

Attachment 10: Visioning Amendment Survey Results

Background & Purpose:

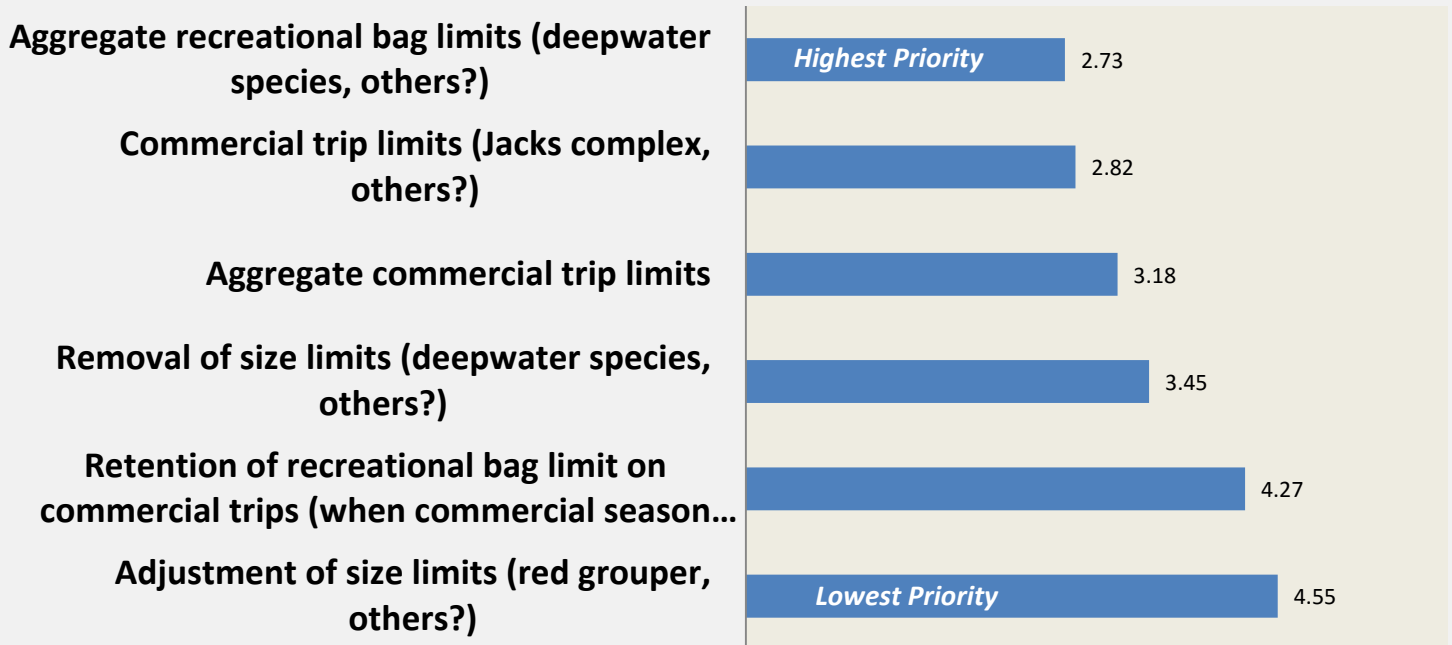
In December 2015, Council members completed a survey that ranked different amendment approaches/topics to focus the development of a Visioning Amendment in 2016 (See the results of the survey in the December 2015 Visioning Workshop Final Summary Report). Based on the results of the survey, the highest ranked approach/topic was Fishery Seasonality/Retention.

Additionally, Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendments 23 & 24 were put on hold in 2015 until the Vision Blueprint was complete. These draft regulatory amendments included several items that meet several of the short-term management strategies identified in the Vision Blueprint.

In order to help prioritize potential actions for a Visioning Amendment that would focus on Fishery Seasonality/Retention, the Council was given an additional survey (see attachment 10b) to rank specific action items and strategies from the objectives in the Vision Blueprint that address access to the fishery, sub-regional management, and reducing discards. The following is a summary of the results of the survey.

RETENTION: The survey asked the Council to rank several action items that were identified as short-term management strategies in the Vision Blueprint that address retention in the snapper grouper fishery by providing access to the fishery and reducing discards. Figure 1 shows the results of the ranking exercise with action items in order of highest to lowest priority.

**Figure 1. RETENTION - Average Rating of Actions
(in order from highest priority to lowest priority)**

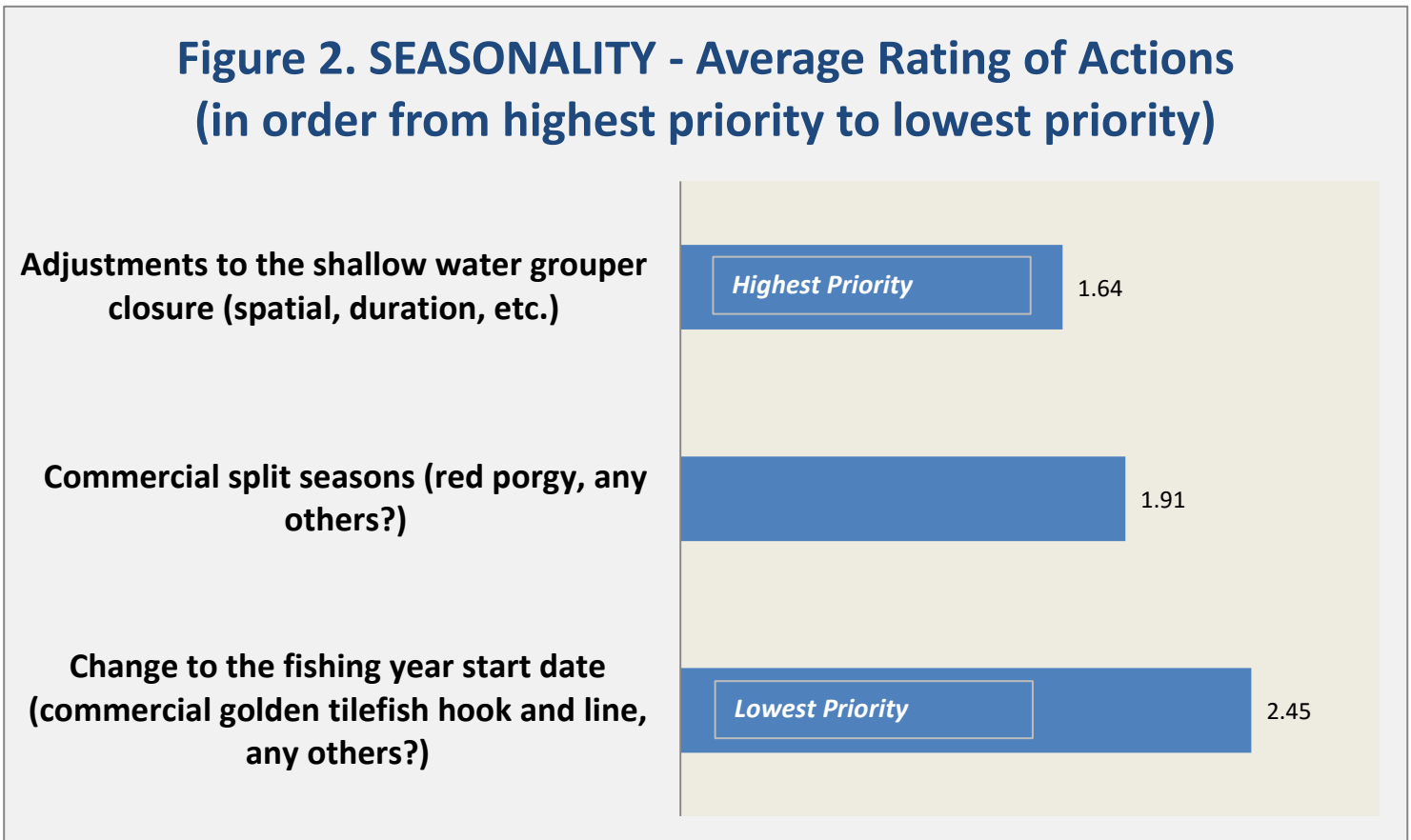


Additional ideas for RETENTION-related actions submitted through the survey include:

- Consider availability of species by region for the aggregate.
- Sub-regional specific size/bag limits for some species.
- 20 inch minimum for red snapper.
- Descending devices.

- Size limit for Almaco jack.
- Other types of actions that would address retention, improve access and reduce discards, such as a one fish per vessel; Red Snapper limit for 6 months; and a 6 month deepwater bottom fishing closure.
- Trip limits for species that do not have commercial trip limits (whether individually or in aggregate).
- Re-evaluate and simplify the existing recreational aggregate bag limits (specifically the aggregate grouper limit)
- Reconsider the 20 fish aggregate and the 10 snapper aggregate (seems like a lot of fish).
- Removing size limits for deepwater species.
- Consider the pros/cons of removal of size limits for other species in conjunction with bag and trip limit changes.

SEASONALITY: The survey asked the Council to rank several action items that were identified as short-term management strategies in the Vision Blueprint that address seasonality in the snapper grouper fishery by considering sub-regional management strategies, providing access to the fishery and reducing discards. Figure 2 shows the results of the ranking exercise with action items in order of highest to lowest priority.



Additional ideas for SEASONALITY -related actions submitted through the survey include:

- Look at recreational fishing season options.
- Add golden tilefish into the recreational "deep water" season.
- Consideration of recreational access by region.
- Sub-regional seasonality of some species to account for differences in timing of spawning.
- A recreational season with a closure for all fishing for snapper/grouper species during a certain time of year.
- Changes to the commercial start dates of fishing years and commercial split seasons; need to be considered together in order to ensure equitable access throughout the range; consider for the deepwater species where access tends to favor the southern part of the range due mostly to weather and bathymetry.
- Evaluate the Shallow Water Grouper closure and whether or not it has met its intended purpose and then adjust both the spatial extent (rolling closures) and duration.