



## Update on Snapper Grouper Amendments

April 2022

### *Amendment 50 (Red Porgy Rebuilding and Allocations)*

**Purpose of Amendment:** Respond to the latest stock assessment (SEDAR 60). Red porgy are overfished and overfishing is occurring. The Council is required to establish a rebuilding plan by June 2022 and adjust catch levels and management measures to end overfishing.

**Action Summary:** establish a rebuilding plan, revise annual catch limits (ACL), sector allocations, management measures for the commercial and recreational sectors, and accountability measures (AM) for the recreational sector.

**Key Recent/Ongoing Events:**

- March 2022: Amendment approved for formal review.

### Summary of 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
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.

**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:**

- Spring 2022: NMFS formal review.
- June 2022: Regulations would become effective.

*Amendment 48 (Wreckfish ITQ Program Modernization)*

**Purpose of Amendment:** The Council finished its second review of the Wreckfish ITQ program in September of 2019. As part of the review there were several recommendations made to modernize the program, which will be addressed in this amendment. The amendment also includes review of the ITQ goals and objectives and adoption of updated goals and objectives for the entire Snapper Grouper FMP.

**Action Summary:** moving away from a paper coupon-based program to an electronic program; fishing season and spawning closure; cost recovery; wreckfish permit requirement; allocation issues; offloading sites and times; and vessel monitoring system requirements.

**Recent/Ongoing Events:**

- March 2022: Council reviewed actions and alternatives.
- Spring 2022: Meeting of the wreckfish shareholders to discuss amendment development and voluntary pilot program for the commercial electronic logbook.