

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Alan Risenhoover  
**From:** Wayne Swingle  
**Subject:** Revisions to our CCED Meeting Follow-up Material

Listed below are our revisions for addressing the ACL issues in your memorandum on the CCED Meeting Follow-up.

### Complying with Establishing Mechanisms to Meet the Annual Catch Level (ACL) Requirements

#### Proposed Mechanisms for Specifying ACL

To the extent practical, the Council will use the following two mechanisms:

- (1) For stocks with adequate data, the ACL will be specified by the SEDAR program.
- (2) For stocks without adequate data, the ACL will be specified by utilizing long-term landings data for that stock or for an aggregation of minor stocks caught together in that fishery.<sup>1</sup>

For stocks or stock aggregates with adequate data to conduct an assessment under the SEDAR program and determine a maximum level of Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), the ACL will be specified at a conservative level corresponding to a fishing mortality rate (F) well below the Maximum Fishing Morality Threshold (MFMT). For stocks or stock aggregates without aggregate data, the ACL will be specified at a level that does not exceed historical levels of harvest. The GMFMC utilizes multi-year plans for all stocks except penaeid shrimp, which are annual stocks. Therefore, the intervals at which most stock assessments are updated are 3-5 years

In order to select a conservative ACL, we use the "Technical Guidance on Use of Precautionary Approaches to Implementing National Standard 1 of MSFCMA" (Restrepo, et. al. 1998) to compute our Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) status determination criteria. For example, given a stock that has a natural mortality rate of  $M = 0.10$ , the Minimum Stock Size Threshold (MSST) is  $(1-M)*B_{msy}$ , which equals 90% of  $B_{msy}$ . The fishing mortality rate achieving OY in this example is  $F_{oy} = 0.75 * F_{msy}$  or 25% less than MFMT, which will typically produce an equilibrium stock biomass between 125% and 131% of  $B_{msy}$  and an equilibrium yield at about 94% of MSY. For stocks where the data is inadequate to compute these values, the ACL will be set at or below recent catch levels used as a proxy for MSY. These conservative standards allow the Council to set ABC levels that will allow setting of ACL at a level to prevent overfishing.

The stock assessments (or proxies thereof), will be used to update programs for eliminating overfishing and implementing ACLs that will prevent overfishing. The regulatory actions to accomplish this will be implemented by regulatory amendments.

Accountability will be ensured by:

- (1) using the SEDAR process which results in peer-reviewed benchmark assessments,
- (2) having the SSC peer-review updated assessments and proxies for assessments to assure the ACL is set at an appropriate level,
- (3) establishing default SFA status determination criteria for stocks that do not have stock-specific criteria.

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<sup>1</sup> Examples of aggregated stocks are the TACs set for deep-water and shallow-water groupers.

**ACL Management Plan Schedule**

The GMFMC's revised plan and schedule is listed in the table below.

FMP	Stock(s)	ACL Review/Date	Implemented By/Date
Reef Fish (RF)	Red Snapper	SEDAR 7/2005	RF Amend 27/ Sh Amend 14/2007
Reef Fish (RF)	Vermillion Snapper	SEDAR 9/2006	Regulatory Amend/ 2007
Reef Fish (RF)	Greater Amberjack Gray Triggerfish	SEDAR 9/2006	RF Amend 30/2008
Reef Fish (RF)	Gag	SEDAR 10/2006	RF Amend 30/2008
Reef Fish (RF)	Red Grouper	SEDAR 12/2007	RF Amend 30/2008
Reef Fish (RF)	Mutton Snapper	SEDAR 15/2007	Regulatory Amend/2008
Coastal Migratory Pelagics (CMP)	King Mackerel	SEDAR 16/2008	*TBD
Red Drum (RD)	Red Drum	SEDAR 18/2009	TBD
Reef Fish (RF)	Hogfish	SEDAR 19/2009	TBD
Reef Fish (RF)	Red Snapper	SEDAR Update/2009	TBD
Reef Fish (RF)	Yellowtail Snapper	SEDAR Update/2009	TBD
Reef Fish (RF)	Yellowedge Grouper** Tilefish	SEDAR 20/2010	TBD
Spiny Lobster (SL)	Spiny Lobster	SEDAR Update/2010	TBD
Reef Fish (RF)	Greater Amberjack	SEDAR Update/2010	TBD
Reef Fish (RF)	Gag & Red Grouper	SEDAR Update/2011	TBD
Reef Fish (RF)	Red Snapper	SEDAR 24/2012	TBD
Reef Fish (RF)	Vermilion Snapper & Gray Triggerfish	SEDAR Update/2012	TBD
Reef Fish (RF)	Goliath Grouper	SEDAR 26/2013	TBD
Stone Crab (SC)	Stone Crab	TBD	TBD
Shrimp (Sh)	Royal Red Shrimp	TBD	TBD
Coastal Migratory Pelagics (CMP)	Cobia Spanish Mackerel	TBD	TBD
Reef Fish (RF)	Other Snapper	TBD	TBD
Reef Fish (RF)	Other Shallow-Water Grouper	TBD	TBD

\* To Be Determined (TBD)

\*\* Deep-water Grouper Complex Proxy

WES:cs

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