

GAP Analysis:

Comparison of Issues Raised in Port Meetings vs. Council Visioning Workshop

Commercial

COMMERCIAL SECTOR			
Key Issue:	Recommended Solution:	Addressed at Council Visioning Workshop:	Additional Comments:
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Require electronic reporting/logbooks & streamline reporting (less duplication of reporting to state and federal)	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Test new technology for collecting data (mobile and web-based)	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Prioritize stock assessments regionally and by economic importance	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Train dealers on new weekly reporting requirements and forms	X	Council discussed other types of angler training but not specific to dealers.
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Increase cooperative research opportunities with commercial sector	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Allow for 3 rd party review of stock assessments & aim for real time assessments	X	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Develop methods to collect and incorporate anecdotal information from fishermen in stock assessments and analyses to be used in management	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	More funding for more stock assessments and data collection programs	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Use underwater cameras on vessels to collect data on fish/fishing activity	X	Council discussed new technology for collecting data but not specifically underwater cameras.
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Address shifts in abundance due to climate change	X	Council discussed effects of climate change in relation to habitat issues.
Reducing Discards/Minimizing Waste	Develop a bycatch allowance (species specific for different states) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Limit/quota per trip/per boat</i> • <i>Consider pounds or % of catch</i> • <i>Look at black grouper in S. FL, other states consider red snapper, gag, black sea bass</i> 	✓	

Commercial continued

COMMERCIAL SECTOR			
Key Issue:	Recommended Solution:	Addressed at Council Visioning Workshop:	Additional Comments:
Reducing Discards/ Minimizing Waste	Consider the use of descending devices and use in management	✓	
Reducing Discards/ Minimizing Waste	Give credits towards the Annual Catch Limit for the use of descending devices	X	Council did not specifically discuss this type of incentive for using descending devices.
Reducing Discards/ Minimizing Waste	Align seasons to reduce bycatch	✓	
Reducing Discards/ Minimizing Waste	No size limits and full retention	✓	
Reducing Discards/ Minimizing Waste	Implement a 12-inch minimum size limit on red porgy	X	Council discussed size limits but did not specify a change in the size limit to red porgy.
Reducing Discards/ Minimizing Waste	Utilize step-down trip limits and split seasons for more snapper grouper species	✓	
Reducing Discards/ Minimizing Waste	Collaborate with the states and develop best management practices training for fishing - fish handling training	✓	
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	<p>Address seasonal spawning closure for shallow-water grouper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider rolling spawning closures (close fishing when fish are actually spawning in each state or smaller sub-region) • FL – close gag January and February only in southern FL; Open gag and red snapper in January and February in northern FL; close red and scamp in March and April only • Shorten the closure to a 2-month closure that aligns with spawning in specific areas; let the states choose the months. 	✓	
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	Consistent seafood supply; Develop management measures that allow availability of 3-5 snapper grouper species for chefs/restaurants.	✓	
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	Address latent commercial effort in the fishery to determine true capacity of the fishery.	✓ X	Council discussed the number of permits in the fishery but did not specifically address latent permits.

Commercial continued

COMMERCIAL SECTOR			
Key Issue	Recommended Solution:	Addressed at Council Visioning Workshop:	Additional Comments:
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	Address and consider the value of owner-operators when making management decisions.	X	Council discussed current composition of the fishery but did not specifically address owner-operators.
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	Address methods and eligibility requirements for allowing new entrants to the fishery; specifically the endorsement programs for black sea bass and golden tilefish; no new endorsement programs	X	Endorsement programs were not discussed by the Council.
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	Conflicting views – majority of stakeholders opposing catch shares; minority of stakeholders supporting catch shares	✓	Council discussed catch shares and a variety of other types of programs that would manage the fishery based on quota systems.
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	Separate the Jacks complex and implement individual species level Annual Catch Limits for these species	X	Council did not specifically discuss changes to the Jacks complex.
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	Weekly trip limits instead of daily trip limits (specifically grouper and tilefish) in order to make trips economically feasible	✓	Council discussed different ways to manage trip limits but not specifically weekly trip limits.
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	Split seasons for more species (similar to vermilion); consider red porgy, gray triggerfish	✓	Council is already addressing split seasons for gray triggerfish.
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	Align fishing seasons to allow co-occurring species to be caught together.	✓	
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	Address trip limits for snowy grouper, red snapper, deepwater species (500-lb)	✓	Council is already addressing trip limits for snowy grouper and other deepwater species.
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	Consider use of fishing one week on/one week off to extend the season	✓	Council discussed different fishing periods/time limits (i.e, days at sea, etc.)

Commercial continued

COMMERCIAL SECTOR			
Key Issue:	Recommended Solution:	Addressed at Council Visioning Workshop:	Additional Comments:
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	Consider how to use any ACL that is remaining at the end of the fishing year; roll-over to next fishing year.	✓	
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	Allow underages in one sector to roll over to other sectors within a season; this would allow the total ACL to be utilized.	✓	
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	Consider limited harvest of goliath grouper (1 fish per boat during certain times of the year; harvest tags, etc.)	X	Council did not discuss management of goliath grouper since this is being discussed by the Joint South Florida Issues Committee.
Regional Management	Consider making South Florida a separate management zone	✓	
Regional Management	Consider regional or sub-regional quotas for certain species	✓	
Regional Management	Streamline and align state and federal regulations	✓	
Regional Management	Consider different trip limits for different regions of the fishery	✓	
Regional Management	State by state approaches to quota management, trip limits and seasons.	✓	
Regional Management	Develop separate joint agreements between federal and state management agencies for regional management.	X	Council did not discuss federal/state management agreements.
Habitat/Ecosystems	Consider sunset clauses on closed areas (MPAs, etc.)	X	Council did not specifically discuss this issue.
Habitat/Ecosystems	Monitoring and law enforcement for existing closed areas to show they are working (MPAs)	✓	
Habitat/Ecosystems	Consider placement of more artificial reef habitat.	✓	
Habitat/Ecosystems	No new MPAs	X	Council did not specifically discuss this issue.
Allocation	Consider more recent catch history instead of historical catch history when addressing sector allocations; this concern arose from the decline in commercial fishing activities in recent years.	✓	
Allocation	Address allocations – equity issues between sectors, for deepwater complex, gear types (golden tilefish sectors).	✓	

Private Recreational

RECREATIONAL SECTOR			
Key Issue:	Recommended Solution:	Addressed at Council Visioning Workshop:	Additional Comments:
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Consider voluntary or mandatory reporting for recreational fishermen.	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Develop and test new technology for collecting data (mobile and web-based)	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Increase cooperative research opportunities with recreational sector	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Develop methods to collect and incorporate anecdotal information from fishermen in stock assessments and analyses to be used in management	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	More funding for more stock assessments and data collection programs	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Use underwater cameras on vessels to collect data on fish/fishing activity	X	Council discussed new technology for collecting data but not specifically underwater cameras.
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Develop a recreational snapper grouper stamp/permit for the recreational sector	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Utilize state/University generated research in stock assessments.	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Develop incentives for accurate self-reporting of catch by the recreational sector.	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	More funding for stock assessments and more real time assessments	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Readdress MRIP sampling design/sample frame; need better methodologies	✓	Council discussed data resource needs and issues with recreational data collection.
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Develop joint agreements with the states for data improvements (similar to the Joint Enforcement Agreements currently in place for law enforcement).	X	Council did not discuss federal/state data collection agreements.
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Create complex-specific permits for recreational (and for-hire) sectors based on the HMS model -- This would help identify users fishing for snapper grouper resources.	X	Council did not discuss complex specific permits but did discuss recreational fishing stamps/permits for snapper grouper.

Private Recreational continued

RECREATIONAL SECTOR			
Key Issue:	Recommended Solution:	Addressed at Council Visioning Workshop:	Additional Comments:
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Add a check off box on each state license for 'offshore bottom fishing' to help identify the universe of recreational fishermen in the fishery and assist with MRIP and other data collection programs.	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Implement a recreational tag harvest program for tracking harvest of certain species (recreational and for-hire sectors).	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	A voluntary recreational program where GoPro cameras are used in data collection (underwater).	✓	Council discussed voluntary data collection programs utilizing a variety of tools.
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Develop a pool of local anglers willing to provide recreational catch data	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Develop a training program to teach fishermen how to voluntarily collect data using standardized methods that could be used in analyses and stock assessments.	✓	
Reducing Discards/ Minimizing Waste	Consider the use of descending devices and use in management	✓	
Reducing Discards/ Minimizing Waste	Consider a total fish or bag limit with no size limits for specific species	✓	
Reducing Discards/ Minimizing Waste	Adjust current size limits on certain species	✓	
Reducing Discards/ Minimizing Waste	Consider full retention – set a daily poundage limit	✓	
Reducing Discards/ Minimizing Waste	Develop more outreach on barotrauma	✓	
Reducing Discards/ Minimizing Waste	Collaborate with the states and develop best management practices training for fishing - fish handling training	✓	
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures	Address spawning season closure to account for temporal/latitudinal differences in spawning activity of some species	✓	
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures	Develop staggered fishing seasons for recreational sector to allow longer fishing seasons; example of two weeks on and two weeks off for fishing was given.	✓	

Recreational continued

RECREATIONAL SECTOR			
Key Issue:	Recommended Solution:	Addressed at Council Visioning Workshop:	Additional Comments:
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures	Allow for in-season bag limit adjustments for the recreational sector; Allow for an increase in bag limits when it is evident that the recreational ACL for some species will not be met for the year to allow full access to the recreational ACL.	✓	
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures	Utilize “step-down” approach currently used in the commercial sector for a reduction in bag limits once 75% of the ACL has been met;	X	Council did not specifically discuss a step-down strategy for the recreational sector.
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures	Allow for an increase in bag limits when it is evident that the recreational ACL for some species will not be met for the year to allow full access to the recreational ACL.	✓	
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures	Consider a rolling spawning season closure (for shallow-water groupers) that accounts for when the fish are actually spawning in different areas of the region	✓	
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures	Black sea bass management – size limits and bag limits need to be readdressed.	X	Council did not discuss changes in management for the black sea bass fishery.
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures	Increase the recreational minimum size limit for lane snapper to 10-inches.	X	Council did not discuss changes in management for the lane snapper fishery.
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures	Increase the recreational minimum size limit for mangrove snapper (gray) to 12-inches.	X	Council did not discuss changes in management for the gray snapper fishery.
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures	Use a slot limit for mutton snapper (no recommendation on range for slot).	X	Council did not discuss changes in management for mutton snapper since this is being addressed by the Joint South Florida Issues Committee.
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures	Implement a recreational bag limit of 5 fish per species across all species.	X	Council did not specifically discuss this strategy.

Recreational continued

RECREATIONAL SECTOR			
Key Issue:	Recommended Solution:	Addressed at Council Visioning Workshop:	Additional Comments:
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures	Address size limit for hogfish	X	Council did not discuss changes in management for the hogfish fishery.
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures	Allow limited harvest of goliath grouper; slot limit; harvest tags through lottery system; open fishery when shallow-water groupers are closed	X	
Regional Management	Develop separate joint agreements between federal and state management agencies for regional management.	✓	
Regional Management	Separate South FL and Keys into its own management zone; would be better able to handle Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic conflicting regulations	✓	
Regional Management	Regional quotas - Separate South FL quotas from other jurisdictions	✓	
Regional Management	Regional stock assessments on economically important species	X	Council did not specifically address this issue.
Regional Management	State management of the recreational fishery (SC and FL)	✓	
Regional Management	Subdivide or “grid” a few areas by similar characteristics for management purposes	✓	
Regional Management	Use research to clearly define zone management for some species in the recreational sector; fishermen mentioned the use of genetics research to better delineate zones.	✓	Council discussed using research to guide development of regional management but not specifically genetic research.
Regional Management	SC: Allow the state to manage certain species (black sea bass and red snapper) for the recreational sector.	X	Council did not specifically discuss this strategy.
Habitat/Ecosystems	Creation, restoration and protection of critical habitats for snapper grouper species	✓	
Habitat/Ecosystems	Identify and protect known spawning areas.	✓	Council is currently addressing this issue through Snapper Grouper Amendment 36.
Habitat/Ecosystems	Reconfigure existing Marine Protected Areas to encompass known spawning areas.; No more new MPAs	✓	Council is currently addressing this issue through Snapper Grouper Amendment 36.
Habitat/Ecosystems	Place more artificial reef materials in federal waters where fish could spawn.	✓	

Recreational continued

RECREATIONAL SECTOR			
Key Issue:	Recommended Solution:	Addressed at Council Visioning Workshop:	Additional Comments:
Allocation	Need to address sector allocations for some species	✓	
Communication	Regional stakeholder meetings with forecasting during meetings (similar to format of port meetings); Ask each stakeholder what is happening in each area at these meetings – also goes under incorporating fishermen’s knowledge into data collection	X	Council discussed more outreach meetings with fishermen but not specifically meetings that would forecast what would happen with the fishery down the road.
Communication	Local education Public Service Announcements (where does the public go to buy local fish; educate them about seasons, what is in season locally; lionfish and invasive species)	X	Council discussed various outreach methods but not specifically radio PSAs.
Communication	More outreach tools available for understanding data	✓	
Communication	A moderated forum by Council staff to answer questions posed by the public	✓	
Communication	Q/A webinar, provide a forum for folks to ask questions of Council staff	✓	
Communication	Develop condensed information on stock assessments in layman’s terms (not just what the newsletter provides)	✓	
Communication	1-pagers delivered to marinas on stock assessments – brief summary after an assessment	✓	
Communication	Develop short segments regarding the “science” on YouTube	✓	
Communication	Send notification of closures to fishing clubs not just to individuals	✓	

For-hire

FOR-HIRE SECTOR			
Key Issue:	Recommended Solution:	Addressed at Council Visioning Workshop:	Additional Comments:
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Consider voluntary or mandatory reporting for the for-hire sector	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Develop electronic reporting mechanisms for the for-hire sector	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Streamline reporting requirements for state and federal reporting (for those states that have mandatory reporting in the for-hire sector)	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Increase cooperative research opportunities with for-hire sector	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Develop methods to collect and incorporate anecdotal information from fishermen in stock assessments and analyses to be used in management	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	More funding for more stock assessments and data collection programs	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Use underwater cameras on vessels to collect data on fish/fishing activity	✓	Council discussed new technology for collecting data but not specifically underwater cameras.
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Create complex-specific permits for the for-hire sector based on the HMS model -- This would help identify users fishing for snapper grouper resources	X	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Improve recreational discard estimates headboat vs. charter/for-hire vs. private recreational	X	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Separate the for-hire sector from the recreational sector; concerns over discard mortality rates differing between the two sectors making estimates inaccurate	✓	
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	Need to characterize the for-hire sector of the fishery (and how much the fishery can sustain).	✓	
Reducing Discards/ Minimizing Waste	Consider a "by the pound" limit, not a size limit on fish	✓	

For-hire continued

FOR-HIRE SECTOR			
Key Issue:	Recommended Solution:	Addressed at Council Visioning Workshop:	Additional Comments:
Reducing Discards/ Minimizing Waste	Test and utilize fish descending devices and other ways to reduce barotrauma	✓	
Reducing Discards/ Minimizing Waste	Collaborate with the states and develop best management practices training for fishing - fish handling training	✓	
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	Coordinate the fishing seasons to align the seasons to maximize fishing opportunity.	✓	
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	Consideration of implementing a limited entry program for the for-hire sector.	✓	
Regional Management	State-by-state management of certain species and quotas	✓	
Regional Management	Subdivide or “grid” a few areas (within a state or between states) by similar characteristics for management purposes	✓	
Habitat	No new MPAs	X	Council did not specifically address this issue.
Habitat	Consider creating additional artificial reefs in federal waters	✓	
Allocation	Need to address sector allocations for some species	✓	
Communication	Develop condensed information on stock assessments in layman’s terms (not what the newsletter provides) (Note: Charter folks haven’t felt involved in the SEDAR process or with providing their data.)	✓	

Chefs/Restaurants/Seafood Consumers

CHEFS/RESTAURANTS/SEAFOOD CONSUMER SECTOR			
Key Issue:	Recommended Solution:	Addressed at Council Visioning Workshop:	Additional Comments:
Data Collection/ Science/Reporting	More funding to produce the science needed for better and more timely stock assessments	✓	
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	Consistent seafood supply	✓	
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	Develop management measures that allow availability of 3-5 snapper grouper species for chefs/restaurants; having 3-5 allows chefs flexibility in their menus, purchasing practices and ability to plan.	✓	
Flexibility, Availability & Access to Fishing – ACLs, Closures, Market	Need to consider trip limits and measures that will ensure reliable supply of seafood to chefs/consumers	✓	
Communication	Develop a “one-stop shop” for chefs/consumers to access region by region information on available quota, fishery openings and closures.	X	Council did not specifically address resource/ information needs for this sector.
Communication	More representation of this sector in Council advisory panels, activities, and outreach programs	X	Council did not specifically address this issue.