



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

# **Amendment 43**

## **to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region**

### **Public Hearings**

### **Revise Annual Catch Limits for Red Snapper**

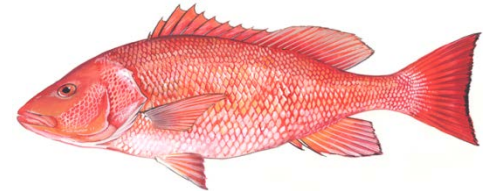
Prepared by Chip Collier

August 2017



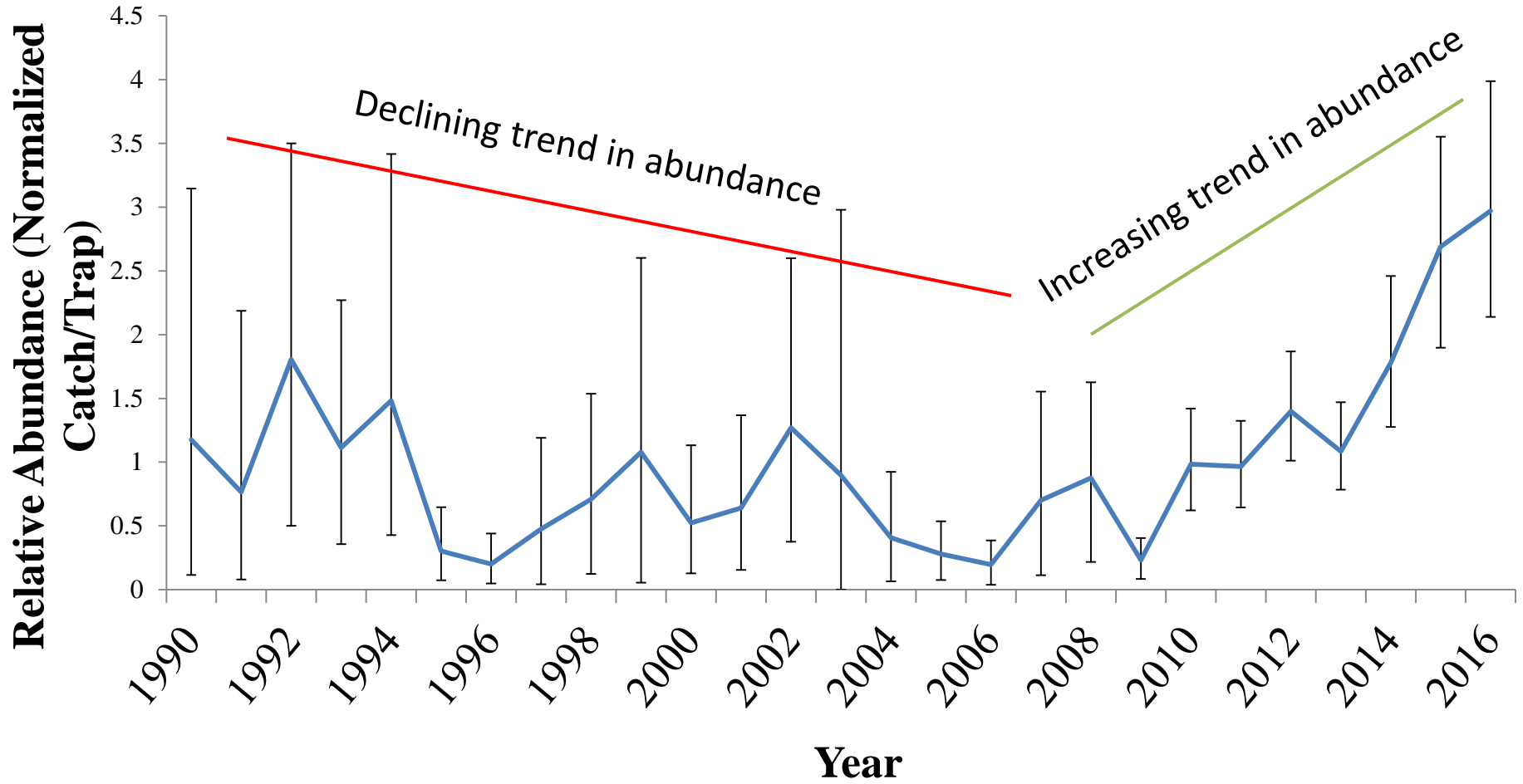
*....To Conserve and Manage*

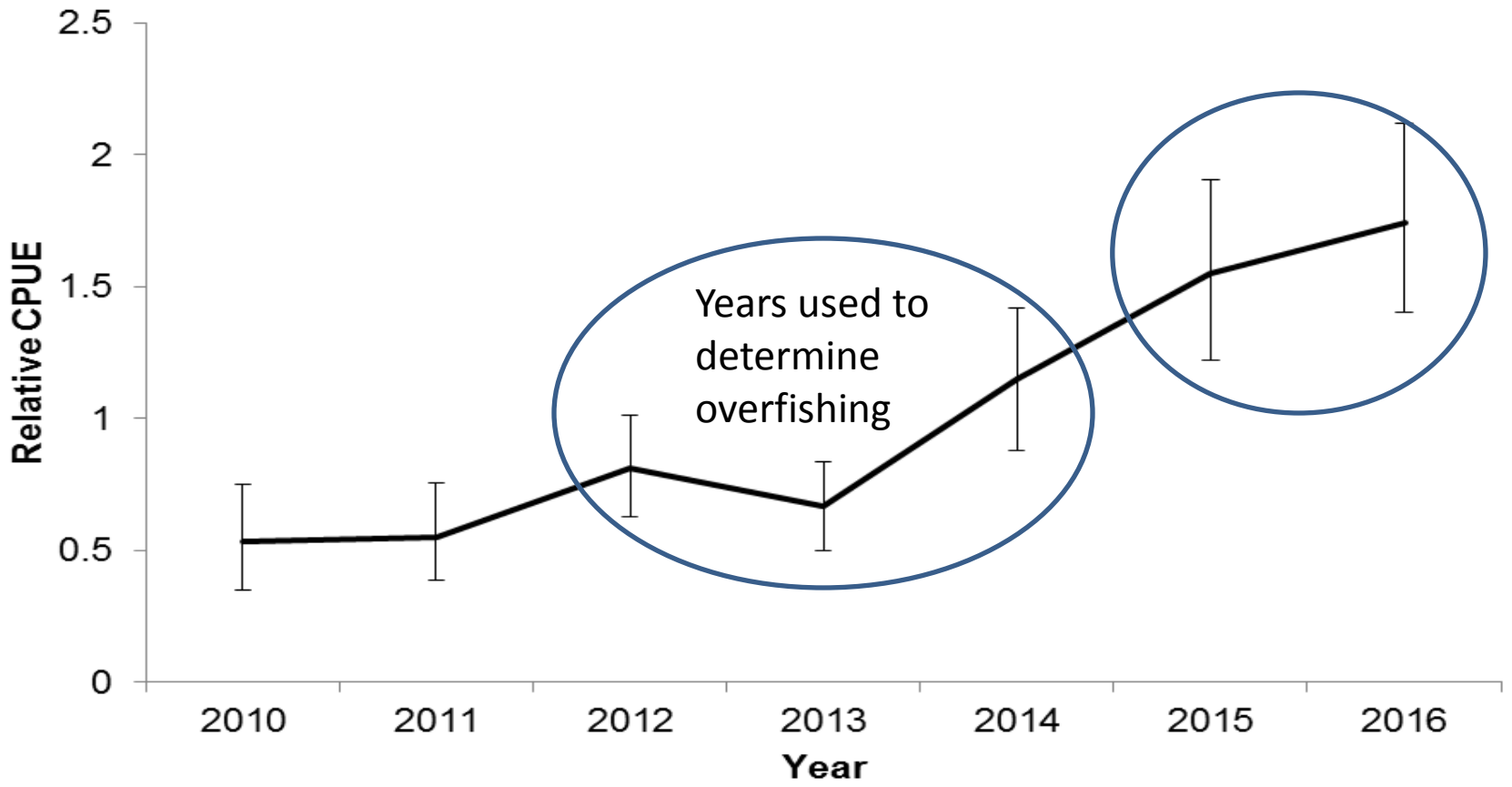
# Background



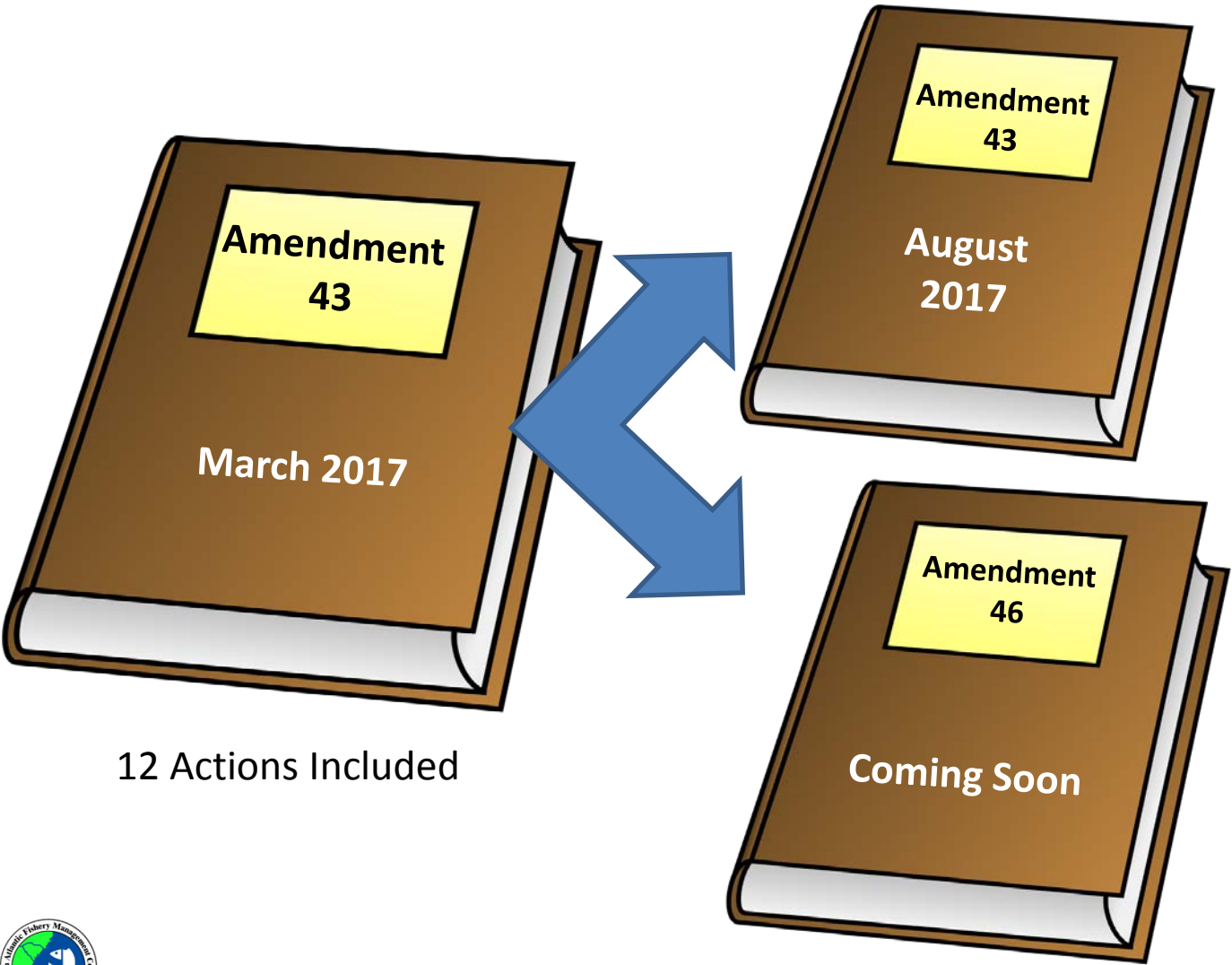
- Red snapper fishery has been closed since 2010 with mini-seasons in 2012, 2013, and 2014
- Most recent assessment indicated stock was overfished and overfishing was occurring through 2014 (SEDAR 41 2017)
  - Stock is continuing to rebuild from past levels
  - Level of overfishing is unknown.







# Background



1 Action - Revise methods to calculate ACL to enable harvest beginning in 2018

Potentially include previous actions from March 2017 including recreational reporting and best fishing practices. A longer timeframe is needed for these actions



# Information Used to Calculate Previous Annual Catch Limits

Year	Total ABC from AM 28 (Numbers of Fish)	Landings (Numbers of Fish)	Landings + Dead Discards* (Numbers of Fish)
2012	86,000	16,591	80,516
2013	96,000	11,767	72,881
2014	106,000	42,510	205,859
2015	114,000	2,850	276,729
2016	121,000	830	407,025
2017	128,000		



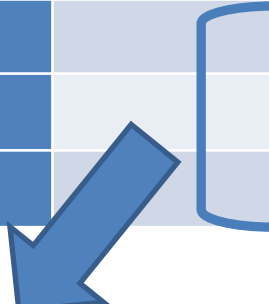
# What Would Amendment 43 Do?

1. Revise the process to calculate the annual catch limits.
2. Potentially enable mini-seasons for red snapper with recreational start date on second Friday in July and commercial start date on second Monday in July.
3. Bag limit (1-fish per person) and trip limit (75 pounds gutted weight) from previous mini-seasons would remain in place with no minimum size limit.



# Calculating ACL Alternatives

Year	Landings (Numbers of Fish)
2012	16,591
2013	11,767
2014	42,510




Alternative 2 = average landings  
2012-2014



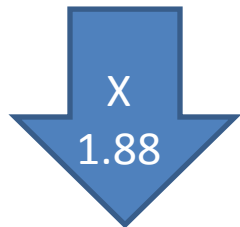


# Calculating ACL Alternatives

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2012	16,591
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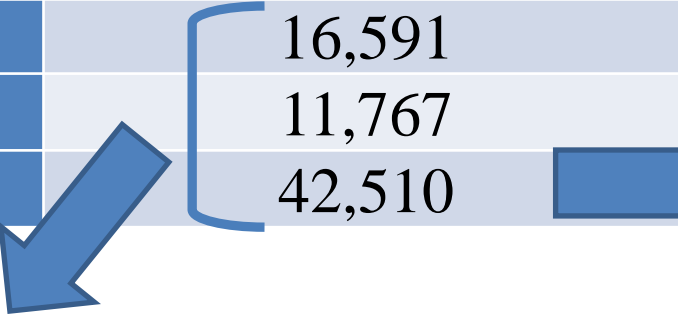
Adjustment factor based on  
changes in scientific survey

Alternative 3 = 1.88 x  
Alternative 2



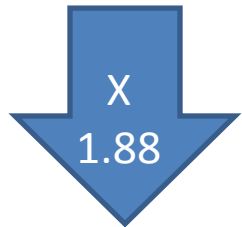
# Calculating ACL Alternatives

Year	Landings (Numbers of Fish)
2012	16,591
2013	11,767
2014	42,510



Alternative 2 = average landings  
2012-2014

Alternative 4 = maximum landings  
2012-2014



Adjustment factor based on  
changes in scientific survey

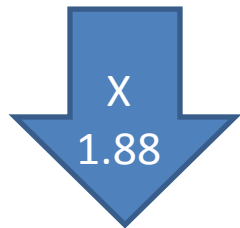
Alternative 3 = 1.88 x  
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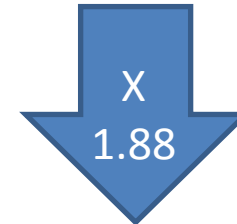
Alternative 2 = average landings  
2012-2014



Alternative 3 = 1.88 x  
Alternative 2

Adjustment factor based on  
changes in scientific survey

Alternative 4 = maximum landings  
2012-2014



Alternative 5 = 1.88 x  
Alternative 4



# Action 1. Revise the Process to Determine the Annual Catch Limit for Red Snapper

Alternative	Total ACL Number	Total ACL Weight (lbs ww)	Commercial ACL Weight (lbs ww)	Recreational ACL Number
Alt 1	0	0	0	0
Alt 2	23,623	247,097	69,360	16,480
Alt 3	44,411	464,539	130,396	30,982
Alt 4	42,510	444,655	124,815	29,656
Alt 5	79,919	835,953	234,652	55,753



# Recreational Season

Predicted closure dates (number of open days) for the recreational sector under the different proposed ACL alternatives for 2018.

	<b>Alternative 1</b>	<b>Alternative 2</b>	<b>Alternative 3</b>	<b>Alternative 4</b>	<b>Alternative 5</b>
<b>ACL</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>16,480 Fish</b>	<b>30,982 Fish</b>	<b>29,656 Fish</b>	<b>55,753 Fish</b>
Predicted Landings	TBD	21-Jul (4)	28-Jul (7)	28-Jul (7)	15-Sep (28)
High Landings	TBD	15-Jul (2)	21-Jul (4)	21-Jul (4)	29-Jul (8)



# Commercial Season

Predicted closure dates for the commercial sector under the different proposed ACL alternatives for 2018.

	<b>Alternative 1</b>	<b>Alternative 2</b>	<b>Alternative 3</b>	<b>Alternative 4</b>	<b>Alternative 5</b>
<b>ACL</b>		<b>69,360 lbs ww</b>	<b>130,396 lbs ww</b>	<b>124,815 lbs ww</b>	<b>234,652 lbs ww</b>
Predicted Landings	TBD	17-Sep	No Closure	No Closure	No Closure
High Landings	TBD	23-Aug	26-Nov	21-Oct	No Closure



# Timing

**August 2017** – public hearings

**September 2017** – review public hearing comments and make needed changes

**September 2017** – approve for formal review

**Summer 2018** – regulations effective



# Amendment 43 Public Hearing Webinars

Register at [safmc.net](http://safmc.net)

August 3, 2017 6 p.m.	Q&A Session Registration required:
August 8, 2017 6 p.m.	Public Hearing Registration required:
August 10, 2017 10 a.m.	Public Hearing Registration required:
August 10, 2017 6 p.m.	Public Hearing Registration required:





# How Do I Comment?

## Submitting Written Comments:

*Please use the online public comment form, available at:*

<https://safmc.wufoo.com/forms/rtl61y31uqm56o/>

## Comments by mail:

Gregg Waugh, Executive Director, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201  
North Charleston, SC 29405

## Comments by fax:

843/769-4520

## Questions:

Chip Collier (chip.collier@safmc.net)



Comments received by **5:00 PM on August 15, 2017** will be included in the Public Input Overview under the Snapper Grouper Committee for the September 2017 Council Meeting Briefing Book and included in the administrative record.

Comments received between August 16 and September 11 at 9:00 AM will still be available for the Council members and public to view on the SAFMC website and included in the administrative record, but will not be included in the Public Input Overview for the Briefing Book.



# Questions?



David Rainer