



Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments

Includes dates of development, approval and publication of final rule.
Compiled through June 2010.

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STATUS OF GULF FMPs (and EISs)

(Date implemented)

AQUACULTURE SEPTEMBER, 2009

Fishery Management Approved but not implemented

COASTAL PELAGICS (FEIS)*- FEB, 1983

- Amendment 1 (9/85) (SEIS)
- Amendment 2 (7/87)
- Amendment 3 (4/90)
- Amendment 4 (10/89)
- Amendment 5 (8/90)
- Amendment 6 (12/92)
- Amendment 7 (9/94)
- Amendment 8 (4/98)
- Amendment 9 (4/00)
- Amendment 10 (partially approved)**
- Amendment 11 (partially approved)**
- Amendment 12 (10/00)
- Amendment 13 EFH (8/02) **(SEIS)******
- Amendment 14 (7/02 - 12/02)
- Amendment 15
- Amendment 16 (withdrawn)
- Amendment 17 (6/15/06)

- March 1986 Emergency Rule

- May 1987 Regulatory Amendment
- May 1988 Regulatory Amendment
- May 1989 Regulatory Amendment
- May 1990 Regulatory Amendment
- May 1991 Regulatory Amendment
- May 1992 Regulatory Amendment
- June 1993 Regulatory Amendment
- May 1994 Regulatory Amendment
- May 1995 Regulatory Amendment
- July 1996 Regulatory Amendment
- May 1997 Regulatory Amendment
- July 1998 Regulatory Amendment
- July 1999 Regulatory Amendment
- July 2000 Regulatory Amendment
- July 2003 Regulatory Amendment

CORAL (FEIS) - JULY 1984

- Amendment 1 (2/91)
- Amendment 2 (1/95)
- Amendment 3 (11/95)
- Amendment 4 8/02 **(SEIS)******

REEF FISH (FEIS) – NOVEMBER 1984

- Amendment 1 (2/90)
- Amendment 2 (7/90)
- Amendment 3 (7/91)
- Amendment 4 (5/92)
- Amendment 5 (2/94) (SEIS)
- Amendment 6 (7/93)
- Amendment 7 (2/94)
- Amendment 8 (withdrawn)
- Amendment 9 (8/94)
- Amendment 10 (withdrawn)
- Amendment 11 (1/96)
- Amendment 12 (12/96)
- Amendment 13 (10/96)
- Amendment 14 (4/97)
- Amendment 15 (12/97)
- Amendment 16A (12/99)
- Amendment 16B (11/99)
- Amendment 17 (8/00)
- Amendment 18a (9/06) (12/06)
- Amendment 18b (under development) (SEIS)
- Amendment 19 (8/02) (SEIS)****
- Amendment 20 (7/02 - 12/02)
- Amendment 21
- Secretarial Amend 1(SEIS)
- Secretarial Amendment 2
- Amendment 22 (7/05)
- Amendment 23 (7/05)
- Amendment 24 (8/05)
- Amendment 25 (6/15/06)
- Amendment 26 (12/06)
- Amendment 27 (2/28/08)(6/1/08)
- Amendment 28 (under development)
- Amendment 29 (8/31/09)
- Amendment 30A (8/08)
- Amendment 30B (1/24/09)
- Amendment 31 (04/26/10)

- November, 1989 NMFS Announcement
- 1990 Emergency Rule
- April 1992 Interim Rule
- December 1992 Emergency Rule
- January 1996 Emergency Interim Rule
- March 1997 Interim Rule
- January 1999 Interim Rule
- March 2005 Emergency Rule

- August 2005 Interim Rule
- April 2007 Interim Rule
- May 2009 Emergency Rule
- October 2009 New Rule
-
- March 1991 Regulatory Amendment
- July 1991 Regulatory Amendment
- Nov 1991 Regulatory Amendment
- October 1992 Regulatory Amendment
- October 1993 Regulatory Amendment
- October 1994 Regulatory Amendment
- December 1995 Regulatory Amendment
- March 1997 Regulatory Amendment
- November 1997 Regulatory Amendment
- February 1998 Regulatory Amendment
- December 1998 Regulatory Amendment
- August 1999 Regulatory Amendment
- February 2000 Regulatory Amendment
- October 2005 Regulatory Amendment
- November 2005 Regulatory Amendment
- January 2007 Regulatory Amendment
- May 2010 Regulatory Amendment

RED DRUM (FEIS) - DECEMBER 1986***

- Amendment 1 (10/87)
- Amendment 2 (7/88)
- Amendment 3 (10/92)
- Amendment 4 (8/02) (SEIS)****

SHRIMP (FEIS) - MAY, 1981***

- Amendment 1 (11/81)
- Amendment 2 (4/83)
- Amendment 3 (8/84)
- Amendment 4 (6/90)
- Amendment 5 (7/91)
- Amendment 6 (4/93)
- Amendment 7 (1/95)
- Amendment 8 (1/96 – later rejected)

- Amendment 9 (5/98) (SEIS)
- Amendment 10
- Amendment 11 (9/02 - 12/02)
- Amendment 12 (8/02) (SEIS)****
- Amendment 13 (10/06)
- Amendment 14 (2/28/08)
-
- August 2006 Regulatory Amendment

SPINY LOBSTER (FEIS)* -

JUNE 1982

- Amendment 1 (7/87)
- Amendment 2 (10/89)
- Amendment 3 (4/91)
- Amendment 4 (9/95)
- Amendment 5 (partially approved)**
- Amendment 6 (partially approved)**
- Amendment 7 (8/02) (SEIS)****
- Amendment 8 (1/)

STONE CRAB (FEIS) –

SEPTEMBER 1979

- Amendment 1 (11/82)
- Amendment 2 (9/84)
- Amendment 3 (10/86)
- Amendment 4 (4/91)
- Amendment 5 (5/95)
- Amendment 6 (9/98)
- Amendment 7 (10/02)
- Amendment 8 (8/02) (SEIS)****

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT

- Amendment 1 (partially approved 2/99)
- Amendment 2 (8/02) (SEIS)
- Amendment 3 (1/06)

SFA AMENDMENT (partially approved 11/99)

*Joint with South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

**SAFMC SFA Amendments

***Separate EIS Document

****Generic Amendment

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FMP SUMMARY REPORT PURPOSE

The Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments is a document for Council members and staff to use as a means of tracking and reporting the history and status of an amendment, regulatory amendment, interim or emergency rule to an FMP.

1 GENERIC AMENDMENTS TO MULTIPLE FMPs

1.1 Amendments

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Amendment 1

- This amendment is to all seven FMPs. It describes the habitat essential for each life history stage of 26 representative species, which result in most of the landings from the Gulf. It describes the habitat types and distribution, threats to these habitats, predator-prey relationships, factors resulting in EFH losses, conservation and enhancement measures and recommendations to minimize impacts from non-fishing threats.

Stock Assessment	N/A
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	12/97 - 5/98
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/22/1998
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	2/99 (1)
Implementing regulations written by	
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	N/A (2)

Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA)

- This amendment is to all seven FMPs and addresses the new provisions implemented by the SFA that pertain to preventing overfishing and rebuilding of overfished stocks. It also provides demographic and economic information on fishing communities. It contains scientific definitions for each stock managed by the Council for: MSY, OY, Maximum Fishing Mortality Thresholds (MFMT), and Minimum Stock Size Thresholds (MSST). It contains rebuilding plans for overfished stocks for which such data are available, and assesses bycatch and proposes reporting requirements for bycatch.

Stock Assessment	N/A
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	07/98 – 11/98
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	1/13/1999
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	11/99 (1)
Implementing regulations written by	
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	N/A (2)

Generic Tortugas Marine Reserves – Amendment 2

- This amendment is to all seven FMPs and creates two marine reserves where all fishing is prohibited. One 60 sq. mile reserve is on a spawning aggregation site for mutton snapper in the GMFMC's jurisdiction. The other (125 sq. miles) is in the jurisdictions of the National Park Service, FKNMS, GMFMC, and the State of Florida. These reserves will provide for research to assess the value of no-use reserves. The amendment number for each FMP is as follows: Mackerel (13), Coral (4), Red Drum (4), Reef Fish (19), Shrimp (12), Spiny Lobster (7), and Stone Crab (8).

Stock Assessment	N/A
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	3/00 – 5/00
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/12/2000
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	6/2001
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	07/19/02 (67 FR 47967)

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) – Amendment 3

- This amendment addressed EFH requirements, Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs), and adverse effects of fishing in the fisheries for shrimp, red drum, reef fish, stone crab, coral, and coral reefs in the Gulf of Mexico, as well as spiny lobster and the CMP resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean. Management measures include; prohibiting bottom anchoring to protect coral reefs in the East and West Flower Garden Banks, McGrail Bank, Pulley Ridge, and the North and South Tortugas Ecological Reserves, as well as Stetson Bank HAPCs' prohibiting longlines, buoy gear, and all traps/pots to protect coral reefs in those same HAPCs; and requiring a weak link in the tickler chain of bottom trawls on all habitats throughout the Gulf EEZ.

Stock Assessment	N/A
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	1/12-13/2005
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	5/1/2005
Implementing regulations written by	
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	12/23/05

1.2 Footnotes

- (1) Amendment was partially disapproved
- (2) No regulations resulted from the amendment

2 AQUACULTURE

- The Fishery Management Plan for Aquaculture, approved in 2009 but not yet implemented, is intended to maximize benefits to the Nation by establishing a regional permitting process to manage the development of an environmentally sound and economically sustainable aquaculture industry in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The primary goal of the permitting program is to increase the maximum sustainable yield and optimum yield of federal fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico by supplementing the harvest of wild caught species with cultured product.

Stock Assessment	N/A
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	11/09/04
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	1/29/09
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	9/3/2009
Implementing regulations written by	N/A
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	N/A

3 COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS

3.1 Emergency/Interim Rules

An emergency rule reduced TAC for Gulf group king mackerel from 14.4 million pounds to 5.2 million pounds.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	10/29-30/85
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	3/11/86 (51 FR 8325)

3.2 Amendments

Original FMP

- The Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic and Environmental Assessment (EA), approved in 1982 and implemented in February of 1983, treats king and Spanish mackerel each as one U.S. stock. It establishes allocations for recreational and commercial fisheries, with the commercial allocation divided between net and hook-and-line fishermen.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	11/78 – 10/80
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/8/1981
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	4/26/1982
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS/Council
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	2/4/1983 (48 FR 5270)

Amendment 1

- Amendment 1 and its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), implemented in September of 1985, provides a framework procedure for pre-season adjustment of total allowable catch (TAC), revises king mackerel maximum sustainable yield (MSY) downward, recognizes separate Atlantic and Gulf migratory groups of king mackerel, and establishes fishing permits and bag limits for king mackerel. Commercial allocations among gear users are eliminated. The Gulf commercial allocation for king

mackerel is divided into eastern and western zones for the purpose of regional allocation.

Stock Assessment	Yes (2)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	11/8 – 9/83
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	3/7/1985
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	8/8/1985
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS/Council
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	8/28/85 (50 FR 34840)(3)

Amendment 2

- Amendment 2 with EA, implemented in July of 1987, revises Spanish mackerel MSY downward, recognizes two migratory groups, and sets commercial quotas and bag limits. Charterboat permits are required. The Amendment clarifies that TAC for overfished stocks must be set below the upper range of acceptable biological catch (ABC). The use of purse seines on overfished stocks is prohibited.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	7/8/1986
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	10/30/1986
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	2/8/87 (4) 6/4/87
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	6/28/87 (52 FR 23836)(5)

Amendment 3

- Amendment 3 with EA, was partially approved in 1989, revised, resubmitted, and approved in 1990. It prohibits drift gill nets for coastal pelagics and purse seines for the overfished groups of mackerels.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	1/27/1988
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	11/30/1988
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	6/16/89 (4) 3/15/90
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	7/13/89 (54 FR 29561) 4/19/90 (55 FR 14833)

Amendment 4

- Amendment 4 with EA, implemented in 1989, reallocates Spanish mackerel equally between recreational and commercial fishermen on the Atlantic group with an increase in TAC.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	9/13/1988
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	3/15/1989
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	8/29/1989
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	9/89 (54 FR 38526)

Amendment 5

- Amendment 5 with EA was implemented in August 1990. It extends the management area for Atlantic groups of mackerel through the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (MAFMC) area of jurisdiction; revises problems in the fishery and plan objectives; revises the fishing year for Gulf group Spanish mackerel from July-June to April-March; revises the definition of "overfishing"; adds cobia to the annual stock assessment procedure; and provides that the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) will be responsible for pre-season adjustments of TACs and bag limits for the Atlantic migratory groups, while the Gulf Council will be responsible for Gulf migratory groups.

It also continues to manage the two recognized Gulf migratory groups of king mackerel as one until management measures appropriate to the eastern and western groups can be determined; redefines recreational bag limits as daily limits; deletes a provision that specified that bag limit catches of mackerel may be sold; provides guidelines for corporate commercial vessel permits; specifies that Gulf group king mackerel may be taken only by hook-and-line and run-around gill nets; imposes a bag limit of two cobia per person, per day for all fishermen; establishes a minimum size of 12" FL or 14" TL for king mackerel and includes a definition of "conflict" to provide guidance to the Secretary.

Stock Assessment	N/A
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	12/97 - 5/98
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/22/1998
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	2/99 (1)
Implementing regulations written by	
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	N/A (2)

Amendment 6

- Amendment 6, implemented in November 1992, identifies additional problems and an objective in the fishery; provides for rebuilding overfished stocks within specific periods; provides for biennial assessments and adjustments; provides for more seasonal adjustment actions, including size limits, vessel trip limits, closed seasons or areas, and gear restrictions; and allows Gulf group king mackerel stock identification and allocation when appropriate. It also provides for commercial Atlantic Spanish mackerel possession limits; changes commercial permit requirements to allow qualification in one of three preceding years; discontinues the reversion of the bag limit to zero when the recreational quota is filled; modifies the recreational fishing year to the calendar year; and changes the minimum size limit for king mackerel to 20" fork length, and changes all size limit measures to fork length only.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	4/23/1991
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/13/1992
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	11/10/1992
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	12/9/92 (57 FR 58151)

Amendment 7

- Amendment 7, implemented in September 1994, equally divides the Gulf commercial allocation in the Eastern Zone at the Dade-Monroe County line in Florida. The sub-allocation for the area from Monroe County through Western Florida is equally divided between commercial hook-and-line and net gear users.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	5/11/1993
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	3/15/1994
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	8/15/1994
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	8/25/1994 (59 FR 43779)

Amendment 8

- Amendment 8, implemented in March 1998, makes the following changes to the management regime: Clarifies allowable gear specifications for the Gulf group king mackerel fishery by allowing only hook-and-line and run-around gill nets. Catch by permitted, multi-species vessels and bycatch allowances for purse seines are maintained; establishes the Council's intent to evaluate the impacts of permanent

jurisdictional boundaries between the GMFMC and SAFMC and separate FMPs for coastal pelagics in these areas; establishes a moratorium on commercial king mackerel permits until no later than October 15, 2000, with a qualification date for initial participation of October 16, 1995; increases the income requirement for a king or Spanish mackerel permit to 25% of earned income or \$10,000 from commercial sale of catch or charter/head boat fishing in one of the three previous calendar years, but allows for a one-year grace period to qualify under permits that are transferred; legalizes retention of up to 5 cut-off (damaged) king mackerel on vessels with commercial trip limits; sets an optimum yield (OY) target at 30% static SPR; provides the SAFMC with authority to set vessel trip limits, closes seasons or areas, and gear restrictions for Gulf group king mackerel in the North Area of the Eastern Zone (Dade/Monroe to Volusia/Flagler County lines); establishes various data consideration and reporting requirements under the Framework Procedure, and modifies the seasonal framework adjustment measures and specifications (see Appendix I).

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	8/22-23/95
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/15/1996
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	7/23/1997
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	03/04/98 (63 FR 10501)

Amendment 9

- Amendment 9 reallocates the percentage of the commercial allocation of TAC for the North Area (Florida east coast) and South/West Area (Florida west coast) of the Eastern Zone to 46.15% North and 53.85% South/West and retain the recreational and commercial allocations of TAC at 68% recreational and 32% commercial; subdivides the commercial hook-and-line king mackerel allocation for the Gulf group, Eastern Zone, South/West Area (Florida west coast) by establishing 2 subzones with a dividing line between the 2 subzones at the Collier/Lee County line; establishes regional allocations for the west coast of Florida based on the 2 subzones with 7.7% of the Eastern Zone allocation of TAC being allowed from Subzone 2 and the remaining 92.3% being allocated as follows: 50% - Florida east coast; 50% - Florida west coast; 50% - Net Fishery; 50% - Hook-and-Line Fishery; and establishes a trip limit of 3,000 pounds per vessel per trip for the Western Zone.

Amendment 9 also establishes a moratorium on the issuance of commercial king mackerel gill-net endorsements and allows re-issuance of gill-net endorsements to only those vessels that: (1) had a commercial mackerel permit with a gill-net endorsement on or before the moratorium control date of October 16, 1995 (Amendment 8), and (2): had landings of king mackerel using a gill net in one of the two fishing years 1995-96 or 1996-97 as verified by NMFS or trip tickets from the FDEP; allows the transfer of gill net endorsements to immediate family members

(son, daughter, father, mother, or spouse) only; and prohibits the use of gill nets or any other net gear for the harvest of Gulf group king mackerel south of an east/west line at the Collier/Lee County line. The Amendment also increases the minimum size limit for Gulf group king mackerel from 20" to 24" fork length and allows the retention and sale of cut-off (damaged) legal-sized king and Spanish mackerel.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	7/14/1997
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/21/1998
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	10/7/1999
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	3/28/2000

Amendment 10

- Amendment 10 incorporates essential fish habitat (EFH) provision for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC).

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	10/9/1998
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	6/3/1999
Implementing regulations written by	
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	6/14/2000

Amendment 11

- Amendment 11 includes proposals for mackerel in the SAFMC's Comprehensive Amendment Addressing Sustainable Fishery Act Definitions and other Provisions in Fishery Management Plans of the South Atlantic Region.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	

Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	10/7/1998
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	5/19/1999
Implementing regulations written by	
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	11/2/1999

Amendment 12

- Amendment 12 extends the commercial king mackerel permit moratorium from October 15, 2000 to October 15, 2005, or until replaced with a license limitation, limited access, and/or individual fishing quota or individual transferable quota system, whichever occurs first.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	5/12/1999
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/15/1999
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	5/31/2000
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	

Amendment 13

- Amendment 13, establishes two marine reserves in the EEZ in the vicinity of the Dry Tortugas, Florida, known as Tortugas North and Tortugas South, in which fishing for coastal migratory pelagic species is prohibited. This action complements previous actions taken under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	3/20/2000
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/13/2000
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	7/19/02 (67 FR 47467)

Amendment 14

- Amendment 14, implemented July 29, 2002, establishes a three-year moratorium on the issuance of charter vessel and headboat permits, unless replaced sooner by comprehensive effort limitation system. The control date for eligibility was established as March 29, 2001. The amendment includes provisions for eligibility, application, appeals, and transferability.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	9/15/1999
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	3/29/2001
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	5/29/2002
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	6/28/02 (67 FR 43558)

Amendment 15

- Amendment 15 to the CMP FMP in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico establishes two actions. Action 1 establishes an indefinite limited access program for the king mackerel fishery in the exclusive economic zone under the jurisdiction of the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. Action 2 changes the fishing season to March 1 through February 28/29 for the Atlantic groups of king and Spanish mackerel. Beginning the fishing year on March 1 ensures the mackerel fisheries in the Atlantic are open when other fisheries are closed.

Stock Assessment	N/A
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	1/14-15/2004
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	1/12-13/2005
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	7/7/2005 (70 FR 39187)

Amendment 17

- Establishes a limited access system on for-hire reef fish and CMP permits. Permits are renewable and transferable in the same manner as currently prescribed for such permits. The Council will have periodic review at least every 10 years on the effectiveness of the limited access system.

Stock Assessment	N/A
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Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	1/12-13/2005
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	8/8-12/2005
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	5/16/06 (71 FR 28282)

3.3 Regulatory Amendments

May 1986 ⁽⁸⁾

- Allows charter boats to obtain commercial permits. For the 1986/87 season (July 1 - June 30), the amendment sets TAC for Gulf group king mackerel at 2.9 MP with 0.93 MP commercial quota - 1.97 MP recreational allocation. The bag limit is set at two fish when fishing from boats without a captain and crew and three fish for when fishing from boats with a captain and crew - crew excluded. The commercial quota allocates 6% for purse seines, 64.5% for eastern zone (FL), and 29% for western zone (AL-TX). The recreational and commercial fisheries will be closed when the allocation is taken.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	4/29-30/86
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	7/18/86 (51 FR 9659)

May 1987

- For the 1987/88 season (July 1 - June 30), the amendment reduces TAC for Gulf group king mackerel to 2.2 MP with commercial quota of 0.7 MP and recreational allocation of 1.5 MP. The purse-seine allocation is set to zero. TAC for Gulf group Spanish mackerel is set at 2.5 MP with a commercial quota of 1.4 MP and recreational allocation for 1.1 MP. The bag limit for Spanish mackerel is three fish.

Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	4/28-30/87
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	6/10/87 (52 FR 21977)

May 1988

- For the 1988/89 season the amendment sets TAC for Gulf group king mackerel at 3.4 MP with commercial quota of 1.1 MP and recreational allocation 2.3 MP. The commercial quota is allocated 69% to eastern zone and 31% to western zone. The TAC for Gulf group Spanish mackerel is increased to 5.0 MP allocated 43% to recreational sector and 57% to commercial sector. The Spanish mackerel bag limit is set at 4 fish off Florida and 10 fish off AL-TX.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	4/26-27/88
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	7/8/88 (53 FR25611)

May 1989

- For the 1989/1990 season the amendment increases TAC for Gulf group king mackerel to 4.25 MP with commercial quota 1.36 MP and recreational allocation 2.89 MP. The bag limit remains unchanged. The TAC for Gulf group Spanish mackerel is increased to 5.25 MP. The allocation ratio between commercial (57%) and recreational (43%) remains unchanged as did the bag limit.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	4/25-26/89
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	7/21/89 (54 FR 30554)

May 1990

- For the 1990/1991 season the amendment leaves the TAC (4.25 MP) and bag limit for Gulf group king mackerel unchanged. The TAC (5.25 MP) for Gulf group Spanish mackerel is also unchanged. The bag limits for Spanish mackerel are four fish off Florida, three fish off Texas, and ten Fish off Alabama/Louisiana at the request of the states.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	4/24-26/90 (6)
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	8/1/90 (55 FR 3118)

May 1991

- For the 1991/92 season the amendment increases TAC for Gulf group king mackerel to 5.75 MP with a 1.84 MP commercial quota and 3.91 MP recreational allocations. The king mackerel bag limit is modified to 2 fish off Florida and 2/3 AL-TX (See 1986/87 regulatory amendment for description). The TAC for Gulf group Spanish mackerel is increased to 8.6 MP and the bag limit is 3 fish off TX, 5 fish off FL, and 10 fish off AL-LA. The amendment also sets the overfishing thresholds at 30% SPR (SSBR).

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	4/23-24/91
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	9/9/91 (56 FR 174)

May 1992 ⁽⁸⁾

- For the 1992/93 season the amendment increases TAC for Gulf group king mackerel to 7.8 MP with commercial quota of 2.50 MP and recreational allocation of 5.3 MP. The king mackerel bag limit is reduced to two fish per person including captain and crew of charter and head boats for the entire Gulf EEZ. The TAC for Gulf group Spanish mackerel remains at 8.6 MP. Bag limits are increased to 7 off TX, and 10 off FL-LA. The amendment deletes the requirement that bag limits for Gulf group king and Spanish mackerels revert to zero when allocations are projected to be harvested and the fisheries be closed. Emergency action adds 259,000 pounds under 25-fish trip limit.

Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/12-13/92
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	9/18/92 (7) (57 FR 43103)

June 1993

- For the 1993/94 season, the TAC and bag limits remain the same for Gulf group king mackerel. For the eastern zone (FL) commercial hook-and-line fisheries the trip limit for the FL east coast zone (FECZ) is set at 50 fish until 50% of the sub quota is taken and then reduced to 25 fish until the quota is taken. For the FL west coast zone (FWCZ) there is no trip limit until 75% of the sub quota is taken then reduced to 50 fish. The TAC and bag limits for Gulf group Spanish mackerel remain unchanged.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/10-11/93
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	11/2/93 (58 FR 58509)

May 1994

- For the 1994/95 season, the TAC and bag limits remain unchanged for Gulf group king mackerel. Commercial gill net boats fishing king mackerel in the eastern zone are limited to 25,000 pounds per trip. The TAC and bag limits for Gulf group Spanish mackerel remain unchanged. FECZ modified to 50 fish until 25% of sub quota is taken. Emergency action added 300,100 pounds under 125-fish trip limit.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/10-11/94
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	1/25/95 (4) (60 FR 4866)

May 1995

- For the 1995/96 season, TAC and bag limits remain unchanged for Gulf group king & Spanish mackerel. Hook-and-line trip limit for the FWCZ of the eastern zone is 125 fish until 75% of the sub quota is taken, then it becomes 50 fish.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/9-10/95
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	11/17/95 (60 FR57686)

July 1996

- For the 1996/97 season, TAC and bag limits remain unchanged for Gulf group king mackerel, except the bag limit for captain and crew of charter and head boats is zero. The commercial hook-and-line trip limit for the FWCZ is 1,250 pounds per trip until 75% of the sub quota is taken, then it becomes 500 pounds per trip. FECZ set at 750 pounds, then to 500 pounds when 75% taken. TAC for Gulf group Spanish mackerel is reduced to 7.0 MP. Bag limits remain unchanged.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/12-13/96
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	5/1/97 (62 FR 23671)

May 1997

- For the 1997/98 season, the TAC is increased to 10.6 MP for Gulf group king mackerel. The zero bag limit for captain and crew of charter and head boats is rescinded. The commercial hook-and-line trip limit for the FECZ is 50 fish until the sub quota is taken. The TAC and bag limits remain unchanged for Gulf group Spanish mackerel.

Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/11-13/97
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	1/19/98 (63 FR 8353)

July 1998

- For the 1998/99 season, the amendment retains the TAC for the Gulf group king mackerel, but sets the bag limit for captain and crew of charter and head boats at zero. The size limit for king mackerel is increased to 24 inches (FL). The commercial king mackerel hook-and-line trip limit for the western zone (AL-TX) is 3,000 pounds per trip.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/12-13/98
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	8/20/99 (64 FR45457)

July 1999

- The regulatory amendment for the 1999-2000 season retains TAC for Gulf group king mackerel at 10.6 million pounds. It also establishes a 2-fish per person per day bag limit on Gulf group king mackerel for the captain and crew of for-hire vessels and retains this 2-fish bag limit for all other recreational fishermen. The fishing season for the commercial gill net fishery for Gulf group king mackerel opens at 6 a.m. eastern standard time (EST) on the Tuesday following the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, with the following weekend open as long as the quota has not been taken and all subsequent weekends and holidays are closed as long as the season remains open. Weekend and holiday closures are from 6 a.m. Saturday to 6 a.m. Monday EST (or Tuesday if a Monday holiday is involved), and during this period boats with a net on board must be tied to the dock. The TAC for Gulf group Spanish is 9.1 million pounds, and the bag limit for Gulf group Spanish is 15 fish per person per day.

Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/12/1999
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	5/11/00 (65 FR30362)

July 2000

- The 2000-2001 regulatory amendment, implemented on April 30, 2001, reduces TAC to 10.2 MP, provides a 2-fish bag limit for the captain and crew of for-hire vessels, and revises the trip limit for Gulf migratory group king mackerel in the northern area of the Eastern Zone (Miami-Dade through Volusia Counties, Florida) to remain at 50 fish until February 1. If the quota is not 75 percent filled as of February 1, the trip limit increases to 75 fish. If the quota is 75% filled or greater, the trip limit will remain at 50 fish.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/18/2000
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	3/30/01 (66 FR 17368)

July 2003

- This regulatory amendment establishes definitions of maximum sustainable yield (MSY), optimum yield (OY), the overfishing threshold, and the overfished condition for Cobia and Gulf group king and Spanish mackerel.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/14/2003
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	3/30/04 (69 FR 16499)

3.4 Footnotes

- (1) The FMP contained stock assessment information. A major assessment was prepared in 1985 for king mackerel and assessments were prepared each year thereafter for king and Spanish mackerels through 1999.
 - (2) Amendment 1 contained the most recent stock assessment.
 - (3) Emergency rule was implemented 3/11/86 to reduce TAC for Gulf group king mackerel to 5.2 MP after being requested December 1985.
 - (4) Partially approved.
 - (5) Emergency Rule approved 7/5/87 (52 FR 288) to reduce TAC for Spanish mackerel.
 - (6) This was the last year GMFMC and SAFMC set TACs in a joint meeting.
 - (7) This was the last year that the king and Spanish mackerel recreational fisheries were closed when it was projected that the allocations were reached.
 - (8) Regulations were implemented by notice action (i.e., publishing proposed and final rules) from 9186-1992.
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4 CORALS

4.1 Amendments

Original FMP

- The FMP/DEIS, completed in 1982, describes the coral communities throughout the jurisdictions of the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils (1) The FMP prohibits harvest of stony coral and seafans except by scientific permit. It establishes Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) in the Gulf and Atlantic, where the use of any fishing gear interfacing with the bottom is prohibited. The amendment also regulates the use of chemicals used by fish collectors near coral reefs, and establishes a data reporting system for permittees.

Stock Assessment	Yes
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	3/79 – 12/81
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	8/4/1982
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	8/12/1983
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS/Council
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	7/23/1984 (49 FR 29607)

Amendment 1

- Amendment 1, completed in 1990, establishes the total allowable harvest (TAC) for commercial harvesters of gorgonians (soft coral) at 50,000 colonies annually. It establishes permits and reporting requirements for persons landing gorgonians commercially, as well as a permitting requirement and landing limit for non-commercial harvesters (i.e., 6 colonies).

Stock Assessment	Yes
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	4/24/1990
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/11/1990
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	12/20/1990
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	1/15/91 (56 FR 1500)

Amendment 2

- Amendment 2, implemented December 21, 1994, establishes area closures, vessel trip limits, gear restrictions, permits and reporting for live rock harvest and aquaculture, restricted access, a phase-out of harvest by 1997, and a redefinition of octocorals.

Stock Assessment	No
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	7/12/1993
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/13/1994
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	11/25/1994
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	12/28/94 (2) (59 FR 66776)

Amendment 3

- Amendment 3 with supplementary documents was prepared by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to provide additional management to the harvest of live rock in the Gulf of Mexico. Live rock is an assemblage of living marine organisms attached to a hard substrate such as dead coral or limestone. This amendment includes an annual quota during phase-out, a closed area off Florida's Panhandle, redefines allowable octocorals as erect non-encrusting species of the subclass Octocorallia, except the sea fans *Gorgonia flabellum* and *G. ventalina*; including only the substrate covered by and within one inch of the holdfast. This applies only to allowable octocorals in areas where live rock harvest is prohibited, and limited personal use live rock harvest.

Stock Assessment	No
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	1/17/1995
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	3/14/1995
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	10/5/1995
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	11/9/95 (60 FR 56533)

4.2 Footnotes

- (1) The Secretary approved separate FMPs for Gulf and South Atlantic regions in August 1994.
- (2) Initially implemented by emergency rule 5/16/94 (59 FR 25344)

5 RED DRUM

5.1 Amendments

Original FMP

- The Red Drum FMP prohibits directed commercial harvest from the EEZ for 1987. The FMP provides for a recreational bag limit of one fish per person per trip, and an incidental catch allowance for commercial net and shrimp fishermen. Total harvest is estimated at 625,000 pounds - 300,000 by the commercial sector, and 325,000 by the recreational sector. The stock assessment sections of the FMP documents high inshore (state waters) fishing mortality on juvenile and sub-adult red drum and provides analysis that indicates significant long-term risks to the spawning stock biomass (SSB) associated with reduced juvenile recruitment to the adult population and with continued exploitation of adults.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	9/8/1996
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	(3)
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	(3)
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	12/24/1986 (4) (51 FR 46675)

Amendment 1

- Amendment 1 to the FMP, implemented on October 16, 1987, continues the prohibition of a directed commercial EEZ fishery, but converts the commercial and recreational estimated catch allowances into quotas restricted to EEZ waters off Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama (the primary area); harvest is prohibited from the EEZ off Florida and Texas (secondary areas). The Council also requested that all Gulf States implement rules within their jurisdictions that provide for an escapement rate of juvenile fish to the SSB equivalent to 20% of those that would have escaped if there were no inshore fishery.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1) (2)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	10/27/1986
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	4/30/1987
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	8/28/1987
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	9/16/87 (52 FR 34918)

Amendment 2

- Amendment 2 implemented in 1988 prohibits retention and possession of red drum from the EEZ. This action is based on a Southeast Fisheries Center (SEFC) stock assessment (Goodyear, 1987) which concludes annual fishing mortality (F) for 1986 on the juvenile population was on the order of 2.0, and consequently escapement rates to the spawning stock biomass (SSB) are likely less than 2.0%, which do not maintain the SSB at a 20% spawning stock biomass per recruit (SSBR) relative to the unfished stock. In addition, fishing mortality on the offshore stock is estimated to be about 0.25 (22% annually). The 1987 Stock Assessment Panel report recommends that acceptable biological catch (ABC) be set at zero for the EEZ and that states increase escapement rate from the estuaries to 30%.

The 1989 SEFC Stock Assessment report (Goodyear) indicates the SSBR will likely decline to 13%. The 1989 Stock Assessment Panel report recommends ABC for the EEZ be maintained at zero, and that the states increase escapement to 30%. During 1991, the Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel (panel) reviewed stock assessments prepared by NMFS (Goodyear, 1991), the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (1991), and the State of Florida (Murphy, et. al. 1990). The panel (Condrey, et. al, 1991) recommends that ABC be set at zero. The Council recommends to NMFS that total allowable catch (TAC) be zero for 1992, and that a more comprehensive assessment of a SSBR level be provided in 1992.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1) (2)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	1/25/1988
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	3/16/1988
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	6/21/1988
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	6/29/88 (5) (53 FR 24662)

Amendment 3

- Amendment 3 modifies the framework procedure for specifying TAC by providing that NMFS would provide stock assessments biennially rather than annually.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1) (2)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	11/2/1991
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/13/1992
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	8/18/1992
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	9/2/92 (57 FR 40134)

5.2 Footnotes

- (1) The stock was originally classified as overfished, i.e., SSBR level below 20% in 1987 through the following reports:
 Goodyear, C.P. 1987. Status of the red drum stocks of the Gulf of Mexico. NMFS. SEFSC. Miami, FL. Memo. Rpt. 116p.
 GMFMC. 1987. Report of the red drum stock assessment panel (RDSAP) meeting. GMFMC. Tampa, FL. 8p.
 The stock was considered overfished in the subsequent four stock assessments and RDSAP meetings. Harvest and possession was prohibited in 1988.
- (2) The FMP was a secretarial plan developed by NMFS, which had a stock assessment. Subsequent stock assessments and RDSAP reports were completed in 1988, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1996, and 1999.
- (3) This was a secretarial FMP developed, approved, and implemented by NMFS.
- (4) Preceded by Emergency rule on 6/30/86 (51 FR 23551) setting TAC = 1 million pounds. Fishery closed 7/20/86. Emergency rule extended through 12/22/96.
- (5) Preceded by Emergency rule on 1/6/88 (53 FR 244) setting TAC – zero. Emergency rule extended 90 days.

6 REEF FISH

6.1 Emergency/Interim Rules and Other Actions

- November 7, 1989 – NMFS announced that anyone entering the commercial reef fish fishery in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic after a control date of November 1, 1989 may not be assured of future access to the reef fish fishery if a management regime is developed and implemented that limits the number of participants in the fishery. The purpose of this announcement was to establish a public awareness of potential eligibility criteria for future access to the reef fish resource. It does not prevent any other date for eligibility or other method for controlling fishing effort from being proposed and implemented.
- A 1990 Emergency rule was implemented to prohibit the harvest of goliath grouper.
- In 1992, the commercial red snapper fishery closed on February 22, after 53 days, and before some fishermen made a single trip. In response, an emergency rule by NMFS, at the request of the Council, reopened the red snapper fishery from April 3, 1992 through May 14, 1992 with a 1,000-pound trip limit. This rule was intended to alleviate economic and social issues that occurred because of the 1992 red snapper commercial quota being rapidly filled. Although this emergency rule resulted in a quota overrun of approximately 600,000 pounds, analysis by NMFS biologists determined that this one-time overrun would not prevent the red snapper stock from attaining its target SPR.
- December 30, 1992 Emergency Rule - creates a red snapper endorsement to the reef fish permit for the start of the 1993 season. The endorsement was issued to owners or operators of federally permitted reef fish vessels who had annual landings of at least 5,000 pounds of red snapper in two of the three years from 1990 through 1992. For the duration of the emergency rule, while the commercial red snapper fishery is open, permitted vessels with red snapper endorsements are allowed a 2,000-pound possession limit of red snapper. Permitted vessels without the endorsement are allowed 200 pounds. This emergency action, initially effective for 90 days, was extended for an additional 90 days with the concurrence of NMFS and the Council. A related emergency rule delayed the opening of the 1993 commercial red snapper season until February 16 to allow time for NMFS to process and issue the endorsements.
- Following the Congressional repeal of the red snapper ITQ system in Amendment 8, an emergency interim action was published in the Federal Register on January 2, 1996 to extend the red snapper endorsement system for 90 days. That emergency action was superseded by another emergency action, published in the Federal Register on February 29, 1996, that extended the red snapper endorsement system through May 29, 1996, and subsequently, by agreement of NMFS and the Council, for an additional 90 days until August 27, 1996. The amendment also implemented a charter boat/headboat permit.
- In late 1996, the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel (RFSAP) reviewed a new stock assessment on vermilion snapper and concluded that the vermilion snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico, while not currently overfished, was showing signs of overfishing. Given that SPR was decreasing at current fishing rates and that the proposed optimum yield level is 30 percent SPR, the RFSAP recommended that fishing mortality be reduced to a rate corresponding to F30% SPR, or $F = 0.32$. The RFSAP did not have sufficient information to assess the impact of closed seasons or other measures, but suggested that a 10" size limit is an effective intermediate measure until a new stock assessment and additional analysis can be completed. In March 1997, the Council

requested NMFS increase the minimum size limit from 8" to 10" under the new interim measures provision of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, while a permanent increase to 10" is developed through Amendment 15.

- A September 11, 1997 Interim rule was implemented to increase the vermilion snapper minimum size limit to 10".
- April 14, 1998 – Interim rule to reserve 3.12 mp of the 9.12 mp red snapper TAC pending an evaluation of the effectiveness of BRDs.
- August 22, 1998 – Emergency rule to release the remaining 1998 recreational and commercial quota reserves for Gulf of Mexico red snapper that had been held pending an investigation of the effectiveness of BRDs.
- December 31, 1998 – Emergency rule to reduce red snapper bag limit to four fish.
- An interim rule implemented by NMFS in January 1999 reduces the recreational bag limit for red snapper from five to four fish per person and retains the 15-inch TL minimum size limit for both the commercial and recreational sectors. It also provides for the reopening of the recreational fishing season to commence in January 1999.
- June 8, 1999 – Emergency rule to increase temporarily the red snapper minimum size limit to 18" for June 4 – August 29, 1999, and to close the recreational red snapper fishery on August 29, 1999.
- December 2, 1999 – Interim rule to increase the red snapper recreational minimum size limit to 16", set the 2000 recreational fishing season to April 21 – October 31, reinstate the red snapper bag limit allowance for captain and crew of for-hire vessels, and reduce the commercial spring season red snapper monthly openings from 15 days to 10 days.
- December 17 – 2002 – Emergency rule to extend the deadline to apply for a charter boat moratorium permit and to implement the moratorium.
- February 17, 2005 – Emergency rule to establish a 10,000-pound commercial grouper trip limit, with reductions to 7,500 and 5,500 pounds when certain percentages of either the shallow-water grouper quota or the red grouper quota are reached.
- April 1, 2005 – Emergency rule to provide a limited reopening of the application process for charter vessel/headboat permits under the moratorium.
- June 25, 2005 – Interim rule to reduce red grouper bag limit to one fish, reduce aggregate grouper bag limit to three fish, and close recreational fishing of all grouper during November and December 2005 (a judge later overruled the aggregate bag limit change and ruled that the closed season could only apply to red grouper).
- January 19, 2006 – Interim rule to restore 5-grouper aggregate limit per a judge's ruling, and extend one red grouper bag limit to July 22, 2006.
- April 2, 2007 – Interim rule to reduce red snapper TAC to 6.5 mp, reduce the red snapper commercial minimum size limit to 13", reduce the recreational red snapper bag limit to two fish, and prohibit captain and crew of for-hire vessels from retaining a bag limit.
- March 25, 2008 – Temporary rule by NMFS announcing the early closure of the recreational red snapper fishery effective 12:01 a.m., local time, August 5, 2008. NMFS determined the action necessary to prevent the recreational fishery from exceeding its quota for the fishing year and to prevent overfishing of Gulf red snapper.

- April 2, 2009 – Emergency rule prohibiting bottom longlining for Gulf reef fish east of 85° 30'W longitude (the boundary generally follows the 50-fathom depth contour). Once the deepwater grouper and tilefish quotas are filled, the use of bottom longline gear to harvest reef fish in water of all depths east of 85° 30'W longitude will be prohibited.
- October 16, 2009 – New rule prohibiting the use of bottom longline gear for the harvest of reef fish shoreward of the 35-fathom contour in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. Also limits reef fish longline vessels east of 85° 30'W to 1,000 hooks onboard, of which only 750 may be actively fished or rigged for fishing.

6.2 Amendments

Original FMP

- The Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan was implemented in November 1984. The regulations, designed to rebuild declining stocks, include prohibitions on the use of fish traps, roller trawls, and powerhead-equipped spear guns within an inshore stressed area; a minimum size limit of 13" TL for red snapper, for-hire boats exempt until 1987, and each angler can keep five undersize fish; and data reporting requirements.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	9/78 – 2/80 (2)
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	8/5/1981
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	6/21/1983
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS/Council
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	10/9/84 (49 FR 39548) (3)

Amendment 1

- Amendment 1 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan, implemented in 1990, sets the stabilization of long-term population levels of all reef fish species by establishing a survival rate of biomass into the stock of spawning age to achieve at least 20% spawning stock biomass per recruit (SSBR), relative to the SSBR that would occur with no fishing. It also sets a red snapper 7-fish recreational bag limit and 3.1 million pound commercial quota that together will reduce fishing mortality by 20% and begin a rebuilding program for that stock. In addition, the amendment establishes a 5-fish recreational bag limit and 11 million pound (MP) commercial quota for groupers, with the commercial quota divided into a 9.2 MP shallow-water quota and a 1.8 MP deep-water quota. Amendment 1 establishes a framework procedure for specification of TAC and allows for annual management changes. The target date for achieving the 20% SSBR goal is set at January 1, 2000. This amendment also establishes a longline and buoy gear boundary inshore of which the directed harvest of reef fish with longlines and buoy gear is prohibited and the retention of reef fish captured

incidentally in other longline operations (e.g. shark) is limited to the recreational bag limit. Subsequent changes to the longline/buoy boundary could be made through the framework procedure for specification of TAC.

Amendment 1 also sets recreational bag limits for groupers in aggregate and snappers (excluding lane, vermilion, and red) in aggregate. It sets minimum size limits for red, Nassau, yellowfin, black, gag, and goliath groupers, for gray, mutton, yellowtail, lane, and vermilion snappers, for black sea bass, and for greater amberjack. A two-day possession allowance was created for charter vessels and headboats on trips longer than 24 hours, provided certain requirements are met. The amendment also establishes commercial fish trap endorsements with up to 100 fish traps allowed per permit holder. Trawl vessels are restricted to the recreational size and bag limits of reef fish, and entangling nets are prohibited for the directed harvest of reef fish. Finally, the stressed area boundary is expanded to cover the entire length of the Gulf coast, and reporting requirements for commercial and recreational for-hire vessels, with specific reporting requirements for fish trap vessels, are included in the amendment.

Stock Assessment	(4) (5)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	6/87 – 12/88
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/12/1989
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	11/29/1989
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	1/22/90 (55 FR 2078)

Amendment 2

- Amendment 2, implemented in 1990, prohibits the harvest of Goliath grouper. It is intended to provide complete protection for this species in federal waters, and responds to indications that the population abundance throughout its range is greatly depressed. The prohibition on goliath grouper harvest was initially implemented by emergency rule.

Stock Assessment	No (6)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	11/28/1989
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	1/24/1990
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	6/11/1990
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	6/21/90 (7) (55 FR 25310)

Amendment 3

- At the direction of the Council, the Reef Fish Scientific Assessment Panel (RFSAP) met in March 1990 and reviewed the 1990 NMFS Red Snapper Stock Assessment. The recommendation of the panel at that time was to close the directed fishery because the Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) was being harvested as bycatch of the shrimp trawl fishery. No viable alternatives were identified that would achieve the 20% SPR goal by the year 2000 without closure of the directed fishery, because no means existed for reducing trawl bycatch. As a result, Amendment 3, implemented in July 1991 provides additional flexibility in the annual framework procedure for specifying TAC by allowing the target date for rebuilding an overfished stock to be changed depending on changes in scientific advice, except that the rebuilding period cannot exceed 1.5 times the generation time of the species under consideration. It revises the FMP's primary objective, definitions of optimum yield and overfishing and framework procedure for TAC by replacing the 20% SSBR target with 20% spawning potential ratio (SPR).

The amendment also transfers speckled hind from the shallow-water grouper quota category to the deep-water grouper quota category and establishes a new red snapper target year of 2007 for achieving the 20% SPR goal. The 1992 commercial red snapper fishery opened January 1 and closed after just 53 days when a derby fishery developed and the quota was quickly filled.

Stock Assessment	(5)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	11/13-14/1990
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	1/23/1991
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	6/5/1991
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	7/3/91 (56 FR 30513)

Amendment 4

- Amendment 4, implemented in May 1992, establishes a moratorium on the issuance of new reef fish permits for a maximum period of three years. The moratorium is intended to moderate short-term future increases in fishing effort and to attempt to stabilize fishing mortality while the Council considers a more comprehensive effort limitation program. It allows the transfer of permits between vessels owned by the permittee or between individuals when the permitted vessel is transferred. Amendment 4 also changes the time of the year that TAC is specified from April to August, and it adds Almaco jack and banded rudderfish to the reef fish management unit. It also allows scamp to continue to be harvested under the deep-water grouper quota once the shallow-water grouper quota is filled.

Stock Assessment	(5)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	7/9-10/91
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	9/18/1991
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	2/22/1992
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	4/8/92 (57 FR 11914)

Amendment 5

- Amendment 5, implemented in February 1994, establishes restrictions on the use of fish traps in the Gulf of Mexico. It implements a three-year moratorium on the use of fish traps by creating a fish trap endorsement and issuing the endorsement only to fishermen who submitted logbook records of reef fish landings from fish traps between January 1, 1991 and November 19, 1992.

The amendment also creates a special management zone (SMZ) with gear restrictions off the Alabama coast, as well as a framework procedure for establishing future SMZs. Other measures include: a requirement that all finfish, except for oceanic migratory species, be landed with head and fins attached; establishes a schedule to gradually raise the minimum size limit for red snapper to 16 inches over a period of five years; and closes the region of Riley's Hump (near Dry Tortugas, Florida) to all fishing during May and June to protect mutton snapper spawning aggregations.

Amendment 5 also requires all finfish from the EEZ, excluding Oceanus migratory species managed by NMFS, be landed head and tails intact (with an exemption for bait), establishes a gradual increase in the red snapper minimum size limit from 13" to 14", 15" and 16" in two-year increments, and closes Riley's Hump to all fishing during May and June to protect mutton snapper spawning aggregations.

Stock Assessment	(5)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	9/15/1992
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	11/18/92 (8)
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	12/16/93 (9)
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	1/7/94 (59 FR 966)

Amendment 6

- Amendment 6, implemented in June 1993, extend the provisions of the emergency rule for red snapper endorsements for the remainder of 1993 and 1994, unless replaced sooner by a comprehensive effort limitation program. In addition, it allows the trip limits for qualifying and non-qualifying permitted vessels to be changed under the framework procedure for specification of TAC.

Stock Assessment	(5)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	11/17/1992
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	1/20/1993
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	5/29/1993
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	6/15/93 (58 FR 33025)

Amendment 7

- Amendment 7, implemented in February 1994, establishes reef fish dealer permitting and record keeping requirements; allows transfer of fish trap permits and endorsements between immediate family members during the fish trap permit moratorium; and allows transfer of other reef fish permits or endorsements in the event of the death or disability of the person who was the qualifier for the permit or endorsement. A proposed provision of this amendment that would have required permitted vessels to sell harvested reef fish only to permitted dealers was disapproved by the Secretary of Commerce and was not implemented.

Stock Assessment	(5)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	3/10/1993
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/14/1993
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	1/6/1994
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	2/11/94 (59 FR 6588)

Amendment 8

- Amendment 8 establishes a red snapper Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) system. The Amendment was approved by NMFS and final rules were published in the Federal Register on November 29, 1995.

This amendment provided for an initial allocation of percentage shares of the commercial red snapper quota to vessel owners and historical operators based on fishermen's historical participation in the fishery during the years 1990-1992, set a four-year period for harvest under the ITQ system, during which time the Council and NMFS would monitor and evaluate the program and decide whether to extend, terminate or modify it, and established a special appeals board, created by the Council, to consider requests who contest their initial allocations of shares or determination of historical captains.

The appeals board was originally scheduled to meet during January 1996, with the ITQ system itself to become operational in April 1996. However, the federal government shutdown of December 1995- January 1996 forced an indefinite postponement of the appeals board meetings, and concerns about Congressional funding of the ITQ system made it inadvisable for the ITQ system to become operational, pending Congressional action. In October 1996, Congress, through reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, repealed the red snapper ITQ system and prohibited Councils from submitting, or NMFS from approving and implementing, any new individual fishing quota program before October 1, 2000.

Stock Assessment	(5)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	1/13-15/1993
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	1/13-15/1993
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	7/18/95
Implementing regulations written by	
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	11/29/95 (60 FR 61200)

Amendment 9

- Amendment 9 provides for collection of red snapper landings and eligibility data from commercial fishermen for the years 1990 through 1992. The purpose of this data collection is to evaluate the initial impacts of the limited access measures being considered under Amendment 8 and to identify fishermen who may qualify for initial participation under a limited access system. This amendment also extends the reef fish permit moratorium and red snapper endorsement system through December 31, 1995, in order to continue the existing interim management regime until longer-term measures are implemented. The Council received the results of the data collection in November 1994, at which time consideration of Amendment 8 resumed.

Stock Assessment	(5)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	1/19/1994
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	3/16/1994
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	7/20/1994
Implementing regulations written by	
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	8/2/94 (59 FR 39301)

Amendment 10

- Withdrawn Amendment 10 would have extended the validity of additional fish trap endorsements for the duration of the fish trap moratorium implemented under Amendment 5. The additional endorsements were to be issued under an emergency rule, requested in March 1994, to alleviate economic hardships after the Council heard from fishermen who entered the fish trap fishery after the November 19, 1992 cutoff date and stated that they were unaware of the proposed moratorium and the cut-off date. The Council rejected the proposed amendment in May 1994 after NMFS notified fishermen of the pending moratorium and fish trap endorsement criteria when asked about fish trap rules, as well as when fish trap application materials were requested. The Council also considered arguments that the change in qualifying criteria circumvented the intent of the fish trap moratorium to halt expansion of the fish trap fishery at the November 19, 1992 level. After the Council rejected Amendment 10, NMFS subsequently rejected the emergency request.

Stock Assessment	(5)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	3/16/1994
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/13/1994 (10)
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	N/A

Amendment 11

- Amendment 11 was partially approved by NMFS and implemented in January 1996. Approved provisions are: (1) limit sale of Gulf reef fish by permitted vessels to permitted reef fish dealers; (2) require that permitted reef fish dealers purchase reef fish caught in Gulf federal waters only from permitted vessels; (3) allow transfer of reef fish permits and fish trap endorsements in the event of death or disability; (4) implement a new reef fish permit moratorium for no more than 5 years or until December 31, 2000, while the Council considers limited access for the reef fish fishery; (5) allow permit transfers to other persons with vessels by vessel owners (not operators) who qualified for their reef fish permit; and, (6) allow a one time transfer of existing fish trap endorsements to permitted reef fish vessels whose owners have landed reef fish from fish traps in federal waters, as reported on logbooks received by the Science and Research Director of NMFS from November 20, 1992 through February 6, 1994.

NMFS disapproved a proposal to redefine Optimum Yield from 20% SPR (the same level as overfishing) to an SPR corresponding to a fishing mortality rate of F0.1 until an alternative operational definition that optimizes ecological, economic, and social benefits to the Nation could be developed. In April 1997, the Council resubmitted the Optimum Yield definition with a new proposal to redefine Optimum Yield as 30% SPR. The resubmission document was also disapproved by NMFS.

Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments

Stock Assessment	(5)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	9/20/1994
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/10/1995
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	8/30/95 (9) 11/24/95
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	12/15/95 (60 FR 64356)

Amendment 12

- Amendment 12, submitted in December 1995 and implemented in January 1997, reduces the greater amberjack bag limit from three fish to one fish per person, and creates an aggregate bag limit of 20 reef fish for all reef fish species not having a bag limit. NMFS disapproved proposed provisions for the commercial sector to cancel the automatic red snapper size limit increases to 15 inches total length in 1996 and 16 inches total length in 1998, and for the recreational sector a proposal to include lesser amberjack and banded rudderfish along with greater amberjack in an aggregate 1 fish bag limit and 28 inch fork length minimum size limit.

Stock Assessment	(5)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	7/12/1995
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	9/20/1995
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	7/16/1996
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	12/16/96 (61 FR 65983)

Amendment 13

- Amendment 13, implemented in September 1996, further extends the red snapper endorsement system through the remainder of 1996 and, if necessary, through 1997, allowing the Council time to develop a permanent limited access system that is in compliance with the new provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Stock Assessment	(5)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	1/23/1996
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	3/13/1996
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	8/9/1996
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	9/13/96 (61 FR 48413)

Amendment 14

- Amendment 14, implemented in March and April, 1997, provides for a ten-year phase-out for the fish trap fishery; allows transfer of fish trap endorsements for the first two years and thereafter only upon death or disability of the endorsement holder, to another vessel owned by the same entity, or to any of the 56 individuals who were fishing traps after November 19, 1992 and were excluded by the moratorium; and prohibits the use of fish traps west of Cape San Blas, Florida. The amendment also provides the Regional Administrator (RA) of NMFS the authority to reopen a fishery that closed before the allocation was reached and modified the provisions for transfer of commercial reef fish vessel permits. The amendment also prohibits harvest and possession of Nassau grouper.

Stock Assessment	(5) (11)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	3/11-12/96
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/17/1996
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	3/25/1997
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	3/25/97 (62 FR 13983)

Amendment 15

- Amendment 15, implemented in January 1998, establishes a permanent two-tier red snapper license limitation system to replace the temporary red snapper endorsement system. Under the new system, Class 1 licenses and initial 2,000-pound trip limits were issued to red snapper endorsement holders as of March 1, 1997. Class 2 licenses and initial 200-pound trip limits are issued to other holders of reef fish permits as of March 1, 1997 who had any landings of red snapper between January 1, 1990 and March 1, 1997. Vessels without a Class 1 or Class 2 red snapper license are prohibited from commercial harvest of red snapper. Licenses are fully transferable.

Additionally, the commercial red snapper season was split in two, with two thirds of the quota allocated to a February 1 opening and the remaining quota to a September 1 opening. The commercial fishery will open from noon of the first day to noon of the 15th day of each month during the commercial season. Amendment 15 also prohibits harvest of reef fish from traps other than permitted reef fish traps, stone crab traps, or spiny lobster traps; permanently increases the vermilion snapper size limit from 8" to 10" total length; removes black sea bass, rock sea bass, bank sea bass, and all species of grunts and porgies from the Reef Fish FMP; closes the commercial greater amberjack fishery Gulf wide during the months of March, April, and May; and removes sand perch and dwarf sand perch from the recreational 20-reef fish aggregate bag limit.

Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments

Stock Assessment	(5)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	9/18/1996
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/14/1997
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	12/19/1997
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	12/30/97 (62 FR 67714)

Amendment 16a

- Amendment 16A, submitted to NMFS in June 1998, was partially approved. The approved measures provide that: (1) the possession of reef fish exhibiting the condition of trap rash on board any vessel with reef fish permit that is fishing spiny lobster or stone crab traps is prima facie evidence of illegal trap use and is prohibited except for vessels possessing a valid fish trap endorsement; (2) NMFS establish a system design, implementation schedule, and protocol to require implementation of a vessel monitoring system (VMS) for vessels engaged in the fish trap fishery, with the cost of the vessel equipment, installation, and maintenance to be paid or arranged by the owners as appropriate; and, (3) fish trap vessels submit trip initiation and trip reports. Prior to implementing this additional reporting requirement, there will be a one-month fish trap inspection/compliance/education period, at a time determined by the NMFS Regional Administrator and published in the Federal Register. During this time, fish trap fishermen will be required to have an appointment with NMFS enforcement to inspect trap gear, permits, and vessels. The disapproved measure pertains to the prohibition to fish traps south of 25.05 degrees north latitude beginning February 7, 2001. The status quo 10-year phase-out of fish traps in areas in the Gulf EEZ is maintained.

Stock Assessment	(5)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	7/15/-16/97
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	3/11/1998
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	3/18/99 (9)
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	12/9/99 (64 FR 68932)

Amendment 16b

- Amendment 16B was submitted to NMFS in January 1999. It sets a slot limit of 14" to 22" FL for banded rudderfish and lesser amberjack for both the commercial and recreational fisheries, as well as an aggregate 5-fish recreational bag limit; removes queen triggerfish from the Reef Fish FMP; and removes the distinction between reef fish species in the management unit and those in the fishery but not in the management unit, with the intent that sand perch and dwarf sand perch will not be included in the aggregate reef fish bag limit.

The amendment also adopts a 12" TL minimum size limit for cubera snapper, dog snapper, mahogany snapper, schoolmaster, and gray triggerfish, a 12" FL minimum size limit for hogfish and 16" TL minimum size limit for mutton snapper and scamp; (5) adopts a recreational bag limit of 5 hogfish per person for the entire Gulf EEZ; and, (6) sets a recreational bag limit of 1 speckled hind and 1 Warsaw grouper per vessel, and prohibits on the sale of these species when caught under the bag limit.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	7/15-16/97
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/13/1998
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	7/14/1999
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	10/25/99 (64 FR 57403)

Amendment 17

- Amendment 17 was submitted to NMFS in September 1999. It extends the reef fish permit moratorium for another five years, from the existing expiration date of December 31, 2000 to December 31, 2005, unless replaced sooner by a comprehensive controlled access system. The purpose of the moratorium is to provide a stable environment in the fishery necessary for evaluation and development of a more comprehensive controlled access system for the entire commercial reef fish fishery.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	1/21-28/97
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/12-15/99
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	7/3/00 (65 FR 41016)

Amendment 18a

- Amendment 18a was submitted to NMFS in August 2006. It resolves several issues related to monitoring and enforcement of existing reef fish regulations. It also provides measures to reduce bycatch mortality of incidentally caught endangered sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish. The changes include the requirement of Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) onboard vessels with federal commercial permits for Gulf reef fish, including charter vessels and headboats that have a commercial reef fish permit. In addition, the amendment prohibits vessels from retaining reef fish caught under the recreational size and bag/possession limits when commercial quantities of Gulf reef fish are onboard; adjusts the maximum crew size onboard a vessel issued a certificate of inspection (COI) when the vessel has both commercial reef fish and charter vessel/headboat permits to the minimum crew size under the COI when the vessel is fishing commercially for more than 12 hours; and prohibits the use of Gulf reef fish, except sand perch or dwarf sand perch, as bait in any commercial or recreational fishery, with a limited exception for crustacean trap fisheries.

The amendment also revises the TAC framework procedure to reflect current practices and terminology, and changes the permit application process for all permits to an annual procedure, as well as simplifies the income qualification documentation requirements for fisheries having income criteria. Finally, Amendment 18a requires owners and operators of vessels with Gulf of Mexico reef fish commercial or charter vessel/headboat permits to comply with sea turtle and smalltooth sawfish release protocols, possess onboard specific gear to ensure proper release of such species, and comply with guidelines for proper care and release of incidentally caught smalltooth sawfish and sea turtles.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	10/5-6/05
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	8/9/06 (71 FR 45428)

Amendment 19

- Amendment 19, including a final SEIS, RIR and IRFA, also known as the Generic Amendment Addressing the Establishment of the Tortugas Marine Reserves, was implemented on August 19, 2002. This amendment, affecting all FMPs for the Gulf fisheries (as Reef Fish Amendment 19, Coastal Pelagics Amendment 13, Coral Amendment 4, Red Drum Amendment 4, Shrimp Amendment 12, Spiny Lobster Amendment 7, and Stone Crab Amendment 8), establishes two marine reserve areas off the Tortugas area and prohibits fishing for any species and anchoring by fishing vessels inside the two marine reserves.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	3/20/00
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/13/00
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	7/19/02 (67 FR 47467)

Amendment 20

- Amendment 20 was submitted to NMFS in June 2001. It establishes a 3-year moratorium - June 16, 2002 to June 16, 2006 - on the issuance of new charter and headboat vessel permits in the recreational for-hire fisheries in the Gulf EEZ. The purpose is to limit future expansion in the recreational for-hire fishery while the Council monitors the impact of the moratorium and considers the need for a more comprehensive effort management system in the for-hire recreational fishery. The Council set a qualifying cutoff date of March 29, 2001 in order to include all currently permitted vessels and vessels that have applied for a permit as of that date. The qualifying provisions also included persons who had a recreational for-hire vessel under construction prior to March 29, 2001 and who could show expenditures of at least five thousand dollars. In addition, persons who meet the eligibility requirements to qualify as a historical captain were issued a letter of eligibility, which can be replaced by a permit/endorsement valid only on the vessel that is operated by the historical captain.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	9/15/99
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	3/29/01
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	5/29/02
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	6/28/02 (67 FR 43558)

Amendment 21

- Amendment 21, including SEIS, RIR and IRFA, implemented in July 2004, continues the Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps marine reserves for an additional 6 years, until July 2010, and modifies the fishing restrictions within the reserves to allow surface trolling on a seasonal basis.

Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments

Stock Assessment	N/A
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	11/14-15/02
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/16-17/03
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	5/4/04 (69 FR 24532)

Amendment 22

- Amendment 22, including SEIS, RIR and IRFA, was submitted to NOAA Fisheries in June 2004. It contains a rebuilding plan and defines biological reference points and status determination criteria for red snapper. It also establishes bycatch-reporting methodologies for the reef fish fishery.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/19-20/04
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	6/2/05 (70 FR 32266)

Amendment 23

- Amendment 23, including SEIS, RIR and IRFA, was submitted to NOAA Fisheries in October 2004. It contains a rebuilding plan and defines biological reference points and status determination criteria for vermilion snapper.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	10/13-14/04
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	6/8/05 (70 FR 33385)

Amendment 24

- Amendment 24, including EA, RIR, and IRFA, was submitted to NOAA Fisheries in January 2005. It establishes a permanent limited access system for the commercial fishery for Gulf reef fish. Permits issued under the limited access system are renewable and transferable. This amendment was developed concurrently with Coastal Pelagics FMP Amendment 15, which creates a permanent limited access system for the mackerel fishery.

Stock Assessment	N/A
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	1/14-15/04
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	1/12-13/05
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	7/7/05 (70 FR 39187)

Amendment 25

- Establishes a limited access system on for-hire reef fish and CMP permits. Permits are renewable and transferable in the same manner as currently prescribed for such permits. The Council will have periodic review at least every 10 years on the effectiveness of the limited access system.

Stock Assessment	N/A
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	1/12-13/05
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	8/8/2005
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	5/16/06 (71 FR 28282)

Amendment 26

- Amendment 26 was submitted to NMFS in March 2006 and was implemented January 2007. The amendment establishes an individual fishing quota (IFQ) system for the commercial red snapper fishery. The amendment requires that, for any single fishing year, no person shall own IFQ shares that represent a percentage of the total, which exceeds the maximum percentage issued to a recipient at the time of the initial apportionment of IFQ shares (e.g., ~8%). It also restricts initial eligibility to persons owning a Class 1 or Class 2 license, and allocates initial IFQ shares proportionately among eligible participants based on average annual landings. During the first 5 years of the program, IFQ shares/allocations can be transferred only to individuals/vessels with a valid commercial reef fish permit and to US citizens and permanent resident aliens thereafter. The IFQ program will be evaluated by the Council every 5 years.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	11/2-3/04
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	3/20-23/06
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	11/22/06 (71 FR 67447)

Amendment 27

- Amendment 27/14 was submitted to the NOAA Fisheries in June 2007. It addresses overfishing and bycatch issues in both the red snapper directed fishery and the shrimp fishery. It sets TAC at 5.0 mp between 2008 and 2010. The commercial sector will receive a quota of 2.55 mp, with the remaining quota of 2.45 mp going to the recreational sector. The amendment also reduces the commercial size limit to 13", reduces the recreational bag limit to two fish, sets the recreational fishing season from June 1 – September 15 (which may be extended by approximately 30 days if the 10% post-hurricane reduction in recreational fishing effort is realized), and eliminates the bag limit for captain and crew aboard a for-hire vessel. In addition, all commercial and recreational reef fish fisheries are required to use non-stainless steel circle hooks when using natural baits, as well as venting tools and dehooking devices.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	11/16-17/05
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	6/6-7/07
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	1/29/08 & 2/29/08 (73 FR 5117) & (73 FR 11051)

Amendment 29

- Amendment 29 implements a multi-species individual fishing quote (IFQ) program for the grouper and tilefish component of the commercial sector of the reef fish fishery in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, it allows permit consolidation and dual classifications to the shallow-water grouper (SWG) and deep-water grouper (DWG) managements units for speckled hind, Warsaw grouper, and scamp, and modifies some provisions of the Gulf red snapper IFQ program for consistency

Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments

Stock Assessment	N/A
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	1/31/08
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	1/27/09
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	8/31/09
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	(08/31/09)

Amendment 30A

- Amendment 30A was submitted to the NOAA Fisheries in January 2007. It addresses overfishing and overfished status of gray triggerfish and greater amberjack. The amendment reduces the harvest and adjusts the allocation between recreational and commercial fisheries for both species. It also sets management thresholds and targets to comply with the Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) for gray triggerfish.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	11/16-17/05
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	01/08
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	07/03/08
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	07/03/08 (73 FR 38139)

Amendment 30B

- Amendment 30B was submitted to the NOAA Fisheries in August 2008. It addresses overfishing of gag and adjusts the allocation of gag and red grouper between recreational and commercial fisheries. The amendment also makes adjustments to the red grouper TAC to reflect the current status of the stock. Additionally, the amendment establishes annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs) for the commercial and recreational red grouper fisheries, commercial and recreational gag fisheries, and commercial aggregate shallow-water fishery.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	11/16-17/05
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	08/08
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	06/24/09
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	01/24/09

Amendment 31

- Amendment 30B was submitted to the NOAA Fisheries in August 2009, implemented April 26, 2010 and became effective May 26, 2010. The amendment includes restrictions to the bottom longline component of the reef fish fishery, including a bottom longline endorsement requirement, as seasonal closed area, and a limitation on the number of hooks that can be possessed and fished. The amendment balances the continued operation of the bottom longline component of the reef fish fishery in the eastern Gulf of Mexico while maintaining adequate protective measures for sea turtles.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	11/16-17/05
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	08/13/09
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	04/26/10
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	04/26/10

6.3 Regulatory Amendments

March 1991

- A March 1991 regulatory amendment reduces the red snapper TAC from 5.0 million pounds to 4.0 million pounds to be allocated with a commercial quota of 2.04 million pounds and a seven fish recreational daily bag limit (1.96 million pound allocation) beginning in 1991.

This amendment also contains a proposal by the Council to effect a 50% reduction of red snapper bycatch in 1994 by the offshore EEZ shrimp trawler fleet, to occur through the mandatory use of finfish excluder devices on shrimp trawls, reductions in fishing effort, area or season closures of the shrimp fishery, or a combination of these actions. This combination of measures is projected to achieve a 20% SPR by the year 2007. The 2.04 million pound quota was reached on August 24, 1991, and the red snapper fishery was closed to further commercial harvest in the EEZ for the remainder of the year.

Stock Assessment	(4) (5) (12)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	3/20/1991
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A (13)
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	7/24/91 (56 FR 33883)

July 1991

- A July 1991 regulatory amendment provided a one-time increase in 1991 quota for shallow-water groupers from 9.2 million pounds to 9.9 million pounds. This action provides the commercial fishery an opportunity to harvest 0.7 million pounds that went unharvested in 1990 due to an early closure of the fishery in 1990. NMFS projected the 9.2 million pound quota to be reached on November 7, 1990, but subsequent data showed that the actual harvest was 8.5 million pounds.

Stock Assessment	(12)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/10/1991
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	11/18/91 (56 FR 58188)

November 1991

- A November 1991 regulatory amendment raises the 1992 commercial quota for shallow-water groupers from 9.2 million pounds to 9.8 million pounds, after a red grouper stock assessment indicated that the red grouper SPR was substantially above the Council's minimum target of 20%. The Council concluded that the increased quota would not materially impinge on the long-term viability of at least the red grouper stock.

Stock Assessment	(12)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	11/13/1991
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	5/22/92 (57 FR 21751)

October 1992

- This Regulatory Amendment raises the 1993 red snapper TAC from 4.0 million pounds to 6.0 million pounds to be allocated with a commercial quota of 3.06 million pounds and a recreational allocation of 2.94 million pounds (to be implemented by a 7-fish recreational daily bag limit). The amendment also changes the target year to achieve a 20% red snapper SPR from 2007 to 2009, based on the Plan provision that the rebuilding period may be for a time span not exceeding 1.5 times the potential generation time of the stock and an estimated red snapper generation time of 13 years (Goodyear 1992).

Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments

Stock Assessment	(12)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	9/16/1992
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	3/26/93 (58 FR 16371)

1993 (Withdrawn)

- A 1993 Regulatory Amendment that would have moved the longline and buoy gear restricted area boundary off central and south-central Florida inshore from the 20-fathom isobath to the 15-fathom isobath for a one-year period beginning January 1, 1994 was withdrawn. At the request of the industry, the Council withdrew the amendment in January 1994 amid concerns that it would lead to a quota closure and a concern by the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center that there were inadequate experimental controls to evaluate properly the impact of the action.

Stock Assessment	(12)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	9/15/1993
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	N/A (14)

October 1993

- An October 1993 Regulatory Amendment sets the opening date of the 1994 commercial red snapper fishery as February 10, 1994, and restricts commercial vessels to landing no more than one trip limit per day. The purpose of this amendment is to facilitate enforcement of the trip limits; minimize fishing during hazardous winter weather; and ensure that the commercial red snapper fishery is open during Lent, when there is increased demand for seafood. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is retained at the 1993 level of 6 million pounds, with a 3.06 million pound commercial quota and 2.94 million pound recreational allocation. The shallow-water grouper regulations were also evaluated, with no changes made. The shallow-water grouper TAC, previously specified as a commercial quota, was specified as a total harvest of 15.1 million pounds (with 9.8 million pounds allocated to the commercial quota) and 20-inch TL size limit for gag, red, Nassau, yellowfin and black grouper.

Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments

Stock Assessment	(12)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	9/15/1993
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	12/27/93 (58 FR 68325)

October 1994

- An October 1994 regulatory amendment retains the six MP red snapper TAC and commercial trip limits and sets the opening date of the 1995 commercial red snapper fishery as February 24, 1995. However, because the recreational sector exceeded its 2.94 million pound red snapper allocation each year since 1992, this regulatory amendment reduces the daily bag limit from seven fish to five fish, and increases the minimum size limit for recreational fishing from 14" to 15" a year ahead of the scheduled automatic increase.

Stock Assessment	(12)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	9/21/1994
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	12/30/94 (59 FR 67646)

December 1994 (Rejected)

- A December 1994 regulatory amendment reduced the minimum size limit for red grouper from 20" to 18" in response to the commercial sector's claim that regulations were too restrictive to allow the harvest of the shallow-water grouper quota. NMFS rejected the proposed action due to concern that it would result in the recreational sector exceeding its allocation. In March 1995, a revised regulatory amendment was submitted to NMFS reducing the red grouper size limit to 18" for only the commercial sector. NMFS rejected that regulatory amendment because newly discovered biases in the growth rate data showed uncertainty about the status of the red grouper stock.

Further analysis by NMFS biologists and the RFSAP reduced that uncertainty and the status of red grouper stocks was determined to be at or above 27 percent SPR, well above the overfishing threshold. In September 1995 a second revised regulatory amendment reducing the commercial red grouper size limit to 18" was submitted to NMFS and rejected. The amendment was

thought to potentially create user conflicts, produce long term economic losses to commercial fishermen, allow the harvest of juvenile fish, and lead to the commercial quota being filled early, creating a derby fishery.

Stock Assessment	(12)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	11/16/1994
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	4/12/95 (15)
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	N/A

December 1995

- A regulatory amendment to set the 1996 red snapper TAC, dated December 1995, raises the red snapper TAC from 6 million pounds to 9.12 million pounds, with 4.65 million pounds allocated to the commercial sector and 4.47 million pounds allocated to the recreational sector. Recreational size and bag limits remains at five fish and 15" TL, with the recovery target date to achieve 20% SPR is extended to the year 2019, based on new biological information that red snapper live longer and have a longer generation time than previously believed. A March 1996 addendum to the regulatory amendment split the 1996 and 1997 commercial red snapper quotas into two seasons each, with the first season opening on February 1 with a 3.06 million pound quota, and the second season opening on September 15 with the remainder of the annual quota.

Stock Assessment	(12)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	11/15/1995
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	9/16/96 (61 FR 48641)

March 1997

- A March 1997 regulatory amendment changes the opening date of the second 1997 commercial red snapper season from September 15 to September 2 at noon and closed the season on September 15 at noon; thereafter the commercial season is opened from noon of the first day to noon of the fifteenth day of each month until the 1997 quota was reached. The amendment also complies with the new Magnuson-Stevens Act requirement that recreational red snapper be managed under a quota system by authorizing the NMFS Regional Administrator to close the recreational fishery in the EEZ at such time as projected to be necessary to prevent the recreational sector from exceeding its allocation. Subsequent to implementation of a recreational red snapper

quota, the recreational red snapper fishery filled its 1997 quota of 4.47 million pounds, and was closed on November 27, 1997 for the remainder of the calendar year.

Stock Assessment	(12)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	1/15/97 (16)
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	9/16/96 (61 FR 48641)

November 1997

- This regulatory amendment cancels a planned increase in the red snapper minimum size limit to 16" TL and retains the 15" TL minimum size limit.

Stock Assessment	(12)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	11/12-13/97
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	1/6/98 (63 FR 443)

February 1998

- This regulatory amendment maintains the red snapper TAC of 9.12 MP, but sets a zero bag limit for the captain and crew of for-hire recreational vessels in order to extend the recreational red snapper quota season. The NMFS provisionally approved the TAC, releasing 6 million pounds; with release of all or part of the remaining 3.12 million pounds to be contingent upon the capability of shrimp trawl bycatch reduction (BRDs) devices to achieve better than a 50% reduction in juvenile red snapper shrimp trawl mortality. The zero bag limit for captain and crew of for-hire recreational vessels was not implemented. Following an observer-monitoring program of shrimp trawl BRDs conducted during the summer of 1998, NMFS concluded that BRDs would be able to achieve the reduction in juvenile red snapper mortality needed for the red snapper recovery program to succeed, and the 3.12 million pounds of TAC held in reserve was released on September 1, 1998.

Stock Assessment	(12)
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Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments

Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	1/21/1998
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	(17)

December 1998

- A December 1998 regulatory amendment maintains the status quo red snapper TAC of 9.12 million pounds; reduce the recreational bag limit for red snapper to 4 fish for recreational fishermen and zero fish for captain and crew of for-hire vessels; set the opening date of the recreational red snapper fishing season at March 1; reduce the minimum size limit for red snapper to 14 inches total length for both the commercial and recreational fisheries; and, change the opening criteria for the second commercial red snapper fishing season from the first 15 days to the first 10 days of each month beginning September 1, until the sub allocation is met or the season closes on December 31. This regulatory amendment follows up the same set of proposals requested under an emergency action, of which NMFS approved only the proposal for a 4-fish bag limit.

Stock Assessment	(12)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	11/11/1998
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	8/30/99 (18)
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	9/1/99 (64 FR 47711)

May 1999 (Withdrawn)

- Following strong protests from the commercial and recreational fishing industries over proposed closed areas, the Council withdrew a May 1999 regulatory amendment. That amendment proposed to; increase the commercial minimum size limit for gag and black grouper from 20" to 24" TL; increase the recreational minimum size limit for gag and black grouper from 20" to 22" TL, and then 1" per year until it reached 24"; and close a 423 square nautical mile area to all reef fish fishing and to bottom fishing gear capable of catching reef fish.

Stock Assessment	(12)
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Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments

Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	3/3/1999
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	N/A (19)

August 1999

- The August 1999 regulatory amendment increases the commercial minimum size limit for gag and black grouper from 20" to 24" TL; increases the recreational minimum size limit for gag and black grouper from 20" to 22" TL, and then 1-inch per year until it reached 24"; implements a seasonal closure on commercial harvest and prohibition on sale of gag, black, and red grouper from February 15th to March 15th; and closes two areas, 115 and 104 square nautical miles respectively, year-round to all fishing under the jurisdiction of the Gulf Council with a 4-year sunset closure.

Stock Assessment	(12)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/14/1999
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	Partially implemented 5/19/00 (65 FR 31827) (20)

February 2000

- A February 2000 regulatory amendment that; maintains the status quo red snapper TAC of 9.12 million pounds for the next two years, pending an annual review of the assessment; increases the red snapper recreational minimum size limit to 16" total length; sets the red snapper recreational bag limit to 4; reinstates the red snapper recreational bag limit for captain and crew of recreational for-hire vessels; sets the recreational red snapper season to April 15 - October 31 (NOTE: The Regional Administrator revised the season start date to 4/21 because the zero bag limit for captain and crew was rescinded); sets the commercial red snapper Spring season to open on February 1 and remain open from noon on the 1st to noon on the 10th of each month until the Spring sub-quota is reached; sets the commercial red snapper Fall season to open on October 1 and remain open from noon on the 1st to noon on the 10th of each month until the remaining commercial quota is reached; retains the red snapper commercial minimum size limit at 15" total length; and allocates the red snapper commercial season sub-quota at 2/3 of the commercial quota, with the Fall season sub-quota as the remaining commercial quota.

Stock Assessment	(12)
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Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments

Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	11/10-12/99
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	8/17/2000

October 2005

- This October 2005 regulatory amendment establishes an aggregate deep-water grouper and shallow-water grouper commercial trip limit of 6,000 pounds gutted weight.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	10/5-6/05
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	12/29/05 (70 FR 77057)

November 2005 ⁽²³⁾

- A regulatory amendment that establishes a one-fish recreational bag limit for red grouper; a closed recreational season for red gag and black grouper from February 15 – March 15; and prohibits captain and crew of for-hire vessels from retaining grouper when under charter. The purpose of the amendment is to return red grouper landings to levels specified in the red grouper rebuilding plan, and prevent or minimize impacts on gag and other grouper resulting from more restrictive recreational red grouper regulations.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	11/16-17/05
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	6/15/06 (71 FR 34534)

January 2007

- Vermilion Snapper Regulatory Amendment - The intended effect of this regulatory amendment is to relieve harvesting restrictions for vermilion snapper after a recent stock assessment indicated the stock was not overfished or undergoing overfishing. The management measures proposed in the regulatory amendment include reducing the recreational and commercial minimum size limit from 11 to 10 inches TL; ending the April 22-May 31 commercial seasonal closure; and eliminating the 10 vermilion snapper bag limit restriction within the current 20-fish aggregate bag limit for those reef fish species without a species-specific bag limit. This amendment was submitted by the Council for review by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) on February 27, 2007. NOAA Fisheries Service published a proposed rule with a comment period ending May 14, 2007.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	01/24-25/07
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	05/14/07
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	01/03/08 (73 FR 406)

6.4 Footnotes

- (1) FMP included stock assessment information.
- (2) Committee and Council reviewed may drafts of FMP/DEIS during this period and selected the management measures.
- (3) NMFS published the final rule on reporting requirement September 23, 1987 (52 FR 35717)
- (4) The following analysis indicated the status of the spawning stock of red snapper was well below the acceptable guidelines of 20% to 40% spawning stock per recruit (SSR):

Goodyear, C.P. 1988. Recent trends in red snapper fishery of the Gulf of Mexico. NMFS. SEFSC. Miami FL. CRD 87/88-16. Memo. Rpt 98p.

The assessment was basis for beginning development of Amendment 1. Red snapper continue to be classified as overfished through 1999.
- (5) Amendment 1 summarized life history and assessment information for many species (stock) full-fledged stock assessments have been prepared by NMFS for the following stocks and years:

Red Snapper:	1986, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999
Vermilion Snapper:	1991, 1992, 1996, 1997, 1998
Red Grouper:	1991, 1993, 1999
Gag Grouper:	1994, 1997, 1998

Greater Amberjack: 1996

- (6) The Council concluded Goliath grouper was overfished largely based on anecdotal information from commercial divers who were harvesting them. NMFS subsequently classified them as overfished.
- (7) Emergency rule prohibited harvest or possession of Goliath grouper was effective 3/7/90 (55 FR 6143)
- (8) In December 1992, General Counsel concluded Amendment 5 should have a SEIS, which delayed implementation by a year.
- (9) Partially approved.
- (10) Meeting at which Council withdrew Amendment 10.
- (11) Nassau grouper were considered overfished by NMFS who considered them as a candidate for threatened species classification under ESA. The CFMC, SAFMC, and state of Florida prohibited harvest and possession. The Gulf Council followed suit. Nassau grouper were found in the Gulf only off extreme southwest Florida and were rarely caught from the Gulf EEZ.
- (12) Regulatory Amendments implemented under the framework procedure for specifying TAC (and appropriate bag limits, size limits, trip limits, seasons, etc.) are always based on a stock assessment and reports of the stock assessment panel and socioeconomic panel. The Council approval typically occurs at the meeting at which these reports are considered, after public testimony.
- (13) NMFS notified Council when regulatory amendment rule was implemented or disapproved.
- (14) Council requested the regulatory amendment be withdrawn at the request of the industry that proposed it.
- (15) Disapproval notice.
- (16) Council reviewed reports and took action on 11/13/96, but requested additional data for the January 1997 meeting.
- (17) In lieu of implementing the regulatory amendment, NMFS implemented an interim rule effective April 14, 1998 (63 FR 18144) which initially allocated only 2/3 of the TAC of 9.12 MP and reduced the bag limit from five to four fish for the period January 1 – August 30, 1998. A subsequent interim rule allocated the remainder of the TAC effective September 1, 1998.
- (18) NMFS disapproved the proposed action to reduce the red snapper minimum size limit from 15" to 14" TL. The remaining proposals in the regulatory amendment were approved.
- (19) The Council withdrew the regulatory amendment following protests by the commercial and recreational fishing industries over the closed area proposal.
- (20) NMFS disapproved the proposed action to increase the recreational gag and black grouper minimum size limit by one inch per year from 22" to 24" TL. The remaining proposals in the regulatory amendment were approved.
- (21) An interim rule was published by NMFS on December 20, 1999 (64 FR 71056) to implement the 4-fish red snapper bag limit, the red snapper bag limit allowance for captain and crew of for-hire vessels, reduce the commercial red snapper monthly spring openings from 15 to 10 per month, and adjust the recreational red snapper season to April 21 – October 31. This interim rule was effective through

- June 19, 2000. A subsequent interim rule, published June 9, 2000 (65 FR 36643), extended the interim measures through December 16, 2000.
- (22) The Council first reviewed an options paper for Amendment 18 on 5/18/00, but later extracted the red grouper rebuilding plan and put the remainder of Amendment 18 aside temporarily.
 - (23) Temporary management measures specifying a one red grouper daily bag limit within a three grouper aggregate daily bag limit, and a seasonal closure from November 1 through December 31, 2005, for the recreational grouper fishery were implemented by NMFS through interim regulations in August 2005 and will expire in January 2006, unless extended for an additional 180 days.

7 SHRIMP

7.1 Amendments

Original FMP

- The shrimp FMP was implemented as federal regulation on May 20, 1981. The plan enhances yield in volume and value by deferring harvest of small shrimp to provide for growth. Principle action includes: 1) establishing a cooperative Tortugas Shrimp Sanctuary with the state of Florida to close a shrimp trawling area where small pink shrimp comprise the majority of the population most of the time; 2) a cooperative 45-day seasonal closure with the state of Texas to protect small brown shrimp emigrating from bay nursery areas; and 3) seasonal zoning of an area of Florida Bay for either shrimp or stone crab fishing to avoid gear conflict. It also establishes reporting systems for vessels, dealers, and processors.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	3/7/79 (2)
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	1/9/1980
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	3/6/1981
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS/Council
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	5/20/81 (46 FR 27489)

Amendment 1

- Amendment 1, approved in 1981, provides the Regional Administrator of NMFS with the authority (after conferring with GMFMC) to adjust by regulatory amendment the size of the Tortugas Sanctuary or the extent of the Texas closure, or to eliminate either closure for one year. It updates and revises the text of the FMP.

Stock Assessment	No (1)
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Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	8/21/1980
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	9/2/1981
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	4/13/1982
Implementing regulations written by	NA
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	(3)

Amendment 2

- Updates catch and economic data in the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.

Stock Assessment	No (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	8/4/1981
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	10/6/1981
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	5/7/1982
Implementing regulations written by	NA
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	(3)

Amendment 3

- Amendment 3 (1984) resolves another shrimp-stone crab gear conflict on the west-central Florida coast.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	12/82 – 6/83
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	3/22/1984
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	7/13/1984
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS/Council
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	8/31/84 (49 FR 30713)

Amendment 4

- Amendment 4, partially approved in 1988 and finalized in 1989, identifies problems within the fishery and revises the FMP objectives accordingly. The annual review process for the Tortugas Sanctuary is simplified, and the GMFMC's and RA's review for the Texas closure is extended to February 1st. Disapproved was a provision that white shrimp taken in the EEZ be landed in accordance with a state's size/possession regulations to provide consistency and facilitate enforcement with the state of Louisiana.. This proposed action was disapproved by NMFS with the recommendation that it be resubmitted under the expedited 60-day Secretarial review schedule after

Louisiana provided for a bycatch of undersized white shrimp in the directed fishery for seabobs. This resubmission was made in February of 1990 and applied to white shrimp taken in the EEZ and landed in Louisiana. It was approved and implemented in May of 1990.

Stock Assessment	No (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	3/11/1986
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/13/1988
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	12/13/88 (4) 4/9/90 (5)
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	5/1/90 (55 FR 18120)

Amendment 5

- NMFS, in July 1989, published revised guidelines for FMPs that interpretatively address the MSA National Standards. These guidelines require each FMP to include a scientifically measurable definition of overfishing and an action plan to arrest overfishing should it occur. Amendment 5, approved in 1991, defines overfishing for Gulf brown, pink, and royal red shrimp and provides for measures to restore overfished stocks if overfishing should occur. Action on the definition of overfishing for white shrimp was deferred, and seabobs and rock shrimp were deleted from the management unit. This duration of the seasonal closure to shrimping off Texas will conform to the changes in state regulations.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	7/10/1990
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	11/14/1990
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	5/17/1991
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	5/17/91 (56 FR 22827)

Amendment 6

- Amendment 6 eliminates the annual reports and reviews of the Tortugas Shrimp Sanctuary in favor of monitoring and an annual stock assessment. Three areas within the sanctuary continue to open seasonally, without need for annual action. A proposed definition of overfishing of white shrimp was rejected by NMFS as not being based on the best available data.

Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments

Stock Assessment	No (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	5/9–10/1991
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	1/15/1992
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	2/12/1993
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	4/1/1993 (58 FR 17189)

Amendment 7

- Amendment 7, finalized in 1994, defines overfishing for white shrimp, and provides for future updating of overfishing indices for brown, white, and pink shrimp as new data become available. A total allowable level of foreign fishing (TALFF) for royal red shrimp was eliminated. A redefinition of overfishing for this species was disapproved.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	1/18/1994
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/11/1994
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	11/3/1994
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	12/28/94 (59 FR 66787)

Amendment 8 (later rejected)

- Amendment 8 submitted in 1995 and implemented in early 1996, addresses management of royal red shrimp. It establishes a procedure that allows total allowable catch for royal red shrimp to be set up to 30% above Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for no more than two consecutive years so that a better estimate of MSY can be determined. This amendment was later rejected after implementation of the SFA.

Stock Assessment	No (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	1/17/1995
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/19/1995
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	12/15/1995
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	12/27/95 * (60 FR 6692)

*** Subsequently rejected by NMFS after SFA.**

Amendment 9

- Amendment 9 addresses the issue of reducing the bycatch of juvenile red snapper in the shrimp trawl fishery by requiring NMFS-certified BRDs that reduce juvenile red snapper fishing mortality by 44% from the average during 1984-89.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	9/20/1995
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	11/13/1996
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	7/30/1997
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	4/14/98 (63 FR 18129)

Amendment 10

- Amendment 10 requires the installation of a NMFS-certified BRDs that reduces the bycatch of finfish by at least 30% by weight in each net used aboard vessels trawling for shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico EEZ east of Cape San Blas, Florida (85o 30' W. Longitude). Exempted are vessels trawling for groundfish or butterfish. A single try net with a headrope length of 16 feet or less per vessel and no more than two rigid-frame roller trawls limited to 16 feet or less, such as those used in the Big Bend area of Florida are also exempted.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	3/30/2001
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/16/2002
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	

Amendment 11

- Amendment 11, implemented December 5, 2002, requires all vessels harvesting shrimp from the EEZ to obtain a commercial shrimp vessel permit from NMFS; prohibits the use of traps to harvest of royal red shrimp from the EEZ; and prohibits the transfer of royal red shrimp at sea. Permits required 12/5/02.

Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	11/12/1998
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	1/18/2001
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	10/17/01
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	8/7/02 (67 FR 51074)

Amendment 12

- Amendment 12, implemented August 19, 2002, establishes two marine reserves in EEZ in the vicinity of the Dry Tortugas, Florida known as Tortugas North and Tortugas South in which fishing for coastal migratory pelagic species is prohibited. This action complements previous actions taken under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	3/20/2000
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/13/2000
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	10/16/2001
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	7/19/02 (67 FR 47467)

Amendment 13

- Amendment 13 establishes an endorsement to the existing federal shrimp vessel permit for vessels harvesting royal red shrimp; (2) Defines maximum sustainable yield (MSY), optimum yield (OY), the overfishing threshold, and the overfished condition for royal red and penaeid shrimp stocks in the Gulf for stocks that currently lack such definitions; (3) Establishes bycatch reporting methodologies and improve collection of shrimping effort data in the exclusive economic zone; (4) Requires completion of a Gulf Shrimp Vessel and Gear Characterization Form; (5) Establishes a moratorium on the issuance of commercial shrimp vessel permits; and (6) Requires reporting and certification of landings during a moratorium.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	5/19-20/04
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/11-12/05
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	9/26/06 (71 FR 56039)

Amendment 14

- Amendment 14, part of Joint Reef Fish Amendment 27/Shrimp Amendment 14, establishes a target reduction goal for juvenile red snapper mortality of 74% less than the benchmark years of 2001-2003, reducing that target goal to 67% beginning in 2011, eventually reducing the target to 60% by 2032. If necessary, a seasonal closure in the shrimp fishery will occur in conjunction with the annual Texas closure (which begins on or about May 15). The need for a closure will be determined by an annual evaluation by the NMFS Regional Administrator.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	6/6-7/07
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	1/29/08 & 2/29/08 (73 FR 5117) & (73 FR 11051)

7.2 Regulatory Amendments

- August 2006 – This regulatory amendment revises the certification criteria for bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) in the Gulf of Mexico. It creates a consistent certification criterion throughout the shrimp fishery that will enable increased flexibility, promote innovation, and allow for the certification of BRDs that achieve greater reductions in bycatch. The change is expected to increase efficiency in testing and characterizing BRD performance, as well as increase the types and number of BRDs approved for use in the shrimp fishery.

Stock Assessment	
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	8/16-17/2006
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	2/13/08 (74 FR 8219)

7.3 Footnotes

- (1) NMFS annually, since 1981, prepares analyses of the biological and economic effects of the two major management measures - the Texas closure and the Tortugas sanctuary Closure. Beginning in 1991, NMFS annually prepares assessments of the status for the three major stocks; brown, white, and pick shrimp.

- (2) The Council reviewed many drafts of the FMP/DEIS from late 1977 through 1978, with final review on 3/7/79.
- (3) No implementing regulations were required. Amendments altered the text of the FMP.
- (4) Amendment partially disapproved.
- (5) Approval of Resubmission Document.

8 SPINY LOBSTER

8.1 Amendments

Original FMP

- The Fishery Management Plan for Spiny Lobster in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (FMP) was implemented on July 2, 1982 (47 FR 29203). The FMP largely extends Florida's rules regulating the fishery to the EEZ throughout the range of the fishery, i.e. North Carolina to Texas. The management measures include: specifying minimum size limit and closed season, requiring degradable panels, prohibiting use of spears or hooks, limited attractant to 200 per vessel, requiring attractants to be held in shaded box, requiring trap number and color code be displayed, creating special recreational 2-day season before commercial season, prohibiting possession of egg-bearing lobster, and required reporting of landings.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	3/79 – 11/80
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	10/7/1981 (2)
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	2/4/1982
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS/Council
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	7/2/1982 (47 FR 29203)

Amendment 1

- Amendment 1 was implemented on July 15, 1987 (52 FR 22659) with certain rules deferred and implemented on May 16, 1988 (53 FR 17196) and on July 30, 1990 (55 FR 26448). This amendment updates the FMP rules to be more compatible with that of Florida (State). The management measures include: limiting attractants to 100 per vessel, requiring live wells, requiring a commercial vessel permit, providing for a recreational permit, limiting recreational possession to 6 lobsters, modifying the special 2-day recreational season before commercial season, modifying the duration of the closed commercial season, providing a 10-day trap retrieval period, prohibiting possession of egg-bearing spiny lobster, specifying the minimum size limit for tails, providing for a tail separation permit, and prohibiting possession of egg-bearing slipper lobster.

Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments

Stock Assessment	No (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	1/8/1985
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/9/1986
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	5/22/1987
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	7/15/87 (FR 22659) 5/16/88 (53 FR 17196) 7/30/90 (55 FR 26448)

Amendment 2

- Amendment 2, approved October 27, 1989 (54 FR 48059), provides a regulatory amendment procedure for instituting future compatible State and federal rules without amending the FMP.

Stock Assessment	No (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	11/29/1988
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/10/1989
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	10/27/1989
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	NA

Amendment 3

- Amendment 3, implemented March 25, 1991, contains provisions for adding a scientifically measurable definition of overfishing, an action plan to prevent overfishing, should it occur, (required by the Magnuson Act National Standards 50 CFR Part 602), and requires the collection of fees for the administrative cost of issuing permits. The FMP, as amended, provides for management of the fishery throughout its range from North Carolina through Texas. However, the commercial fishery and, to a very large extent, the recreational fishery, occur off South Florida and principally off Monroe County in the Florida Keys (96 percent of landings in 1984).

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	4/23/1990
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	11/14/1990
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	2/28/1991
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	3/25/1991 (56 FR 12357)

Amendment 4

- Amendment 4 allows harvest year-round for any person who is limited to a daily bag and possession limit of two lobsters per person in the EEZ off North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Stock Assessment	No (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	9/1994
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	11/1994
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	8/14/95 (60 FR 41828)

Amendments 5 and 6

- Amendments 5 and 6 were the SAFMC's Generic Amendments for Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA), respectively. (For information on dates, contact the SAFMC.)

Stock Assessment	NA
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	NA
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	NA
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NA
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	

Amendment 7

- This Generic Amendment addresses the establishment of the Tortugas Marine Reserves. (See section on Generic Amendments for more information.)

Stock Assessment	NA
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	3/00 – 5/00
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/12/2000
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	6/2001
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	7/19/02 (67 FR 47467)

Amendment 8

- This amendment restricts the imports of spiny lobster into the U.S. to minimum conservation standards in order to achieve an increase in the spawning biomass and increase long-term yields from the fishery. It also provides additional protections to undersized lobsters and egg-bearing females.

Stock Assessment	NA
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	08/08
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	1/12/09

8.2 Regulatory Amendments

May 1992

- This regulatory amendment addresses: (1) extension of the Florida spiny lobster trap certificate system for reducing the number of traps in the commercial fishery to the EEZ off Florida; (2) revision of the FMP commercial permitting requirements; (3) limitation of the number of live undersize lobster used as attractants for baiting traps; (4) specification of gear allowed for commercial fishing in the EEZ off Florida; (5) specification of the possession limit of spiny lobsters by persons diving at night; (6) requirement of lobsters harvested by divers be measured without removing from the water; and (7) specification of uniform trap and buoy numbers for the EEZ off Florida. These changes are implemented through the framework procedure of the FMP as established by Amendment 2.

Stock Assessment	No (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	1/13/1992
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	(3)
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	11/30/92 (57 FR 56516)

March 1993

- This regulatory amendment addresses a change in the days for the special recreational season in the EEZ off Florida and prohibits nighttime harvest off Monroe County, Florida, during that season. It also specifies allowable gear during that season and provides for different bag limits during that season off the Florida Keys and the EEZ off other areas of Florida.

Stock Assessment	No (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	N/A
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	3/10/1993
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	N/A
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	7/21/93 (58 FR 38978)

8.3 Footnotes

- (1) NMFS prepared annual stock assessments until 1995. The state of Florida prepared assessments in 1996 and 1997.
 - (2) Approval date for GMFMC and SAFMC are usually different dates.
 - (3) The framework procedure provides the Regional Administrator (RA) will approve or disapprove the measures. The Councils, after review by their SSCs and APs, advise the RA only if, in their opinion, any measure is inconsistent with the MSA, the FMP objectives, or other applicable law. Approved by NMFS when the final rule is published.
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9 STONE CRAB

9.1 Amendments

Original FMP

- The Fishery Management Plan for the Stone Crab Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico (FMP) was implemented on September 30, 1979 (44 FR 53519). The FMP resolves an armed conflict over competing gear use between stone crab and shrimp fishermen operating in the EEZ off southwest Florida and extends Florida's rules regulating the fishery into the EEZ. The management area of the FMP is limited to the EEZ seaward of the west coast of Florida in the Gulf of Mexico.

Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	9/5-7/78
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	1/9-11/79
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	3/28/1979
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS/Council
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	9/30/79 (44 FR 53519)

Amendment 1

- Amendment 1 was implemented November 8, 1982 (47 FR 41757) and specifies a procedure for modifying the zoned area to resolve the gear conflict.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	3/3/1981
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	9/1/1981
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	4/28/1982
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS/Council
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	11/8/82 (47 FR 41757)

Amendment 2

- Amendment 2 was implemented August 31, 1984 (49 FR 30713) and establishes procedures for resolving gear conflicts in central west Florida.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	12/82 – 6/83
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	3/2/1984
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	7/31/1984
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS/Council
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	8/31/84 (49 FR 30713)

Amendment 3

- Amendment 3 was implemented September 25, 1986 (51 FR 30663) and includes management measures to enhance survival of crabs held on board vessels and prohibits harvest of egg-bearing female crabs. It also rescinds the logbook reporting provision and substitutes the Florida trip ticket system.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	1/14/1986
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	3/11/1986
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	8/25/1986
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	9/28/86 (51 FR 30663)

Amendment 4

- Amendment 4 was approved February 21, 1991 (56 FR 6837) and contains provisions for adding a scientifically measurable definition of overfishing and an action plan to arrest overfishing, should it occur, as required by the Magnuson Act National Standards. It also contains a section on vessel safety considerations and a revised habitat section as required by the Magnuson Act.

Stock Assessment	Yes (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	4/23/1990
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	11/14/1990
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	2/21/1991
Implementing regulations written by	NA
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	2/21/91 (3)

Amendment 5

- Because the Florida Legislature proposed a state moratorium on issuance of permits while the industry considered development of a limited access system, the Council approved Amendment 5, which was implemented April 14, 1995 (60 FR 13918). The amendment places a three-year moratorium (April 15, 1995 - June 30, 1998) on registration of stone crab vessels by the Regional Administrator (RA) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The amendment also includes a protocol and procedure (framework measure) under which the RA could approve for implementation in the EEZ certain rules proposed by the state of Florida after review by the Advisory Panel (AP), Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council). Amendment 5 also updates the description of the fishery habitat and the factors affecting this habitat. The Council published a control date effective July 24, 1995 (60 FR 37868) for the commercial fishery; the intent of which was to notify fishermen entering the fishery after this date that they may not be allowed to participate in the fishery if that date is used in a limited access program to limit entry.

Summaries of the Provisions of Council FMPs and Amendments

Stock Assessment	No (1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	3/15/1994
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	5/10/1994
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	12/30/1994
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	4/14/95 (60 FR 13918)

Amendment 6

- Amendment 6 extends the moratorium on the issuance of registration of stone crab vessels by NMFS through June 30, 2002.

Stock Assessment	Yes
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	11/10/97
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	1/21/98
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	7/22/98
Implementing regulations written by	
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	8/20/98 (63 FR 44595)

Amendment 7

- Amendment 7 creates a trap reduction program for the EEZ that complements a similar program for the Florida fishery. Trap certificates issued will be reduced when transferred. Certificates can be bought, sold, and transferred.

Stock Assessment	(1)
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	5/00 – 7/00
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	11/15//2000
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	7/2002
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	10/3/02 (67 FR 61990)

Amendment 8

- This Generic Amendment addresses the establishment of Tortugas Marine Reserves (see section on Generic Amendments for more information).

Stock Assessment	NA
Date Options Paper Considered by the Council	3/00 – 5/00
Date FMP/amendment approved by Council	7/12/2000
Date FMP/amendment approved by NMFS	6/2001
Implementing regulations written by	NMFS
Date implementing regulations published in the Federal Register	7/19/02 (67 FR 47467)

9.2 Footnotes

- (1) Stock Assessments were prepared by NMFS annually from 1980 through 1994, then periodically by the state of Florida, with 2001 being the last report.
- (2) Comments by Regional GC were made verbally as management measures were developed. Written comments, if any, were available at the meeting in which Council approved the FMP or amendment.
- (3) No final rule was published, as amendment had no management measures.