

Fishery Performance Report Discussion

Golden Crab¹

Golden Crab Advisory Panel
June 2022



The Golden Crab Advisory Panel (AP) is being asked to provide information to create a fishery performance report (FPR) for golden crab. The purpose of the FPR is to assemble information from AP members' experience and observations on the water and in the marketplace to complement scientific and landings data. The FPR for golden crab will be provided to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Socio-Economic Panel (SEP) to complement quantitative data and to inform future South Atlantic Council management decisions.

An overview of the golden crab fishery can be found here: <https://safmc-shinyapps.shinyapps.io/FPRAll/>

The AP is asked to provide the following information about golden crab based on their expertise, as appropriate:

Have there been **substantial changes** in the golden crab fishery over the last ten years? If so, when and what do you think caused the change?

Fishing Behavior/Catch Levels:

- Have there been effort shifts to/from golden crab? If so, please describe, including the time frame for when these shifts occurred.
- Have there been considerable changes in fishing techniques and/or gears used to target golden crab? If so, please describe, including the time frame for when these changes occurred.
- Do you actively avoid fishing for golden crab in certain areas to avoid impacts to deepwater coral and other habitat?
- Does the golden crab fishery experience any bycatch? What other species are encountered when fishing for golden crab?

Social and Economic Influences:

- How has price and demand for golden crab changed? Is there increased demand for a specific size of golden crab? How much product is sold domestically vs. internationally?
- Among the species you target, how important are golden crab to your overall business?
- What communities are dependent on the golden crab fishery?
- Have changes in infrastructure (docks, marinas, fish houses) and crew availability affected fishing opportunities for golden crab?
- How have fishermen and communities adapted to changes in the golden crab fishery?
- Are there any user conflicts between the golden crab fishery and other deepwater fisheries?
- What has been the impact of Irma and COVID-19?

¹ Photo credit: NOAA Okeanos Explorer Program, Gulf of Mexico 2014 Expedition

Management Measures:

- Are there new management measures that the Council should consider or are there existing management measures (such as size limit, trip limit, bag limit, season, etc.) that should be changed?
- Are the current zones still appropriate for managing the fishery?
- Is the current annual catch limit appropriate?
- Are the current closed areas providing adequate protection to corals? Should these areas be reevaluated and modified?

Environmental, Ecological, and Habitat:

- Do you feel that the abundance of golden crab has changed over the past ten years? If so, how has it changed?
- When/where are the golden crab available, and has this changed? For instance, has there been any shift in catch (annually/seasonally) inshore/offshore or north/south? If so, please describe.
- Has the size of the golden crab that you typically encounter changed? If so, could you briefly describe the trend?
- Have you noticed any unique effects of environmental conditions on golden crab? If so, please describe.

Other:

- What else is important for the Council to know about golden crab?
- Suggestions for future research needs for the golden crab fishery?