

Nitz, Autumn

From: Brown, Scott
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2026 1:14 PM
To: Nitz, Autumn; Mobile Coastal Mail
Subject: FW: Coastal Zone Management Act - Gulf of America Red Grouper Quota Holdback Framework
Attachments: AbbFW_RG Quota_CZMA letter AL.pdf

From: Frank Helies - NOAA Federal <frank.helies@noaa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2026 12:36 PM
To: Underwood, Will <Will.Underwood@dcnr.alabama.gov>
Cc: Brown, Scott <jsb@adem.alabama.gov>; chris.blankenship@dcnr.alabama.gov; Anson, Kevin <kevin.anson@dcnr.alabama.gov>
Subject: Coastal Zone Management Act - Gulf of America Red Grouper Quota Holdback Framework

You don't often get email from frank.helies@noaa.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon,

Please find the subject letter attached. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. Thanks.

Have a great week.

Frank

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Frank Helies
Branch Chief - Gulf Operations
Fishery Biologist, SERO/SF
NOAA Fisheries / U.S. Dept. of Commerce
Office: 727-209-5988
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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:FH

Will Underwood
Coastal Section Administrator
State Lands Division, ADCNR
31115 5 Rivers Blvd.
Spanish Fort, AL 36527

Dear Mr. Underwood:

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 provide the NMFS Regional Administrator the authority to withhold a percentage of the 2027 commercial quota of red grouper equivalent to the portion of the commercial quota proposed for the quota pool in Amendment 63 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf (Reef Fish FMP). The Council developed Amendment 63 in anticipation of the substantial Gulf of America red grouper quota increase they approved through Amendment 62 to the Reef Fish FMP. Amendment 63 would establish a pilot program for setting aside a portion of the increase in red grouper commercial quota for a quota pool. The abbreviated framework action that would support implementation of Amendment 63 can be found at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/red-grouper-quota-holdback-anticipation-amendment-63-implementation/>.

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 Frank Helies at (727) 209-5988 or frank.helies@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Heather Blough
Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable
Fisheries

cc: J. Scott Brown
Chris Blankenship
Kevin Anson

