



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Ben Hartig, Chair
Dr. Michelle Duval, Vice Chair

Robert K. Mahood, Executive Director
Gregg T. Waugh, Deputy Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 3, 2015
TO: Luiz Barbieri
FROM: Bob Mahood 
SUBJECT: Hogfish Projections

The recreational fishery for Hogfish was closed recently due to an increase in landings observed during Wave 2 of the MRIP survey. As a result, preliminary landings for 2015 are above the landings level assumed in the last set of stock projections raising concerns that the projections may no longer represent the Best Scientific Information Available. The Council is requesting updated projections for the East Florida/Florida Keys Hogfish stock using the most recent landings estimates for use in Snapper Grouper FMP Amendment 37. This request is for the same suite of scenarios provided in April 2015, modified with the most recent landings estimates provided below, and changing year 1 to 2017 to reflect the likely implementation date of the management actions. We hope that updated projections can be prepared for review by the SSC at its meeting of October 20-22, and consideration by the Council in December, 2015.

1. Rebuilding time - Preliminary projections indicate the stock can be rebuild within 10 years with $F=0$, providing a maximum rebuilding time for projections of 10 years. The Council has identified a rebuilding alternative of 7 years. Year one of the rebuilding plan is 2017, and projections are desired to 2027 to reach beyond the longest of the rebuilding periods.
2. Interim Landings - The terminal assessment year is 2012. We request that these projections include final landings values for 2014 and most recent estimates for 2015. Recommended interim landings are provided in the table below, based on the East Florida/Florida Keys stock. Detailed calculations in support of these values are included in Attachment 1.

Year	Landings		Discard	
	Numbers	Pounds	Numbers	Pounds
2013	56,764	143,097	2,359	6,049
2014	153,903	287,042	5,637	12,686
2015	217,675	414,080	2,263	5,124
2016	142,458	281,764	3,435	7,759

3. Rebuilding Scenarios – based on fishing mortality rates (F) and rebuilding time period options.
 - a. $F = 0$
 - b. $F = F_{\text{current}}$
 - c. Constant F projection at $F=75\%F_{\text{msy}}$
 - d. Constant F projection at $F=F_{\text{msy}}$ (This provides the OFL value)
 - e. Constant F projection that rebuilds in 10 years (2017-2026) at Prebuild = 50% and 72.5%
 - f. Constant F projection that rebuilds in 7 years (2017-2023) at Prebuild = 50% and 72.5%

For each projection scenario, please provide annual stock biomass, spawning stock biomass, probability that SSB exceeds SSB_{msy} , fishing mortality rate applied, and yield expressed in pounds and numbers for landings and discards.

We are requesting that projection results be provided to the Council by October 2, 2015 for inclusion in the Briefing Book for the October 20-22 SSC meeting. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let me know if this schedule cannot be met and feel free to contact John Carmichael if there are any questions.

Enclosure

cc: Council members and staff
Jack McGovern and Rick DeVictor
Monica Smit-Brunello
Bonnie Ponwith, Theo Brainerd and Tom Jamir