

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners
From: Jessica McCawley, Director, Marine Fisheries Management
Date: April 13, 2016
Subject: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Report

Purpose:

Staff will provide Commissioners with a review of actions and discussions from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's (Council) April 4-8, meeting in Austin, TX.

Summary:

The Council is slated to take final action to increase annual catch limits for red grouper; modify commercial gear requirements and the fishing year for yellowtail snapper; and make several changes to king mackerel management.

The Council is considering requiring for-hire fishing trip information (including location) to be reported electronically at the end of each trip to provide more accurate and timely harvest data for management decisions. The Council is scheduled to receive a report that evaluates various programs, devices, and platforms that could be used for such reporting.

Other expected discussions include hogfish management and a new rebuilding plan for gray triggerfish.

Outcomes from Council meeting decisions and discussions, except for red snapper, will be provided in the presentation to the Commission. All red snapper discussion will be during the preceding agenda item.

Staff Recommendation:

This presentation is for informational purposes and any discussion or direction that the Commission may have. Staff may request direction on Council-related items following the Council meeting.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Martha Bademan, Division of Marine Fisheries Management