

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners
From: Jessica McCawley, Director, Marine Fisheries Management
Date: February 8, 2018
Subject: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Report

Purpose:

Update Commissioners on actions from the GMFMC's January 29 – February 1 meeting in New Orleans, LA.

Summary:

The Council is scheduled to meet the week prior to the Commission's February meeting. Therefore, Commission briefing documents will be updated as soon as possible following the Council meeting. Anticipated Council discussions include:

- Development of a policy and outreach program to support use of descending devices or venting tools on vessels possessing reef fish to reduce discard mortality.
- Potentially allowing unused quota to be carried over from one year to the next for Council-managed fisheries.
- Potential establishment of Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) -type programs for federally-permitted charter boats and headboats fishing for red snapper and other reef fish.
- Abundance trends in the red grouper fishery.

Council discussions relating to the 2018 recreational red snapper season may be reviewed in a separate agenda item.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff may request direction on items following the Council meeting.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Martha Guyas, Division of Marine Fisheries Management