

Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Greater Amberjack Fishery Performance Report Discussion Questions April 2018

The Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel (AP) is being asked to provide information to develop a fishery performance report (FPR) for greater amberjack. 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 greater amberjack will be provided to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Socio-Economic Panel (SEP) to complement material being used in the standard assessment (SEDAR 59) and to inform future management.

Questions for Advisory Panel:

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

1) Catch levels over the past 5 years:

- When/where are the fish available, and has this changed?
- Has the size of the fish changed? If so, could you describe the change over the past five years?
- Have there been effort shifts to/from greater amberjack?
- What do you see in terms of discards in the commercial sector? In the recreational sector?

2) Social and economic influences:

- For the commercial sector, how has price and demand for greater amberjack changed?
- How has demand for charter/headboat trips targeting greater amberjack changed?
- Directed recreational trips show a sharp increase in recent years? Would you agree that this is the case and what is driving this pattern?
- What communities are dependent on the greater amberjack fishery?
- Have changes in infrastructure (docks, marinas, fish houses) affected fishing opportunities for greater amberjack?
- How have fishermen and communities adapted to changes in the greater amberjack fishery?

3) Management measures:

- Is the 28-inch minimum size limit for the recreational sector appropriate?
- Is the 36-inch minimum size limit for the commercial sector appropriate?
- Are there new measures that the Council should consider or existing measures that should be changed??
- Would removing the prohibition on powerheads in the EEZ off SC impact greater amberjack?

4) Environmental/ecological

- Have you perceived any unique effects of environmental conditions on greater amberjack?
- What are your observations concerning the timing and length of the greater amberjack spawning season in your area? Is the commercial harvest restriction in April appropriate?
- Do you perceive that abundance of greater amberjack has changed over the past five years? If so, how has it changed?
- What do you see now in terms of recruitment? Where are the small fish?
- Are catch rates of greater amberjack higher on artificial reefs or natural reefs?

5) Other

- When would you say the fishery for greater amberjack began to develop in the South Atlantic (e.g., early 1970s)? Did it originate in a particular area?
- What else is important for the Council to know about greater amberjack?