

Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel
Gray Triggerfish Fishery Performance Report
Discussion Questions
October 2021

The Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel (AP) is being asked to provide information to develop a fishery performance report (FPR) for gray triggerfish. 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 gray triggerfish will be provided to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Socio-Economic Panel (SEP) to complement material being used in the upcoming research track stock assessment (SEDAR 82) and to inform future management.

Questions for Advisory Panel:

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

1) Have there been **substantial changes** in the gray triggerfish fishery? If so, when and what do you think caused the change?

2) **Fishing Behavior/Catch Levels:**

- Have there been effort shifts to/from gray triggerfish? If so, please describe, including the time frame for when these shifts occurred.
- Have there been considerable changes in fishing techniques and/or gears used to target gray triggerfish? If so, please describe, including the time frame for when these changes occurred.
- How much fishing for gray triggerfish typically occurs during the day versus at night? Has this changed?
- Do you actively avoid fishing for gray triggerfish in certain areas to avoid catching undersized fish or highly regulated fish (e.g., red snapper) to lessen bait loss?
- What do you see in terms of discards in the commercial sector? In the recreational sector?
 - How often are gray triggerfish discarded? What are the reasons they are discarded?
 - Do you encounter gray triggerfish as bycatch when fishing for other species? If so, what species are being targeted on these trips?
 - Do you think discard mortality is a significant factor for this species? Has this changed? If so, please describe, including the time frame when the change occurred.

3) **Social and economic influences:**

- For the commercial sector, how has price and demand for gray triggerfish changed?
 - Is there increased demand for a specific size of gray triggerfish (e.g. plate sized)?

- How has demand for charter/headboat trips targeting gray triggerfish changed?
- Among the species you target, how important are gray triggerfish to your overall business (charter or commercial)?
- What communities are dependent on the gray triggerfish fishery?
- Have changes in infrastructure (docks, marinas, fish houses) affected fishing opportunities for gray triggerfish?
- How have fishermen and communities adapted to changes in the gray triggerfish fishery?

4) Management measures:

- Are there new management measures that the Council should consider or are there existing management measures (such as size limit, trip limit, bag limit, season, etc.) that should be changed?
- Are the current ACL and allocations appropriate for each sector?

5) Environmental/ecological/habitat:

- Do you perceive that the abundance of gray triggerfish has changed over the past ten years? If so, how has it changed?
- When/where are the fish available, and has this changed? For instance, has there been any shift in catch (annually/seasonally) inshore/offshore or north/south? If so, please describe.
- Has the size of the fish that you typically encounter changed? If so, could you briefly describe the trend?
- Have you noticed any unique effects of environmental conditions on gray triggerfish? If so, please describe.
- What are your observations on the timing and length of the gray triggerfish spawning season in your area (time periods when fish are observed with large ovaries or eggs spilling out externally or while venting)?
- What do you see now in terms of recruitment? Where are the small fish? Are large and small fish found in the same locations?
- Have you observed changes in catch depth or apparent bottom type fished on?
- How have sea conditions (monthly/seasonally) affected fishable days?
- Have you noticed any change in the species caught with gray triggerfish over the years or seasonally?

6) Other:

- What else is important for the Council to know about gray triggerfish?