



Update on Snapper Grouper Amendments

October 2021

Amendment 50 (Red Porgy Rebuilding and Allocations)

According to the latest stock assessment (SEDAR 60 2020), red porgy are overfished and overfishing is occurring. The Council is required to establish a rebuilding plan for red porgy no later than June 12, 2022, and adjust catch levels to end overfishing. A public hearing was held in September 2021, to receive comments on a draft amendment that included the following proposed actions:

Summary of proposed actions

Action 1. Establish a rebuilding timeframe for Red Porgy

The preferred alternative would establish a 26-years rebuilding plan (ending in 2047). 2022 would be Year 1.

Action 2. Revise the Red Porgy total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield

The preferred alternative would revise the total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for red porgy and set equal to the updated acceptable biological catch. The 2026 total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield would remain in place until modified.

Year	Total ACL (lbs ww)	Total ACL (lbs gw)
2022	75,000	72,115
2023	81,000	77,885
2024	87,000	83,654
2025	91,000	87,500
2026+	95,000	91,346

Action 3. Revise the Red Porgy sector allocations and sector annual catch limits

The preferred alternative would allocate 51.43% of the red porgy total annual catch limit to the commercial sector and 48.57% to the recreational sector. This allocation is based on the allocation formula: Annual catch limit = ((mean landings 2006-2008)*0.5) + ((mean landings 1986-2008)*0.5) applied to the revised total annual catch limit that includes recreational landings from the Marine Recreational Information Program using the Fishing Effort Survey method.

Year	Commercial ACL (lbs gw)			Recreational ACL (lbs gw)
	Total	Season 1 quota	Season 2 quota	
2022	37,089	11,127	25,962	35,026
2023	40,056	12,017	28,039	37,829
2024	43,023	12,907	30,116	40,631
2025	45,001	13,500	31,501	42,499

Year	Commercial ACL (lbs gw)			Recreational ACL (lbs gw)
	Total	Season 1 quota	Season 2 quota	
2026+	46,979	14,094	32,886	44,367

Action 4 – Modify the red porgy commercial management measures

The preferred alternatives would reduce the commercial trip limit for red porgy to 15 fish during both seasons (January–April and May–December)

Action 5 – Modify the red porgy recreational management measures

Bag limits

The preferred alternative would reduce the recreational bag limit for red porgy to 1 fish per person per day, or 1 fish per person per trip, whichever is more restrictive.

Recreational fishing season

The preferred alternative would establish a recreational fishing season for red porgy from May through June.

Analyses available: [Red Porgy Decision Tool](#).

Action 6 – Revise the recreational accountability measures

The preferred alternative would establish the following accountability measure for the recreational sector: If recreational landings exceed the recreational annual catch limit, reduce the length of the following year’s recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to prevent the recreational annual catch limit from being exceeded in the following year. However, the length of the recreational season will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that it is not necessary.

Timing:

- December 2021: The Council will review all actions, modify as necessary, and approve
- March 2022: The Council is scheduled to consider the amendment for formal review
- June 2022: Regulations would become effective.

Amendment 49 (Greater Amberjack Catch Levels and Allocations and Snapper Grouper Recreational Annual Catch Targets)

In response to the latest stock assessment of greater amberjack (SEDAR 59), the Council is developing Amendment 49 to consider adjustments to acceptable biological catch, annual catch limits (ACL), allocations, and other management measures for greater amberjack, as well as remove recreational annual catch targets (ACT) from the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan. In September 2021, the Council directed staff to add a constant total ACL alternative and actions that would consider changes to recreational and commercial minimum size limits, the Season 2 (September-February) commercial trip limit, and the April spawning closure. In December 2021, the Council will review a draft amendment with the added alternative and actions and will consider approving the amendment for public hearings.

Amendment 48 (Wreckfish ITQ Program Modernization)

A review of the Wreckfish ITQ Program was completed in 2019 and included recommendations for improvement, particularly with respect to confidentiality issues and related constraints; moving away from a paper coupon-based program to an electronic program; cost recovery; wreckfish permit requirement; allocation issues; offloading sites and times; and economic data collection. Amendment 48 proposes to modernize the fishery based on those recommendations. At their September 2021 meeting, the Council discussed staff and Council workload and direct staff to bring Amendment 48 back to the Council for discussion at every other meeting. Additionally, the Council discussed the commercial electronic logbook program and SEFSC staff indicated that the wreckfish shareholders could participate in a voluntary pilot program. The Council also requested that staff convene a meeting of the wreckfish shareholders this winter to discuss the commercial electronic logbook and Amendment 48 progress.