

**Summary of Joint South Florida IPT**  
Conference Call April 25, 2014 at 2:00 pm

The IPT agreed this would be a Joint Generic Amendment to the Gulf Reef Fish and South Atlantic Snapper Grouper FMPs. The South Atlantic Council will complete a separate amendment to consider removal of five species from the Snapper Grouper FMP (Nassau grouper, dog snapper, schoolmaster, mahogany snapper, and black snapper). This amendment will be scoped by the South Atlantic Council in August 2014. The IPT will meet again by conference call on May 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. The Joint South Florida Committee will meet at the Hilton in Key Largo from July 22 to July 24, 2014.

The IPT discussed the current data and made the following additional data requests:

- recreational and commercial landings by Florida, all Gulf States, and all South Atlantic States – Jack. Since landings data are primarily from Florida data may be confidential when they are broken down by state outside of Florida. Council staff and NMFS staff can view confidential data but other members of the public cannot. Some grouping of data will likely be necessary if data are to be disseminated to public.
- mutton snapper bag limit analysis that pertains to only the period of peak spawning (May-June) – Jack
- Florida trip ticket landings of mutton snapper by month in the last 5 years – Luiz
- commercial shallow-water grouper landings by county in last 5 years – Luiz
- recreational shallow-water grouper landings by county in the last 5 years – Luiz
- recreational landings of yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper, gray snapper, and hogfish by county in the last 5 years – Luiz
- commercial landings of yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper, gray snapper, and hogfish by county in the last 5 years – Luiz

Data already provided by IPT:

- Florida recreational data broken down by area for 8 species going back to 2008 – Luiz
- Florida commercial data broken down by statistical grid for 9 species going back to 1990 – Luiz
- Mutton snapper bag limit analysis – Jack
- Commercial and recreational landings for 5 species, for Florida, and all other Gulf and SA states combined – Jack

The IPT also agreed they would wait on wording of the delegation and allocation alternatives from Monica. She will circulate those by May 15<sup>th</sup>. The IPT agreed the following individuals would work together to write these draft actions and alternatives.

**Action 4. Mutton snapper recreational bag limits – (Jack and Gregg)**

**Option 1:** No action. If Options 2 or 3 were chosen for Action 1, taking no action here would allow Florida to make the bag limit change on their own.

**Option 2:** Set a bag limit for mutton snapper during the regular season of 5 per person and during the spawning season (May-June) of 2 per person.

**Option 3:** Others?

\*Note: they will work on a third more restrictive option based on the updated bag limit analysis

**Action 5. Review of shallow water grouper closure length, months, species, etc. for both Gulf and South Atlantic – (Carrie, Jack, and Martha)**

**Option 1.** No action.

**Option 2.** Remove the closure.

**Option 3.** Modify the closure.

\*Note: this group will consider additional options for boundary options and species composition. If the seasonal closure was only modified (Option 3) then the composition of species affected by the closure would need to be the same. Also, the composition of groupers in South Florida is different than areas to the north. Additional options will consider these factors.

**Action 6. Review circle hook requirement in the Gulf – (Ryan)**

**Option 1.** No action.

**Option 2.** Remove circle hook requirement for yellowtail snapper in the Gulf of Mexico.

**Option 3.** Remove circle hook requirement for all reef fish south of 28 degrees north latitude in the Gulf of Mexico.

The IPT recommends not moving forward with changes to permit requirements at this time.