The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission of the State of Florida, acting under the authority of Article IV, Section 9, of the Florida Constitution, through its Executive Director under Delegations of Authority Paragraph 17 and Paragraph 22, hereby extends from January 1 through February 28, 2018, the current recreational closed season for gray triggerfish in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico established in Executive Order 16-55, which closed the season through December 31, 2017. This closure is consistent with gray triggerfish regulations for federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico that were recently approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service.

1. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Chapter 68B-14, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), the recreational season of gray triggerfish in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico shall remain closed through February 28, 2018. All recreational harvest of gray triggerfish shall be prohibited in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico during this time.

2. All other requirements of 68B-14, F.A.C., shall remain in effect during the closure.

3. This order shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on January 1, 2018, and shall expire when modifications to the Gulf recreational gray triggerfish season are incorporated into Rule 68B-14.0041, F.A.C. or at 12:01 A.M. on March 1, 2018, whichever is earlier.

Given under my hand and seal of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
On this 15th day of December 2017

[Signature]
Eric Sutton, Executive Director

Attest:
Agency Clerk