

A Summary of Accountability Measures and Management Measures Proposed in the Preferred Alternatives in Amendment 17B

October 2009

The purpose of Amendment 17B to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan (FMP) is to establish Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and Accountability Measures (AMs), where needed, including management measures to reduce the probability that catches will exceed the stocks' ACLs for species currently undergoing overfishing. The following document summarizes the AMs and management measures in the preferred alternatives in the amendment for the following species: speckled hind, warsaw grouper, snowy grouper, golden tilefish, gag, black grouper, red grouper, black sea bass, and vermilion snapper. The AMs and management measures proposed in the amendment are in bold while those in place are not.

Table 1. Accountability measures in place and proposed in Amendment 17B as current preferred alternatives. The AMs proposed in the amendment are in bold while those in place are not.

ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES				
	Commercial		Recreational	
	In-Season	Overage	In-Season	Overage
Speckled hind	Closure ¹	Closure ¹	Closure ¹	Closure ¹
Warsaw grouper	Closure ¹	Closure ¹	Closure ¹	Closure ¹
Snowy Grouper	Close fishery when quota projected to be met		None	Shorten length of following fishing season to ensure landings do not exceed rec. ACL the following year; use 3 year running average
Golden tilefish	Close fishery when quota projected to be met	None	None	Shorten length of following fishing season to ensure landings do not exceed rec. ACL the following year; use 3 year running average³
Gag	Close SWG fishery when gag ACL is projected to be met; in addition to gag ACL, create black, red, and gag ACL. Close SWG when either is met first. ²	None	If overfished, close fishery if ACL projected to be met.	Independent of stock status, if rec. ACL is exceeded, reduce rec. ACL the following year by overage. Use 3 year running average. ³
Black grouper	Close SWG fishery when gag ACL is projected to be met; in addition to gag ACL, create black, red, and gag ACL. Close SWG when either is met first. ²	None	If overfished, close fishery if ACL projected to be met.	Independent of stock status, if rec. ACL is exceeded, reduce rec. ACL the following year by overage. Use 3 year running average. ³
Red grouper	Close SWG fishery when gag ACL is projected to be met; in addition to gag ACL, create black, red, and gag ACL. Close SWG when either is met first. ²	None	If overfished, close fishery if ACL projected to be met.	Independent of stock status, if rec. ACL is exceeded, reduce rec. ACL the following year by overage. Use 3 year running average. ³
Black sea bass	Close fishery when quota projected to be met	None	If overfished, close fishery if ACL projected to be met.	Independent of stock status, if rec. ACL is exceeded, reduce rec. ACL the following year by overage. Use 3 year running average. ³
Vermilion snapper	Close fishery when quota projected to be met	None	If overfished, close fishery if ACL projected to be met.	Independent of stock status, if rec. ACL is exceeded, reduce rec. ACL the following year by overage. Use 3 year running

				average. ³
<p>¹The deepwater closure may be considered as a type of AM. Will be discussed further at December Council meeting.</p> <p>²A gag, red, and black recreational ACL is also established but AMs are not tied to it.</p> <p>³The alternative reads: Alternative 4 (Preferred). For black grouper, black sea bass, gag, red grouper, and vermilion snapper, compare recreational ACL with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2010, use only 2010 landings. For 2011, use the average landings of 2010 and 2011. For 2012 and beyond, use three-year running average.</p>				

Table 2. Management measures proposed in Amendment 17B as current preferred alternatives. Note: This table does not include management measures in place.

MANAGEMENT MEASURES		
	Commercial	Recreational
Speckled hind	Prohibit harvest of deepwater species beyond 240 ft depth¹	Prohibit harvest of deepwater species beyond 240 ft depth¹
Warsaw grouper	Prohibit harvest beyond 240 ft depth	Prohibit harvest of deepwater species beyond 240 ft depth¹
Snowy Grouper	Prohibit harvest of deepwater species beyond 240 ft depth¹	Prohibit harvest of deepwater species beyond 240 ft depth¹; go from 1/person/day to 1/vessel/day
Golden tilefish	Lower quota from Fmsy to Foy level	None
Gag	None	None
Black grouper	None	None
Red grouper	None	None
Black sea bass	None	None
Vermilion snapper	None	None
<p>¹Deepwater species include: Snowy grouper, blueline tilefish, yellowedge grouper, warsaw grouper, speckled hind, misty grouper, queen snapper, and silk snapper.</p>		