

Nitz, Autumn

From: Nitz, Autumn
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:58 AM
To: Nitz, Autumn
Subject: FW: CZMA Consistency Review for Amendment 63 to the Gulf Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan
Attachments: A63 RG Quota Pool CZMA letter AL_final.pdf

Autumn Nitz
Environmental Scientist Senior
Coastal Programs
Alabama Department of Environmental Management
1615 South Broad Street | Mobile, Alabama 36605



From: Brown, Scott <jsb@adem.alabama.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 10:10 AM
To: Mobile Coastal Mail <Coastal@adem.alabama.gov>
Cc: McNeill, Catherine <CMcNeill@adem.alabama.gov>
Subject: FW: CZMA Consistency Review for Amendment 63 to the Gulf Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan

From: Daniel Luers - NOAA Federal <daniel.luers@noaa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 10:00 AM
To: Brown, Scott <jsb@adem.alabama.gov>
Cc: Kevin Anson (<kevin.Anon@dcnr.alabama.gov> <kevin.anson@dcnr.alabama.gov>; ADCNR | Christopher M. Blankenship <chris.blankenship@dcnr.alabama.gov>
Subject: CZMA Consistency Review for Amendment 63 to the Gulf Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan

Dear Mr. Brown,
We have determined this action is consistent with the enforceable policies of your state's CZMP as stated in the attached letter. In the letter, we are requesting you advise us of your agreement or disagreement with our determination. Thank you.

Dan Luers
Fisheries Biologist, Southeast Regional Office
NOAA Fisheries | U.S. Department of Commerce
Office: (727) 551-5719
www.fisheries.noaa.gov



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>

10/06/2026

F/SER24:DL

Mr. Scott Brown
Coastal Programs Office
Department of Environmental Management
3664 Dauphin Street, Suite B
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 63 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources (Reef Fish FMP) of the Gulf (Amendment 63), NMFS would promulgate regulations to establish a quota pool pilot program by setting aside a portion of the increase in red grouper commercial quota under Amendment 62 to the Reef Fish FMP. This three-year pilot program is intended to run from 2027 to 2029, using the increase in red grouper quota as an opportunity to test a new method to improve access to red grouper allocation for some participants in the Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota program and reduce bycatch of red grouper. Amendment 63 can be found at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/gulf-amendment-63-red-grouper-commercial-quota-pool-under-grouper-tilefish-individual>.

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 by email at Daniel.Luers@noaa.gov.

Sincerely

Heather Blough
Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable
Fisheries

cc: Chris Blankenship
Kevin Anson

