



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

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Jessica McCawley, Chair
 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
 North Charleston, SC 29405

Dear Ms. McCawley:

At its January 2020 meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) received from Mr. Russ Dunn an overview of The Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018 (Act) and also a summary of the November 2019 Council Coordinating Committee discussions as they pertained to Section 102 of the Act. As you are aware, Section 102 addresses the use of recreational fishery management measures and provides several examples of alternative management approaches, but does not provide an exemption to the current requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act including, but not limited to: annual catch limits, accountability measures, and rebuilding requirements.

Staff subsequently summarized a letter from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (South Atlantic Council) proposing the establishment of a joint committee between the South Atlantic and Gulf Councils to coordinate efforts to address Section 102 of the Act, agreeing that a joint committee would be helpful in considering the multitude of potential approaches. The following Gulf Council members volunteered to participate in this joint Council committee: Troy Williamson, Susan Boggs, Tom Frazer, Martha Guyas, Kevin Anson, and Chris Schieble.

We agree with the approach of meeting by webinar first, with the goal of convening the joint committee between April and June 2020 to develop ideas and topics for future discussion and evaluation. We also concur that this joint committee should develop a timeline and plan of work to bring back to each of the two Councils. Mr. Ryan Rindone will be the lead staff from the Gulf Council. Should you have any questions, please contact either Mr. Rindone or the Council's Executive Director, Dr. Carrie Simmons.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas K. Frazer, Chair
 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

cc: Jack McGovern, Ph.D. / Russ Dunn / Susan Gerhart / Mara Levy / John Carmichael / Gulf Council Staff / South Atlantic Council Staff