

**Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel**  
**Red Snapper Fishery Performance Report**  
**Discussion Questions**  
**November 2020**

The Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel (AP) is being asked to provide information to develop a fishery performance report (FPR) for Red Snapper. 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 Red Snapper will be provided to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Socio-Economic Panel (SEP) to complement material being used in the upcoming operational stock assessment (SEDAR 73) and to inform future management.

**Questions for Advisory Panel:**

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

- 1) How has the abundance of Red Snapper in your area changed over the past ten years?
- 2) There have been substantial changes to regulations for Red Snapper over the past decade. How has this affected the fishery in your area?
- 3) **Catch levels over the past 10 years:**
  - When/where are the fish available in your area, and how has this changed?
  - Has the size of the fish changed? If so, could you briefly describe the trend?
  - Have there been effort shifts to/from Red Snapper? If so, please describe.
  - What do you see in terms of discards in the commercial sector? In the recreational sector?
    - How often are Red Snapper discarded during the open season? What are the reasons they are discarded during the open season?
    - How often are Red Snapper discarded during the closed season?
    - Do you encounter Red Snapper as bycatch when fishing for other species?
    - How feasible is it to avoid Red Snapper during the closed season in your area?
- 4) **Descending Devices and Circle Hooks:**
  - How often are you using a descending device to release red snapper?
  - What percentage of fishermen in your area would you estimate to be using descending devices?
  - Is there a specific type of device that you prefer using?
  - Have you observed shark depredation while using a descending device to release a fish?
  - Do you think the use of descending devices and/or circle hooks has improved

survivability of red snapper in your area?

**5) Social and economic influences:**

- How has demand for charter/headboat trips targeting Red Snapper changed?
- Among the species you target, how important are Red Snapper to your overall business (charter or commercial)?
- What communities are dependent on the Red Snapper fishery?
- Have changes in infrastructure (docks, marinas, fish houses) affected fishing opportunities for Red Snapper?
- How have fishermen and communities adapted to changes in the Red Snapper fishery?

**6) Management measures:**

- Are there new management measures that the Council should consider under existing restrictions?

**7) Environmental/ecological/habitat:**

- Have you noticed any unique effects of environmental conditions on Red Snapper? If so, please describe.
- What are your observations on the timing and length of the Red Snapper spawning season in your area?
- What do you see now in terms of recruitment? Where are the small fish? Are large and small fish found in the same locations or not?
- Has there been any shift in catch inshore/offshore or north/south? If so, please describe.
- How have sea conditions (monthly/seasonally) affected fishable days for the commercial sector?
- Have you observed changes in catch depth or apparent bottom type fished on?
- Have you noticed any change in the species caught with Red Snapper over the years?

**8) Other:**

- Is there anything else that has not already been discussed that is important for the Council to know about Red Snapper?