



## **Gulf Council Issues**

Review and Discussion

February 7, 2008

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Division of Marine Fisheries Management

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet the week of January 29-February 1, 2008, in St. Petersburg, Florida. The following issues will be discussed and voted on by the Council. This report will be updated after the Council meeting.

Author: William Teehan

## Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Issues on January-February Agenda



- Aquaculture
- Red drum
- Reef fish
  - Greater amberjack
  - Gray triggerfish
  - Gag grouper
  - Red grouper
  - Red snapper allocation
- Grouper IFQ
- Imported Lobster Tail Size



The Council will take final action on aquaculture, greater amberjack and gray triggerfish; continue discussions regarding a long term research program for red drum; continue development of management measures for gag grouper and red grouper; continue development of the grouper individual fishing quota program (IFQ); and, review minimum size limit alternatives for imported spiny lobster tails.

## Reef Fish

### Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council



- Allocation action was moved to the considered but deferred category
- Amberjack recreational management
  - 1-fish bag limit
  - 30-inch minimum size ← 26.5% reduction
  - Zero bag for captain and crew
- Amberjack commercial management
  - 504,000 pound quota for 2008-2010 ← 43% reduction
- Triggerfish recreational management
  - 14-inch minimum size limit (no change)
- Triggerfish commercial management
  - No change



### Greater Amberjack and Gray Triggerfish–

The Council will take final action on this amendment, which addresses stock rebuilding plans and other management actions for greater amberjack (overfished and undergoing overfishing) and gray triggerfish (undergoing overfishing), at the January meeting in St. Petersburg, FL. At the October 2007 Council meeting, the amberjack/triggerfish issue moved in a different direction as regards to the allocation, and therefore, the management measures. The Council voted to take the allocation action/alternatives for amberjack and triggerfish and remove them to the considered but deferred category. The Council voted to establish an *ad hoc* committee of Council members to develop an amendment setting allocations for amberjack, triggerfish, gag, red grouper, and red snapper. The Council then passed as a preferred alternative for amberjack recreational management, a 1-fish bag limit, 30-inch minimum size, and zero bag limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels. This will give a 26.5% reduction in recreational landings. All fractional bag limits were moved to the considered but rejected category. The preferred alternative for the commercial amberjack sector is a 504,000-pound quota for the period 2008-10, giving that sector a 43% reduction. The preferred management alternatives for gray triggerfish remained the same, increase minimum size from 12 inches to 14 inches fork length, and there is no preferred commercial management alternative.

**Staff Recommendation: Commission staff recommends the preferred alternatives for greater amberjack and gray triggerfish stocks.**

Gulf Of Mexico Fishery Management Council



QUESTIONS?

