



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) through Amendment 58B to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf (Amendment 58B), NMFS would promulgate regulations to modify management measures for the Deep-water Grouper (DWG) complex (yellowedge grouper, snowy grouper, warsaw grouper, and speckled hind) in the Gulf of America (Gulf), including status determination criteria and catch limits. These regulations would reduce the DWG complex annual catch limit (ACL) from 1.105 million pounds gutted weight (gw) to 555,026 lb gw, would reduce the commercial ACL and quota to 498,000 lb gw and 478,000 lb gw, and would set a recreational ACL at 56,668 lb gw. Additionally, these regulations would modify the accountability measure such that if the average recreational DWG landings exceed the average recreational ACL, and the average DWG complex landings exceed the average DWG complex ACL, over a three-year moving period, NMFS would reduce the duration of the recreational season by the amount projected to prevent the recreational ACL from being exceeded in the following fishing year. The Council approved Amendment 58B for NMFS review and implementation at their August 2025 meeting. The amendment and implementing regulations are based on the most recent stock assessment and recommendations from the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee, and are intended to end overfishing of yellowedge grouper while allowing continued harvest of DWG complex species. Amendment 58B can be found at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-58b-modifications-deep-water-grouper-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 Dan Luers at (727) 824-5305 or Daniel.Luers@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Heather Blough
Performing the Duties of Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc: Chris Blankenship
Kevin Anson

