



Spawning Special Management Zones (SSMZ)

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Developing SSC
Recommendations for the Evaluation

SSMZs in Amendment 36

Purpose and Need

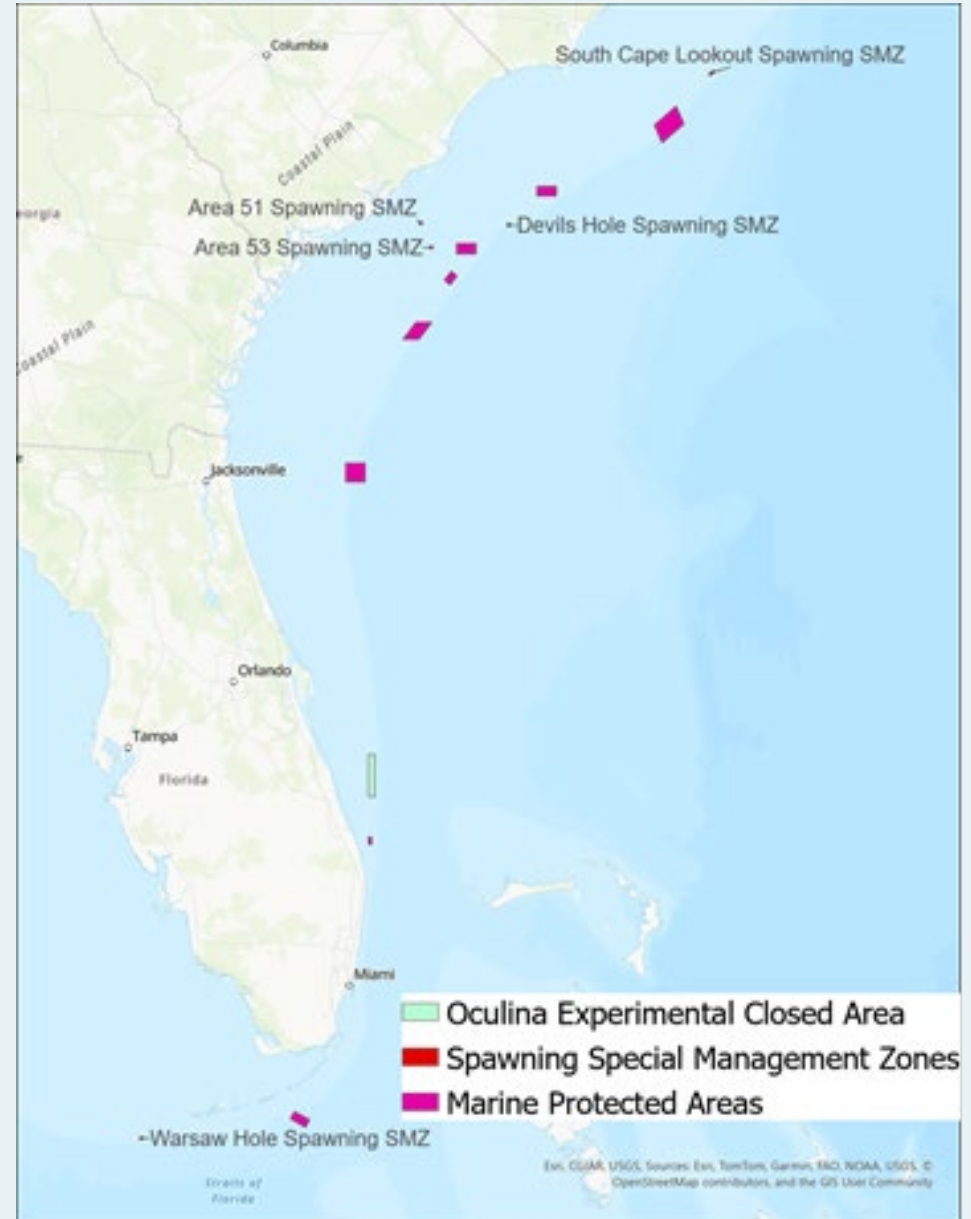
- Protect important spawning habitatto enhance spawning.
- Reduce bycatch and bycatch mortality ... including speckled hind and warsaw grouper.
- Prevent overfishing and achieve optimum yield (National Standard 1).
- Achieve conservation goals while minimizing to the extent practicable negative social and economic effects.



Credit: FWC

SSMZ and Locations

- Relatively small protected areas ~5 sq miles or less
- Natural Reefs
 - South Cape Lookout
 - Devils Hole/Georgetown Hole
 - Warsaw Hole
- Artificial Reefs
 - Area 51
 - Area 53



SSMZ Regulations

- Prohibits fishing for, harvest of, and/or possession of Snapper Grouper Species
- Transit provisions:
 - Allows possession if gear stowed properly
 - No anchoring by fishing vessels
- Sunset clause for natural reefs



Focal Species

- Groupers (14)
- Snappers (6)
- Tilefish (2)
- Greater Amberjack (1)

Groupers

Coney
Graysby
Goliath
Nassau
Red Grouper
Red Hind
Rock Hind
Speckled Hind
Snowy Grouper
Warsaw Grouper
Yellowedge Grouper
Black Grouper
Gag
Scamp



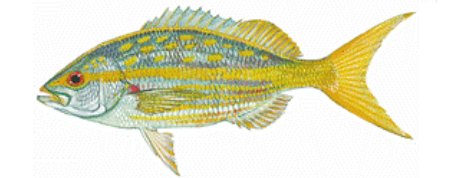
Amberjack

Greater Amberjack



Snappers

Blackfin Snapper
Cubera Snapper
Mutton Snapper
Red Snapper
Silk Snapper
Yellowtail Snapper



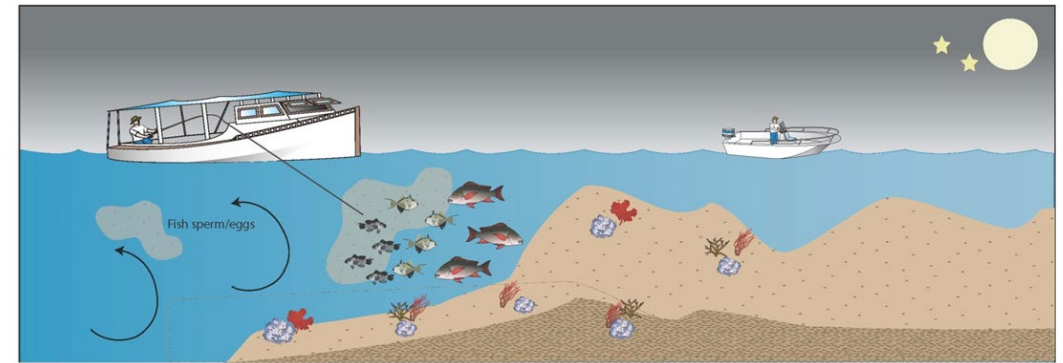
Tilefish

Golden Tilefish
Blueline Tilefish



Habitat Information

- Natural Sites
 - Multi-species spawning areas
 - Target promontory locations
- Artificial Reefs
 - Designed as protected areas in application
 - Created before in SSMZs were regulated
 - Sandy areas prior to reef placement
- All areas have been mapped

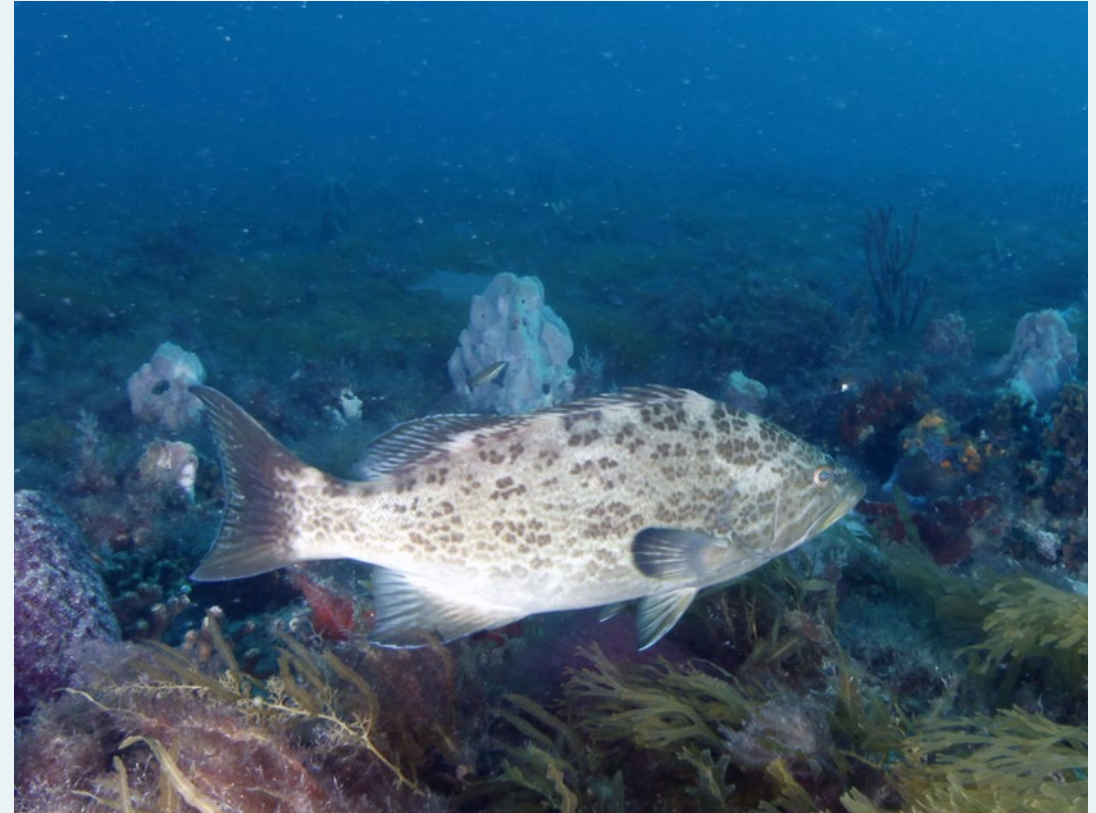


Spawning Aggregations & Larval Transport around Specific Lunar Cycles



Recent Research and Monitoring

- Connectivity through larval dispersal models – Brothers et al
- Biological samples during spawning – TNC/LGL
- Artificial reef monitoring – SC Aquarium
- Southeast Reef Fish Survey – SEFSC/SC DNR



Evaluation of the SSMZ

- Conducted by System Management Plan Workgroup
 - Designed to gather input from a diverse group
- Gather input from Advisory Panels
- Evaluate if management should
 - Keep areas as is
 - Modify areas
 - Move
 - Change size
 - Change regulations



Hockings, M., S. Stolton, F. Leverington, N. Dudley, J. Courrau. 2006. Evaluating Effectiveness: A framework for assessing management effectiveness of protected areas. 2nd Edition. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. 105pp.

SSC SSMZ Evaluation

- Staff developed an [evaluation tool](#) to gather input from the SSC
- You do not need to complete all sections if you are not familiar with them.
- Provide feedback. It will be incorporated into an evaluation report to the Council on the SSMZs.
- We will review aggregated comments at the meeting to get the group's recommendation.



Credit: SC Sea Grant Consortium

Review **SSC** Recommendations

- Planning
- South Cape Lookout
- Area 51
- Area 53
- Devil's Hole
- Warsaw Hole
- Cross Area Comparisons
 - Successes
 - Improvements

Additional Resources

- Main Resource - A3a SMP SSMZ Update
- [Amendment 36](#)
- [System Management Plan for Amendment 36](#)
- [Connectivity - Brothers et al](#)
- Biological Sampling –
 - [Natural Reefs - TNC/LGL](#)
 - [Artificial Reefs - SC Aquarium](#)
 - [SERFS](#)