



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Activities, Resource Issues, and Needs

Council Coordinating Committee
May 2017



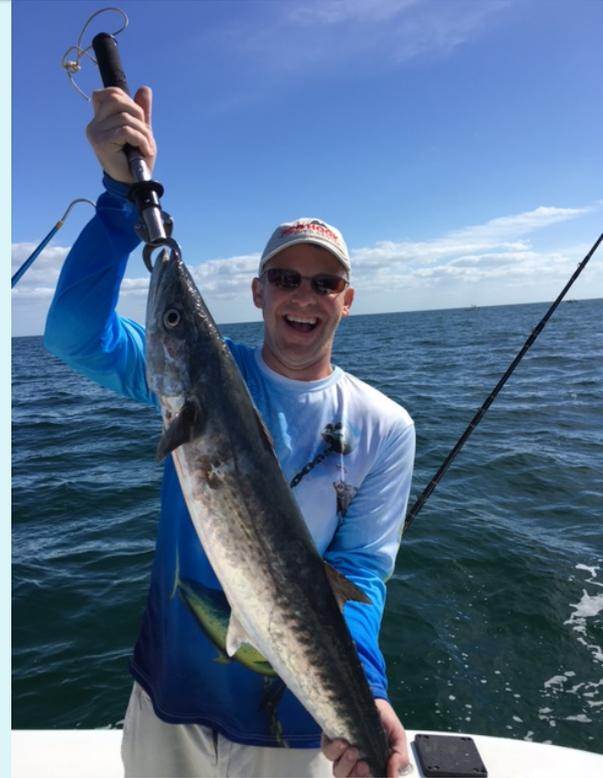
2016-17 Major Activities

- Scoping on Mid- and Deep-Water Coral Sites to establish potential protection
- 5-Year Review of Grouper-Tilefish IFQ Program
- Reallocation of red snapper from commercial to recreational sector was rejected by court ruling.
- Electronic reporting/monitoring amendment for the for-hire sector finally completed & transmitted this week.



2016-17 Major Activities

- King mackerel reallocation sharing efforts from the recreational to commercial sector postponed by the Council.
- Allocation-based management program for the for-hire fleet problem: no landings for charter vessels, only headboats.
- Formed an advisory panel to discuss private angler management strategies for red snapper, as we have the shortest federal season (3 days) in the history of the Council.



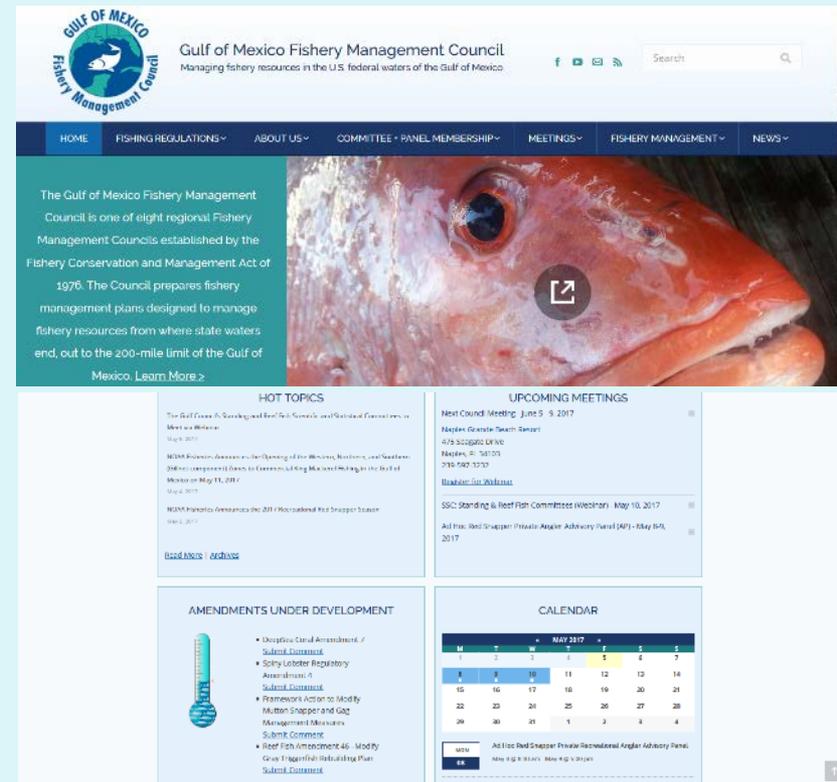
Future Activities

- Explore reallocation options between commercial and recreational sectors. NMFS guidance on review and triggers has been useful, but we would like to see this further developed.
- Incorporate ecosystem and climate factors into management as information is made available through the stock assessment process.
- As NMFS data collecting capabilities expand, incorporate electronic reporting and monitoring in all sectors of our fisheries.



Future Activities

- Redesigned our Website
- www.gulfcouncil.org
- Live June 1, 2017



Resource Issues & Needs

- The Gulf has largest recreational fishery in the country.
- Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) changes:
 - Historical and current recreational landings estimates are in constant flux. The ongoing changes increase our uncertainty for both the assessment and management.
 - Consequently, past stock assessments and ACLs are based on out-of-date recreational data.
 - As a result, the Gulf States have initiated their own data collection programs to replace MRIP.



Resource Issues & Needs

- Greater investments in fisheries-independent surveys and environmental conditions.
- Better processing of biological samples for availability in stock assessments.
- Additional single stock assessments faster and at a greater frequency - we can attempt to move towards ecosystem-based management strategies.



Resource Issues & Needs

- A significant uncertainty is the current and potential impacts of climate change, especially with regard to the effects of increases in ocean temperature and acidity.



Questions ?

