

Draft Recreational Measures Text for FW 48

Background: Rec measures for GOM cod and GOM haddock may need to change due to expected reductions on the ABCs in 2013. Until the reductions are known, we cannot use the rec measures model to craft new measures. We won't get the ABCs until after December, after the Council votes on FW 48. So instead of specific measures we need to define a process. Absent a process or specific recommendations, GOM cod regs revert to a minimum size of 24 inches/10 fish bag limit on May 1, 2013.

At present there is no ability for the RA to modify recreational measures should it be warranted except through the implementation of AMs

Suggested Text:

The Regional Administrator will adjust recreational measures so that the recreational fishery will achieve, but will not exceed, the specific sub-ACLs that are allocated to the fishery. To the extent possible, changes to recreational measures that result from anticipated changes in sub-ACLs will be made before the start of the fishing year. Any changes will be adopted through procedures consistent with the APA.

Prior to changing recreational measures, the NMFS will consult with the Council and will advise the Council what measures are under consideration. Time permitting, the Council will provide the recreational Advisory Panel an opportunity to discuss the proposals in a public meeting. Should the Council provide recommended measures to the NMFS, the agency will explain any deviations from those recommendations when measures are adopted.

When selecting measures, NMFS will consider the following guidance:

- If additional effort controls are necessary to reduce cod catches, consideration should be given, in order, to increase minimum size limits, adjust seasons and change bag limits.
- If additional effort controls are necessary to reduce haddock catches, consideration should be given, in order, to increase minimum size limits and change bag limits.