

Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Red Porgy 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 red porgy. 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 porgy will be provided to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Socio-Economic Panel (SEP) to complement material being used in the upcoming standard assessment (SEDAR 60) and to inform future management.

Questions for Advisory Panel:

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

1) Catch levels over the past 5 years:

- Commercial landings appear to have declined in recent years. What has caused the decline?
- Recreational landings appear to have increased since 2014, particularly in Florida. Would you agree that this is the case and what may be driving this pattern?
- When/where are the fish available, and has this changed?
- Has the size of the fish changed? If so, could you briefly describe the trend over the past 5 years?
- Have there been effort shifts to/from red porgy? If so, please describe.
- 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 red porgy changed?
- How has demand for charter/headboat trips targeting red porgy changed?
- What communities are dependent on the red porgy fishery?
- Have changes in infrastructure (docks, marinas, fish houses) affected fishing opportunities for red porgy?
- How have fishermen and communities adapted to changes in the red porgy fishery?

3) Management measures:

- Is the 14-inch minimum size limit for the commercial and recreational sectors appropriate?
- Are there new management measures that the Council should consider or are there existing management measures that should be changed?
- Are the current ACLs appropriate for each sector?

4) Environmental/ecological

- Have you noticed any unique effects of environmental conditions on red porgy? If so, please describe.
- What are your observations concerning the timing and length of the red porgy spawning season in your area?
- Do you perceive that abundance of red porgy 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?

5) Other

- What else is important for the Council to know about red porgy?
- Are the current monitoring efforts (trap index and catch estimates) sufficiently monitoring the stock?