereas John Smith might
48 have an account on his own and another, and they might be John

1 and someone else or John and a business and a third account.

2
3 When we look at entity levels, and that's the lowest known
4 denominator we can get to, we have to track across all those
5 accounts, and that's how we track relatedness through there, and
6 people have gotten pretty good about wanting to separate their
7 shares from their vessel for kind of legal standpoints. If
8 something happens on the vessels, they don't want to be maybe
9 sued and have their shares taken away.

10
11 I think, no matter how we define this, we need to think about
12 some way of relatedness and include it in there, so we don't
13 miss giving it to someone who is truly a small participant.

14
15 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I assume, based on that comment, that you're
16 able, with enough investigation, or you have that -- I mean you
17 can tie all those accounts together, is what you're saying
18 you're able to do? You might need a little bit more time, but
19 you can do that?

20
21 **DR. STEPHEN:** Yes, we can tie all the accounts together. We do
22 through how to monitor share caps, because share caps are
23 monitored not at the account level only, but also at the level
24 of individual, and so an individual, if they're involved in
25 multiple accounts, can't exceed a share cap, and so we have that
26 structure. It would just be, when you look at the entity and
27 then you go to distribute to someone, that entity might be small
28 in multiple accounts, and what shareholder account do you give
29 it to?

30
31 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Crabtree.

32
33 **DR. CRABTREE:** That's what, I think, led me and led us to
34 passing this motion. It's not that many pounds of fish,
35 remember, and it just seemed to get too complicated, and so we
36 went down the path of the allocation-only accounts, but I
37 suspect that's going to run into the same problem, because there
38 are multiple accounts that might belong to one person. Maybe
39 the grouper idea gets us around that, but -- I think there's a
40 lot of appeal to a quota bank, but I think that's equally
41 complicated, and I come back to the only simple way I see to do
42 this, is just divide it up evenly among all the shareholders and
43 go with it.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Mr. Matens.

46
47 **MR. MATENS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many shareholders are
48 there? 500 or 600? Just a round number, because we're only

1 talking about 4,000 fish. If there's 500 shareholders,
2 everybody gets eight fish a year. I mean we're spending a lot
3 of time on this, and I would like to see this conversation move
4 into something where we could do some more good with the 29,000
5 pounds of fish.

6

7 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Mr. Riechers.

8

9 **MR. RIECHERS:** I would just say I hear what we're struggling
10 with, but we also just added two other alternatives to this
11 motion, which is also going to deal with trying to not
12 necessarily determine "small", but you're going to have to have
13 them by their accounts, and so my viewpoint is, at this point,
14 let's leave them in.

15

16 If we get some better analysis or some grouping at the share
17 level next time, which we've talked about that there is a way to
18 do that, to some extent, maybe leave them in and see where we're
19 at at the next time and then make that decision.

20

21 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Mr. Walker.

22

23 **MR. WALKER:** I have spoke with industry, and we like the quota
24 bank idea. I'm sure there's going to be less fish by the time
25 this comes around. People are sending out cards, and I
26 understand that three or four people have already been contacted
27 this week, or the last few weeks, but a quota bank, industry has
28 already contributed -- I think someone told us it was 75,000
29 pounds from industry, and they distribute these shares out to
30 people who aren't just targeting fish, but actually using them
31 for bycatch, and they kind of had a criteria to meet with that.
32 I think a quota bank is something to consider. That's what
33 industry feels is the best thing to do with it to address some
34 of the bycatch.

35

36 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Doug.

37

38 **MR. BOYD:** I got us into this discussion, and I'm not sure
39 exactly how to get us out with a motion, but I'm asking Mara, I
40 guess. Mara, we're not on to the last motion about Alternative
41 5, but could I incorporate a motion that has both of those in it
42 or do I have to do a motion on this and then we bring up the
43 next one?

44

45 **MS. LEVY:** I think, because we have two separate motions, that
46 we should probably deal with each one separately.

47

48 **MR. BOYD:** Okay, and then I would say let's vote this up or down

1 and the next one, and then I could make a motion. Thank you.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Anyone else want to speak to the motion? If
4 you are in favor of this motion, you're going to remove it as an
5 alternative. If you're not in favor of removing it and you want
6 to keep it in the document, then you're going to vote against
7 this motion. Any other discussion on this motion? **All those in**
8 **favor of removing Alternative 4 from the document, please raise**
9 **your hand; all those opposed.**

10
11 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** It's ten to six. The motion
12 passes.

13
14 **MR. GREENE:** By a voice vote with one in opposition, the
15 committee recommends and I so move, in Action 2.2, move
16 Alternative 5 to considered but rejected. Alternative 5 is do
17 not redistribute shares, but distribute the annual allocation
18 associated with the shares to small participants, Action 2.3,
19 through a NMFS quota bank each year.

20
21 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Mr. Williams.

22
23 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Is there any way to keep a NMFS quota bank idea
24 alive but get rid of the small participant thing here? I mean I
25 don't know if there's a history of a NMFS quota bank somewhere,
26 but, if there is, I would like to keep it alive.

27
28 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Crabtree.

29
30 **DR. CRABTREE:** Well, Ava and Jessica, tell me if I'm wrong, but
31 we could have a motion here that -- We could get rid of this
32 one, but then we could add an alternative that distributes the
33 annual allocation associated with the shares through a NMFS
34 quota bank each year.

35
36 Now, exactly how that works is not clear to me, or we could vote
37 this motion down and just leave this in, but ask staff to much
38 more fully develop the whole idea of a quota bank. I can go
39 either way on it. I do want to keep something with a quota bank
40 alive in here, because I know the industry supports it, and I
41 had lunch with some of them and we talked a lot about the idea
42 of a quota bank, and I think it can accomplish some of the
43 things that we're talking about, but it's complicated and it's
44 not clear to me yet what a quota bank can do or can't do and
45 exactly how it would work.

46
47 I guess I'm asking a question to Jessica. Jessica, should we
48 leave the "small participants" phrase in there and just vote

1 this motion down if we want to look at a quota bank, or would we
2 be better off to take this out, but add the same thing again
3 without the "small participants" wording in it?
4

5 **DR. STEPHEN:** I think it would probably be a good idea to leave
6 the quota bank in, and maybe give yourselves room for how you
7 want to define things later, whether you want to use that quota
8 bank for just small participants or maybe you also want to use
9 it for discards or some additional flexibility that quota bank
10 could be used for as we develop the idea.
11

12 **DR. CRABTREE:** If I took the word "small" out of this, that
13 would be a good thing?
14

15 **DR. STEPHEN:** I would think so, yes.
16

17 **DR. CRABTREE:** I would offer a substitute motion. That would be
18 to modify the wording in Alternative 5 to say "distribute the
19 annual allocation associated with the shares to participants
20 through a NMFS quota bank each year."
21

22 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Lasseter, hold on. Let's get a second to
23 the motion. We have a second. It's seconded by Mr. Williams.
24 Go ahead, Dr. Lasseter.
25

26 **DR. LASSETER:** I also wanted to address Amendment 36B, which you
27 should probably get a presentation about at the end of the year.
28 There is an item in that that does have alternatives pertaining
29 to a quota bank, and so I just wanted to connect those. If you
30 set one up here, while this is a small amount of quota, there
31 could be a use for this for other actions in 36B. Thank you.
32

33 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Do we have any other discussion?
34 Mr. Boyd.
35

36 **MR. BOYD:** Just for clarification in the motion, it says "the
37 shares", and I'm assuming, again, we're talking about the
38 undistributed shares. Is that correct?
39

40 **DR. CRABTREE:** Yes, that's what the whole action is focused on.
41

42 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** David.
43

44 **MR. WALKER:** While you mention that, the very first motion, I
45 don't think that read "unused shares" either, but it's the same
46 action.
47

48 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Robin.

1
2 **MR. RIECHERS:** Roy, is 5a and 5b then gone, because both of
3 those list small participants as well. I'm trying to understand
4 your motion. If 5a and 5b are gone, I don't understand how
5 Alternative 5 is any different than Alternative 2.
6

7 **DR. CRABTREE:** If I could continue with my motion, because I
8 wasn't done yet. Option 5a is distribute the allocation equally
9 among participants, and Option 5b is distribute the red snapper
10 allocation equally among participants who are fishing and
11 landing red snapper in the eastern Gulf.
12

13 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Staff is trying to get Dr. Crabtree's motion on
14 the board. Roy, I don't think that 5b is complete. Could you
15 check that, please?
16

17 **DR. CRABTREE:** 5b would be distribute the red snapper allocation
18 equally among participants who are fishing and landing red
19 snapper in the eastern Gulf.
20

21 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a substitute motion on the board. In
22 Action 2.2, to modify the wording in Alternative 5 to distribute
23 the annual allocation associated with the shares through a NMFS
24 quota bank each year. Option 5a is distribute the allocation
25 equally among participants. Option 5b is distribute the red
26 snapper allocation equally among participants who are fishing
27 and landing red snapper in the eastern Gulf. Is there a second
28 to the substitute motion? Go ahead, David.
29

30 **MR. WALKER:** I just had a question. Roy, were you trying to
31 address the longline fishery? The vertical guys are able to
32 move around in the central and the eastern Gulf.
33

34 **DR. CRABTREE:** My biggest concern as to where we probably have
35 mortality is probably the longline fishery, but I haven't seen
36 an analysis of any of it yet to fully get out of it, and,
37 honestly, what I did hear was just to keep the quota bank option
38 in the document and take the word "small" out, and 5b is
39 obviously focusing on the grouper fishery, but I don't think
40 it's just focusing in on the longline guys.
41

42 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Does anyone else have any questions or comments
43 to the substitute motion? **Is there any opposition to the**
44 **substitute motion? Seeing none, the substitute motion carries.**
45 Dr. Crabtree.
46

47 **DR. CRABTREE:** I would ask that, at the next meeting, if we
48 could kind of have a little bit of a presentation on the idea of

1 a quota bank and the ins and outs and how that would work and
2 how that might be different than just distributing the shares
3 out, because I know I, for one, don't fully understand exactly
4 how that would work.

5
6 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Doug is taking notes. I think he will try and
7 find somebody to do that. Leann.

8
9 **MS. BOSARGE:** That was the comment I had been waiting to make.
10 I actually wanted to see, possibly, a presentation on how
11 industry is accomplishing it. Not to say that that's the route
12 we'll go, but, if they've worked some kinks out, and the
13 industry is typically pretty efficient at things like that, if
14 we could not recreate the wheel, if we could at least look at
15 that as a possible template. Obviously we're somewhat of a
16 government entity here, and so there could be some differences,
17 but let's get a starting point. That might give us a good idea
18 of what we're up against and if we could accomplish it through
19 this body.

20
21 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Anyone else on this topic? Mr. Greene, if you
22 can continue, please.

23
24 **MR. GREENE:** Thank you. Options Paper for Amendment 46, Modify
25 Gray Triggerfish Rebuilding Plan, council staff provided an
26 overview presentation on the draft options in Amendment 46,
27 stating the document was still in the early stages of
28 development. A recreational decision tool with dropdown menus
29 of minimum size limits, bag limits, and fixed closed seasons was
30 developed and reviewed by Dr. Mike Larkin.

31
32 The SSC reviewed the decision tool and provided recommendations
33 on areas of improvement. Staff intends to move forward with
34 using this recreational decision tool in development of Reef
35 Fish Amendment 46 concurrently with addressing the SSC
36 recommendations for improvements. The commercial decision tool
37 is anticipated to be completed by the July SSC meeting and used
38 by the council in August.

39
40 Staff requested the committee focus on the ACLs and ACTs they
41 anticipated moving forward with in an effort to streamline the
42 document. Ms. Levy stated it was difficult to justify moving
43 forward with a rebuilding plan for a stock by selecting higher
44 ACLs and ACTs than are currently in place.

45
46 The committee discussed their concerns with the stock assessment
47 and the need for another assessment, based on the number of gray
48 triggerfish fishermen are catching. The committee made the

1 following motion.

2
3 **Without opposition, the committee recommends, and I so move,**
4 **that in Action 2, to move Alternative 3, Options b and c to the**
5 **considered but rejected section.**
6

7 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Mr. Greene.

8
9 **MR. GREENE:** In light of the discussion we had at the committee
10 yesterday, it appears that we will have a stock assessment
11 sometime here in the new few years, before we get to years
12 eight, nine, and ten, and this motion effectively eliminates us
13 from some of those later years in that.

14
15 I don't like taking this option out, knowing that we're going to
16 have a stock assessment coming in, because it may change how we
17 proceed to move the fish -- To manage the fishery moving forward
18 from right now. I know that when the motion was made yesterday
19 that we hadn't gotten into the discussion of some of that stuff
20 with the triggerfish, but I speak in opposition to this motion.

21
22 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Crabtree.

23
24 **DR. CRABTREE:** We passed a motion in committee to have a trigger
25 assessment in 2017, and our goal was to have the data through
26 2016, which means we would get that assessment, at best, at the
27 end of 2017, and probably in early 2018. I would expect that
28 this amendment will be voted up and gone before we get the stock
29 assessment.

30
31 Then if we get the stock assessment at that point and it's good
32 news, we'll have to do another, but I don't see circumstances,
33 and I don't, given our legal requirements to respond to the
34 notification, and I don't remember what exactly the dates on
35 that were, but we could look into it, but I think we have to act
36 on this amendment before we would have the SSC recommendations
37 that come from a triggerfish assessment, and I think we weren't
38 clear on if we wanted an update or a benchmark or what, which
39 would push it even farther off, and so I still support the
40 motion, because I think we're not -- I don't see a circumstance
41 where we get a new assessment before we're done with this.

42
43 Now, if we come back in August and somehow we've got an updated
44 index or something that we think changes the picture
45 significantly, I would support bringing this back into it, but I
46 just -- Johnny, I just think, with the new assessment, we're
47 going to have to start a whole new amendment at that point or a
48 framework or something.

1
2 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Any other discussion on the motion on the
3 board? Carrie.

4
5 **DR. SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to point
6 out that we currently still have an Alternative 4 that does have
7 the eight, nine, and ten years, and it has the mean ABCs held
8 constant, and so we do have some values in there still that go
9 with those increasing yield streams, but it's holding them
10 constant and taking the mean, and so that is in Alternative 4
11 under Options a, b, and c right now. That's still in the
12 document. That's in Tab B, Number 6(a).

13
14 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Okay. Thank you. I guess, again, Dr.
15 Crabtree, as I recall from our conversation during Reef Fish,
16 the agency wouldn't be supportive of leaving in, under
17 Alternative 3, the years to include an eight-year rebuilding
18 period? Is that correct? It was a point of where the landings
19 increased or the ACL increased above the point where we are now,
20 and you said that there were some comments or you thought that
21 the agency would have a hard time taking that forward, where the
22 landings that were -- The yield streams would produce us an
23 ability to have an ACL that exceeded the current landings. Is
24 that correct? We couldn't even have that in there as an
25 alternative?

26
27 **DR. CRABTREE:** Well, I mean you can have the different
28 rebuilding timelines. The problem that I see is increasing the
29 catch levels beyond what they currently are, because we have a
30 new assessment, and we have a determination that the stock is
31 not making adequate progress towards rebuilding.

32
33 The statute requires that we then modify the rebuilding plan to
34 correct that situation, meaning to get us back on track towards
35 rebuilding, and I have a difficult time figuring out how to make
36 the argument that we can correct the problem with a stock that's
37 not making adequate progress rebuilding by increasing the
38 numbers of fish we're removing from the population.

39
40 That seems, to me, to -- By increasing the catch levels, you're
41 actually going to rebuild more slowly and not more quickly, and
42 it just seems -- It seems clear that, if you're not making
43 adequate progress, you need to do something to increase the rate
44 of rebuilding and not to slow it down further, and that's where
45 I have a hard time seeing how we get this done.

46
47 Now, if you're completely uncomfortable with taking this out --
48 We have so many things in here, and I think staff expressed some

1 concern about the ability to analyze all of the different
2 combinations and permutations. If you want to hold off on that
3 until the next meeting and maybe we can have something to look
4 at in terms of larval surveys or something else, then okay, but
5 I think that's unlikely that we're going to be able to come to
6 something on that point, but I guess we could hold off one more
7 meeting on this, but we do need to get this done at some point,
8 and it is an awful lot of alternatives in there that we're
9 asking folks to take a look at.

10
11 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Okay. We have a committee motion on the board.
12 In Action 2, move Alternative 3, Options b and c, to considered
13 but rejected. Any further discussion? **Is there any opposition**
14 **to the motion on the board? We have three opposed. The motion**
15 **passes.** Mara.

16
17 **MS. LEVY:** I just wanted to remind you of the timeframe. I
18 believe that the council was notified in November of 2015 of the
19 inadequate progress finding, and so, under the Act, you have two
20 years to implement the modified or new rebuilding plan to
21 address that, and so we're looking at implementation by November
22 of 2017, which means final action sometime early to mid next
23 year, spring next year.

24
25 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you for that reminder. All right, Mr.
26 Greene.

27
28 **MR. GREENE:** Mutton Snapper ACLs and Management Measures, Tab B,
29 Number 7 and 8, council staff gave a presentation describing
30 options to revise mutton snapper management measures and the gag
31 commercial minimum size limit.

32
33 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Johnny, I'm sorry. Before we get out of gray
34 triggerfish, this goes back to the point that Dr. Crabtree had
35 about -- There seems to be ambiguous direction from the council
36 regarding whether a benchmark or an update assessment would be
37 required for gray triggerfish. Dr. Ponwith, is that your
38 understanding, too?

39
40 **DR. PONWITH:** My understanding is that the committee was clear
41 that they were proposing a benchmark. When I went back to staff
42 to discuss that with them, they could see no strong
43 justification for a benchmark. Someone suggested it had
44 something to do with an east/west division. Right now, east and
45 west sort of spatial considerations are already folded into the
46 way the assessment is done, and so that didn't bring any more
47 clarity on the justification for a benchmark.

1 I had an informal discussion with Dr. Barbieri. It was a
2 discussion in passing. I don't want to speak for him, but he
3 suggestion was he was unaware of a strong need for a benchmark
4 either.

5
6 Again, I continue to do fact-finding behind the scenes on the
7 proposed schedule change. Another consideration is that we've
8 already had a discussion about how difficult it is to read
9 spines and that one of the things that would have to happen is
10 those spines would have to be read, but then we would also have
11 to have calibration, to make sure that all the readers that were
12 assisting those were reading them and interpreting them the same
13 way.

14
15 The South Atlantic has had some pretty interesting experience
16 along those lines, and we certainly concur with the notion that
17 spines are difficult to read. To the point where we actually
18 got some extra funds and are in year two of a three-year age-
19 validation study, where we're actually raising the animals and
20 tetracycline marking them to be able to understand definitively
21 the age structure of those spines.

22
23 That work is not done yet. I've asked them the question of when
24 will they have final results in the peer-reviewed literature,
25 when will they have final results that are done but not
26 published, and when might they have some preliminary results
27 that would be informative.

28
29 My view right now is, based on the challenges they had in the
30 South Atlantic reading those spines and landing on conclusions,
31 that it would be in the best interest to be able to benefit from
32 that lab study that's underway now.

33
34 The timing of that information, I don't have in my hands yet.
35 What we're trying to do is get the technical people on a call.
36 When we have this information all together, we can consolidate
37 it and really look at what's available and what's rational for
38 the timing, but I wonder if it would be beneficial to ask Dr.
39 Barbieri if he had any comments on benchmark versus update. I
40 hate to put him on the spot, but the timing is so critical.

41
42 **DR. BARBIERI:** Dr. Ponwith, yes, the discussion that we had last
43 week as well regarding the SEDAR 41, the results of SEDAR 41,
44 gray triggerfish in the South Atlantic, and that that assessment
45 did not represent the best information available and was not
46 suitable for management, and so we are looking forward to a new
47 assessment.

48

1 Discussions with the South Atlantic SSC actually indicated that
2 the best time for that assessment to be completed would be not
3 before 2019, given the timelines for completion of the age-
4 validation study, as you mentioned, and so just one point of
5 consideration here is that I agree with you that proceeding with
6 an assessment, whatever type the assessment might be, before
7 having that age-validation study completed may not be the best
8 course of action, because there is major uncertainty about aging
9 of gray triggerfish, and this validation study, I think, is
10 critical for us to be able to proceed, number one.

11
12 Number two, this last assessment was relatively data poor, and
13 it had a lot of issues and limitations that we felt could be
14 improved by the addition of new information, new data series,
15 and the SSC most likely, and I don't remember the exact words
16 then, but most likely mentioned that a benchmark assessment
17 might be necessary to review the whole process.

18
19 Now, we're going to have to balance this against the timelines
20 or timing of estimates, the resources and all of this, and we
21 might be able to accomplish just as much by having a standard
22 assessment and addressing the needs that need to be addressed,
23 and so I can revisit this with the committee at our next
24 meeting, informally during our SEDAR discussions that we have at
25 every meeting, and make sure that that's acceptable to them,
26 but, off the top of my head, I don't have any major concerns
27 with us proceeding with a standard assessment.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I think that would probably be appropriate,
30 Luiz, is to go ahead and kind of get a feel from the SSC members
31 at the next meeting. We're going to be talking about it at the
32 August meeting a little bit more, the timing and this issue of
33 assessment, but I think I was trying to follow up to get better
34 direction, I guess, so people can have in their mind as to
35 exactly what the intent of the council is, but certainly some
36 feedback from the SSC.

37
38 We may not have a decision for that today, and that's all I
39 brought it up for, was to see if we needed some decision at this
40 point, while we're doing some fact-finding and such and trying
41 to answer some of these preliminary questions to address the
42 availability of doing it, and so, if you could go ahead and do
43 that.

44
45 Before you leave though, relative to gray triggerfish, you
46 mentioned it's a data-poor species, and so I guess, just
47 briefly, if you can explain if it's data poor because there just
48 aren't as many indices, like in other species, primarily red

1 snapper, or is it because of the spines, the aging of the spine
2 issue, or is it all of the above? Can you briefly address that?

3
4 **DR. BARBIERI:** I will do my best, Mr. Chairman, to pull from
5 memory here, but my recollection is that there are some issues
6 about the life history. That's a species that has a very
7 complex life history. We have actually Dr. Simmons as a
8 resource, and she did a lot of work on gray triggerfish and can
9 help provide some of that information, but understanding more of
10 the life history, sexual dimorphism and potential differences in
11 growth and more details about the reproduction, size and age at
12 sexual maturity. That's one thing.

13
14 Another thing is timing of them showing up in different surveys
15 and the sizes that they show up in different surveys. For
16 example, it was my recollection that the age composition of the
17 discards was also a major uncertainty, but the age composition
18 of the shrimp bycatch was equivocal as well, and poor
19 information on recruitment.

20
21 Now, Mr. Greene was at that meeting, when we reviewed and
22 discussed gray triggerfish, and one of the issues that came up
23 is really there are some anecdotal -- There are some folks from
24 the academic research community that have some information that
25 seems to show strong recruitment coming in, and, perhaps if we
26 can integrate the latest and greatest information from the
27 SEAMAP surveys, that might help us pick up the signal for gray
28 triggerfish recruitment.

29
30 It's like a death by a thousand cuts kind of thing, where there
31 are like a number of issues. They are not necessarily, any of
32 them, huge in magnitude, but they influence the collective
33 uncertainty of the assessment.

34
35 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. I guess then we'll just -- I won't
36 pose the question or give any clarity, but perhaps we will
37 address this at the August meeting, to find out whether it is
38 just an update, standard, or benchmark assessment. Robin.

39
40 **MR. RIECHERS:** From that perspective, that was passed under Gulf
41 SEDAR Full Council already, and so, in some respects, we've kind
42 of backtracked to talk about it again, which is a good
43 conversation, but we would have to address it at the next
44 meeting.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Mr. Greene, I'm sorry.

47
48 **MR. GREENE:** Thank you, Chairman Anson. Mutton Snapper ACLs and

1 Management Measures, Tab B, Number 7 and 8, council staff gave a
2 presentation describing options to revise mutton snapper
3 management measures and the gag commercial minimum size limit,
4 Tab B, Number 8.

5
6 Dr. Froeschke noted that mutton snapper comprise a single stock
7 in the Southeast Region and are managed cooperatively by the
8 Gulf and South Atlantic Councils and the State of Florida. The
9 South Atlantic Council is developing an amendment to adjust
10 mutton snapper regulations, including specific regulations
11 during the spawning season. The State of Florida is also
12 planning to implement new management measures in 2016.

13
14 The current options paper, Tab B, Number 7, contains options
15 that would allow for consistent management regulations for
16 mutton snapper in all three jurisdictions. The current options
17 paper considers May through June as the spawning season, whereas
18 the South Atlantic Council considers the spawning season as
19 April through June. A primary objective for the management of
20 this species is to achieve consistency in regulations among the
21 councils and Florida.

22
23 Action 2 considers options that would modify the recreational
24 bag limit during spawning and non-spawning months. **The**
25 **committee recommends, and I so move, that, in Action 2, to**
26 **specify spawning months as April through June.**

27
28 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Any discussion on
29 the motion? **Is there any opposition to the motion? Seeing**
30 **none, the motion carries.**

31
32 **MR. GREENE:** Action 3 considers options that would modify the
33 commercial trip limit during spawning and non-spawning months.
34 **The committee recommends and I so move that, in Action 3, to**
35 **specify spawning months as April through June.**

36
37 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Any discussion?
38 Martha.

39
40 **MS. GUYAS:** Not on the motion, but I want to say something when
41 we're finished with this, if that's okay.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Okay. Any discussion on the motion? **Is there**
44 **any opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.**
45 Martha.

46
47 **MS. GUYAS:** I promised that I would update the committee on the
48 action the commission took today. They discussed mutton snapper

1 this morning, and they went forward with the staff
2 recommendation with one change, and that change was to --
3 Instead of doing a 300-pound trip limit for most of the year on
4 the Atlantic, they went to a 500 pound, but, of course, this is
5 still a draft rule, and so they will finalize it at their next
6 meeting in September. In the meantime, they have asked us to do
7 some additional stakeholder work. I think we will probably do
8 workshops in conjunction with at least the South Atlantic
9 Council and then we will keep working with mutton snapper
10 anglers and industry.

11
12 The other recommendations that came out of the commission, just
13 to remind you, are a minimum size limit of eighteen inches, a
14 recreational bag limit of three fish per person within the ten
15 snapper aggregate, and replacing the May/June commercial trip
16 limit in all state waters for the three fish per person per day
17 limit in April through June in Atlantic state waters, and then,
18 of course that commercial trip limit change.

19
20 The other thing that we'll talk about with stakeholders is
21 potentially closing or doing some kind of special management for
22 an area called Western Dry Rocks, which is in state waters.
23 It's a very well-known spawning aggregation, where people target
24 those fish. There are some people that are in favor of closing
25 it. People that fish it clearly don't want it to be closed, and
26 so the commission hasn't made a decision as to what they want to
27 do there, but they are looking for more additional information.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you for the update. Johnny.

30
31 **MR. GREENE:** Draft Amendment 41, Red Snapper Management for
32 Federally-Permitted Charter Vessels, Tab B, Number 9(a), Dr.
33 Barbieri summarized the SSC's comments on the amendment. Staff
34 reviewed the purpose statement and the program goals and the
35 allocation-based management programs provided in Action 1.

36
37 An alternative for a permit fishing allocation, or PFA, program
38 has been added to the document. A PFA program would not use
39 shares. Rather, the allocation would be recalculated each year.
40 Due to the time needed for calculating vessel allocations and
41 the required appeals process, staff proposed adding an option to
42 recalculate the allocations every three years.

43
44 The committee then passed the following motion. **By a voice vote
45 with no opposition, the committee recommends, and I so move, in
46 Action 1, to add under Alternative 3, Option 3c, every five
47 years, and in Action 2, to add Option 2d, every five years.**

48

1 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Is there any
2 discussion on the motion? **Is there any opposition to the**
3 **motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.**

4
5 **MR. GREENE:** Under Action 2, program participation could be
6 voluntary. The action has been revised such that non-
7 participating charter vessels would not be able to harvest red
8 snapper. Staff requested guidance on the council's intent as to
9 whether charter operators must take action to opt out of the
10 program, or take action to join the program.

11
12 The committee then passed the following motion. **By a voice vote**
13 **with no opposition, the committee recommends, and I so move, in**
14 **Action 2, to clarify that vessels are presumed to be under the**
15 **program unless they exercise some affirmative action to opt out.**

16
17 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** It's a committee motion. Is there any
18 discussion on the motion? **Any opposition to the motion? Seeing**
19 **none, the motion carries.**

20
21 **MR. GREENE:** In Action 3, the committee discussed the terminal
22 year to be used in Option 5a and passed the following motion.
23 **By a voice vote with no opposition, the committee recommends,**
24 **and I so move, in Action 3, Alternative 5a, to change 2012 to**
25 **2013. Option 5a is average landings for years 2003 to 2012,**
26 **excluding landings in 2010.**

27
28 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Is there any
29 discussion on the motion? **Any opposition to the motion? Seeing**
30 **none, the motion carries.**

31
32 **MR. GREENE:** The committee considered restructuring the harvest
33 tag section by removing it as an allocation-based management
34 program and including actions for the use of harvest tags as an
35 enforcement tool. Mara Levy noted an action should be added for
36 placing caps on the use of allocation and pointed out that, in
37 Action 5, two alternatives were redundant. Staff will revise
38 the document, appropriately.

39
40 Staff reviewed the white paper addressing the bag limit, fishing
41 season, and the minimum size limit modifications. The committee
42 discussed alternate dates for the fishing season.

43
44 **The committee then passed the following motion. By a voice vote**
45 **with no opposition, the committee recommends, and I so move, to**
46 **ask staff to evaluate the recreational for-hire red snapper**
47 **season to open April 20 through May 31 and reopen in September,**
48 **and open June 1 through June 30, and reopen October 1 until the**

1 **projected end of the season.**

2
3 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Is there any
4 discussion on the motion? Is there any opposition to the
5 motion?
6

7 **MR. FISCHER:** Just a small point of discussion, and I understand
8 what the motion is trying to do, and I think we'll get a lot of
9 comment on the spring and the fall, but I think there are a lot
10 of fishermen, a lot of charter boats, that would like to see a
11 spring and a fall season. In essence, that's what this
12 accomplishes, and so we'll hear the comments.
13

14 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Any other comments to the motion? **Is there any**
15 **opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.**
16

17 **MR. GREENE:** Draft Amendment 42, Federal Reef Fish Headboat
18 Management, Tab B, Number 11, staff reviewed the amendment and
19 summarized the recommendations provided by the Ad Hoc Reef Fish
20 Headboat Advisory Panel.
21

22 Staff noted that the availability of catch histories allows the
23 distinction to be made between headboat survey vessels and the
24 for-hire vessels included in Amendment 41. The AP expressed
25 support for an IFQ program for all headboat survey vessels, the
26 establishment of an endorsement to the for-hire reef fish
27 permit, and for a proportional distribution of the quotas to the
28 survey vessels.
29

30 Additional recommendations and issues addressed by the AP
31 include preferred transferability provisions and ownership caps,
32 new entrants, and support for cost recovery. Committee members
33 inquired about metrics considered for cost recovery. Staff
34 indicated that the commercial ex-vessel price, allocation
35 prices, and fees paid by headboat passengers are among the
36 options considered to determine the ex-vessel value for cost
37 recovery purposes.
38

39 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Johnny, we have a comment over here from Dale.
40

41 **MR. DIAZ:** I just want to bring up a point. I'm not going to
42 make any motions or anything, but, during public testimony
43 yesterday, for the first time that I remember, a few different
44 people brought that if Amendment 41 or Amendment 42 passes that
45 they would not like either amendment to move forward until such
46 time as both amendments are ready to go.
47

48 Anyway, I hadn't heard that before, but, after I heard that, I

1 started thinking about it. I think the thinking is that guys
2 don't want one group to be able to fish while the other group
3 has to sit at the dock, but, for Amendment 42, we've got several
4 species in there. I mean that situation will occur over time.
5 There might be times whenever people in Amendment 42 have access
6 to some fish that are in another group and will be able to fish
7 when other people can't, and so I mean there's going to be
8 inequities down the road somewhere, and so, anyway, I just
9 wanted to bring that up, and other folks might be able to think
10 through it and decide if that's anything we need to think about
11 in the future. Thank you.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Dale. All right, Johnny. If you
14 can continue.

15
16 **MR. GREENE:** Yes, sir. Thank you, Chairman Anson. Final Action
17 Amendment 43, Hogfish Stock Definition, SDC, ACL, and Size
18 Limit, Tab B, Number 13, the committee reviewed its preferred
19 alternatives and made changes as follows.

20
21 Action 1, Definition of the Management Unit, there was no change
22 from the previously selected Preferred Alternative 2, the stock
23 boundary line is south of Cape Sable at 25 degrees, 9 minutes
24 North latitude.

25
26 Action 2, Status Determination Criteria for Hogfish in the Gulf
27 of Mexico Fishery Management Unit, there was no change from the
28 previously selected Preferred Alternative 3 and previously
29 selected Preferred Option 3b. Preferred Alternative 3 is MSY
30 equals equilibrium yield at F30 SPR. MFMT equals F30 percent
31 SPR. Preferred Option 3b is MSST equals 75 percent SSB 30
32 percent SPR.

33
34 Action 3, Annual Catch Limit and Annual Catch Target for
35 Hogfish, under Preferred Alternative 3, constant catch ACL for
36 2016 through 2018, staff explained that the SSC passed a motion
37 stating that if, at the end of a declining yield projection
38 period, no new assessment is available and the equilibrium ABC
39 is below the constant catch ABC, the ABC should revert to the
40 equilibrium ABC.

41
42 SSC representative Luis Barbieri explained that this was
43 because, with a declining yield stream, the constant catch was
44 based on yields early in the yield stream that might not be
45 sustainable in later years. As a result, this alternative would
46 have to be modified to revert to the equilibrium ABC after 2018,
47 rather than retain the constant catch ABC.

48

1 Staff noted that Florida FWC had an update assessment planned
2 for 2018, and so it was possible that new yield stream
3 projections might be available before the equilibrium yield is
4 actually implemented in 2019. Dr. Barbieri stated that he would
5 see that the hogfish assessment received a high priority, so
6 that it could be completed in time to avoid the equilibrium
7 yield from being implemented.

8
9 **Without opposition, the committee recommends, and I so move, to**
10 **recommend to change the language in Action 3, Preferred**
11 **Alternative 3, from 219,000 pounds to 159,300 pounds after 2018.**

12
13 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I think the preferred alternative is part of
14 that.

15
16 **MR. GREENE:** My apologies. Preferred Alternative 3 is a
17 constant catch ACL is set at 219,000 pounds wet weight based on
18 the constant catch ABC recommendation for the years 2016 through
19 2018 of the SSC. The ACL will revert to 219,000 pounds after
20 2018, until modified by rulemaking.

21
22 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Is there and
23 discussion on the motion? **Is there any opposition to the**
24 **motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.** Mara.

25
26 **MS. LEVY:** I just wanted to make a comment about the SSC's
27 recommendation that when you have a declining yield projection
28 that you go back to the equilibrium ABC, and so I went back and
29 looked at the report, and they did do that right after the
30 discussion of the hogfish situation, but it looked like, and I
31 think staff had said this, that it was a general motion that any
32 time you have these declining yield streams that this is what
33 the SSC would recommend doing.

34
35 I think it's appropriate to do in the hogfish situation. I
36 would just suggest to the SSC that, when they're providing ABC
37 recommendations in the future with declining yield streams, that
38 they think that this is appropriate, that they make that same
39 determination or motion each time, because, number one, I could
40 potentially see different circumstances, and you never know
41 what's going to happen, where they wouldn't think that.

42
43 Number two, that general motion is going to get lost at some
44 point in time, and we're not going to remember that they did it,
45 and we're going to have this declining yield stream and we're
46 not going to realize that they made the general motion to go
47 back to the equilibrium. Procedurally, and even recommendation-
48 wise, it would be best practice, probably, for them to actually

1 say that each time there is an ABC declining yield stream.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. All right, Mr. Greene.

4
5 **MR. GREENE:** There was no change from the previously preferred
6 Option 3a, ACT will not be defined. Action 4, Hogfish Minimum
7 Size Limit for Commercial and Recreational Sectors, staff
8 reviewed public comments that were strongly opposed to
9 increasing the hogfish minimum size limit to sixteen inches fork
10 length.

11
12 Comments indicated that most of the public felt that an increase
13 from twelve inches to sixteen inches was too large of a jump in
14 size. Most of the hogfish caught were under sixteen inches.
15 Council members noted that an increase to fourteen inches fork
16 length would still allow an extra year of spawning, with less
17 discard mortality, and felt that the benefits of increasing the
18 size limit to just fourteen inches fork length outweighed the
19 benefits of having a sixteen-inch fork length size limit that
20 would be consistent with the Atlantic/Florida Keys stock.

21
22 **Without opposition, the committee recommends, and I so move, in**
23 **Action 4, to change the Preferred Alternative from Alternative 4**
24 **to Alternative 2. Alternative 2 is set the hogfish minimum size**
25 **limit at fourteen inches fork length.**

26
27 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Is there any
28 discussion on the motion? **Is there any opposition to the**
29 **motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.**

30
31 **MR. GREENE:** Action 5, Use of Powerheads to Harvest Hogfish in
32 the Stressed Area, there was no change from the previously
33 selected Preferred Alternative 2 to remove the provision in 50
34 CFR 622.35(a)(1) that exempts hogfish from the prohibition on
35 the use of powerheads to take Gulf reef fish in the stressed
36 area.

37
38 Review of Codified Text, National Marine Fisheries Service staff
39 noted that, because of changes to the preferred alternatives in
40 Actions 3 and 4, there would need to be revisions made to the
41 codified text. A revised version of the codified text has been
42 provided to the council.

43
44 In addition, there will need to be some changes made to the
45 analyses in the amendment. With this understanding, the
46 committee passed the following motion. **Without opposition, the**
47 **committee recommends, and I so move, that the council approve**
48 **Amendment 43, Hogfish Stock Definition, SDC, ACL, and Size**

1 Limit, and that it be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for
2 review and implementation, and deem the codified text as
3 necessary and appropriate, giving staff editorial license to
4 make the necessary changes in the document. The Council Chair
5 is given the authority to deem any changes to the codified text
6 as necessary and appropriate.
7

8 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. We have a committee motion. Is
9 there any discussion on the motion? All right. Doug.

10 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Ms. Guyas.

11 **MS. GUYAS:** Yes.

12
13 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Mr. Greene.

14
15 **MR. GREENE:** Yes.

16
17 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Mr. Sanchez.

18
19 **MR. SANCHEZ:** Yes.

20
21 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Mr. Diaz.

22
23 **MR. DIAZ:** Yes.

24
25 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Mr. Williams.

26
27 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Yes.

28
29 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Mr. Boyd.

30
31 **MR. BOYD:** Yes.

32
33 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Mr. Walker.

34
35 **MR. WALKER:** Yes.

36
37 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Dr. Dana.

38
39 **DR. DANA:** Yes.

40
41 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Mr. Swindell.

42
43 **MR. SWINDELL:** Yes.

44
45 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Mr. Fischer.
46
47
48

1 **MR. FISCHER:** Yes.
2
3 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Ms. Bosarge.
4
5 **MS. BOSARGE:** Yes.
6
7 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Dr. Crabtree.
8
9 **DR. CRABTREE:** Yes.
10
11 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Mr. Matens.
12
13 **MR. MATENS:** Yes.
14
15 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Dr. Lucas.
16
17 **DR. LUCAS:** Yes.
18
19 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Mr. Riechers.
20
21 **MR. RIECHERS:** Yes.
22
23 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Dr. Stunz.
24
25 **DR. STUNZ:** Yes.
26
27 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Mr. Anson.
28
29 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Yes.
30
31 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** **It's unanimous, seventeen for.**
32
33 **MR. GREENE:** Final Action Amendment 45, Extend or Eliminate the
34 Red Snapper Sector Separation Sunset Provision, Tab B, Number
35 16, staff reviewed the amendment and noted that the council
36 selected Alternative 2, Option a, as its preferred alternative.
37 Motions to modify the preferred alternative failed. Ms. Levy
38 reviewed the codified text.
39
40 The committee made the following motion. **Without opposition,**
41 **the committee recommends, and I so move, to recommend the**
42 **council approve Amendment 45, Extend or Eliminate the Sunset**
43 **Provision on Sector Separation, and that it be forwarded to the**
44 **Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation, and deem**
45 **the codified text as necessary and appropriate, giving staff**
46 **editorial license to make the necessary changes in the document.**
47 **The Council Chair is given the authority to deem any changes to**
48 **the codified text as necessary and appropriate.**

1
2 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion on the board. Any
3 discussion on the motion? Mr. Sanchez.
4
5 **MR. SANCHEZ:** I am not sure how to proceed, procedurally, but I
6 would like to offer either a substitute or table this and
7 present a motion. What's the best way to proceed, if I can get
8 some direction?
9
10 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I believe a substitute motion would be best.
11
12 **DR. CRABTREE:** It's really not the same motion, and so maybe the
13 Committee Chair could -- **I move that we table the committee**
14 **motion until Mr. Sanchez makes his motion and then we will deal**
15 **with that.**
16
17 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. We have a motion to table the
18 committee motion.
19
20 **MR. SANCHEZ:** I will second that.
21
22 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Until Mr. Sanchez provides his motion? Is that
23 your motion?
24
25 **DR. CRABTREE:** Yes, and then we will come back to the committee
26 motion.
27
28 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** A motion to table the committee motion until
29 Mr. Sanchez provides his motion.
30
31 **MR. RIECHERS:** Mr. Chairman, is the motion germane to this
32 action, or is it a different action altogether?
33
34 **DR. CRABTREE:** I think it's germane to the amendment and the
35 preferred alternative.
36
37 **MR. RIECHERS:** Could you say that again, please?
38
39 **MR. SANCHEZ:** Yes.
40
41 **MR. RIECHERS:** We had different explanations, and so maybe you
42 two could get together and figure out which one it is.
43
44 **DR. CRABTREE:** John, you're going to go back and make a motion
45 to change the preferred alternative, right?
46
47 **MR. SANCHEZ:** Correct. To something in the --
48

1 **DR. CRABTREE:** That's not really a substitute motion to this
2 one, but it's a motion that we need to deal with before we vote
3 on the committee motion. Hence my motion to table until we deal
4 with that.
5

6 **MR. RIECHERS:** I am very confused, because, if you want to make
7 a different preferred, you would just make it right now, as
8 opposed to the committee motion.
9

10 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** That would be my understanding, too. I mean
11 that would be germane to the topic as well, and so --
12

13 **MS. LEVY:** But the problem is, if you pass the substitute
14 motion, you never go back to the motion to approve. It's not
15 really a substitute, because it's not dealing with the same
16 subject. This is a motion to approve the amendment. A motion
17 to change the preferred alternative doesn't deal with approval
18 of the amendment, and so, procedurally, you're never going to
19 get back to that if you approve any substitute motion.
20

21 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Except that we would offer a new motion that
22 would then be in light of the new preferred, if one were
23 selected on the substitute. We would just develop a new motion
24 to pass it then at that point. That's a way to deal with it as
25 well.
26

27 **MS. LEVY:** Either way you want to go. I mean if you table this,
28 all you're doing is tabling it to discuss the motion, and so
29 it's not --
30

31 **MR. RIECHERS:** The point is it really should have occurred in
32 between the discussion regarding Alternative 1 and the motions
33 that were made in committee and not approved, as opposed to
34 letting this motion get up. Now that you've explained what
35 you're trying to do, then that's -- We probably just ought to
36 pull this back off the board or table it if you want to.
37

38 **DR. LUCAS:** A point of order. Once you have a motion to table
39 and a second, you're not to discuss the table. You're supposed
40 to vote on the table.
41

42 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Was there a motion?
43

44 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Yes, there was a motion to table and a second,
45 and so no more discussion. That's right. The motion is to
46 table the committee motion until Mr. Sanchez provides his
47 motion. **All those in favor to table the committee motion until**
48 **Mr. Sanchez provides his motion, please signify by raising your**

1 hand.

2

3 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Nine.

4

5 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** For the record, all those opposed, please raise
6 your hand.

7

8 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Eight. It passes nine to eight.

9

10 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** So we have tabled the committee motion. Mr.
11 Sanchez, I think it's your opportunity.

12

13 **MR. SANCHEZ:** Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to
14 make a motion, under Action 2.1, that we proceed with the
15 preferred alternative 2, extend the separate management measure
16 of the federal for-hire and private angling components, sector
17 separation, for an additional, Option 2b, is the change I'm
18 making, five calendar years, to be effective until the end of
19 the 2022 fishing year.

20

21 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a motion. Is there a second to the
22 motion? It's seconded by Mr. Greene. Any discussion on the
23 motion? Johnny.

24

25 **MR. GREENE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a very decisive
26 deal. Everybody knows where everybody stands on this thing, and
27 I think this is a pretty good compromise from all sides to move
28 forward. At the rate this council meet has gone and the things
29 that we've got hung up, I don't know that we could do it in
30 fifteen years, but I think five years is a reasonable
31 alternative, and I support this motion.

32

33 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Robin.

34

35 **MR. RIECHERS:** I don't support the motion. Certainly, as I
36 suggested yesterday in committee, as we move forward with these
37 motions, we basically ignore public comment in Amendment 40 that
38 had -- While we can't get staff to create the summaries of the
39 counts, we did that for you all, and we had over 90 percent of
40 the people who were against that. In the counts of the survey
41 or the comments on both our public hearings and that which was
42 put up on the website, it's over 90 percent against the current
43 increase or extension of the sunset.

44

45 We have pushed the sunset through again. We're trying to
46 privatize another 25 percent of this fishery, with the notion of
47 41 and 42, creating windfall profits again, to a select few, as
48 well as, at the end of the day, none of this has really brought

1 forward the appropriate economic analysis and economic
2 efficiencies, and it certainly doesn't have the tradability that
3 one would want in a system like that, to truly create a market-
4 based and efficiency-based system, which Dr. Crabtree spoke to
5 yesterday, and so I appreciate him doing that.

6
7 **Again, I would prefer Alternative 1, but was not going to make**
8 **any motions for that, realizing where we were in committee**
9 **yesterday, but, at this point, I would substitute motion**
10 **Alternative 1.**

11
12 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a substitute motion that the preferred
13 alternative would be Alternative 1 in Action 2.1. Is there a
14 second to the substitute motion? It's seconded by Dr. Stunz.
15 Any discussion on the substitute motion?

16
17 **DR. CRABTREE:** Just to Mr. Riechers' comment about the vote
18 totals, I know in the proposed rule for this that we had
19 something on the order of 18,000 comments. 15,000 of those were
20 in favor, and so it gets difficulty. My memory, with council
21 comments on Amendment 40, is I believe Environmental Defense
22 Fund commented in favor of it, and I can't say if I'm accurate
23 or not, but I think they have somewhere approaching a million
24 members or something like that, and so it's not that clear how
25 the vote totals go on these things, but we did have a number of
26 environmental groups comment, and they have huge memberships,
27 and so I think it's just more complicated than to simply say 90
28 percent were in favor.

29
30 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Mr. Sanchez.

31
32 **MR. SANCHEZ:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fundamentally, we're
33 just asking for two more years from where we were, and I find it
34 troubling that one sector can ask for more time and more time
35 and more time and then we already have something in the works,
36 and we just want a couple more years to make sure we can see it
37 through, and yet that's somehow unreasonable and inflammatory
38 and all these things. It just doesn't make a whole lot of sense
39 to me. We're just asking for a little more time to finish a
40 process that we've started.

41
42 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Stunz and then Martha.

43
44 **DR. STUNZ:** I would certainly support Alternative 1, but I could
45 have lived with Alternative 3, and, while I also didn't make
46 this motion for Alternative 1, we saw how fast this motion came
47 up, and we were able to extend it, theoretically, and we would
48 not be where we are right now, and I don't see why, after a few

1 years, we couldn't do the same thing again.

2
3 Five years is just a little bit too long for me. I mean we may
4 be here in a couple of years and not liking what we see, and
5 three years just gives us a lot more flexibility, and we can
6 come back again with a fast-tracked motion like this one and
7 just extend it, if need be.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Martha.

10
11 **MS. GUYAS:** I wanted to get the commission's position on the
12 record for this series of motions. The commission supported a
13 three-year extension of the sunset. They recognize that going
14 back to Alternative 1, no action, would be a dramatic change and
15 that three years would provide some time to evaluate how this is
16 going on both sides of the coin. Let's not forget that sector
17 separation is not just about charter boats and headboats. It's
18 also about private anglers, and so this should provide some time
19 for the council to work to provide opportunities for all the
20 sectors, and so let's just not think about it that way. Anyway,
21 the commission will support a three-year sunset.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Anyone else wish to make a comment to the
24 substitute motion? All right. Mr. Swindell.

25
26 **MR. SWINDELL:** Well, I'm a little confused now. What is
27 Alternative 1? Alternative 1 is no additional or is it three
28 years or what?

29
30 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Alternative 1 would be the no action, and it
31 would sunset out at the end of the 2017 fishing year.

32
33 **MR. SWINDELL:** She's just talking about three more years, and
34 that's not in the picture.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Right. She was just giving an update as to
37 what the Florida FWC Commission would like to see, as far as
38 their opinion on it.

39
40 **MR. RIECHERS:** It is in the picture. It's the preferred
41 alternative that came out of committee, Ed, and these are two
42 substitutes that basically replace it at this point.

43
44 **MR. SWINDELL:** This substitute adds five years to the existing
45 three years that's there, I mean the existing three years that
46 we're still operating under, which ends in 2017. Is that right?

47
48 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** This substitute motion, the one we're about

1 ready to vote on, is no action. In the document, it's the no
2 action alternative, which it just carries through with the
3 current sunset, which sunsets in 2017. After that, it goes back
4 to what it was before two years ago, as far as the management.
5 They're all in one unit. They're all being managed as one.
6 That's what this substitute motion deals with, is keeping that.
7 John.

8
9 **MR. SANCHEZ:** I will be voting against this, just to be clear.

10
11 **MS. GUYAS:** Just to clarify, the motion on the board now, the
12 Alternative 1, end sector separation in 2017, our commission
13 supports ending it in 2020. That's the current preferred
14 alternative that's underneath all of these substitute motions.

15
16 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. We're voting on the substitute
17 motion, which is, in Action 2.1, to make Alternative 1 the
18 preferred alternative. Alternative 1 is the no action
19 alternative, the separate management of the federal for-hire and
20 private angling components, sector separation, will be effective
21 through the end of the 2017 fishing year under the existing
22 sunset provision. **All those in favor of the substitute motion,
23 please signify by raising your hand.**

24
25 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Four.

26
27 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All those opposed, like sign.

28
29 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Twelve. It's four to twelve.

30
31 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** The motion failed. The substitute motion
32 failed. That brings us to the motion that Mr. Sanchez offered,
33 and that is, in Action 2.1, to make Alternative 2, Option 2b,
34 the preferred alternative. Preferred Alternative 2, Option 2b,
35 is five calendar years, to be effective through the end of the
36 2022 fishing season. **All those in favor of this motion, please
37 signify by raising your hand.**

38
39 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Nine.

40
41 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All those opposed, like sign.

42
43 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Eight. The motion passes nine to
44 eight.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** The motion carries nine to eight. Now we go
47 back to what we were trying to do before, and so we need another
48 motion.

1
2 **DR. CRABTREE:** We're back to the committee motion now.
3
4 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Yes, now we're back to the committee motion,
5 and the committee motion is, without opposition, the committee
6 recommends to approve Amendment 45, Extend or Eliminate the
7 Sunset Provision on Sector Separation, and that it be forwarded
8 to the Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation, and
9 deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate, giving
10 staff editorial license to make the necessary changes in the
11 document. The Council Chair is given the authority to deem any
12 changes to the codified text as necessary and appropriate. We
13 need a roll call vote. Mara.
14
15 **MS. LEVY:** I think you all know this, but the codified text that
16 you're deeming has the prior preferreds, and so that's what
17 staff will be changing.
18
19 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Doug Boyd.
20
21 **MR. BOYD:** Just a comment before we vote. I could have
22 supported this motion with the original committee motion in
23 there. I cannot support it the way it is at the five years.
24 Thank you.
25
26 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Mr. Diaz.
27
28 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Wait. Myron.
29
30 **MR. FISCHER:** I'm sure these other great minds at the table have
31 it figured out, but I'm still trying to figure, where are we
32 going to be with this tabled motion when we get through, and
33 what's the complications going to be?
34
35 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** It is now untabled. Mr. Diaz.
36
37 **MR. DIAZ:** Yes.
38
39 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Dr. Crabtree.
40
41 **DR. CRABTREE:** Yes.
42
43 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Dr. Lucas.
44
45 **DR. LUCAS:** Yes.
46
47 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Mr. Swindell.
48

1 MR. SWINDELL: Yes.
2
3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Mr. Boyd.
4
5 MR. BOYD: No.
6
7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Mr. Riechers.
8
9 MR. RIECHERS: No.
10
11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Dr. Dana.
12
13 DR. DANA: Yes.
14
15 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Mr. Fischer.
16
17 MR. FISCHER: Yes.
18
19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Dr. Stunz.
20
21 DR. STUNZ: No.
22
23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Mr. Matens.
24
25 MR. MATENS: No.
26
27 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Mr. Williams.
28
29 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.
30
31 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Mr. Walker.
32
33 MR. WALKER: Yes.
34
35 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Captain Greene.
36
37 CAPTAIN GREENE: Yes.
38
39 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Ms. Bosarge.
40
41 MS. BOSARGE: Yes.
42
43 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Ms. Guyas.
44
45 MS. GUYAS: No.
46
47 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Mr. Sanchez.
48

1 **MR. SANCHEZ:** Yes.
2
3 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Mr. Anson.
4
5 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Yes.
6
7 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** We have twelve yes and five no.
8 **The motion passes twelve to five.**
9
10 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Mr. Gregory. Mr. Greene.
11
12 **MR. GREENE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ad Hoc Advisory Panel for
13 Recreational Red Snapper Management, the committee discussed the
14 possible formation of an ad hoc advisory panel of private vessel
15 fishermen to provide recommendation to the council on management
16 of private recreational anglers.
17
18 Although no committee members expressed opposition to forming an
19 AP, there was debate on the timing of the formation. It takes
20 two council meetings to make appointments to an AP. The first
21 meeting is to make preliminary selections of candidates, and the
22 second meeting is to receive the results of the state and
23 federal enforcement divisions fishing violation background
24 checks.
25
26 The Recreational Angler Focus Group, an independent group, has
27 met several times and is forming recommendations, which are
28 expected to be presented by January. Some committee members
29 wanted to wait until the Recreational Angler Focus Group
30 recommendations have been presented before forming the AP, while
31 others wanted to begin the process now, so that the AP would be
32 ready to meet when the recommendations are presented.
33
34 A motion was made to assemble an ad hoc advisory panel of
35 private boat recreational fishermen and charge them to develop
36 fair and effective ways to mitigate the red snapper derby. A
37 substitute motion was then made that more clearly defined the
38 timing of the ad hoc AP with respect to the Recreational Angler
39 Focus Group.
40
41 **By a voice vote with three opposed, the committee recommends,**
42 **and I so move, that the council assemble an ad hoc advisory**
43 **panel of private boat recreational fishermen and charge them to**
44 **develop fair and effective ways to mitigate the red snapper**
45 **derby and populate this committee and convene them for their**
46 **first meeting after hearing results from the Recreational Angler**
47 **Focus Group.**
48

1 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Is there any
2 discussion on the motion? Dr. Lucas.

3
4 **DR. LUCAS:** I just have a question for Doug Boyd. This would
5 allow you all to go out for advertisement, I guess in July, so
6 we can start trying to get people to submit?

7
8 **MR. BOYD:** Mr. Gregory, would you answer that for me, please?
9

10 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** I will just repeat the process,
11 because the council changed it this past year for appointing to
12 committees. We will advertise between now and August. We will
13 bring to the council, in August, a list of people that have
14 applied. We will make preliminary appointments in closed
15 session.

16
17 Those preliminary appointments, we will then submit to the state
18 and federal law enforcement for background checks, and then, in
19 October, we will bring back that information to you, so you can
20 make a final selection, and so the committee will not be formed
21 until the October council meeting.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dale.

24
25 **MR. DIAZ:** I just want to make sure this is clear in my mind.
26 Sometime back, I think we asked the states to submit like a
27 preliminary list of people that might be interested in serving
28 on this, but it's been so long ago. I want to say it was about
29 a year ago.

30
31 **DR. LUCAS:** I think we just asked states if they would discuss
32 it, and then we came back and talked about if states found
33 people that were willing to participate, but there were no
34 names.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. Any other discussion on the motion?
37 Johnny.

38
39 **MR. GREENE:** I'm sorry, but I read this motion, and I certainly
40 do not want to sway what the Recreational Focus Group is doing,
41 but the problem with the motion is that there's no time specific
42 on here, and I know we had a lot of conversation about it. If
43 the was a -- If the words "January 2017" were in this motion, I
44 would feel a lot more comfortable with it. **With that, I'm going**
45 **to make a substitute motion. You can just copy and paste the**
46 **motion before you and just add the words, at the very end of it,**
47 **"in January 2017".**

48

1 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Staff is working on putting that on the board.
2 Johnny, does that completely capture it?
3
4 **MR. GREENE:** Yes, sir, in January of 2017.
5
6 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. We have a motion on the board. Is
7 there a second to the motion?
8
9 **MR. FISCHER:** I will second it if Johnny accepts a change to put
10 "by January". If they want to give it to us in December, we're
11 not going to make them wait.
12
13 **MR. GREENE:** Mr. Chairman, that's fine.
14
15 **MR. FISCHER:** Second.
16
17 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Convene them for the first meeting by January
18 of 2017. I guess I'm just concerned that they finish the report
19 in December and they come back and we hear results at the
20 council --
21
22 **MR. FISCHER:** The council could email it to us in December and
23 we could start looking at it. We don't have to wait until the
24 council meets.
25
26 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I just read that they're going to convene by
27 January of 2017, that the meeting is going to actually start by
28 2017. We've got holidays and all that stuff around the first of
29 the year, and I think it will be difficult to try to meet by
30 January of 2017, convene the meeting. That's all I'm saying.
31 Doug.
32
33 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Our council meeting is the week of
34 January 30 through February 2 or 3. If you say by the end of
35 January, or unless you want to have something happen before that
36 council meeting. My understanding is, and Mara is back, but, no
37 matter what you put here, at a future council meeting, you can
38 change your mind. You're not bound by this. Is that correct,
39 Mara?
40
41 **MS. LEVY:** Correct.
42
43 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Johnny.
44
45 **MR. GREENE:** My intent is to make sure that we get the
46 information from the Recreational Focus Group by the January
47 2017 council meeting, so that we can attempt to digest that
48 information and move forward with a charge for the recreational

1 AP.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I understand your intent, but I was just
4 reading the motion, and, if someone were to pick it up, they
5 wouldn't get that intent. That's all. Martha.

6
7 **MS. GUYAS:** I think I agree with your sequence there, Johnny,
8 but I don't think that's what this says. I think this says that
9 they would essentially have to meet before our council meeting
10 where we're reviewing that document. Leann has got her hand up.
11 Maybe she wants to help.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Leann.

14
15 **MS. BOSARGE:** When I read it, I interpreted it just like Johnny
16 said. In other words, the committee, and convene them for their
17 first meeting. They will convene for their first meeting after
18 hearing the results from the Recreational Angler Focus Group.
19 In other words, that Recreational Angler Focus Group is going to
20 have their results by January of 2017. To me, that date applied
21 to the focus group. That's the way I read it and interpreted
22 it. Is that what you wanted? Okay.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Okay. I was probably making a mountain out of
25 a molehill.

26
27 **MR. BOYD:** To clarify things and make it simple, and I agree
28 with you that that's what we're trying to do, but couldn't we
29 put "January 31" in there, or "by the end of the council
30 meeting", so that we can look at this thing during the council
31 meeting, rather than having to do it before?

32
33 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I'm a little nervous. I mean we're dealing
34 with an outside group here. The best we can, we're trying to
35 work with them. They realize that we're quite anxious, or most
36 members here are quite anxious, to do a recreational AP to
37 discuss some of these issues on how to manage or come up with
38 some new alternatives for managing them, and so I understand
39 what Johnny is trying to do. He doesn't want to feel like he's
40 held hostage here, but we are dealing with an outside group, and
41 so, again, all I was just trying to do was -- I interpreted it
42 differently, and so, anyway. Mara.

43
44 **MS. LEVY:** I was just going to suggest -- I mean, even if you
45 don't have the January in there, if you have already assembled
46 them and made the committee, then, at any time, you can decide
47 that you want council staff to try to convene them together. I
48 mean it's not -- I mean even if you do this and put it in place,

1 come the October meeting, you're told that the focus group is
2 not going to be ready until April, you could either decide not
3 to convene them until then or to convene them anyway.

4
5 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I guess that's what I was trying to get to. If
6 there is a date certain that they want to convene the panel,
7 regardless of whether they get results from the focus group that
8 this outside group is trying to do, just go ahead and set a date
9 certain and say we want to have the meeting in February of 2017
10 or something like that, or sometime after that, and then that
11 would give time for the group to give us the results at the end
12 of the year, but prior to our council meeting in January, and we
13 can give any last minute direction to that meeting that's
14 already been formed to be held sometime in February. That's all
15 I was trying to get at. Any other discussion on the motion? **Is**
16 **there any opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the motion**
17 **carries.**

18
19 **MR. GREENE:** Standing and Reef Fish SSC Report, Tab B, Number
20 19(a), Luiz Barbieri reviewed issues discussed by the Standing
21 and Reef Fish SSC that were not presented in the earlier agenda
22 items.

23
24 Vermilion Snapper SEDAR 45, based on the results of the SEDAR 45
25 standard assessment, the vermilion snapper stock is neither
26 overfished nor experiencing overfishing. In its calculation of
27 ABC, the SSC rejected the use of the Tier 1 ABC control rule,
28 because they felt that it did not capture the magnitude of
29 uncertainty. Instead, the SSC set ABC at the yield
30 corresponding to 75 percent of F 30 percent SPR.

31
32 The SSC provided two alternative five-year ABC yield streams
33 beginning in 2017. One was for a series of annual declining
34 ABCs and the other was for a five-year constant catch ABC, which
35 is the average of the five declining ACLs. Under both yield
36 streams, the current ACL is higher than the projected ABCs, and
37 so an action to revise the vermilion snapper ACLs is needed.

38
39 In addition, the stock assessment used an MSY proxy based on 30
40 percent SPR, which was supported by the SSC. However, the Reef
41 Fish FMP's definition for vermilion snapper MSY, from Amendment
42 23, is to use the actual MSY estimate rather than a proxy. Dr.
43 Barbieri explained that the assessment did not provide adequate
44 information to be able to produce an MSY estimate with enough
45 confidence to use in management, and so a proxy was necessary.

46
47 For the council to change its definition of MSY for vermilion
48 snapper in the FMP, it will require a full plan amendment.

1 Without opposition, the committee recommends, and I so move,
2 that the council begin a plan amendment to specify ACL and MSY
3 proxy for vermilion snapper.
4

5 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Is there any
6 discussion on the motion? David.
7

8 **MR. WALKER:** I just have some questions for Dr. Barbieri, if we
9 have a chance. You were using an SPR 30, and I was wondering if
10 that could move to 26 or how it would affect having an SPR of 30
11 if we had a dramatic increase? Would that restrain our ability
12 to catch the fish or how exactly would the 30 SPR affect that,
13 in an increase?
14

15 **DR. BARBIERI:** I am not sure that I understand your question,
16 Mr. Walker.
17

18 **MR. WALKER:** We have a 26 SPR on red snapper, and I guess, could
19 we not look at a 26 SPR? Could we not look at a 26 SPR with
20 vermilion as well? I mean I know in the red snapper that we're
21 looking at 24 and 22 now, and I'm just kind of wondering.
22

23 **DR. BARBIERI:** Yes, absolutely. I mean those MSY proxies can
24 vary depending on the species, and it's very dependent on the
25 species' life history patterns and population dynamics and all
26 of that stuff, and so this is part of what that working group or
27 subcommittee of the SSC is going to be looking into.
28

29 Over the next several months, at the next SSC meeting, we will
30 be discussing formation of this working group, or subcommittee
31 of the SSC, and we're going to start working to produce sort of
32 like a white paper for your review that will make some
33 recommendations regarding MSY proxies, based on SPR. We can
34 actually do that for vermilion snapper as well, yes.
35

36 **MR. WALKER:** That's what I meant. I mean we've seen years where
37 there's been very few vermilion and then, just a few years
38 later, they're plentiful again.
39

40 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Leann.
41

42 **MS. BOSARGE:** You're going to give us a pretty broad range,
43 right, of proxies to look at, something so we can do some
44 comparisons?
45

46 **DR. BARBIERI:** Yes, we can do that. Ideally, for a situation
47 like this, to make sure that this is as clear as possible, we
48 can perhaps reach out, through staff, reach out to you and

1 develop some kind of like terms of reference, where you can give
2 us some explicit guidance on the levels that you would like us
3 to look at, just to make sure that we have all of them there.

4
5 **MS. BOSARGE:** I know what direction we're probably headed with
6 these, and I will say it again. For me to compare something,
7 although I know we're probably headed in this direction, if this
8 is where we're at now, we're headed in this direction, if you
9 could give us the other direction too -- Although we're not
10 headed there, and I know that, it just helps me compare. Do you
11 know what I'm saying?

12
13 **DR. BARBIERI:** Absolutely.

14
15 **MS. BOSARGE:** It's to see where I'm at on the spectrum.

16
17 **DR. BARBIERI:** No, that's an excellent point, and I will make
18 sure that I communicate that to the committee and that we take
19 that into account when we develop the options paper.

20
21 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Steven Atran.

22
23 **MR. STEVEN ATRAN:** To David Walker's question, the amendment
24 we'll begin working on here -- The motion isn't specifically to
25 say set the proxy at 30 percent SPR, but just to set a proxy.
26 Right now, we don't have a proxy for the vermilion snapper MSY,
27 and, for some very good reasons, we need to adopt one, but we
28 can give you a range of alternatives and we can analyze them.
29 The SSC's recommendation is to go with 30 percent, but that
30 won't be the only one we will be providing to you for
31 consideration.

32
33 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Dr. Barbieri. We have a motion, a
34 committee motion, on the board. Any further discussion on the
35 motion? **Any opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the motion**
36 **carries.**

37
38 **MR. GREENE:** Grouper-Tilefish IFQ Five-year Review Market Power
39 Analysis, a market power analysis in the Gulf reef fish IFQ fish
40 IFQ programs was presented to the SSC. The analysis concluded
41 that, to date, there is no evidence of market power in the
42 commercial IFQ programs. The analysis presented will be
43 included in the five-year review of the Grouper and Tilefish IFQ
44 program.

45
46 SSC members Serving as Council State Designees, several SSC
47 members felt that there could be a potential conflict of
48 interest if an SSC members also served as a council designee.

1 This could result in the individual voting twice on an issue.
2 However, one SSC member has served simultaneously on the MAFMC
3 and Mid-Atlantic SSC, and did not feel that there was much of an
4 issue regarding conflict of interest.

5
6 Methods to Address Recreational Red Snapper ACL Underharvest,
7 the SSC reviewed two approaches to dealing with underharvest of
8 red snapper by a sector. One method would open a supplemental
9 season later in the year if it was determined that the sector-
10 ACL had not been harvested. The other method would carry over
11 any underharvest to the following year, with a temporary
12 increase in ABC to allow the underage, or a portion of it, to be
13 taken.

14
15 The first method involved a lot of uncertainty on current
16 landings, and any supplemental opening would occur on short
17 notice. For this reason, the SSC felt that the second method
18 was preferable, but recommended that it be implemented as a
19 pilot project with a reevaluation after three years.

20
21 **Without opposition, the committee recommend, and I so move, to**
22 **direct staff to start a framework action to develop a method to**
23 **carry over the unharvested red snapper ACL to the following**
24 **season.**

25
26 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Is there any
27 discussion on the motion? **Is there any opposition to the**
28 **motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.**

29
30 **MR. GREENE:** MSY Proxies, the SSC had reviewed an early draft
31 options paper of Amendment 44, which addresses MSST and MSY
32 proxies for reef fish. The SSC would like to consider the
33 formation of an ad hoc working group to evaluate MSY proxies.

34
35 Formation of such a group would require council authorization if
36 it includes members who are not SSC, council staff, or National
37 Marine Fisheries Service staff. In order to speed up the
38 process, the committee passed a motion to delegate authority to
39 the Executive Director in appointing members to the ad hoc
40 working group.

41
42 **Without opposition, the committee recommends, and I so move, to**
43 **recommend the council establish an ad hoc workgroup, with the**
44 **Executive Director's discretion in appointments, to assist the**
45 **SSC in addressing MSY proxies.**

46
47 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Is there any
48 discussion on the motion? **Is there any opposition to the**

1 motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.
2

3 **MR. GREENE:** Other Business, committee members noted that the
4 South Atlantic SSC had recently reviewed alternative MSY proxies
5 for red snapper. The Gulf SSC had had done a similar review in
6 May of 2015. However, the South Atlantic SSC apparently had
7 newly published information, and committee members felt the Gulf
8 SSC should reevaluate its previous recommendations, in light of
9 this new information.

10
11 Without opposition, the committee recommends, and I so move, to
12 ask the council to direct the Science & Statistical Committee,
13 for its August 2016 meeting, to review analyses for red snapper
14 at Fmax, F 20 percent SPR, F 22 percent SPR, and F 24 percent
15 SPR and provide advice regarding the risk of overfishing if any
16 of these potential reference points were used for red snapper,
17 given their life history characteristics, and new scientific
18 information regarding the generic relationship between life
19 histories and productivity.

20
21 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Is there any
22 discussion on the motion? Leann.

23
24 **MS. BOSARGE:** I'm in support of the motion. I was just going to
25 repeat the comment that I just made for the vermilion, and, when
26 you bring us back your report and your data and everything, if
27 you could also -- These are all going down from where we are
28 now, and that's fine, but if we could get some on the other
29 side, just so I can see where we're at and how big of a shift we
30 may be taking, I would appreciate that.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Ponwith.

33
34 **DR. PONWITH:** As I recall, as part of that discussion, the fact
35 that this analysis had been done last spring, and I am just
36 uncertain as to how repeating the analysis again brings more
37 information to the table. Dr. Barbieri, correct me if I'm
38 wrong, but this analysis was done in the spring of 2015.

39
40 **DR. BARBIERI:** Sorry, Dr. Ponwith, but the analysis for --

41
42 **DR. PONWITH:** The motion on the board right now is to run the
43 analyses for Fmax, 20 percent, 22 percent, and 24 percent SPR.
44 My understanding is those analyses have already been done. Is
45 that wrong? Am I wrong on that?

46
47 **DR. BARBIERI:** No, you're not wrong. The issue about reference
48 points is that we really need to, and I think that's part of

1 what Ms. Bosarge has been bringing up, is the issue that, in
2 fisheries management, when you talk about reference points, you
3 talk about limits and targets.

4
5 We would have to frame this discussion in terms of limits and
6 targets for reference points, and we will try to frame this as
7 presented or framed in the way of the National Standard
8 Guidelines, again relating buffers between ABC, OFL, and then
9 ACT as well.

10
11 This would have to have some component of looking at MSY, but
12 also looking at OY, and so I think we could put something
13 together that really covers the scope of limits and targets.
14 The analysis that we saw before was really looking, for red
15 snapper specifically, at some projections that were looking --
16 That's what I remember seeing that was conducted by the Center,
17 but projections that would use different F SPR reference points
18 and see where those projections would take us as far as the
19 stock levels predicted for the future, but not necessarily as a
20 comprehensive framework for just how we deal with reference
21 points in general.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Lucas.

24
25 **DR. LUCAS:** I think, some to the point, was maybe not
26 necessarily they had to redo any of the analysis, but it was to
27 provide the advice regarding the risk of that, given the new
28 scientific information that is available now.

29
30 **DR. BARBIERI:** To that point, is that I don't see this as being
31 anything necessarily analytical. I mean this would be basically
32 a discussion of the theoretical framework and background that we
33 have behind biological reference points for fisheries
34 management, focusing on that limit/target reference point sort
35 of approach.

36
37 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Doug, did you have a question?

38
39 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** If anybody on the council is aware
40 of literature, new literature, on this, it would be helpful,
41 because there is a lot of literature on life history strategies,
42 relating to steepness and natural mortality and SPR, and this is
43 a bigger issue, and I want to ask Dr. Ponwith.

44
45 I understand that there was a national National Marine Fisheries
46 Service workshop in Seattle recently. If there is a report from
47 there that can help us -- I mean this is a national problem.
48 It's not just us locally, and my concern earlier this week was I

1 didn't want to get caught up into creating another national
2 workshop by inviting outside people and stuff, but these
3 analyses have been done and provided to the council before, and
4 they could be done again and re-provided with new discussion,
5 and I know how that will go. It's a difficult task.

6
7 As we get more data and we get more sophisticated stock
8 assessments and, as one scientist told me -- I challenged him.
9 I said, in the past, we used to just make these assumptions and
10 go forward with it and have a recommendation. Given our track
11 history, we seem to be in the right ballpark, and why aren't the
12 scientists doing that now? The answer -- Of course, what the
13 scientists are saying now is we don't know what the relationship
14 is between stock and recruitment, let's say. The answer was,
15 we're trying to be more transparent.

16
17 I think, from just my humble viewpoint, the scientific
18 community, and this started with the National Guidelines that
19 focused on uncertainty, the scientific community is getting
20 wrapped around the axle. One, we can't measure uncertainty in
21 the ocean. I mean anybody that deals with the ocean knows how
22 variable that is, and so we've really thrown a challenge and a
23 gauntlet down for the scientific community that's almost
24 impossible to accomplish through those guidelines, and so I've
25 always been worried by that.

26
27 Now, with the other thing I said, it's just getting more and
28 more difficult, and, with the red snapper analysis, I think
29 F_{max} , which is a historical, based on yield per recruit,
30 historical reference point for fisheries, came out with an SPR
31 of 12 percent. That's shocking, and it's disruptive, because,
32 when we first started developing SPR for council consideration
33 in the late 1980s, we were using some analyses that were done
34 off of New England that tended to show an SPR of 20 percent. If
35 you got below that, you had a high likelihood of stocks
36 collapsing, and so SPR of 20 percent became what we now call our
37 MSST.

38
39 However, at the time, it was our goal, because, with red
40 snapper, we were at an SPR of 2 percent. Then, later, as we
41 started rebuilding the stock, the discussion was, well, we need
42 to separate our goals and targets, and a lot of literature said
43 that a good target, from an SPR standpoint, is 30 to 35 percent,
44 and I think that is engrained in us now, and it's hard for us to
45 get away from that, and so we need these workshops.

46
47 We need ongoing discussion among the scientists as to is there a
48 need for a paradigm shift here of some sort, and I think that's

1 why we're having a difficult time really answering 30 percent
2 versus 26 percent or Fmax. Hopefully that was understandable,
3 but it's a real challenge.

4
5 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Crabtree.

6
7 **DR. CRABTREE:** That all, Doug, implies to me that the discussion
8 with the SSC ought to be much more generic about reference
9 points and not this specific discussion. I mean you framed it
10 as much broader.

11
12 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Right, and that's what we're going
13 to do. That was the other thing that we discussed, is that
14 working group with the SSC, and this came later, and so we can
15 do both, but the more general discussion has to occur as well,
16 but that could take a long time, and so I think the SSC can do
17 both, but I don't think you will get any earth-shattering
18 recommendations different than what we've seen in the past until
19 we've had this broader and more in-depth discussion.

20
21 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Stunz.

22
23 **DR. STUNZ:** It was my intent, in this discussion we had
24 yesterday or whenever that was, was to have this broader
25 discussion from the SSC, but I envisioned that it would occur in
26 the context of red snapper, because that's what I feel like we
27 understand and have a feeling for what these different
28 parameters mean, and so that's why I don't think I'm real
29 familiar with the recent analysis that we just had, but I think
30 that's a good starting point for these discussions.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Crabtree.

33
34 **DR. CRABTREE:** Yes, and, since this motion came up the other
35 day, I've tried to remember when we went through all of this
36 last time, and you may recall we got into a long discussion
37 about it would require -- If we made a change, we would have to
38 revise the rebuilding plan and we would have to recalculate
39 Tmin, time to rebuild, all of that. It wasn't clear at all that
40 you got more fish out of any of this, and it got very
41 complicated, and so just bear that in mind.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Kelly.

44
45 **DR. LUCAS:** But I think, in framing it with red snapper, because
46 we have so much information on red snapper, we get to some of
47 these broader context things. I mean if you can't get a fish
48 that you have all this information about and get people to start

1 thinking differently about it with red snapper, then I don't
2 know what species you're going to go with, because we've got a
3 lot of information on red snapper.

4
5 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I will just add to that. That's part of the
6 knowledge and that's part of the information that goes into the
7 decision making process in trying to get your head wrapped
8 around the whole philosophy, theory, about the SPR relationship
9 to stocks, and so that -- It could be a starting point, but
10 certainly, as Kelly mentioned, we have a lot of data related to
11 red snapper. It's always discussed, it's always on everyone's
12 mind, and so I think it would be easy for them to use that as
13 their jumping-off point in the context of a more general
14 conversation about MSY proxies.

15
16 We talked about setting this committee up and getting some of
17 these folks to talk specifically about it. We also talked about
18 maybe that would be helpful in the development or moving along
19 with 44, which talks generically about MSY proxies, and so, as
20 far as whether or not it improves -- If SPR needs to be changed,
21 and it's certainly something that is very crucial in developing
22 the numbers that we need to manage the fishery, we ought to have
23 the review and we ought to have the change that is appropriate
24 in the eyes of the scientists, and so that's all that this was,
25 I think, trying to get to. Any other discussion on the motion?
26 **Is there any opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the motion**
27 **carries.** Johnny, that concludes your report, correct?

28
29 **MR. GREENE:** No, sir.

30
31 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Sorry. You can continue then. I saw Patrick.

32
33 **MR. BANKS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the council
34 and the public. I appreciate being a part of this group. I
35 have enjoyed being here for the first two meetings on my tenure,
36 and it's been enjoyable getting to know you, maybe some more
37 than others, and I put Camp in that group.

38
39 I'm frustrated with what I see, and I hear almost every member I
40 talk to is frustrated with what's going on, yet we don't seem to
41 do anything about it. I am happy to see that the AP, the
42 recreational AP, is going to be put forward. I am frustrated to
43 see that we all agree that the AP needs to be put forward for
44 the private recreational community, yet we have to talk for
45 thirty-nine minutes about when it needs to be put forward.
46 That's ridiculous.

47
48 I'm glad that AP is being forward. I wish it would come as

1 quick as we could. I wish we could get those ideas out before
2 us. I think getting the input from this private recreational
3 focus group is a good idea as well, as well as getting ideas
4 from all of the private recreational groups out there. That is
5 going to be the focus of the motion that I will offer.

6
7 **That motion is to direct the council staff to create a new**
8 **amendment for regional management of the private recreational**
9 **fishery in the Gulf of Mexico.** This motion, there is no
10 ulterior motive behind this motion, and I want to assure the
11 commercial and charter folks on the council that this is no way
12 an attempt to do something to you guys that so clearly has been
13 told to me that all are happy with and that you guys want to
14 make work and want to see work, and I think that you have shown
15 that you're working hard to take control of your own destiny.

16
17 Our private recreational anglers are not happy with nine days.
18 I am not happy for them for nine days. We have to change the
19 paradigm, and I'm hoping that with a new amendment, with a new
20 fresh set of eyes, some new discussions amongst the state
21 partners and all of us around this table, with a new AP, with
22 focus groups that are supplying new information to us, we can
23 get that done, and I would hope that you all could support a new
24 amendment so that we could start down that process for strictly
25 the recreational angling community, red snapper only.

26
27 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Patrick, thank you. We have a motion. Do we
28 have a second to the motion? It's seconded by Mr. Williams.
29 Any other discussion on the motion? Mr. Boyd.

30
31 **MR. BOYD:** Well, we have an amendment that is postponed right
32 now, which is very much like this and probably could be brought
33 back out and include this, and so I don't know that we really
34 need this new amendment.

35
36 **MR. BANKS:** That's an interesting point. At the advice and
37 request of the state leaders, including your State of Texas last
38 night, a new amendment was what was recommended.

39
40 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Robin.

41
42 **MR. RIECHERS:** Well, what I would suggest is I'm not certain
43 that you got any advice from us regarding which way or approach
44 to go, Patrick, since all you really suggested was you were
45 going to do it. You didn't ask for advice, and you didn't
46 really get any.

47
48 What I will say if we've been down this road regarding regional

1 management, and certainly I want to make it very, very clear
2 that we're not opposed to the notion of regional management. We
3 were in favor of the notion of regional management. Many of us
4 around this table worked very hard on an amendment to get there,
5 but, by the time we got through this council process and we got
6 to the end of the road of that amendment, basically it was a --
7 It was either, depending on how you want to look at it, a shell
8 of what it started out to be or so many Christmas ornaments
9 hanging on it that it was bending over under its own weight, and
10 it did not do what we started out to do.

11
12 I am in favor of still moving forward with regional management.
13 If we could do something within the concept of this body that
14 dealt with the whole recreational fishery, and I'm certainly in
15 favor of it if we could do it where it gave true regional
16 management authority to the states as opposed to what we ended
17 up with, which was very little flexibility in what we would be
18 able to do. For that, at least at this point, until I can know
19 more about what this might mean, I am going to have to vote
20 against it.

21
22 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I have Kelly, followed by Martha.

23
24 **DR. LUCAS:** Certainly I support and the State of Mississippi has
25 supported regional management. I would like to see us arrive at
26 a solution whereas the regions or the states are onboard with
27 that regional management. We got bogged down a lot in 39, and I
28 think, ultimately, some of those problems in 39 may still exist,
29 as we work back through regional management.

30
31 I am happy we're moving forward with the private angler group
32 that we've created for red snapper, and I would really like to
33 see this be a grassroots effort. What I really don't want to
34 have happen is us try to create this committee, having this
35 amendment already being formed, where the group of people who
36 have accused this council of having things already done, having
37 their mind already made up and just wanting to form a committee
38 that can rubber-stamp something that they want to do, I just
39 would rather have them come to us and be like, hey, here are
40 some ideas and we're ready to start an amendment, rather than
41 them thinking, them already perceiving, that we have an idea and
42 we're going to start populating this amendment and that
43 basically we just want them to evaluate those things.

44
45 I am really kind of looking for a more grassroots effort here,
46 and I'm really kind of throwing the challenge down to the
47 private recreational group and others to determine what do they
48 want to see and come give us advice and let it be this kind of

1 grassroots movement, instead of what they always say to us,
2 which is you all already have a preconceived notion, and so
3 that's my opinion.

4

5 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Martha.

6

7 **MS. GUYAS:** Just to piggyback on Robin's and Kelly's comments
8 here, I mean I really think our path forward is starting with
9 this recreational AP and Ken's group and using the information
10 that we glean from these groups and other anglers that are
11 hopefully turning this question through their minds of how to
12 proceed forward. I would share the concern that Robin has and
13 that Kelly has expressed of how is this different than the road
14 we've already been down. I can't support going through
15 Amendment 39 again at this point, and so, at this point, I would
16 not be inclined to support this motion.

17

18 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dale.

19

20 **MR. DIAZ:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Patrick, I feel your
21 frustration. I think, around the table, we all have been
22 frustrated with a lot of issues over time, and coming in new --
23 I like that you've got new ideas and you're trying to push us,
24 and I think that's exactly what you should be doing and I
25 appreciate that.

26

27 I have supported regional management over time, and I've said on
28 the record many times that I supported it, even when we had some
29 issues with it, because I thought it was the only thing we could
30 do to try to get out of the state non-compliance box, and we
31 don't have anything working to do that right now, and I don't
32 think we've got a lot working for the private recreational
33 fishermen.

34

35 I agree with you on a lot of points. The big thing that makes
36 me not be in favor of your motion at the moment is we could not
37 come to terms on how to allocate this fishery amongst the
38 states, and that's a big issue, and if we try to start up a new
39 document -- That issue was not -- We couldn't settle it in the
40 three-and-a-half or four years that we worked on it before, and
41 so, if you can come up with a way to get the allocation
42 straight, if the state directors could get together and get a
43 commitment from the states, and not just something that we think
44 we're going to do or something we agree to, but something that
45 we are bound and determined to go forward with, I would support
46 it at that point.

47

48 My hesitation now is I think the staff -- We've got a lot of

1 things that we have to do. Our staff, which I want to
2 compliment our staff. Our staff works extremely hard, and we
3 charge them with a lot of things to do, and our staff is doing a
4 lot of really good work.

5
6 I just think we'll have to put the staff working on some stuff
7 that, until we get agreement on allocation, I just don't think
8 we can make any significant progress on, but thank you for your
9 effort. Even though I'm going to vote against you, I think
10 you're doing the right thing by trying to push this forward, and
11 I appreciate your new ideas. Thank you, sir.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Greg.

14
15 **DR. STUNZ:** The three before me, since I raised my hand, pretty
16 much made my points exactly, Patrick, and I mean I'm one of the
17 biggest supporters of regional management around the table, in
18 the form of pure regional management, but I just don't think the
19 time is right.

20
21 I mean my introduction to this council was Amendment 39 and the
22 most complex, convoluted thing I think I have ever seen that
23 didn't get us anywhere, that we wasted tons of time on, and I
24 think I don't want to constrain this committee, this
25 recreational AP that we just are in the midst of forming, by
26 regional management, although I think that might be a regional
27 outcome, but, given what we've just seen in the past few months
28 and where we are now, it's just not the right time for that,
29 until we can see where this recreational AP gets us.

30
31 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I have Leann, followed by Johnny.

32
33 **MS. BOSARGE:** When we tabled -- We didn't table, but we
34 postponed 39 indefinitely, but I left that meeting with a lot of
35 mixed feelings, but what I realized when I left -- You know
36 hindsight is always 20/20. When I got home and I was talking to
37 my neighbor, who fishes for red snapper as a private angler, and
38 I realized, you know what, the states were really not onboard
39 with the way that amendment was set up and the way it was going,
40 and so that's a lot of the reason we didn't make more progress
41 on it.

42
43 For this guy standing next to me, if we had given the states
44 management of the private recreational fishery, even though it
45 wouldn't have given the states the flexibility that they wanted,
46 it would have been better for this guy standing next to me,
47 because when the state told him that he could go fish, whatever
48 season that state set for that year, that plan they turned into

1 NMFS, he would have got to fish all the way out to 200 miles.
2 He would have got to fish in federal waters, where he wanted to
3 fish, and the states have the flexibility to tailor his season
4 in his state to what meets their people's needs.

5
6 If they've got a big private angler population or whatever, they
7 could do state -- They could do weekends only or they could do -
8 - They have that flexibility that we don't have, because our
9 process takes so long, and they know what their people want. To
10 me, it was better for the man on the ground that actually wanted
11 to fish, but it was still accountable.

12
13 I don't think it will fix the problem completely. I don't, but
14 I do think this is a good stopgap measure to give those guys a
15 little more flexibility until we can put something in there that
16 hopefully complements this. In other words, whatever they bring
17 us, and I don't know what they're going to bring us, but I've
18 got a feeling, whatever they bring us, it's going to have a lot
19 of state involvement in it, even if it's tags. Even if it was
20 tags, I think the states are going to have a lot of involvement
21 in that.

22
23 If we go ahead and work the kinks out of letting the states
24 manage the private anglers now and then start adding some more
25 flexibility to that system with whatever the private anglers
26 bring us, I just think, for the actual little guy fishing, that
27 he would be better off for now.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I have a few folks here. I've got Johnny,
30 followed by Dr. Crabtree, followed by Kelly.

31
32 **MR. GREENE:** Thank you, Chairman Anson. I would speak in favor
33 of this. I mean we've got a focus group that's supposed to
34 deliver us a report at the end of the year. We've got an AP
35 group formed, and we're going to have to put these ideas
36 somewhere that they're going to bring forward.

37
38 Perhaps maybe the ideas that come forward are not regional
39 management-based, but perhaps some of them could be and should
40 be, and I think Leann brought up several of the points that I
41 was going to bring up.

42
43 I just don't see the harm in trying to start something new here.
44 I know that regional management was a long process, and I sat
45 through the entire part of it, just as all of you did, and I
46 agreed with some of it and disagreed with some of it, but I do
47 think this is the only way to get around the state non-
48 compliance and move forward, and so I speak in favor of this

1 motion.

2

3 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Crabtree.

4

5 **DR. CRABTREE:** I continue to support regional management within
6 the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and I understand the
7 concerns, and there are a lot of things that need to be worked
8 out, but I think finding a way to provide more flexibility to
9 the states is a good thing, and so I support the motion.

10

11 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Lucas.

12

13 **DR. LUCAS:** This was probably just a little bit to Leann's
14 point, I think. I think several state representatives just said
15 that we support regional management. We as states support
16 regional management. The problem seems to be making sure all
17 states get onboard, because, in order to have regional
18 management -- If you're dividing it up by the states, you've got
19 to have the states agreeing, and three state directors just said
20 they don't think they can vote on this amendment just yet,
21 because they don't want to constrain this private recreational
22 movement that's going on, whereas we are happy with regional
23 management.

24

25 Heck, Mississippi was really happy. We had the opportunity to
26 fish 180 days. I mean I was extremely excited and, given that
27 last year we came back with a zero on our numbers for MRIP, we
28 could fish 365 days. If anybody was going to be happy, it was
29 Mississippi, but it seemed to create a point of contention, even
30 amongst Dr. Crabtree, who was discussing that why should that be
31 the case and why should all that happen, and it got kind of
32 wrapped back up in allocation.

33

34 I think if you have three states who are saying maybe we should
35 go about this differently, maybe not constrain them just to
36 regional management, maybe let this group come up with some
37 other things. Certainly we've all been supportive of regional
38 management, but I have at least noted three states that said
39 they couldn't support this amendment at this time.

40

41 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Anyone else? Ed.

42

43 **MR. SWINDELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I first came on
44 this council in Galveston, this issue came up, and I've always
45 been in favor of trying to get a private recreational system
46 going. Regional management seems, to me, to be the right thing
47 to do under this council scenario, and why we don't do it I just
48 don't -- I'm sitting here looking at myself and smiling, because

1 we're status quo to death. The words "status quo" doesn't fit
2 this. "Dead" almost fits this, in this council. This is a
3 shame, people.

4
5 Why don't we give something a try? Let's try something. We're
6 not trying anything right now. We're waiting on an outside
7 group to come in and give us information on an advisory panel.
8 I don't know anything about this advisory group.

9
10 One thing or another happens, and we've been appointed by the
11 Secretary of Commerce, recommended by the governors to be here
12 to get this done, and we're not getting anything done. This is
13 terrible, and so I really want to try to get something done for
14 the recreational people. We have done it for charter boats and
15 we've done it for commercial, and why in the world don't we try
16 harder to get something done for the recreational people? I
17 just don't understand it. I am in favor of the motion. Thank
18 you.

19
20 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Camp, you're up.

21
22 **MR. MATENS:** The first meeting that I came to in New Orleans,
23 and it was in August, Louisiana introduced the concept of
24 regional management. I remember it well. Many people that were
25 on the council at that time, many of you here today, were in
26 favor of it. Over four years, I watched it morph into something
27 that we couldn't live with. I think, as a representative of the
28 recreational community, we're adamantly opposed to reopening
29 this issue and having it go down the same path that it went down
30 before.

31
32 For all the reasons that Texas and Mississippi and Florida have
33 enunciated today, I am firmly opposed, and I'm breaking with my
34 state on this, but I'm firmly opposed to moving forward with
35 this. Thank you.

36
37 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Roy.

38
39 **MR. WILLIAMS:** I seconded the motion, and I'm for it. I mean,
40 honestly, there is really nothing in this amendment yet. We
41 have no idea what form it's going to take. We just know we
42 don't want it to be quite the same as Amendment 39, and so I
43 think we ought to give it a chance and see what it morphs into,
44 and so I'm in favor of it.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I have Robin, followed by Martha.

47
48 **MR. RIECHERS:** It's a little bit to what Ed said. Everyone

1 keeps saying we've done commercial and we've done charter, and
2 you hear that at the podium and you hear that around this table,
3 and let's be honest. What we've really done is create a sector
4 separation, Amendment 40. We had three years to get a program
5 done. We just extended that to five, and, even though we were
6 promised that there was a program and there was a plan, no new
7 data collection -- While there's many things going on in every
8 state, mostly conducted by the states, that's going on, but, in
9 reality, what really has kept everyone under any sort of
10 recreational allocation, and it was the same projections as
11 before. No projections have changed, minus some tweaking in
12 data, but it's basically a 20 percent buffer, folks.

13
14 Let's not kid ourselves about some program that's in place
15 that's working and doing something different. It's being talked
16 about, and I'm not suggesting that that's not going on, but what
17 has kept us under the quota and the actual overruns of quota is
18 the 20 percent buffer, and so the program you speak of, Ed, is a
19 20 percent buffer.

20
21 Now, I don't disagree that we need to figure out better ways,
22 but when you hear the recreational community telling you they're
23 not ready for this, when you hear the state directors telling
24 you that we've discussed regional management for a long time,
25 and we did as well as we could, but, unfortunately, in this
26 body, under this governance, I'm not certain we're going to get
27 to any different place, but we'll keep working if that's what
28 you vote to do. We will do what we can, but I'm not certain
29 we're going to end up in any different place than we ended up
30 before.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Martha.

33
34 **MS. GUYAS:** I mean, if there are new ideas about how to do
35 regional management through this council process, then let's
36 hear them. I haven't heard them yet, and I think, if we do have
37 these ideas, they need to come in front of this recreational AP
38 that we're about to put together, and let's shop them out with
39 them and then let's take the steps forward, but, at this point,
40 all I know about regional management, that we've talked about,
41 is Amendment 39, and, until I see something different, I'm going
42 to have to vote against this motion.

43
44 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** David.

45
46 **MR. WALKER:** I support the motion. I'm hearing a little
47 different story from the recreational fishermen. They don't
48 want more of what they're getting. They just keep beating the

1 same old drum. They keep coming here every meeting, and it's
2 not the time and it's not the place. I'm getting tired of this.
3 It's time to move forward, and it's time to get something for
4 this recreational group.

5
6 You can work with Ken. There's nothing wrong with working in
7 conjunction with everyone. If this can move forward -- We keep
8 stalling and we keep looking for excuses. We just want to put
9 the -- Some fishermen just say you just want to put us into the
10 grave. That's not our job. Our job is to provide a solution
11 for fishermen, and I think the private angler deserves something
12 more than what they have now, and what they have now is not
13 working. If we keep sitting here, we're not going to help any,
14 and so I support this, and I want to move forward with it.

15
16 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Patrick.

17
18 **MR. BANKS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of the discussion
19 around the table seems to make my point just fine without saying
20 a word. I've heard other state directors talk about the support
21 for regional management, but then they say they don't support
22 it.

23
24 We talk about how good it would be and how it would provide us
25 with some flexibility. Certainly we had nine days this year.
26 If we could have just given those nine days in a different
27 manner, it would have been wonderful. Well, I don't know about
28 wonderful, but it would have been better, and that's all this
29 motion is trying to do.

30
31 There's no hidden agenda. I'm not trying to put information out
32 there to say that the AP has to go a certain way. I just think
33 we need to bring this issue forward, and what I hear is a lot of
34 I'm afraid of the boogey-man, and the boogey-man is not real.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Dana.

37
38 **DR. DANA:** Thank you, Chairman Anson. I understand completely
39 Patrick's point, and I think that there needs to be an amendment
40 that deals with the private recreational fishery. Whether it's
41 a regional management amendment or whether it's just management
42 of the red snapper is the question, I think.

43
44 I appreciate Martha's comments that we have a private group out
45 there that's looking at recreational issues and is going to give
46 us a report on what they think is viable options. We also are
47 set, in August, to start creating an AP for recreational, who
48 are going to be giving us advice, and so whether it's this

1 particular meeting that this motion goes through or whether it's
2 a later meeting, August or October, it has to happen. It's
3 unfair not to make it happen, and my only question is back to
4 Patrick, as to whether he might be willing to allow the other
5 state directors to go back to their leadership group and just
6 talk to them about what makes sense in an amendment, knowing
7 that we have these private recreational groups out there looking
8 to provide us advice, and what makes sense, coming back and
9 coming to some consensus on passing an amendment. Then I would
10 also like to hear from Kevin on Alabama's stance.

11
12 **MR. BANKS:** Dr. Dana, I appreciate the comments. I am in no way
13 trying to preclude these outside groups at all. I think it's
14 extremely important to let those groups come in and provide us
15 with information, even groups that we haven't heard from yet, an
16 individual from a state who may all of a sudden become
17 interested.

18
19 Once I got put on this council, I have a lot of friends in my
20 community who fish red snapper. They have all of a sudden
21 become very interested, and we have very good discussions over
22 it, and so I'm interested in hearing all of that.

23
24 The pace of this council, I am not so sure it matters whether we
25 wait at all. The opportunity for these people to speak is not
26 going to be lost if we don't start this process today, and so I
27 agree with you that we need to hear these comments, but, if
28 that's a reason to delay this, I just don't find it as valid, if
29 you understand my position, and so I would like to push forward.
30 Thank you.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I will speak to Dr. Dana's request to hear from
33 Alabama. I mean we were in support of regional management,
34 under the original intent, that is for the whole recreational
35 fishery. As Robin pointed out, as you go through that process,
36 or as we went through that process, a lot of questions were
37 added to the original suite of questions I think that we all had
38 going into it, or desires, and so we ended up with an amendment
39 that not enough people voted yes on, and there were lots of
40 reasons in both camps as to why there were no's.

41
42 We had to table that document, and so you proposed this, and I'm
43 kind of in line with the comments that Kelly had provided.
44 We're supportive of looking at something different and trying to
45 offer something to the recreational anglers that would give them
46 some more flexibility, going back to that issue of that primary
47 focus or reason for us to do this, but I think, based on the
48 motions that the council made, as recent as this meeting,

1 relative to engaging with that portion of the fishery and
2 waiting to hear back from them -- Ken has come up several times
3 in the last few meetings and talked about the process that
4 they're going through.

5
6 We've spoken to trying to make sure that he comes with that
7 product and that that product that they provide, the report they
8 provide, will kind of take in, as a public comment, if you will,
9 to this type of motion, or this process, and so I am kind of
10 with Kelly, in that it's a little premature, I think.

11
12 It sends the wrong message, I think. As Kelly alluded to, we
13 want your input and feedback, but yet, we're going to start this
14 amendment process kind of without your feedback, and so I'm
15 nervous, in that regard, as to how it will be received by the
16 recreational fishermen.

17
18 I'm a little nervous as to how we handle this internally as far
19 as staff time, as Dale alluded to, as we've got a lot of things
20 on our plate, and so I can understand it being offered at this
21 time to show that there's movement down a recreational fishermen
22 plan, and certainly you have every right to offer that, but --
23 We wait until January, and so it's sitting on the shelf for six
24 months, and so that's kind of where I am with that.

25
26 I feel like it's a little premature. I'm certainly in support
27 of looking at regional management. We're going to go through
28 those same issues that we've already dealt with when we were
29 looking at both the recreational and the for-hire components
30 together.

31
32 We're going to go through those same issues again, and they're
33 going to be contentious, and they're not going to be easy, but
34 that is all part of the process, and we certainly have a lot of
35 information regarding how the mechanics will work, as we laid
36 them out in the Regional 39 Document as it stands right now,
37 that we can incorporate into this document, or I'm sure we'll
38 have to address and reevaluate, but that's kind of where I see
39 it, from Alabama's perspective, in looking at this particular
40 motion. Leann.

41
42 **MS. BOSARGE:** In offering new ideas under regional management
43 for this private recreational fishery, I guess one things that's
44 been crossing my mind is that all the states have implemented --
45 Well, I say all. I'm assuming all of you all have implemented
46 new data programs. I know Mississippi has, relative to red
47 snapper. Louisiana, I think, is the closest to having
48 everything kind of blessed and, hey, it sounds good and we're

1 going to use all your data by the feds.
2
3 Essentially, what a lot of the states are doing with their
4 state-water seasons, because they are being biologically sound
5 about it and trying to make sure that they don't overfish the
6 entire stock of red snapper and looking at it from that
7 perspective, I believe they are, even though we call them non-
8 compliant, and they're trying to adjust their state-water
9 seasons accordingly, and they're looking at what is coming into
10 the dock.
11
12 They are seeing what the landings are, right? Maybe I'm a
13 little overly optimistic here, but I believe that's what is
14 going on, and I can see, one day, where you get to the point
15 where, instead -- What you're doing is in-season monitoring and
16 shutting down your season when it's time, but looking at it from
17 an overall stock perspective and not just some stock right off
18 of Louisiana or Alabama or Mississippi.
19
20 Why couldn't that be the case one day for private anglers, but
21 out to 200 miles? Your state data programs essentially are
22 doing in-season monitoring, and you're forecasting your seasons
23 and you're keeping an eye on it, and you shut it down when it's
24 time, but, yet, you have some flexibility for your private
25 anglers to make some tweaks as you go through the year.
26
27 In certain parts of the year, you're doing weekend-only seasons
28 or whatever the case may be, but, to me, and I know your data
29 programs are not completely accepted by NMFS yet, but I think
30 everybody is making steps to get there, and I would hate to
31 throw you in the deep end and say, yay, everybody has been
32 blessed and you've got your own thing going and let's do it.
33
34 This is kind of dipping our toes in the water and working out
35 the kinks of the base portion of taking on out to 200-mile
36 management for that group, and then we add on things like that
37 as we go along, but I think this is a great plan to start laying
38 the foundation for something like that, but I do respect what
39 you say. You want a clean slate, but I think it could provide
40 some advantages to them in this interim period and to the
41 states.
42
43 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I apologize, Doug. I had you on the list, and
44 I went to Leann. I have Doug, Kelly, and then John Sanchez.
45
46 **MR. BOYD:** Patrick, I support what the states have been talking
47 about over here, and Dale and Martha and the others, and I don't
48 want to reiterate all of that, but one thing that really bothers

1 me about this motion is the word "private". Recreational
2 fishermen are recreational fishermen, in my opinion, and when
3 you put the word "private" in there, you exclude millions of
4 recreational fishermen from this motion.
5

6 I support regional management. I have always supported regional
7 management, in its original form, and I would support it again,
8 but I cannot support a regional management that excludes
9 millions of recreational fishermen, and so if you would like to
10 change that, to where it includes all recreational fishermen, I
11 would be more inclined to support it. Thank you.
12

13 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Kelly.
14

15 **DR. LUCAS:** I'm really kind of going back to address something
16 Dr. Dana said when she was talking about the difference between
17 management in that sentence and regional management in that
18 sentence, because you're right that we don't know what they're
19 going to come back with, what the private recreational angler
20 group is going to come back with and say, and it could be
21 something different.
22

23 I mean they could tell you something entirely different, that
24 they want a flexible management system and they don't want the
25 states or something like that. I mean I don't know. That's
26 what they're there for. They're there to come up with ideas,
27 and I just don't want to put this amendment out there with that
28 in there and have them think the only answer I can come up with
29 in this group has to do with regional management.
30

31 I want them to be open to come up with whatever it is they want
32 to come up with without being constrained by that type of idea.
33 I am a huge supporter of regional management, but I'm also in
34 support of kind of the grassroots, get in there and talk to the
35 people and let them tell you what they want, and I would really
36 like them to be able to just do it fresh, and that's all.
37

38 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** John.
39

40 **MR. SANCHEZ:** First, I would like to welcome Patrick.
41

42 **MR. BANKS:** I'm about to be zero for one.
43

44 **MR. SANCHEZ:** Get used to it. What I would like to say is I
45 appreciate what you're trying to do and the obvious sincerity
46 from where it come from. I see that in Ken Haddad, too. He's
47 trying to have some meaningful solutions in this process. It
48 would be my goal, my hope, that the recreational industry would

1 drive this bus, would create their solutions to -- If it's a
2 nine-day season or some assessment gives you more days, how you
3 deal with them.

4
5 The very inactivity that we've had for so long is what created
6 this difference of we need to do something different. The for-
7 hire folks went ahead and did that, because you can't tolerate
8 this anymore.

9
10 Now, this is the remaining sector of the fishery, and I see our
11 job, our task, is to do something for them or to help them along
12 to facilitate it, and I would like for them to drive this bus,
13 this being their bus, and let them drive it. Let them come up
14 with it, but let's do something, because all we do is do a whole
15 lot of nothing, and it's very, very frustrating, and we're not
16 getting any closer to anything meaningful being done. Then, as
17 far as staff is busy, what more important issue in the Gulf of
18 Mexico do we have than this right now?

19
20 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Patrick.

21
22 **MR. BANKS:** I would like to -- I don't exactly know the correct
23 process, but a change to the original motion. I would remove
24 the word "regional", to allow Kelly to support the motion, as
25 she's said that she couldn't support it with the word "regional"
26 in there, not to direct them to only regional, but then put "for
27 management of the red snapper for private recreational fishermen
28 in the Gulf of Mexico, considering all options, including
29 regional management".

30
31 I'm in agreement with you, Kelly. I think all options should be
32 on the table. I think regional management is a great option,
33 but I think we should, just like you said, consider all options.

34
35 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Roy, you seconded, and so do you agree? Okay.
36 We have Kelly.

37
38 **DR. LUCAS:** Okay. Given that, and that we're going to have this
39 group do this and we're waiting kind of on them to consider it,
40 wouldn't it be prudent for us to also hold off on this motion
41 until we at least convene that group?

42
43 **MR. BANKS:** No.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Doug.

46
47 **MR. BOYD:** Patrick, you obviously did not take "private" out of
48 that. Would you consider taking out the private recreational

1 and talking about all recreational fishermen, instead of leaving
2 out millions of people?
3
4 **MR. BANKS:** I apologize. I didn't address that. I thought my
5 silence would, but no.
6
7 **MR. BOYD:** Your silence did, and that's why I asked the
8 question.
9
10 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Dana.
11
12 **DR. DANA:** Thank you, Chairman Anson. You have already
13 responded to this, Patrick, in your last response to me, but the
14 motion is to direct staff to create a new amendment for
15 management of red snapper for the private recreational fishery
16 in the Gulf of Mexico, considering all options, including
17 regional management. **Could you put something like "with input
18 from the recreational advisory groups?"**
19
20 **MR. BANKS:** I will accept that friendly amendment.
21
22 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Let's make sure we get the motion up on the
23 board the way it's to be interpreted. Patrick, does this
24 complete your motion?
25
26 **MR. BANKS:** I am not exactly sure why that's necessary, but I
27 will agree to it. That's what we want to do anyway, right?
28
29 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** This is the council group that was just formed,
30 is the Ad Hoc Private Recreational Advisory Panel, and they're
31 not meeting until after the other group brings in their report,
32 and so it's going to be in February of next year before they
33 will even start working on the amendment, and so, again, we want
34 to make sure -- That's what this is now changed to.
35
36 **MR. BANKS:** Yes, I would like to have input from the Ad Hoc
37 Private Recreational Advisory Panel.
38
39 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. Roy, do you continue to maintain
40 your second?
41
42 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Yes, but with a clarification. The ad hoc panel
43 is the one we're putting together.
44
45 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** That is correct. That's the council's panel,
46 right.
47
48 **MR. WILLIAMS:** The private group is the one that has Ken has put

1 together, and so can we say ad hoc and private recreational
2 advisory panels?

3

4 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** They don't call themselves the ad hoc advisory
5 panel. That is our name. That's the council's name.

6

7 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Okay. I'm fine with it. With that explanation,
8 I'm fine.

9

10 **DR. CRABTREE:** If you add the focus group to this, then you're
11 running into Federal Advisory Committee problems, and I would
12 recommend you not do that.

13

14 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right, and so you agree, Roy, to this?

15

16 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Yes.

17

18 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. Leann has her hand up for quite a
19 while. Leann.

20

21 **MS. BOSARGE:** I am pretty excited about this. I am very excited
22 about this, because I think this sends a message to them that,
23 look, we are serious about considering what you're going to put
24 before us. We're so serious about it that we're going to
25 already have things in place and have said, yes, we are going to
26 start an amendment to at least look at what you're going to tell
27 us and get some analysis and take it seriously.

28

29 Yes, we're putting in here that regional management will also be
30 one of our options. That's okay. That tells them where we're
31 headed, that, look, we're going to consider that. If you tell
32 us that blatantly, no, we don't want that, we will remove it,
33 but we could make a vote today, take a vote today, that says,
34 yes, we are going to start a private angler amendment that will
35 make some progress on what comes out of that focus group that we
36 have put all of our faith in. I mean I'm excited about it.

37

38 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Kelly.

39

40 **DR. LUCAS:** I think I just have a question. We're directing
41 staff to, at a future date, sometime after this private ad hoc
42 committee meets in January or February or whatever we decided on
43 earlier, to create an amendment, or do you just want them to
44 create a blank amendment? I think I'm just a little confused.

45

46 The way it reads, to me, is the ad hoc committee won't be
47 formed, or sit, until sometime in January, and so we're just
48 creating a blank amendment to sit there waiting on them in

1 January or are we creating a -- If somebody can explain that.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** My interpretation of this is that the staff
4 will create a new amendment to address the management of red
5 snapper for the private recreational fishery after the report is
6 submitted to the council, which then is going to be passed on to
7 this Ad Hoc Private Recreational Advisory Panel, for them to
8 kick around and kind of review and evaluate.

9
10 They may take everything and they may take nothing, but they're
11 going to come back to us with their initial report, which may
12 take several meetings for them to go through all of the issues,
13 and then staff will create the amendment, based on that input,
14 and then we'll start talking about it at the council, to give
15 them direction as to what will be going in there.

16
17 Even though we may cross this hurdle today, in my mind, we're
18 not going to be creating a document that we're going to be
19 reviewing until potentially April of next year, and so that's
20 how I interpret that.

21
22 **MR. BANKS:** I'm not exactly sure how you can interpret it that
23 way. It's to direct staff to create a new amendment. It
24 doesn't say after January 1 or after January 30. It says with
25 input from all groups. I mean throw out a group. If you want
26 to throw out a group, we'll consider all the groups. We're not
27 putting a deadline on it. I mean putting a deadline on it is
28 going to do not what we want to do. We want to move the issue
29 forward.

30
31 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Yes, I understand that, and so we made a motion
32 here today that said that we won't convene an ad hoc advisory
33 panel until after the January council meeting, essentially, and
34 so that's all I'm saying, is that that's what is going to
35 happen. All right. Kelly.

36
37 **DR. LUCAS:** I am just asking for clarification, because if we're
38 starting an amendment now, then I can't vote for this, but if
39 we're starting an amendment -- Well, I don't even know if I can
40 vote for it if we're creating an amendment in April of next
41 year. I think I'm just a little confused about the timing issue
42 on it. I'm sorry.

43
44 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Robin.

45
46 **MR. RIECHERS:** I would just remind folks that we've got
47 framework amendments. If we're going to change things in the
48 red snapper fishery for the private recreational group that can

1 be done under a framework amendment, we would do that next year
2 before the season, and we would make that adjustment. This is
3 just normal operating business here.

4
5 This would be, I'm assuming, a regulatory amendment that would
6 have options greater than the things that we can handle in a
7 framework amendment. That's just what I'm assuming, because we
8 have no idea of -- No one has added any flavor to what this
9 might be, and so I'm not certain what it would be.

10
11 Again, this is just a little tortured at this point, not knowing
12 either what the true intentions are, what guidelines or even
13 what we're thinking about, or I'm not even going to get into all
14 the craziness about the dates you all have been bringing up, but
15 that certainly adds torture to the whole process at the moment.

16
17 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I mean that's my interpretation of the
18 schedule, and, Doug, you're certainly welcome to chime in or
19 staff, if they interpret it different.

20
21 **MR. RIECHERS:** I would say that your author of the motion
22 certainly suggested to you that he interpreted it different.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Yes, and I have another Vice Chair here that's
25 excited and wearing out her muscles holding up her arm, thinking
26 that we'll probably do something different too, and so, as
27 Chair, I want to make sure that, when we vote on this motion and
28 it's passed, if it's passed, that everyone is satisfied, at
29 least those that are on the winning side, and have a clear
30 understanding. As Cahir for the next meeting or so, if I get
31 asked the question, I am going to say delay, because we haven't
32 gotten to the point where we've had a meeting with the ad hoc
33 advisory panel.

34
35 That's the way I will be giving advice to staff, as far as
36 putting time toward it and all that stuff, and so if a document
37 is expected to come back in October, that doesn't say that, to
38 me, because we've already said that the ad hoc recreational
39 panel is not going to meet until after the January meeting, and
40 so that's all I'm trying to make sure, is that everyone
41 understands. I have a couple of other people. I have Greg and
42 then Roy and then Dale.

43
44 **DR. STUNZ:** I will be quick. Just reflecting back on Mr. Banks'
45 comments of thirty-nine minutes while we talked about whatever
46 issue that was, and I didn't start my watch here, but this is --
47 I think we're already doing this. I don't understand why we
48 need necessarily an amendment.

1
2 I understand what it was before, when we were forming the
3 regional management, but now we've just basically said, well,
4 we're going to start figuring out what to do with the
5 recreational anglers, and I mean I think we're already well down
6 that path with all the motions we've already passed. The way
7 that this got morphed to what it is now, I don't see us getting
8 anywhere with this.

9
10 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Roy.

11
12 **MR. WILLIAMS:** It seems to me that you could use this as a
13 vehicle for informing that Ad Hoc Recreational Advisory Panel
14 what our intentions are and show them that they could have some
15 real power in this whole thing.

16
17 We can start giving them some options as to how they might --
18 When they're formed in January, some options as to how we might
19 manage this, how we might do it differently than we're doing it
20 now. You know it could be some kind of tagging program. It
21 could be a couple of days a month or it could be some license
22 limitation program. It could be all kinds of different ways to
23 do it, and so I don't think the two things are at odds, and I'm
24 going to vote for it.

25
26 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** To that, and I will just bring up what Robin
27 pointed out earlier, relative to that comment, is that this
28 provides none of that direction, and so they're going to be
29 flying blind, in my eyes, as to what they should be putting in
30 the document, because that has nothing, other than they can
31 include regional management as an option, and so that's all. I
32 have Dale and then Kelly.

33
34 **MR. DIAZ:** The new language softens it up. My primary objection
35 earlier was that, for regional management, we have not been able
36 to get past the impasse of how to allocate this fishery. This
37 softens it up, where it takes everything into consideration.

38
39 While I don't know that there will be a benefit to it, there
40 might. I haven't seen Leann this excited before, and her
41 enthusiasm is rubbing off on me, and, at this point, the way
42 it's worded at the moment, I am going to change to support this
43 motion. Thank you.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Kelly.

46
47 **DR. LUCAS:** I think I have a question for Mr. Williams. The
48 Chair just explained that this will be the -- It's this. This

1 is the title of this, and this is where it sits, but there is no
2 direction other than that, because this amendment doesn't get
3 created until sometime after the group meets and comes back to
4 us, and so they won't have any direction other than that title,
5 correct?
6

7 **MR. WILLIAMS:** I don't know. I'm going to answer the question I
8 wish you had asked me. I am going to try to be a politician
9 here. If I were the Executive Director, I would take this and I
10 would direct staff to begin forming some options for this, some
11 logical alternatives, as a way to manage private boat red
12 snapper fishermen, so that, by the time the focus group is done
13 and the ad hoc panel is put together, we would have some
14 alternatives ready for them.
15

16 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I will just go back to my comment earlier
17 relative to what Kelly had already mentioned, and that is that,
18 if we're going to go down that road -- Again, we've already
19 said, in good faith, to Ken and the folks that are supporting
20 Ken with that recreational focus group, we're expecting a report
21 at the end of the year, Ken, and go at it, and we will be more
22 than eager to look at that and throw it in.
23

24 I am just saying this for everyone to understand, and so, again,
25 from the motions that were provided at this meeting, we were
26 still under -- I was still under the impression that we were
27 waiting for that report, and so now, if we go in, as Kelly
28 mentioned, and start saying, well, staff, go ahead and put this
29 in there and put that in there, I think it will short-circuit
30 that discussion and the good faith and the motions we've already
31 provided. That's all I'm saying.
32

33 In light of that, and in light of this, I won't support the
34 motion, because there seems to be confusion amongst the time
35 schedule, and so I won't support it. I have David and then
36 Leann.
37

38 **MR. WALKER:** I was going to add that, as far as the workload on
39 the staff, I think, long term, this would help the workload. I
40 mean it would remove it, long-term. This is an ongoing problem
41 we've had for a long time, a lot of discussion, and I also think
42 that it would be a -- This motion that we're working on is
43 something the congressional staff could appreciate, that the
44 council is finally working on a motion and moving forward and
45 hopefully with something that will bring solutions.
46

47 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Leann and then Robin.
48

1 **MS. BOSARGE:** What I was thinking about this was so staff would
2 start a document, right, and they -- It will be for the
3 management of the red snapper private recreational fishery, and
4 they may put one action alternative in there, for now, on the
5 regional management, just very general, something not getting
6 into the weeds just yet, but we would spend our time, for the
7 moment, on the purpose and need, right, and that purpose and
8 need, the flexibility, that access, everything else that we're
9 going to put in that purpose and need statement, that kind of
10 becomes the charge for that Ad Hoc Private Recreational Advisory
11 Panel, because we always struggle with what's going to be the
12 exact charge.

13
14 We can actually sit down and think about that, without a whole
15 bunch of politics involved and without already knowing what
16 we're trying to achieve over here. It's like a blank slate look
17 at it. This is what we want to do. This is what we want to do
18 for you guys, and we hand them that purpose and need, and now
19 tell us how we can do it. That's kind of what I envisioned, and
20 so, anyway, I am excited about it.

21
22 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Robin.

23
24 **MR. RIECHERS:** A lot of people have talked about hearing from
25 anglers, and one of the things I've heard from a lot of anglers,
26 most recently, is that, yes, the system isn't working for them,
27 but they don't necessarily believe, through this system, they're
28 going to get that working for them any better.

29
30 It's a little disingenuous to think that we're going to come up
31 with anything new. We've got -- Roy, you were around when we've
32 done half of them, but we've got white papers out the wazoo
33 about different things we could do in the recreational fishery,
34 and the constraints are either in the logistical constraints of
35 actually executing them and the constraints of what the MRIP
36 program would allow us to do or wouldn't allow us to do.

37
38 I mean I am not saying we don't need a fresh look at all of
39 those things. We do, but to think we're going to do it because
40 we magically have said now that we're going to create a new
41 thing is just a little disingenuous. I mean we all need to roll
42 up our sleeves and we need to find solutions, but I'm not
43 certain that one motion is going to do that. Let's be genuine
44 with the recreational community and tell them there may not be a
45 lot we can do for you beyond nine days right now.

46
47 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We've had lots of discussion on this. We
48 haven't had a break since lunch, and so I would say let's go

1 ahead and vote on the motion that's on the board. The motion is
2 to direct staff to create a new amendment for management of red
3 snapper for the private recreational fishery in the Gulf of
4 Mexico, considering all options, including regional management,
5 with input from the Ad Hoc Private Recreational Advisory Panel.
6 **All those in favor of the motion, please signify by raising your**
7 **hand.**

8
9 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Nine.**

10
11 **CHAIRMAN ANSON: All those opposed like sign.**

12
13 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Six. It's nine to six. It passes.**

14
15 **CHAIRMAN ANSON: With one abstention. Martha abstained.**

16
17 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Can I ask a question?**

18
19 **CHAIRMAN ANSON: Yes.**

20
21 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: We will draft a document for this**
22 **ad hoc advisory panel to review and provide input for the**
23 **council, and that's our next step, as staff. That's my**
24 **understanding, from the explanations I've heard. Could you just**
25 **clarify that, please?**

26
27 **CHAIRMAN ANSON: The way I read this, in consideration of the**
28 **other motions regarding waiting until we convene the ad hoc**
29 **advisory panel, until after we get the focus group from Ken, is**
30 **that we would be able to review their report at our January**
31 **meeting.**

32
33 **At the January meeting, we would flesh out some of the direction**
34 **that would go to the Ad Hoc Private Recreational Advisory Panel.**
35 **That was my interpretation.**

36
37 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: I thought that's what I said, too.**

38
39 **CHAIRMAN ANSON: No, you want to create a document, and that's**
40 **what goes back to the whole issue of that, and so --**

41
42 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Thank you. I understand better**
43 **now. I knew we weren't supposed to bring anything back in**
44 **August or October, but I was thinking we could get a step up and**
45 **have something ready for the ad hoc panel to review in their**
46 **first meeting, but we can also wait until the council tells us**
47 **to do that.**

1 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Doug.
2
3 **MR. BOYD:** I have a question that is out of Reef Fish, and so I
4 would like to go ahead and just ask it right now, rather than
5 wait until after the break, if that's all right, Mr. Chairman.
6 Could we ask staff to bring us some kind of a chart that
7 explains the IFQ shares, shareholder accounts process, of the
8 entire process and the allocation?
9
10 I have talked to several council members who seem confused, if
11 not bewildered, by that whole process. I have talked to several
12 people who don't understand it. I think I do, but then, when I
13 talk to people, I'm not sure.
14
15 Glenn gave us a very nice chart of the RESTORE Act, and I was
16 able to understand more of it than I have in all of the
17 briefings we've had. If we could have something like that, I
18 would appreciate it, if we can ask staff to do that.
19
20 **DR. STUNZ:** Just to that point quickly, Doug, in addition, I
21 agree with the chart, but maybe a definition of some key terms,
22 because we're getting all confused between shares and the quota.
23 You know just the general idea of how this system works, with
24 everything defined.
25
26 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Certainly. Between Roy's staff and
27 our staff, we can do that, and we can do that at the next
28 meeting.
29
30 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Kelly, did you have your hand up?
31
32 **DR. LUCAS:** I did. It was just making sure we had the
33 clarification, because that was exactly why I didn't vote on the
34 motion, was because of the confusion associated with that.
35 These people won't have any documents or anything. Staff will
36 work on nothing. We will not be working on anything until after
37 this group meets is the way -- I was just asking that that was
38 the clarification.
39
40 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Again, that's the way I read it. If you just
41 read it in black and white, my little brain says that that was
42 the process, as I described it. Let's take a fifteen-minute
43 break. We will be back at twenty-five after.
44
45 (Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)
46
47 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Hopefully everybody has had a good break and is
48 reenergized, hopefully. Go ahead, Dr. Dana.

1
2 **MACKEREL COMMITTEE REPORT**
3

4 **DR. DANA:** Thank you, Chairman Anson. The Mackerel Committee
5 convened on June 22. The agenda was modified and approved to
6 include a discussion of updating the Gulf migratory group king
7 mackerel OFL and ABC yield streams.
8

9 We then went into Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 29.
10 Staff reviewed the purpose and need for CMP 29, which addresses
11 Gulf king mackerel allocation sharing and accountability
12 measures. The committee determined that the purpose and need
13 were accurate and suitable to the intended actions.
14

15 Action 1, staff reviewed Action 1, which examines options for
16 allocation sharing strategies between the recreational and
17 commercial sectors for Gulf king mackerel. Alternative 2 was
18 taken directly from CMP Amendment 26, Alternative 3 was
19 developed by staff, and Alternative 4 was proffered at the
20 previous council meeting.
21

22 Staff presented an example of how Alternative 3 would function.
23 Committee members were asked to define what would be meant by
24 the language "met its ACL" with respect to Alternatives 3 and 4.
25 Committee members agreed that, with respect to king mackerel, if
26 a sector lands at least 90 percent of its ACL, then it is
27 determined to be landing its ACL.
28

29 The committee was also asked to consider its willingness to
30 allow Waves 2 and 3 from the MRIP survey to be estimated, in
31 order to facilitate the timely issuance of temporary rules by
32 NMFS to adjust the ACLs as described in Alternatives 3 and 4.
33 The Committee indicated that they would prefer to see the
34 landings history of the recreational sector for those waves
35 prior to making a decision.
36

37 Committee members also wished to see a table outlining the
38 estimated timelines for Alternatives 2 through 4. Upon request
39 from the committee, staff noted that the landings for the
40 recreational sector for the current fishing season are 1.1
41 million pounds below what they were at the same time last year.
42 Ryan has some of that information. He's going to put it on the
43 screen.
44

45 **MR. RYAN RINDONE:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and one of the
46 reasons for doing it this way is just because you guys still
47 have to approve the language that's actually in the document
48 before we keep moving forward with additional analyses and that

1 sort of thing.

2
3 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Could you get closer to the
4 microphone?
5

6 **MR. RINDONE:** For Action 1, if you scroll down some, we have,
7 based on Ms. Bosarge's comments, we have a new Alternative X
8 down here, and what makes this different from the previous
9 version is that the threshold portion of the alternative is
10 removed, and so I will read it to you.

11
12 It says to conditionally transfer a percentage, based on the
13 options of the stock ACL annually, to the commercial sector,
14 and, if the ACL is met in the following fishing year, the amount
15 of the stock ACL transferred to the commercial sector will be
16 reduced by half, and so, if you transferred 10 percent, then
17 that amount would be reduced by 5 percent for the following
18 fishing year. If it's met again, then the allocations would
19 return to what they are now.

20
21 If the ACL is not met in the following fishing year, then the
22 original amount that was transferred would be reinstated. We
23 can play with this language a little bit more if you like, and
24 it could -- If you wanted it to be a new alternative, it could
25 be that. If you wanted it to be swapped out for the original
26 Alternative 2, it could be that.

27
28 **DR. DANA:** Mara.

29
30 **MS. LEVY:** You're saying that in this Alternative X that the
31 word "threshold" should read -- Is it the recreational ACL?
32

33 **MR. RINDONE:** Sorry, yes. If the recreational ACL was met. Was
34 that your intent, Leann, or did you still want that threshold
35 portion included?
36

37 **MS. BOSARGE:** I mean you could go either way on it. The more
38 conservative way to do it, to me, though would be the threshold.
39 I mean you wanted to keep -- Whatever threshold we had in there
40 is your buffer, right, whether it's that 80 or 90 percent. I
41 guess whatever, but and so I think that's where we want to do.
42 Because of some uncertainties in landings and things like that,
43 we wanted to keep that buffer in there, and so I think
44 "threshold" is probably the better word, and, to me, if you do
45 it at the threshold, that gives me less qualms about -- Okay, so
46 you drop it to 50 percent of it the next year, right, and say
47 everything rocks along and you don't hit the threshold the next
48 year. You don't hit it, and so you can jump back again, back to

1 whatever it -- If went and you dropped down to 5 percent, you
2 could jump back up to 10, but if we were working on strictly the
3 ACL, that would give me a little heartache about jumping back up
4 one year later and hoping -- Do you know what I'm saying? I
5 feel better with a little bit of wiggle room in there, I think.

6
7 **MR. RINDONE:** Okay, and so we can add back in the recreational
8 ACL component from the original Alternative 2 for this
9 Alternative X, and that will satisfy that, and I understand what
10 you mean, and I can rework that language. Based on our
11 discussions, would this be a new alternative or would this be to
12 substitute Alternative 2?

13
14 **MS. BOSARGE:** In my mind, this was going to be like the final
15 piece to the Alternative 2 that we've been looking at. Can you
16 replace what we had in Alternative 2 with this? I'm assuming
17 everything in Alternative 2 is staying the same, essentially,
18 and you're adding this drop-down piece to it. Okay. I'm good
19 with that.

20
21 **DR. DANA:** So recap, Ryan, what you're going to do.

22
23 **MR. RINDONE:** What I'm going to do is I'm going to delete the
24 current Alternative 2 and replace it with this Alternative X,
25 which will become the new Alternative 2, and then I'm going to
26 add the recreational threshold options from Alternative 2 to the
27 new alternative and the appropriate language within the
28 alternative, like we discussed.

29
30 **DR. DANA:** Mara.

31
32 **MS. LEVY:** I think it would probably be cleaner if someone makes
33 a motion to -- We want it clear that the council's consensus is
34 to replace the old Alternative 2 with this new Alternative 2. I
35 don't think you need to put all the language in there. You can
36 just say to replace the current Alternative 2 with staff's
37 proposed changes or something like that.

38
39 **DR. DANA:** Yes, I agree with you. This is probably an awkward
40 committee report, because we deferred to full council to
41 complete a couple of the decision-making items, this being one
42 of them, and so, Leann, would you like to make a motion?

43
44 **MS. BOSARGE:** Sure. **My motion would be that staff replace the**
45 **original Alternative 2 with the revised Alternative 2 presented**
46 **by staff.**

47
48 **DR. DANA:** We have a motion on the board to have staff replace

1 the original Alternative 2 with the revised Alternative 2 as
2 presented, and we have a second by Dale Diaz. Is there any
3 discussion on this motion? Mara.

4
5 **MS. LEVY:** Can we just add to the motion what action we're
6 talking about and amendment, just so we have that in one place?
7 Thanks.

8
9 **DR. DANA:** Yes, in Action 1, to have --

10
11 **MS. BOSARGE:** Yes, that's my motion, and so it's CMP Amendment
12 29 that we're talking about, and it's Action 1, to have staff
13 replace the original Alternative 2 with the revised Alternative
14 2, as presented by staff.

15
16 **DR. DANA:** I would only add "as presented by staff in full
17 council".

18
19 **MS. BOSARGE:** I will accept that friendly amendment. Thank you.

20
21 **DR. DANA:** Okay. Any further discussion on the motion? Mr.
22 Chairman, how do I proceed? Do you call for the vote?

23
24 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Yes, if we're in full council. I guess
25 technically, yes, since we're in full council. I will go ahead
26 and handle it. We have a motion on the board. Is there any
27 other discussion on the motion? **Is there any opposition to the**
28 **motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.** Dr. Dana.

29
30 **DR. DANA:** Ryan has one more item that he needs to --

31
32 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Hold on one second. We have Steve.

33
34 **DR. BRANSTETTER:** Ryan, you said you were going to add back in
35 this recreational stuff. Now, in the original Alternative 2,
36 and it's in this report. Committee members agreed that, with
37 respect to king mackerel, if a sector lands at least 90 percent
38 of its ACL, then it's determined to be landing its ACL.

39
40 Now, I can see that for this trigger of reducing the loan. If
41 the recreational sector gets within 90 percent of its adjusted
42 allocation, that it's considered to have met it and fish are
43 going to come back to the recreational sector, but, the way it's
44 worded, is if a sector lands at least 90 percent of its ACL,
45 then it met its ACL. At that point, that means any time the
46 commercial sector hits 90 percent of its ACL, it gets a bonus.

47
48 **MS. LEVY:** That was the intent.

1
2 **DR. BRANSTETTER:** I guess what I'm getting at is, to keep them
3 from doing this, that means we're going to have to close them at
4 less than 90 percent of their ACL or they're going to get a 15
5 percent bonus the next year.

6
7 **MS. LEVY:** You can't close them at less than 90 percent of --

8
9 **DR. BRANSTETTER:** I know you can't, and so that means they're
10 automatically guaranteed to continue to get this rollover every
11 year, unless the recreational sector hits within 90 percent.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Leann.

14
15 **MS. BOSARGE:** Okay. I guess I saw it just the opposite, as an
16 incentive not to overfish. If we don't write anything in about
17 what is considered having met your portion of the quota, and
18 we're talking about the commercial side here, right? They have
19 to qualify to ask to borrow some of the recreational fish.

20
21 They can only qualify if they actually meet their side of the
22 quota first. That's what says they might want to fish even
23 more, and all of that is kind of forecast, and they shut them
24 down when it's time and this sort of thing. Well, if we said
25 you've got to hit 100 percent on the money, that's incentive to
26 keep fishing beyond when you should fish, but if we tell them,
27 no, as long as you get to about 90 percent of your quota, which
28 they've been getting around 95 percent, 96, 98 percent,
29 somewhere in there, then you will qualify, the next year, to try
30 and borrow some fish.

31
32 At that point, they quit fishing when we tell them to quit
33 fishing, and they still qualify for their borrowing or sharing
34 the next year. They don't have to get absolutely right at 100
35 percent or over 100 percent to say they hit their side, right?
36 That wouldn't be too cool if we told them you can't borrow
37 unless you get all the way to 100 percent of whatever your quota
38 is. At that point, that would give you an incentive to keep
39 fishing after somebody told you not to, to get your landings up.

40
41 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Lance.

42
43 **MR. LANCE ROBINSON:** I guess I have a question. I'm a little
44 confused myself. If they hit their 90 percent, they're going to
45 be guaranteed to get a bump, and so there is no -- There is no
46 disincentive not to hit your 90 percent. You're going to shoot
47 for it every year, if I know I'm going to get a bump. Correct?
48 Is that the way it's --

1
2 **MS. BOSARGE:** I mean they've been hitting over 90 percent every
3 year, pretty much, I think with the exception of maybe one year
4 they were at like 85 percent, something like that, but I mean if
5 there's no money for the fish, they won't go fish for it. I
6 mean if the price bottoms out or something like that, they're
7 not going to go fish, because it doesn't matter how many they
8 catch if there's no price for them, right?

9
10 The point is that, when there is a price for them, you don't
11 want them to think, oh, I've got to essentially overfish them in
12 order to be sure that I can share some from somebody else next
13 year. All I've got to do is stay within my tolerances. I don't
14 have to get right up to that 100 percent and probably go over
15 right over it. As long as we get up to 90 percent, which
16 they're going to want to do anyway -- When they get cut off,
17 they will stop fishing.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I agree. That's kind of the way I see it. I
20 mean this is just -- We're trying to move fish when fish are
21 available, i.e., from the recreational sector to the commercial
22 sector, when they would need it, and they wouldn't need it if
23 they didn't go over 90 percent, and so they would only really
24 need it if they were getting close to the 100, and it just
25 allows them to fish a little bit extra. That's the way I
26 interpret it. Dr. Crabtree.

27
28 **DR. CRABTREE:** I mean they fish until we shut them down every
29 year, basically, and usually by the time we think they've hit 90
30 percent of it, we're sending a closure notice to the Federal
31 Register at that point.

32
33 If things stay like they are, and the recreational catches stay
34 low, about half of theirs, and the commercial catches their
35 quota, then my guess would be this transfer would continue to
36 occur each year, and now I think the commercial guys will catch
37 the extra fish you give them and they will still get closures,
38 but they will catch more fish, and they will make more money at
39 it, and we will come closer to catching the ABC, which I think
40 is really the intent of this, is to catch a higher proportion of
41 the overall ABC.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Martha.

44
45 **MS. GUYAS:** I am just going to suggest that maybe staff work on
46 this language for this alternative. Just reading it at face
47 value, now that we've kind of gone through it, I really have no
48 idea what it means. I know that we've talked around the table,

1 and it may be there, but, just reading the words, I really don't
2 know. Thank you.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Ryan.

5
6 **MR. RINDONE:** Would you prefer that -- Where do you want the
7 meat of that effort to actually just occur, just in the
8 discussion, or -- I know it's a long alternative as it is, and I
9 would hate to just pile on language.

10
11 **MS. GUYAS:** Just for an example, we are conditionally
12 transferring a certain percentage. It's not really clear when
13 that's happening or what this threshold is that's in the second
14 sentence. Is it recreational? Is it commercial? There is a
15 recreational ACL threshold here, but I think we just need some
16 clarification here, because we're talking about commercial
17 hitting a certain percent and we're talking about recreational
18 hitting a certain percent. Somebody that has no idea about what
19 all this stuff in the mackerel amendment, the other stuff is, or
20 hasn't read it -- I don't know. Maybe the other alternatives,
21 but if they can read this and understand this, that would be the
22 goal.

23
24 **DR. DANA:** Is there any other discussion? It probably does need
25 a cleaning up, a little work on it, and so you had another item
26 that you needed to present on this, correct?

27
28 **MR. RINDONE:** For Alternative 5, Chairman Anson had offered an
29 edit that we also added, and so, Bernie, can you bring the
30 revised Tab C-4 up, the one with the comments on it? If we
31 scroll down to Alternative 5, Chairman Anson had asked that,
32 instead of the alternative saying "sector quota allocation" that
33 it say "sector quota sharing", and so "allocation" was removed
34 and "sharing" was substituted, and so, if you guys are okay with
35 that, you could accept Alternative 5 as well as the rest of the
36 alternatives for Action 1.

37
38 **DR. DANA:** Do we require a motion to put that change into place?
39 I understand that we do.

40
41 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** To follow Mara's comment, yes, I think we ought
42 to just go ahead and include that as a motion, the new language
43 for Alternative 5, so that it's just clear, into the document.
44 Anyone want to offer a motion? Leann.

45
46 **MS. BOSARGE:** In Action 1, to approve the new language for
47 Alternative 5, as presented by staff at full council.

48

1 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a motion. Is there a second for the
2 motion? Martha. Thank you. We have a motion. Is there any
3 discussion on the motion? **Is there any opposition to the**
4 **motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.** Mara.
5
6 **MS. LEVY:** Just, with respect to the previous motion, I just
7 want to make sure that we -- It was to Alternative 2, but the
8 text in there that's there is the current Alternative 2, and so
9 I don't want anyone to be confused that that's going to be the
10 new Alternative 2. We don't have to change anything, but I just
11 want that to be clear. What was up on the board was the old
12 Alternative 2 and not what staff was suggesting. That was
13 Alternative X in the document we were looking at.
14
15 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. Thank you. Is there anything else
16 that Ryan needs to go over?
17
18 **DR. DANA:** I believe we need to accept the other alternatives in
19 Action 1 before we can move into Action 2.
20
21 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Leann.
22
23 **MS. BOSARGE:** Accept the current alternatives?
24
25 **MR. RINDONE:** We still have Alternatives 1, 3, and 4 that need
26 to be accepted as written.
27
28 **DR. DANA:** **Can I get a motion in Action 1 to accept Alternatives**
29 **1, 3, and 4 as written?**
30
31 **MS. BOSARGE:** **So moved.**
32
33 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Pam, you made the motion and, Martha, you
34 seconded? Okay. Is there any discussion on the motion? **Is**
35 **there any opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the motion**
36 **carries.**
37
38 **DR. DANA:** Okay. I am going to move into Action 2. Staff
39 reviewed the proposed modifications to the accountability
40 measures, AMs, for the recreational sector for king mackerel.
41 It was noted that the measures proposed in Action 1 had the
42 potential to result in the current in-season accountability
43 measure for the recreational sector being triggered.
44
45 Because of the council's desire to keep the recreational sector
46 open year-round, the IPT recommended changing the current in-
47 season AM to a post-season AM. The change to a post-season AM
48 allows for the safeguards built into Action 1 to return any

1 shared allocation to the recreational sector before the AM could
2 be applied, thereby safeguarding the current year-round
3 recreational season from any risks related to the allocation
4 sharing strategy.

5
6 Staff were asked to consider expanding the AM proposed in
7 Alternative 2 to consider successive years of overages.
8 Committee members were hesitant to consider the bag limit
9 adjustment proffered in Alternative 2, since changing bag limits
10 from one season to the next can be burdensome for anglers and
11 enforcement.

12
13 **MR. RINDONE:** I have one for that as well.

14
15 **DR. DANA:** Ryan has something. Ryan, go ahead.

16
17 **MR. RINDONE:** Thank you. Bernie, can you pull up the modified
18 version of this one as well? It's C-5, dated June 22. While
19 she is pulling that up, I will read it.

20
21 Alternative 2 reads: Replace the current in-season AM with a
22 post-season AM. If the recreational ACL, as adjusted in Action
23 1, is exceeded, the bag limit would be reduced to two fish per
24 person per day, and it used to say for the following fishing
25 year only. Per Ms. Guyas's comments, I have proposed deleting
26 that portion of it, and so it would be -- It would just be to
27 reduce the bag limit back to two fish per person per day, and,
28 after the following fishing year, if the ACL was not exceeded
29 again, then the bag limit could be reinstated.

30
31 **DR. DANA:** Martha.

32
33 **MS. GUYAS:** Bernie, I actually emailed you this motion, and so
34 that might be easier than trying to hunt. Ryan and I were on
35 the same page. There you go. That's pretty much what you were
36 saying. I just did strike the language. **I would move, in**
37 **Action 2, modify Alternative 2, as will be shown on the board**
38 **and as Ryan just read.**

39
40 **DR. DANA:** We have a motion by Martha Guyas that in Action 2,
41 Alternative 2 be modified to read: To replace the current in-
42 season AM with a post-season AM. If the recreational ACL, as
43 adjusted in Action 1, is exceeded, the bag limit will be reduced
44 to two fish per person per day. Do I have a second? Leann
45 Bosarge. Is there any discussion? Martha Guyas.

46
47 **MS. GUYAS:** Just one more thing about this. It's not just a
48 matter of confusion for anglers and enforcement. When we had

1 this situation with red grouper, part of the problem was that,
2 by the time we got the landings information that indicated that
3 we needed to drop the bag limit down, it was too late to make a
4 difference, and so we ended up having overruns anyway, and so
5 that just added to the frustration that anglers were
6 experiencing with this whole thing. We were dropping their bag
7 limit down, and it wasn't soon enough to make a difference, and
8 so I'm not crazy about having to drop the bag limit down if we
9 get in this situation, and maybe the other actions are worth
10 considering here, but I do think that this alternative should be
11 modified.

12

13 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dale.

14

15 **MR. DIAZ:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have an answer right
16 now, but if there's any way we can come up with an
17 accountability measure that doesn't penalize the recreational
18 fishery -- I don't know if we can, but if we can, I would like
19 to see that, because I mean we're trying to set up a good-faith
20 loan program here, and I think that's what you want too, Martha,
21 a good-faith loan program here, and I would hate to see them get
22 penalized.

23

24 If, between now and the next time we see this document, if
25 anybody can come up with an idea of how we could do this, to
26 where it doesn't even have the appearance of it -- I believe,
27 the way it's set up, it's very unlikely to occur, but I can see
28 where some recreational might be uncomfortable with it, and so I
29 will be trying to put some thought into that, and if anybody
30 else can come up with any ideas, it would be great if we could
31 come up with something a little bit more palatable. Thank you,
32 Mr. Chair.

33

34 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Leann.

35

36 **MS. BOSARGE:** I have to think about this a little more, but --
37 So if the recreational fishery loans some fish to the commercial
38 fishery so they can catch some extra fish that year, not knowing
39 that they were going to have increased effort in the
40 recreational side -- Like this is a case where they end up going
41 through the ACL.

42

43 If you look at it and if they would not have loaned those fish
44 to the commercial side, if that would have kept them under their
45 ACL, then the payback should really come off the commercial side
46 next year. I mean that seems a fair thing. That's just on the
47 surface level of me thinking about it.

48

1 I guess you would have to look at the numbers and see how it
2 would all flesh out. I mean I can't -- If we're only
3 transferring small amounts of fish -- We need to look at the
4 overall fish and what it would actually do, I mean make sure
5 there's no way you can end up in some sort of negative situation
6 somewhere, and, by negative, I mean in the hole negative, but
7 that's a possibility.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Dr. Crabtree.

10
11 **DR. CRABTREE:** Well, it seems to me that it depends on what you
12 choose and the way you do it. If you look back at Alternative 2
13 and 3, they involve reducing the recreational ACL, but
14 Alternative 4, and I know it has to go back to the SSC, but that
15 just involves carryover and shifting the carryover, and it
16 doesn't reduce the recreational fishery's ACL. That's where the
17 perception of penalizing comes into it, and so I think you have
18 an option in here that is -- It's a little bureaucratically more
19 cumbersome, because you have to pull the SSC into it, but it
20 seems to me that's the one that doesn't reduce the ACL of the
21 recreational fishery.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Any other comments or questions? All right.
24 We have a motion on the board. It's in Action 2, to modify
25 Alternative 2 to replace the current in-season AM with a post-
26 season AM. If the recreational ACL, as adjusted in Action 1 is
27 exceeded, the bag limit will be reduced to two fish per person
28 per day. **Is there any opposition to this motion? Seeing none,**
29 **the motion carries.** Mara.

30
31 **MS. LEVY:** Thank you. Sorry, but I just noticed, in Action 2,
32 even the no action, Alternative 1, talks about the AMs in terms
33 of projecting to reach the ACL as adjusted in Action 1. My
34 suggestion would just be reach the ACL. If we adjust it, that's
35 the ACL for this year, and, clearly for the no action, there is
36 no adjusted ACL, and so my suggestion would be to remove, from
37 all of the alternatives, the language about the AM being somehow
38 linked to an adjusted ACL.

39
40 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. I think staff --

41
42 **DR. DANA:** Does that need to be a motion, Mara?

43
44 **MS. LEVY:** We've been doing everything by motion with this one,
45 and so I'm hesitant to say no at this point.

46
47 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I guess if someone can do a motion real quick.
48 Dr. Crabtree.

1
2 **DR. CRABTREE:** I move we take the words "as adjusted in Action
3 1" out of all three of the alternatives in Action 2.

4
5 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a motion. Is there a second to the
6 motion? Martha seconds. Is there any discussion on the motion?
7 **Is there any opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the motion**
8 **carries.**

9
10 **DR. DANA:** Chairman Anson, now we need to accept the three
11 alternatives in Action 2 as modified, and Leann Bosarge would
12 like to make that motion, I believe.

13
14 **MS. BOSARGE:** My motion would be to accept the three
15 alternatives in Action 2 as modified.

16
17 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a motion on the board in Action 2 to
18 accept the three alternatives as modified. Is there a second to
19 the motion? It's seconded by Martha. Any discussion on the
20 motion? **Is there any opposition to the motion? Seeing none,**
21 **the motion carries.** Anything else, Pam?

22
23 **DR. DANA:** No, we're ready to move on to CMP Framework Amendment
24 5. Staff reviewed the purpose and need, noting the South
25 Atlantic Council's desire to participate in CMP FA5. Including
26 the South Atlantic Council in this measure would reduce the
27 administrative burden on NMFS and would keep management measures
28 consistent between the councils. As such, the committee
29 approved modifying the purpose and need to be inclusive of the
30 Atlantic migratory groups of king and Spanish mackerel.

31
32 Action 1, staff reviewed the proposed alternatives, noting that
33 king and Spanish mackerel are being considered separately from
34 one another, to account for differences in the management of
35 each species and between the councils. The committee approved
36 modifying the language in the alternatives to reflect
37 consideration of the respective migratory groups.

38
39 Committee members asked if it was possible to combine
40 Alternatives 2 and 3. Staff replied that they were presented
41 separately to give the councils options and that keeping them
42 separate would make analyses more straightforward.

43
44 Committee members asked how MRIP would sample these commercial
45 vessels when they fish recreationally. NMFS replied that it was
46 likely that the sampling of these vessels would prove difficult.
47 Another committee member noted, however, in her state, many of
48 the commercial mackerel vessels used public boat ramps and could

1 be easily sampled by MRIP.

2
3 **The committee recommends, and I so move, in Action 1, to make**
4 **Alternatives 2 and 3 the preferred Alternatives. Alternative 2**
5 **is to remove the restriction on retaining the recreational bag**
6 **limit of king mackerel on a vessel with a federal pelagic**
7 **commercial permit for king mackerel that is fishing**
8 **recreationally when the Gulf of Mexico commercial zone in which**
9 **the vessel is fishing is closed. Alternative 3 is remove the**
10 **restriction on retaining the recreational bag limit of Spanish**
11 **mackerel on a vessel with a federal pelagic commercial permit**
12 **for Spanish mackerel when the Gulf of Mexico commercial Spanish**
13 **mackerel fishing season is closed.**

14
15 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Any discussion on
16 the motion? **Is there any opposition to the motion? Seeing**
17 **none, the motion carries.**

18
19 **DR. DANA:** Finally, moving to Other Business, which was Updating
20 the Gulf migratory group king mackerel OFL and ABC yield
21 streams, a committee member offered the motion below to address
22 the underharvest of king mackerel in the Gulf, in an effort to
23 appropriately adjust the stock ACL to account for landings over
24 the last couple of years.

25
26 **The committee recommends, and I so move, to request the SEFSC**
27 **provide the SSC with updated OFL and ABC yield streams for Gulf**
28 **migratory group king mackerel for the 2017/2018 to 2019/2020**
29 **fishing seasons.**

30
31 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** We have a committee motion. Is there any
32 discussion on the motion? **Is there any opposition to the**
33 **motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.**

34
35 **DR. DANA:** Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.

36
37 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Dr. Dana. We will move on to the
38 next item. That's the Personnel Committee Report and Mr. Boyd.

39
40 **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

41
42 **MR. BOYD:** Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. If everybody has a copy, you
43 can read along. It won't take long. The committee met in
44 closed session on Tuesday, June 21, 2016, and received an update
45 on changes in staffing. The purpose and role of the Personnel
46 Committee was discussed, and it was determined the committee
47 needed to conduct a more in-depth review of its role, in
48 addition to reviewing the Administrative Handbook at an upcoming

1 Administrative/Budget Committee meeting.

2
3 I will deviate just a little bit from that and say that there
4 were no motions and no actions within the committee, and so I
5 have nothing additional, Mr. Chairman, and that's my report.

6
7 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Mr. Boyd. That wraps up the
8 committee reports. That will take us to our next item on the
9 agenda, Item Number VII, and that's a vote on exempted fishing
10 permit applications, and we really didn't have any that were
11 presented, and so we don't need to do that. That will take us
12 to then Item Number VIII, which is the Supporting Agencies
13 Update, and our first liaison report would be by Anna Beckwith.
14 Anna.

15
16 **SUPPORTING AGENCIES UPDATES**
17 **SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL LIAISON**

18
19 **MS. BECKWITH:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. First, I did want to
20 express my appreciation for the hospitality I have received here
21 this week. I did forward our meeting report from last week, so
22 folks can take a look at it in detail if they would like, but
23 I'm only going to touch upon a couple of points that weren't
24 already discussed during this meeting.

25
26 First, everyone's favorite subject, red snapper. The South
27 Atlantic discussed a possible red snapper comprehensive adaptive
28 management program. We'll be seeing a scoping document in
29 September with a suite of options for us to consider.

30
31 You guys may have heard that we had a major overage in 2015 for
32 cobia recreational, and so we have selected some new management
33 alternatives that will go out for public hearings in August, and
34 new measures should be in place for the 2017 cobia recreational
35 season, if all goes well.

36
37 In our Dolphin Wahoo Committee, we are working on an amendment
38 that will develop some tools for quota management or quota
39 sharing options, somewhat similar to some of the things you guys
40 are discussing here. We have approved a list for scoping, and
41 we will see that again at our next meeting.

42
43 In other news, our for-hire reporting amendment is on track for
44 final approval in December. During our September meeting, we
45 will be discussing an outreach plan. Last week, we established
46 a June 15, 2016 control date for our three open-access charter
47 vessel/headboat permits, and we have directed staff to begin
48 development of a limited-entry amendment for those three for-

1 hire fisheries.

2
3 Finally, we will be moving forward with two amendments directly
4 related to the outcomes of our visioning process. One will be
5 focused on recreational issues and the other will be
6 commercially focused. Unless there are any questions, that
7 concludes my report.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you for your report. Thank you for your
10 summary. Any questions for Anna? All right. Dave, do you have
11 anything you want to report?

12
13 **GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION**

14
15 **MR. DONALDSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not really. I
16 reported I think a couple of meetings ago, and those issues are
17 still the same. We, unfortunately, haven't got a large influx
18 of money, and so we haven't been able to start any new data
19 collection, and so I don't really have anything else to add.

20
21 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Lieutenant Jimenez, anything from
22 the Coast Guard?

23
24 **U.S. COAST GUARD**

25
26 **CAPTAIN JIMENEZ:** Mr. Chairman, not much, but a big thanks to
27 everybody for making me feel welcome as well the last couple of
28 days. I understand that there's a lancha economic impact study
29 that's on the schedule for the next meeting, in August, I
30 believe. Our folks from Coast Guard will be providing an update
31 is the last word I heard about that. I also wanted to let you
32 guys know that Lieutenant Commander Leo Danaher is going to be
33 your new council rep, and he should be here also at the August
34 meeting. That's all I have. Thank you very much.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Glenn, anything from Fish and
37 Wildlife?

38
39 **U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

40
41 **MR. CONSTANT:** Nothing in addition to the presentation from this
42 morning, and so I will let that stand.

43
44 **OTHER BUSINESS**

45
46 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Very good. That moves us into the last item on
47 the agenda. I did not have any Other Business. I didn't have
48 any notes at least for any other business. Does anyone have any

1 other business? Roy.

2
3 **MR. WILLIAMS:** Just, as we depart, I wanted to say sayonara to
4 all of you. You know leaving is just like all of the meetings.
5 It's bittersweet. It really is. Sometimes it's more than one
6 or the other. I have genuinely enjoyed my three years. I made
7 a lot of friends, and I appreciate that, and I would like to
8 thank all of you for your hospitality and patience with me over
9 the years.

10
11 I would also like to thank the staff. I was so impressed when I
12 came back three years ago at what a professional staff the
13 council has now, and I'm grateful to them for the help they've
14 given me, and you're really fortunate to have such good staff,
15 and so carry on.

16
17 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** I concur, and thank you again, Roy, for your
18 service on the council, and good luck to you. With that, the
19 meeting is adjourned. Thank you, everyone.

20
21 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on June 23, 2016.)

22
23 - - -