# GULF COUNCIL MOTIONS JUNE 6-10, 2011 KEY WEST, FLORIDA

# **Advisory Panel Selection**

Motion: To appoint the following candidates to the Ad Hoc Headboat Individual Fishing Quota Advisory Panel:

Tom Becker Randy Boggs Cliff Cox Chad Haggert Mary Ann Heimann

Michael Miglini Ed Schroeder Steve Tomeny John Williams

Motion carried.

Motion: To appoint Robert Phong Nguyen to the Shrimp Advisory Panel.

Motion carried.

## **Budget/Personnel**

Motion: To adopt the budget as indicated in Tab E, No. 3 in the amount of \$3,583.8K.

Motion carried.

# **Data Collection**

Motion: To combine the Vessel Monitoring System Advisory Panel and the Data Collection Advisory Panel into one panel and to eliminate the ad hoc status.

## **Mackerel**

NOTE: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council voted separately on joint motions and all motions were approved by both Councils unless otherwise noted.

## **Gulf Council Motions:**

Motion: In Action 4, to accept Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative.

Preferred Alternative 2. Adopt the Gulf Council's ABC Control Rule. [Note: the SSC used Tier 3a to set ABC at 1.46 mp].

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 5.1, to move Alternatives 4 and 5 to the considered but rejected section.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 5.1, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 2.

<u>Preferred Alternative 2</u>. Set ACL = ABC for Gulf group cobia [1.46 mp based on preferred ABC]

<u>Preferred Option a.</u> Set a single stock ACL

**Option b.** Set separate commercial and recreational ACLs based on current average percent of catches for the period 2000 through 2009

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 5.2, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 2, Option a.

<u>Preferred Alternative 2.</u> Set ACT = 90% of ACL for Gulf group cobia <u>Preferred Option a.</u> Set a single stock ACT

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 6, that the preferred alternative be Preferred Alternative 2, Preferred Option c., with the suggested changes in Option c.

<u>Preferred Alternative 2</u>. Set in-season AMs for Gulf group cobia

<u>Preferred Option c.</u> When 50% of the ACT is reached prior to June 1, or projected to be reached, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the possession limit to one fish per person per day until the ACL is reached. When the ACL is reached or projected to be reached, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the fishery (commercial and recreational).

Substitute Motion: In Action 6, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 2, Option a.

Preferred Alternative 2. Set in-season AMs for Gulf group cobia

<u>Option a.</u> If the ACT is reached or projected to be reached within a fishing year, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the fishery for the remainder of the fishing year.

Substitute motion carried.

Motion: In Action 7, that the preferred alternative be Preferred Alternative 2.

<u>Preferred Alternative 2</u>. Adopt the Gulf Council's ABC Control rule. [Note: the SSC used Tier 1 to set ABC through 2013]

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 8, to move Alternative 6 to the considered but rejected section.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 8.2, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 1, no action.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 9, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 1.

**Alternative 1.** No Action - retain current in-season accountability measures (AMs) for Gulf group king mackerel. [Note: IPT recommends this as a preferred alternative.]

#### **Option a. Commercial**

**Suboption i.** If the quota (=ACT) for a zone, subzone, or gear is reached or projected to be reached within a fishing year, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close that zone, subzone, or gear for the remainder of the fishing year.

**Suboption ii.** If 75% of quota (=ACT) is reached or projected to be reached within a fishing year, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the trip limit to 500 lbs per day for the northern and southern west coast Florida subzones.

**Option b.** Recreational - The Regional Administrator has authority via the framework to revert the bag limit to zero if fishermen have achieved or are expected to achieve their allocation.

Motion: In Action 10, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 2.

**Preferred Alternative 2.** Adopt the Gulf Council's ABC Control rule.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 11, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 2, Option a.

<u>Alternative 2</u>. Set ACL = ABC for Gulf group Spanish mackerel [5.15 mp based on preferred ABC]] <u>Option a.</u> Set a single ACL

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 11, to move Alternatives 4 and 5 to the considered but rejected section.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 11.2, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 1, no action.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 12, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 1.

<u>Alternative 1</u>. No Action - retain current in-season accountability measures (AMs) for Gulf group Spanish mackerel.

**Option a.** Commercial – If the quota (=ACT) is reached or projected to be reached within a fishing year, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. **Option b.** Recreational - The Regional Administrator has authority via the framework to revert the bag limit to zero if fishermen have achieved or are expected to achieve their allocation.

Motion carried.

Motion: To recommend to the Council that the Joint Mackerel Amendment 18 be sent to public hearing.

Motion carried.

Motion: To develop an amendment for king mackerel to address:

- 1) A transit clause
- 2) Hook and line fishery daily trip limit increase to 3,000 lbs.

## **Joint SAFMC and GMFMC Motions:**

Motion: In Action 2, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 3, Option 1.

<u>Alternative 3</u>. Revise the framework procedure to incorporate the SEDAR process and adjustments to ACLs, and expand the procedure to allow adjustments of greater range of management measures under specific procedural guidelines.

**Preferred Option 1.** Adopt the revised base Framework Procedure (Appendix B).

Motion carried.

Motion: To adopt the proposed revised wording for Action 13-3.

Action 13-3 Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule and ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

**Alternative 1.** No Action - Do not establish an ABC Control Rule for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

**Preferred Alternative 2.** Adopt the SAFMC SSC recommended ABC control rule [currently 10.46 million pounds (mp)].

**Alternative 3.** Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals OFL (currently 12.8359 mp).

Alternative 4. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of OFL.

**Option a.** ABC = 65% OFL (currently 8.3433 mp)

**Option b.** ABC = 75% OFL (currently 9.6269 mp)

**Option c.** ABC = 85%OFL (currently 10.9105 mp)

Motion carried.

Motion: To adopt the proposed revised wording in Action 13-4.

Action 13-4 Annual Catch Limit (ACL) and Optimum Yield (OY) for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

<u>Alternative 1</u>. No Action - Currently TAC or ACL = 10.0 mp based on an ABC of 8.9 - 13.3 mp (Recreational Sector ACL = 62.9% = 6.3 mp; Commercial Sector ACL = 37.1% = 3.71 mp).

<u>Preferred Alternative 2.</u> ACL = OY = ABC (currently 10.46 mp which is the average of the ABC values for 2011-2013 recommended by the SSC; Recreational Sector ACL = 62.9% = 6.58 mp; Commercial Sector ACL = 37.1% = 3.88 mp).

<u>Alternative 3.</u> ACL = OY = ABC [currently 10.06 mp which is the lowest value within the 2011-2013 recommendations (10.06 - 10.95 mp); (Recreational Sector ACL = 62.9% = 6.33 mp; Commercial Sector ACL = 37.1% = 3.73 mp)].

Alternative 4. ACL = OY = ABC [currently 10.95 mp which is the highest value within the 2011-2013 recommendations (10.06 - 10.95 mp); (Recreational Sector ACL = 62.9% = 6.89 mp; Commercial Sector ACL = 37.1% = 4.06 mp)].

**Alternative 5.** ACL = OY = X% of  $ABC = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$  mp.

<u>Option a.</u> ACL = 65%ABC = 65% (currently 10.46 mp) = 6.799 mp (Recreational Sector ACL = 62.9% = 4.28 mp; Commercial Sector ACL = 37.1% = 2.52 mp).

<u>Option b.</u> ACL = 75% ABC = 75% (currently 10.46 mp) = 7.845 mp (Recreational Sector ACL = 62.9% = 4.94 mp; Commercial Sector ACL = 37.1% = 2.91 mp).

**Option c.** ACL = 85% ABC = 85% (currently 10.46 mp) = 8.891 mp (Recreational Sector ACL = 62.9% = 5.59 mp; Commercial Sector ACL = 37.1% = 3.30 mp).

**Option d.** ACL = 80% ABC = 80% (currently 10.46 mp) = 8.368 mp (Recreational Sector ACL = 62.9% = 5.26 mp; Commercial Sector ACL = 37.1% = 3.11 mp). **Option e.** ACL = 90% ABC = 90% (currently 10.46 mp) = 9.414 mp (Recreational Sector ACL = 62.9% = 5.92 mp; Commercial Sector ACL = 37.1% = 3.49 mp).

Motion carried.

Motion: To adopt the following revised wording for Action 13-5:

# Action 13-5 Annual Catch Target (ACT) for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

## Action 13-5a. Commercial Sector ACT

<u>Preferred Alternative 1.</u> No Action - Do not specify commercial sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

<u>Alternative 2.</u> The commercial sector ACT equals 90% of the commercial sector ACL (currently 3.49 mp).

<u>Alternative 3</u>. The commercial sector ACT equals 80% of the commercial sector ACL (currently 3.10 mp).

## Action 13-5b. Recreational Sector ACT

<u>Alternative 1</u>. No Action - Do not specify recreational sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel.

<u>Alternative 2</u>. The recreational sector ACT equals 85% of the recreational sector ACL (currently 5.59 mp).

<u>Alternative 3</u>. The recreational sector ACT equals 75% of the recreational sector ACL (currently 4.94 mp).

<u>Preferred Alternative 4.</u> The recreational sector ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater] (currently 6.18 mp).

Motion: Adopt the following revised wording for Action 14:

Action 14: Specify Accountability Measures (AMs) for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

<u>Alternative 1</u>. No Action - The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the quota is met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is met. The recreational AM for this stock is the Regional Administrator has authority via the framework to revert the recreational possession limit to zero if fishermen have achieved or are expected to achieve their allocation.

Preferred Alternative 2. The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the commercial quota (total ACL x commercial allocation) is met or projected to be met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is met or projected to be met. Implement additional AMs for the recreational sector for this stock. If the recreational sector quota (total ACL x recreational allocation) is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing year or reduce the bag limit by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector quota for the following fishing year. Compare the recreational ACL with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2011/12, use only 2011/12 landings. For 2012/13, use the average landings of 2011/12 and 2012/13. For 2013/14 and beyond, use the most recent three-year (fishing years) running average. If in any year the ACL is changed, the sequence of future ACLs will begin again starting with a single year of landings compared to the ACL for that year, followed by two-year average landings compared to the ACL in the next year, followed by a three-year average of landings ACL for the third year and thereafter.

**Option a.** Reduce the length of the following recreational fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector quota for the following fishing year. **Preferred Option b.** Reduce the recreational bag limit to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector quota for the following fishing year.

<u>New Option c</u>. Only adjust the recreational bag limits or season length if the Total ACL is exceeded.

**Alternative 3.** Commercial payback of any overage.

<u>Preferred Option a.</u> Payback regardless of stock status - If the commercial sector ACL is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the commercial sector ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage.

Option b. Payback only if overfished - If the commercial sector ACL is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the commercial sector ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage.

**New Option c.** Only deduct overages if the Total ACL is exceeded.

**Alternative 4.** Recreational payback of any overage from one year to the next.

<u>Preferred Option a.</u> Payback regardless of stock status - If the recreational ACL is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the recreational ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage. The ACT would also be adjusted according to the ACT formula in Action 13-5.

**Option b.** Payback only if overfished - If the recreational ACL is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the recreational ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage. The ACT would also be adjusted according to the ACT formula in Action 13-5.

**New Option c.** Only deduct overages if the Total ACL is exceeded.

Motion: In Action 14, that options 2c, 3c, and 4c be preferred options.

Action 14: Specify Accountability Measures (AMs) for Atlantic Migratory Group King Mackerel

**Alternative 1** No Action - The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the quota is met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is met. The recreational AM for this stock is the Regional Administrator has authority via the framework to revert the recreational possession limit to zero if fishermen have achieved or are expected to achieve their allocation.

**Preferred Alternative 2.** The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the commercial quota (total ACL x commercial allocation) is met or projected to be met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is met or projected to be met. Implement additional AMs for the recreational sector for this stock. If the recreational sector quota (total ACL x recreational allocation) is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing year or reduce the bag limit by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector quota for the following fishing year. Compare the recreational ACL with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2011/12, use only 2011/12 landings. For 2012/13, use the average landings of 2011/12 and 2012/13. For 2013/14 and beyond, use the most recent three-year (fishing years) running average. If in any year the ACL is changed, the sequence of future ACLs will begin again starting with a single year of landings compared to the ACL for that year, followed by two-year average landings compared to the ACL in the next year, followed by a three-year average of landings ACL for the third year and thereafter.

**Option a.** Reduce the length of the following recreational fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector quota for the following fishing year. **Preferred Option b.** Reduce the recreational bag limit to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector quota for the following fishing year.

**New Option c.** Only adjust the recreational bag limits or season length if the Total ACL is exceeded.

**Alternative 3.** Commercial payback of any overage.

**Preferred Option a.** Payback regardless of stock status - If the commercial sector ACL is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the commercial sector ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage.

**Option b.** Payback only if overfished - If the commercial sector ACL is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the commercial sector ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage.

**New Option c.** Only deduct overages if the Total ACL is exceeded.

**Alternative 4.** Recreational payback of any overage from one year to the next.

**Preferred Option a.** Payback regardless of stock status - If the recreational ACL is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the recreational ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage. The ACT would also be adjusted according to the ACT formula in Action 13-5.

**Option b.** Payback only if overfished - If the recreational ACL is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the recreational ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage. The ACT would also be adjusted according to the ACT formula in Action 13-5.

**New Option c.** Only deduct overages if the Total ACL is exceeded.

Motion: For the purposes of tracking the ACL, the Atlantic group king mackerel season will be March 1 through the end of February.

Motion carried.

Motion: To adopt the following revised wording for Action 16-3:

Action 16-3 Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule and ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

<u>Alternative 1</u>. No Action - Do not establish an ABC Control Rule for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

<u>Preferred Alternative 2</u>. Adopt the SAFMC SSC recommended ABC control rule (currently 5.69 mp).

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 16-3, to use the same approach the SSC used in calculating ABC for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel, using sector landings for the 10 year timeframe instead of total landings for the ABC calculation.

Motion carried.

Motion: Adopt the following revised wording for Action 16-4:

Action 16-4 Annual Catch Limit (ACL) and Optimum Yield (OY) for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

<u>Alternative 1</u>. No Action - Currently TAC or ACL = 7.04 mp based on an ABC of 5.7 - 9.0 mp (Recreational Sector ACL = 45% = 3.17 mp; Commercial Sector ACL = 55% = 3.87 mp).

<u>Preferred Alternative 2.</u> ACL = OY = ABC (currently 5.69 mp which is the 3rd highest year of landings recommended by the SSC; Recreational Sector ACL = 45% = 2.56 mp; Commercial Sector ACL = 55% = 3.13 mp).

**Alternative 3.** ACL = OY = X% of  $ABC = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$  mp.

<u>Option a.</u> ACL = 75% ABC = 75% (currently 5.69 mp) = 4.27 mp (Recreational Sector ACL = <math>45% = 1.92 mp; Commercial Sector ACL = 55% = 2.35 mp).

**Option b.** ACL = 85% ABC = 85% (currently 5.69 mp) = 4.84 mp (Recreational Sector ACL = 45% = 2.18 mp; Commercial Sector ACL = 55% = 2.66 mp).

**Option c.** ACL = 95% ABC = 95% (currently 5.69 mp) = 5.41 mp (Recreational Sector ACL = 45% = 2.43 mp; Commercial Sector ACL = 55% = 2.98 mp).

<u>Option d.</u> ACL = 80% ABC = 80% (currently 5.69 mp) = 4.55 mp (Recreational Sector ACL = 45% = 2.05 mp; Commercial Sector ACL = 55% = 2.50 mp).

<u>Option e.</u> ACL = 90% ABC = 90% (currently 5.69 mp) = 5.12 mp (Recreational Sector ACL = 45% = 2.30 mp; Commercial Sector ACL = 55% = 2.82 mp).

Motion: Adopt the following revised wording for Action 16-5:

Action 16-5 Annual Catch Target (ACT) for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

## Action 16-5a. Commercial Sector ACT

<u>Preferred Alternative 1</u>. No Action - Do not specify commercial sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

<u>Alternative 2</u>. The commercial sector ACT equals 90% of the commercial sector ACL (currently 2.82 mp).

<u>Alternative 3</u>. The commercial sector ACT equals 80% of the commercial sector ACL (currently 2.50 mp).

## Action 16-5b. Recreational Sector ACT

<u>Alternative 1</u>. No Action - Do not specify recreational sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel.

<u>Alternative 2</u>. The recreational sector ACT equals 85% of the recreational sector ACL (currently 2.18 mp).

<u>Alternative 3</u>. The recreational sector ACT equals 75% of the recreational sector ACL (currently 1.92 mp).

<u>Preferred Alternative 4</u>. The recreational sector ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater] (currently 2.36 mp).

Motion: Adopt the following revised wording for Action 17:

Action 17: Specify Accountability Measures (AMs) for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel <u>Alternative 1</u>. No Action - The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the quota is met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is met. The recreational AM for this stock is the Regional Administrator has authority via the framework to revert the recreational possession limit to zero if fishermen have achieved or are expected to achieve their allocation.

Preferred Alternative 2. The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the commercial quota (total ACL x commercial allocation) is met or projected to be met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is met or projected to be met. Implement additional AMs for the recreational sector for this stock. If the recreational sector quota (total ACL x recreational allocation) is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing year or reduce the bag limit by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector quota for the following fishing year. Compare the recreational ACL with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2011/12, use only 2011/12 landings. For 2012/13, use the average landings of 2011/12 and 2012/13. For 2013/14 and beyond, use the most recent three-year (fishing years) running average. If in any year the ACL is changed, the sequence of future ACLs will begin again starting with a single year of landings compared to the ACL for that year, followed by two-year average landings compared to the ACL in the next year, followed by a three-year average of landings ACL for the third year and thereafter.

**Option a.** Reduce the length of the following recreational fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector quota for the following fishing year. **Preferred Option b.** Reduce the recreational bag limit to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector quota for the following fishing year.

<u>New Option c</u>. Only adjust the recreational bag limits or season length if the Total ACL is exceeded.

**Alternative 3.** Commercial payback of any overage.

<u>Preferred Option a.</u> Payback regardless of stock status - If the commercial sector ACL is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the commercial sector ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage.

<u>Option b.</u> Payback only if overfished - If the commercial sector ACL is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the commercial sector ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage.

**New Option c.** Only deduct overages if the Total ACL is exceeded.

<u>Alternative 4</u>. Recreational payback of any overage from one year to the next.

<u>Preferred Option a.</u> Payback regardless of stock status - If the recreational ACL is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the recreational ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage. The ACT would also be adjusted according to the ACT formula in Action 16-5.

<u>Option b.</u> Payback only if overfished - If the recreational ACL is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the recreational ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage. The ACT would also be adjusted according to the ACT formula in Action 16-5.

**New Option c.** Only deduct overages if the Total ACL is exceeded.

To set Options 2c, 3c, and 4c as preferred options, and to set the accounting period for recreational and commercial equal to the commercial fishing year.

Motion: Adopt the following revised wording for Action 18:

Action 18: Management Measures for Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel

<u>Alternative 1.</u> No Action - Individual recreational bag limit is 15 per person per day for NY-FL. Bag limit sales are allowed consistent with state regulations. The commercial possession limits are as follows:

- 1. April 1-November  $30 3{,}500$  pounds per vessel per day.
- 2. December 1 until 75% of the adjusted allocation is taken:

Monday-Friday – Unlimited Other days – 1,500 pounds

(Vessel fishing days begin at 6:00 a.m. and extend until 6:00 a.m. the following day, and vessels must be unloaded by 6:00 p.m. of that following day.)

- 3. After 75% of the adjusted allocation is taken -1,500 pounds per vessel per day for all days.
- 4. When 100% of the adjusted allocation is reached 500 pounds per vessel per day to the end of the fishing year (March 31). Adjusted allocation compensates for estimated catches of 500 pounds per vessel per day to the end of the season.

<u>Alternative 2</u>. Set a maximum bag limit of 60 Spanish mackerel per vessel per day for charter boats. <u>Alternative 3</u>. Set a maximum bag limit of 60 Spanish mackerel per vessel per day for private

<u>Alternative 3.</u> Set a maximum bag limit of 60 Spanish mackerel per vessel per day for private recreational boats.

<u>Preferred Alternative 4.</u> Reduce the individual bag limit for all recreational vessels from 15 to 10 per person per day.

<u>New Option 5</u>. Reduce the individual bag limit for all recreational vessels from 15 to 12 per person per day and set a maximum vessel limit of 60 per vessel per day.

Motion carried.

Motion: To change the preferred alternative in Action 18 to Alternative 1, no action.

Motion carried.

Motion: Adopt the following revised wording for Action 19-3:

Action 19-3 Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule and ABC for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

<u>Alternative 1</u>. No Action - Do not establish an ABC Control Rule for Atlantic migratory group cobia. <u>Alternative 2</u>. Adopt the SAFMC SSC recommended ABC control rule [currently 1,571,399 pounds whole weight; equal to the mean plus 1.5 times the standard deviation of the most recent 10 years landings].

Alternative 3. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals OFL (currently 1,302,740 pounds). [Note: This OFL was recommended by the SSC prior to their March 3, 2011 meeting when they determined that OFL was unknown and they specified ABC = median of 10 years of landings. With the data in Table 4.19.3.1.1, this value is 1,302,740 pounds whole weight.]

Alternative 4. Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of OFL.

**Option a.** ABC = 65%OFL (currently 846,781 pounds)

**GMFMC Preferred Option b.** ABC = 75% OFL (977,055 pounds)

**Option c.** ABC = 85%OFL (currently 1,107,329 pounds)

**SAFMC Preferred Alternative 5.** Adopt the Gulf Council's ABC Control Rule as an interim control rule (currently ABC equals the mean plus 1.5 times the standard deviation of the most recent10 years of landings data = 1,571,399 pounds whole weight).

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 19-3, Alternative 4, to remove the words "Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council preferred" from Option b.

Motion carried.

Motion: Adopt the following revised wording for Action 19-4:

Action 19-4 Allocations for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

<u>Alternative 1</u>. No Action - Currently there are no allocations for cobia.

<u>Alternative 2.</u> Define allocations for Atlantic migratory group cobia based upon landings from the ALS, MRFSS, and headboat databases. The allocation would be based on landings from the years 2006-2008. The allocation would be 8% commercial and 92% recreational. The commercial and recreational allocations specified would remain in effect until modified.

<u>Preferred Alternative 3.</u> Define allocations for Atlantic migratory group cobia based upon landings from the ALS, MRFSS, and headboat databases. The allocation would be based on the following formula for each sector:

Sector apportionment = (50% \* average of long catch range (lbs) 2000-2008 + (50% \* average of recent catch trend (lbs) 2006-2008). The allocation would be 8% commercial and 92% recreational. The allocation would be 8% commercial and 92% recreational. The commercial and recreational allocations specified would remain in effect until modified.

Motion carried.

Motion: Adopt the following revised wording for Action 19-5:

Action 19-5 Annual Catch Limit (ACL) and Optimum Yield (OY) for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

**Alternative 1.** No Action - Currently there is no TAC or ACL for cobia.

<u>Preferred Alternative 2.</u> ACL = OY = ABC (currently 1,571,399 pounds based on the SSC Interim Control Rule; Recreational Sector ACL = 92% = 1,445,687 pounds; Commercial Sector ACL = 8% = 125,712 pounds).

**Alternative 3.** ACL = OY = X% of  $ABC = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$  mp.

<u>Option a.</u> ACL = 75% ABC = 75% (currently 1,571,399 pounds) = 1,021,409 pounds (Recreational Sector ACL = 92% = 939,696 pounds; Commercial Sector ACL = 8% = 81,713 pounds).

<u>Option b.</u> ACL = 85%ABC = 85% (currently 1,571,399 pounds) = 1,178,549 pounds (Recreational Sector ACL = 92% = 1,084,265 pounds; Commercial Sector ACL = 8% = 94,284 pounds).

<u>Option c.</u> ACL = 95% ABC = 95% (currently 1,571,399 pounds) = 1,335,689 pounds (Recreational Sector ACL = 92% = 1,228,834 pounds; Commercial Sector ACL = 8% = 106,855 pounds).

<u>Option d.</u> ACL = 80% ABC = 80% (currently 1,571,399 pounds) = 1,257,119 pounds (Recreational Sector ACL = 92% = 1,156,550 pounds; Commercial Sector ACL = 8% = 100,570 pounds).

<u>Option e.</u> ACL = 90% ABC = 90% (currently 1,571,399 pounds) = 1,414,259 pounds (Recreational Sector ACL = 92% = 1,301,118 pounds; Commercial Sector ACL = 8% = 113,141 pounds).

Motion carried.

Motion: Adopt the following revised wording for Action 19-6:

Action 19-6 Annual Catch Target (ACT) for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

### Action 19-6a. Commercial Sector ACT

<u>Preferred Alternative 1</u>, No Action - Do not specify commercial sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group cobia.

<u>Alternative 2</u>. The commercial sector ACT equals 90% of the commercial sector ACL (currently 113,141 pounds).

<u>Alternative 3</u>. The commercial sector ACT equals 80% of the commercial sector ACL (currently 100,570 pounds).

#### Action 19-6b. Recreational Sector ACT

Alternative 1, No Action - Do not specify recreational sector ACTs for Atlantic migratory group cobia.

<u>Alternative 2</u>. The recreational sector ACT equals 85% of the recreational sector ACL (currently 1,228,834 pounds).

<u>Alternative 3</u>. The recreational sector ACT equals 75% of the recreational sector ACL (currently 1,084,265 pounds).

<u>Preferred Alternative 4</u>. The recreational sector ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater] (currently 1,199,920 pounds).

Motion carried.

Motion: Adopt the following revised wording for Action 20:

Action 20: Specify Accountability Measures (AMs) for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

<u>Alternative 1.</u> No Action - The recreational and commercial AM for this stock is the Regional Administrator has authority via the framework to revert the recreational and commercial possession limit to zero if fishermen have achieved or are expected to achieve their allocation.

<u>Alternative 2</u>. The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the commercial quota (total ACL x commercial allocation) is met or projected to be met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the commercial quota is met or projected to be met. Do not implement additional AMs for the recreational sector for this stock.

<u>Preferred Alternative 3</u>. The commercial AM for this stock is to prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the commercial quota (total ACL x commercial allocation) is met or projected to be met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the commercial quota is met or projected to be met. Implement additional AMs for the recreational sector for this stock. If the recreational sector quota (total ACL x recreational allocation) is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the

recreational sector quota for the following fishing year. Compare the recreational ACL with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2011, use only 2011 landings. For 2012, use the average landings of 2011 and 2012. For 2013 and beyond, use the most recent three-year (fishing years) running average. If in any year the ACL is changed, the sequence of future ACLs will begin again starting with a single year of landings compared to the ACL for that year, followed by two-year average landings compared to the ACL in the next year, followed by a three-year average of landings ACL for the third year and thereafter.

<u>New Option a.</u> Only adjust the recreational season length if the Total ACL is exceeded. **Alternative 4.** Commercial payback of any overage.

<u>Preferred Option a.</u> Payback regardless of stock status - If the commercial sector ACL is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the commercial sector ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage.

<u>Option b.</u> Payback only if overfished - If the commercial sector ACL is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the commercial sector ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage.

**New Option c.** Only deduct overages if the Total ACL is exceeded.

**Alternative 5.** Recreational payback of any overage from one year to the next.

<u>Preferred Option a.</u> Payback regardless of stock status - If the recreational ACL is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the recreational ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage. The ACT would also be adjusted according to the ACT formula in Action 19-6.

**Option b.** Payback only if overfished - If the recreational ACL is exceeded, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the recreational ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage. The ACT would also be adjusted according to the ACT formula in Action 19-6.

**New Option c.** Only deduct overages if the Total ACL is exceeded.

To selection Options 3a., 4c., 5c. as preferred options and that the accounting for ACLs would be the commercial fishing year.

Motion carried.

Motion: Adopt the following revised wording for Action 21:

Action 21: Management Measures for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

<u>Preferred Alternative 1.</u> No Action - Recreational and commercial fishermen are limited to two cobia per person. This would retain the following regulations that apply to both recreational and commercial fishermen: (a) 33" fork length minimum size limit, (b) two per person per day possession limit (Note: Florida State regulations only allow 1 per person per day for recreational and 2 per person per day for commercial), (c) one day possession limit, (d) must be landed with heads and fins intact, and (d) charter/headboats require a permit for Coastal Migratory Pelagics. Note: The fishing year is January 1 through December 31.

<u>Alternative 2</u>. Specify a commercial trip limit:

**Option a.** Two cobia per person per day.

Option b. One cobia per person per day.

**Alternative 3.** Reduce the recreational bag limit from 2 to 1 cobia per person per day.

**Alternative 4.** Reduce the recreational bag limit from 2 to 1 cobia per vessel per day.

**Alternative 5.** Establish a closed season for the recreational fishery.

<u>Alternative 6</u>. Reduce the recreational bag limit from 2 to 1 cobia per person per day during the spawning season (April 1 through June 30).

Substitute motion: In Action 21, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 6.

<u>Alternative 6</u>. Reduce the recreational possession limit from 2 to 1 cobia per person per day during the spawning season (April 1 through June 30).

Substitute motion carried.

Motion to reconsider substitute motion.

Motion to reconsider carried.

Motion: In Action 21, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 6.

<u>Alternative 6</u>. Reduce the recreational possession limit from 2 to 1 cobia per person per day during the spawning season (April 1 through June 30).

Motion failed.

Motion: To adopt the following revised wording for Action 21:

Action 21: Management Measures for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

<u>Preferred Alternative 1</u>. No Action - Recreational and commercial fishermen are limited to two cobia per person. This would retain the following regulations that apply to both recreational and commercial fishermen: (a) 33" fork length minimum size limit, (b) two per person per day possession limit (Note: Florida State regulations only allow 1 per person per day for recreational and 2 per person per day for commercial), (c) one day possession limit, (d) must be landed with heads and fins intact, and (d) charter/headboats require a permit for Coastal Migratory Pelagics. Note: The fishing year is January 1 through December 31.

**Alternative 2.** Specify a commercial trip limit:

Option a. Two cobia per person per day.

**Option b.** One cobia per person per day.

Alternative 3. Reduce the recreational bag limit from 2 to 1 cobia per person per day.

**Alternative 4.** Reduce the recreational bag limit from 2 to 1 cobia per vessel per day.

**Alternative 5.** Establish a closed season for the recreational fishery.

<u>Alternative 6</u>. Reduce the recreational bag limit from 2 to 1 cobia per person per day during the spawning season (April 1 through June 30).

## Reef Fish

Motion: To revise the red grouper yield stream in accordance with the 2011 re-run starting in 2011 and implemented as soon as possible.

Motion carried.

Motion: To move forward with increasing the 2011 red snapper total allowable catch by 345,000 lbs.

Substitute motion: To request that NOAA Fisheries develop an emergency rule that would suspend the September 30 closure date for the recreational red snapper season and to assign the entire 345,000 lbs. of increased total allowable catch of red snapper to the recreational sector for the 2011 season only.

Substitute motion carried.

Motion: That the SEDAR steering committee request a benchmark 2012 red snapper stock assessment.

Motion carried.

## **Reef Fish Amendment 32**

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

<u>Alternative 4</u>: Set the longest gag season possible: July 1 through October 31, 2 fish gag bag limit, 4 fish aggregate bag limit (123 days).

**Option a.** 22 inch minimum size limit (50% reduction from 2009 baseline; 53% reduction from 2006-08 baseline).

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 4, to establish Alternative 3 as an additional preferred alternative.

<u>Alternative 3</u>: Based on the commercial red grouper annual catch limit, red grouper allocation, and gag allocation, set the percentage of gag individual fishing quota allocation converted into multi-use allocation as follows:

Gag Multi-use (in percent) = 100\*[Red Grouper annual catch limit-Red Grouper Allocation]/Gag Allocation

The gag multi-use percentage will be recalculated following adjustments in red grouper annual catch limit, red grouper allocation, or gag allocation. If a rebuilding plan is in effect for red grouper, these multi-use shares will be suspended until NOAA Fisheries declares red grouper fully rebuilt.

Motion: In Action 6, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 3, Option c.

<u>Alternative 3</u>: Close an area bracketing the 40 fathom contour between the current closed areas of Madison-Swanson and the Edges (approximately 244 square nm), making it one continuous area.

Boundaries for additional area:

- 1) 29° 6′ N, 85° 37′ W (Existing SE boundary of Madison-Swanson)
- 2) 29° 16′ N, 85° 37′ W (Existing NE boundary of Madison-Swanson)
- 3) 28° 51' N, 85° 16' W (Existing NW boundary of the Edges)
- 4) 29° 51' N, 85° 4' W (Existing NE boundary of the Edges)

**Option c.** All fishing prohibited January 1 through April 30, all fishing allowed May 1 through December 31 (identical to current Edges regulations).

Motion carried.

Substitute motion: In Action 6, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 1.

Alternative 1. No action. Do not create additional time and area closures that prohibit fishing for gag and other reef fishes.

Substitute motion failed.

Motion: To postpone final action on Amendment 32 until the August 2011 Council meeting.

Motion carried.

Motion: To hold an additional public hearing in the Tampa/St. Petersburg area for Amendment 32, no less than 15 days after the availability of the document.

Substitute motion: That Council hold additional public hearings in the Sarasota, Florida and Panama City, Florida areas for Amendment 32, to be held no less than 15 days after the availability of the document.

Second substitute motion: That Council hold additional public hearings in the Fort Myers, Florida, Tampa/St. Petersburg, Florida and Panama City, Florida areas for Amendment 32, to be held no less than 15 days after the availability of the document.

Second substitute motion carried.

# **Greater Amberjack Amendment 35**

Motion: In the Options Paper for Amendment 35, to adjust total allowable catch for Greater Amberjack, in Action 2.3, to add a new alternative 4.

Alternative 4: No closed season.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 2.3, to add a new alternative that modifies Alternative 1 beginning the closure in May.

Motion carried.

Motion: To add a new alternative to begin recreational greater amberjack season the day after the recreational red snapper season closes.

Motion withdrawn.

Motion: That staff add alternatives that allow recreational greater amberjack season to open the day after recreational red snapper season closes.

Motion carried.

Motion: To add a suite of alternatives to evaluate a commercial amberjack trip limit.

Motion withdrawn.

## **Earned Income and Crew Size Amendment 34**

Motion: In the Options Paper for Earned Income and Crew Size Amendment 34, in Action 1 that Alternative 2 be the preferred alternative.

**<u>Alternative 2</u>**: Eliminate income requirements.

Motion failed due to a tie vote.

Motion: To add an alternative to increase the red grouper bag limit to 3 and an alternative to increase the red grouper bag limit to 4.

# **Other Reef Fish Motions:**

Motion: To accept the regulations in the Draft Rule to Allow Transfer of Red Snapper IFQ Shares (Tab B, No. 14) as presented, deem them necessary and appropriate, and submit them to the Secretary of Commerce for implementation.

Motion carried.

Motion: To write a letter to the Director of BOEMRE to indicate the Council's concern with the current rate of platform removal and to consider taking steps to slow that removal and consider the biological implications.

Amendment: To copy the Gulf States Congressional delegates and the five Natural Resource Directors.

Amendment carried.

Motion as amended: To write a letter to the Director of BOEMRE to indicate the Council's concern with the current rate of platform removal and to consider taking steps to slow that removal and consider the biological implications and to copy the Gulf States Congressional delegates and the five Natural Resource Directors.

Motion as amended carried.

Motion: That the Artificial Reef Committee be scheduled to meet at the August 2011 Council meeting to discuss oil platform removal and the loss of habitat associated with that removal and to have staff arrange for a BOEMRE representative to attend.

Motion carried.

# **Spiny Lobster**

NOTE: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council voted separately on joint motions and all motions were approved by both Councils unless otherwise noted.

Motion: To move the OY language from Action 4.2 into Action 4.3 and set OY equal to the annual catch target.

Motion: In Action 4.3, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 2, Option a.

**Alternative 2:** Set an ACT for the entire stock.

**Option a:** ACT = 90% of ACL

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 4.3, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 2, Option a.

**Alternative 2:** Set an ACT for the entire stock.

**Option a:** ACT = 90% of ACL

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 8, to modify preferred Alternative 3 to read:

<u>Preferred Alternative 3</u>: Revise the current regulations to clearly state that all vessels must have either 1) a valid federal spiny lobster permit or 2) a valid Florida Restricted Species Endorsement and a valid Crawfish Endorsement associated with a valid Florida Saltwater Products License to obtain a tailing permit.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 9, to adopt Alternative 1 and request that industry representatives, along with NMFS/NOAA and Marine Sanctuary representatives work together to define areas of important habitat to protect Acropora coral.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 10, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 1, no action.

Motion carried.

Motion: To modify the language in Action 11 to read: Authority to remove derelict or abandoned spiny lobster traps found in the EEZ off Florida.

Motion carried.

Motion: To submit Spiny Lobster Amendment 10 to the Secretary of Commerce for implementation.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: To deem the proposed rule as necessary and appropriate and give the Council Chairs authority to make any necessary changes.

Motion carried.

Motion: To copy Action 9 and Action 10 into their own amendment.

Motion carried.

## Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem

## **Generic ACL/AM Amendment**

Motion: In Action 1.4, that Alternative 1 be the preferred alternative.

<u>Alternative 1</u>. No action, retain management of yellowtail snapper under the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 1.5, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 1.

<u>Alternative 1</u>. No action, retain management of mutton snapper under the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan.

Motion carried.

Motion: To request that Council staff examine inclusion/exclusion of species/species groupings in FMPs for suitability every five years at a minimum and make recommendations to the Council after review by the SSC.

Motion: That Queen snapper, yellowfin grouper, and blackfin snapper not be removed from the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan.

Motion carried.

Motion: That the annual catch limits for Queen snapper, blackfin snapper, and yellowfin grouper be the mean of the landings using the time period of the grouping that they belong to.

Motion withdrawn.

Motion: In Action 3, that the preferred alternative be Alternative 5, Option c.

<u>Alternative 5</u>. Within each group or sub-group for Alternative 3), an indicator species will be selected based on:

**Option c.** No indicator species is used, the ACL will be based on the sum of catch limits of all species in the group.

Motion carried.

Motion: In the alternatives in Action 6, to modify the language to include:

Specification of ACTs or sector ACTs and modifications to the ACL/ACT control rule.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 7.3.2, that Alternative 3 be the preferred alternative.

<u>Alternative 3.</u> Establish a jurisdictional apportionment based on the Florida Keys (Monroe County) jurisdictional boundary between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils for yellowtail snapper acceptable biological catch (ABC) based on the following method: South Atlantic = 75% of ABC and Gulf = 25% of ABC (Established by using 50% of catch history from 1993-2008 + 50% of catch history from 2006-2008).

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 7.3.3, for mutton snapper, that Alternative 2 be the preferred alternative reflecting the catch history through 2008.

<u>Alternative 2.</u> (modified with landings through 2008) Establish a jurisdictional apportionment based on the Florida Keys (Monroe County) jurisdictional boundary between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils for mutton snapper acceptable biological catch (ABC) based on the following method: South Atlantic = 82% of ABC and Gulf = 18% of ABC (established by using 50% of catch history from 1990-2008 + 50% of catch history from 2006-2008).

Motion: In Action 7.4, that Alternative 4 be the preferred alternative.

Alternative 4. Using the Gulf Council's allocated acceptable biological catch (ABC) and divide the annual catch limit between the commercial and recreational sector based on average landings from 2004-2008: Recreational = 27% of ACL and Commercial = 73% of ACL.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 8, to modify Alternative 3.

Alternative 3. Implement in-season accountability measures.

For reef fish and royal red shrimp stocks and sectors with ACLs that do not currently have accountability measures: establish an in-season accountability measure where if the ACL is reached or projected to be reached within a fishing year, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the appropriate sector(s) for the remainder of the fishing year.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 8, to add a new Alternative 4:

<u>Alternative 4.</u> If the ACL for a given year is exceeded, in the following year implement in season accountability measures as described in Alternative 3.

Motion carried.

Motion: In Action 8 for reef fish, royal red shrimp stocks and sectors with ACLs that do not currently have accountability measures, except vermilion snapper, the preferred alternative is Alternative 4, Option a. and Option d.

<u>Alternative 4</u>. If the ACL for a given year is exceeded, in the following year implement in season accountability measures as described in Alternative 3.

**Option a.** Trigger the AM if the annual landings exceed the ACL.

**Option d.** Do not apply overage adjustments.

For vermilion snapper, the preferred alternative is Alternative 3, Option a. and Option d.

**Alternative 3.** Implement in-season and post-season accountability measures.

**Option a.** Trigger the AM if the annual landings exceed the ACL.

**Option d.** Do not apply overage adjustments.

## **Other Motions**

Motion: That the Council not move forward with appointment of an Ad Hoc Headboat Individual Fishing Quota Advisory Panel.

Substitute motion: That the Council rename the Ad Hoc Headboat Individual Fishing Quota Advisory Panel to be named Ad Hoc Headboat Advisory Panel.

Substitute motion carried.

Motion: To reconsider the motion to rename the Ad Hoc Headboat Individual Fishing Quota Advisory Panel to be named Ad Hoc Headboat Advisory Panel.

Motion to reconsider withdrawn.

Motion: The charge of the Ad Hoc Headboat Advisory Panel is to explore management issues, including current regulations and business practices, options for reducing discards, data collection improvements, and any other management considerations or practices that may be addressed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

The Council will support two meetings for this discussion and would like this report or suggestions delivered at the first available Council Meeting and it is the intent of the Council that, at such time, the panel will be disbanded.

Substitute Motion: The charge of the Ad Hoc Headboat Advisory Panel is to explore management issues, including current regulations and business practices, options for reducing discards, data collection improvements, and any other management considerations or practices that may be addressed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

Substitute motion carried.

Motion: To readvertise for the Ad Hoc Headboat Advisory Panel and repopulate the panel.

Substitute motion: To retain the previously appointed 9 members of the Ad Hoc Headboat Advisory Panel and to advertise for additional volunteers to serve on the panel.

Substitute motion carried.

Motion: To reconvene the Outreach and Education Advisory Panel at a time to be determined by Council staff.

Motion: To approve the Exempted Fishing Permit request by the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation, Inc.

Motion carried with one abstention

Motion: To discuss sector separation/sector quotas at the August 2011 Council meeting.

Motion failed.

Motion: To hold six Council meetings per year, allow more time for advisory panel and scientific and statistical committee meetings, and to not hold a Council meeting during recreational red snapper season.

Motion withdrawn.

Motion: That Council staff compose a letter to Executive Director John Hankinson of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (Task Force) to provide input on the Task Force's Gulf Restoration Strategy due October 5, 2011. This letter shall briefly describe the importance of restoring marine ecosystem health and fishery resources. More specifically, the letter shall recommend that the Task Force include in its Restoration Strategy an Ecosystem Restoration Goal dedicated to the implementation of an endowed Gulf of Mexico fisheries data collection, applied research and ecosystem monitoring program. The letter shall explain that the program be established for these reasons:

- Track the status, trends and recovery of coastal, estuarine and marine habitats, and fishery species;
- Enhance scientific knowledge of environmental or oceanographic factors affecting fisheries productivity to support better predictions of stock health and catch potential;
- Supply long-term, time-series data on fishery species health that resource managers can use
  for adaptive management, a "foundational element" identified by the Task Force to improve
  fisheries management;
- Lead to innovations in more selective fishing gear, habitat-friendly gear, etc., based on the results of applied fisheries research; and
- Provide a tracking tool for evaluating effectiveness of restoration efforts so that the public and decision makers can 'course correct' if needed.

Motion carried with no opposition.