



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/southeast>

F/SER24:DL

Mr. Scott Brown, Program Chief
Coastal Programs Office
Department of Environmental Management
3664 Dauphin St.
Mobile, AL 36608

Dear Mr. Brown:

This is to advise you of a proposed federal action and the conclusion of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on the consistency of such action with the provisions of your state's Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). Pursuant to the action requested by the Gulf Council (Council), NMFS would promulgate regulations to decrease the stock annual catch limit (ACL) for the Gulf Other Shallow-Water Grouper (SWG) Complex (includes scamp, yellowmouth grouper, black grouper, and yellowfin grouper) from 710,000 pounds gutted weight (lb gw) to 322,000 lb gw, reduce the commercial ACL to 255,636 lb gw, and reduce the commercial annual catch target (or quota) to 245,410 lb gw. In addition, this framework action would set a fixed closed season for recreational harvest of Other SWG from January 1 through June 30 each year (season open from July 1 through December 31). These regulations are based on the most recent stock assessment and recommendations from the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee, and are intended to reduce the risk of overfishing of scamp and yellowmouth grouper. The Framework Action can be found at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/modifications-other-shallow-water-grouper-complex-management-measures>.

This letter is submitted pursuant to provisions of 15 CFR Section 930, Subpart C "Consistency for Federal Agency Activities" and Section 307 of the CZMA of 1972, as amended. We have reviewed the proposed action with regard to the provisions of your state's CZMP and determined this action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of that program. We are requesting you advise us of your agreement or disagreement with our determination in accordance with the provisions of 15 CFR Section 930.39. In the event there is no response from your agency within 60 days of receipt of this letter, we will presume your agency's concurrence with our determination of consistency in accordance with 15 CFR Section 930.41.

If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Luers at (727) 824-5305 or Daniel.Luers@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Heather Blough
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator for
Sustainable Fisheries

cc: Chris Blankenship
Kevin Anson

