

Voluntary IFQ Proposal

Developed by the South Atlantic Fishermen's Association (SAFA)

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General Idea – Voluntary IFQ

- NMFS sends a letter to SA SG permit holders
- Letter includes individual's potential allocation. Permit holders indicate if they want to participate in the a) **Voluntary IFQ** or b) **traditional management**
- Quota allocated to individuals who join, not groups or sectors
- If a person joins, all of person's permits join and they are prohibited from fishing in the traditional management system for Voluntary IFQ species

Process

- SAFA worked with fishermen to create a voluntary IFQ design.
- SAFA contacted fishermen who showed past interest in an IFQ, to gauge interest.
- 45 South Atlantic snapper grouper permits have signed on thus far in support of a voluntary IFQ option.

Details: Species and Regions

- **NC, SC, GA waters:** vermilion snapper, black sea bass, red porgy, gag, scamp, gray triggerfish, red grouper
- **Coastwide:** golden tilefish
- **FL Keys (Monroe County):** snowy grouper, blueline tilefish, yellowedge grouper, misty grouper, queen snapper (if appropriate) – fishermen want grouping of certain species to decrease discards (similar to Gulf)
- **Proposed plan covers areas where we have significant support. However, we would like the Voluntary IFQ option extended to all interested permit holders.**

Details: Allocation

- Creates an aggregate and individual allocation for the species included in the Voluntary IFQ based on historic landings of fishermen that join.
 - $50\% * (\text{Past 10 Years Landings}) + 50\% * (\text{Past 3 Years Landings})$ divided by the sum of these calculations for all SASG permits (Boyles Formula)
 - 2 for 1 permit histories are combined for Voluntary IFQ species

Details: Allocation (cont'd)

- Voluntary IFQ Allocation would come out of Commercial portion of the ACL.
- Individual allocation EXAMPLE for one species:

$$\underline{50\% * (100,000) + 50\% * (30,000)}$$

All Commercial Individual Landings Added
Together Using Above Calculation

Details: Allocation (cont'd)

- Voluntary IFQ total allocation percentage will not exceed individual allocations summed together (unless new members join). Once joined, participants remain. New participants can join using same allocation formula (and same qualifying years).
- Individuals will have a cap placed on how many shares they can own. This would be determined by the Council.

Voluntary IFQ Allocation

(Current estimate if all permit holders who have expressed interest join)

Species	Percentage Allocation
Gag	19%
Scamp	21%
Red grouper	17%
Red porgy	22%
Black sea bass	23%
Gray triggerfish	25%
Vermilion snapper	28%
TOTAL	23%

Species	Percentage Allocation
Snowy grouper	16%
Yellowedge grouper	41%
Misty grouper	15%
Blueline tilefish	2%
TOTAL	8%

Species	Percentage Allocation
Golden Tilefish	31%

Details: Possible Elimination of Other Regulations

- Elimination of trip limits, size limits and other regulations for participants in the Voluntary IFQ
- All MPAs and some seasonal spawning closures would remain
- *We ask the Council to conduct analyses to determine which of the current regulations (size limits, trip limits, area closures, spawning season closures) can be reduced or eliminated for the Voluntary IFQ.*

Details: Enforcement and Monitoring

- Requires Voluntary IFQ participants to install and use a VMS. We ask NMFS to purchase the unit and fishermen will pay for monthly fees and installation.
- Requires Voluntary IFQ vessels to hail out and then hail in to pre-approved landing locations and to offload during approved hours
- Requires Voluntary IFQ participants to secure pounds for all harvested IFQ species before landing (same requirement in the Gulf for the Reef Fish IFQ)

Request to the Council

- We ask the Council to develop an amendment for a Voluntary IFQ
- Reasons for a Voluntary IFQ vs. other options:
 - Sectors and cooperatives are difficult for fishermen to form voluntarily. We are not proposing a program like NE has.
 - Endorsements eliminate more people than IFQs.
 - Trip limits and split seasons have not lengthened seasons and have not improved the fishery's economic situation.
 - Increased safety at sea
 - Increased possibility of harvesting at the ACL