

OFL and ABC values recommended by the SSC, and date of actions.

FMP	CMPLX	ABC Status	Stock	OFL	ABC	ABC Date	ABC for YR
CMP	0	4	Cobia	UNK	1,571,399	Apr-11	2012+
CMP	0	1	King Mackerel	12,835,900	10,950,000	Apr-10	<b>2011-2020</b>
CMP	0	2	spanish mackerel	unk	5,690,000	Apr-11	2012+
Coral/CEBA	0	4	Coral Fed + State	UNK	50,000	Aug-10	2012+
Dol-Wahoo	0	4	dolphin	11.4 mpds	14,596,216	Apr-11	2012+
Dol-Wahoo	0	4	wahoo	1,202,938	1,491,785	Apr-11	2012+
Gold Crab	0	4	golden crab	2,500,000	2,000,000	Aug-10	2012+
Sargassum	0	4	sargassum	UNK	5,000	Aug-10	2012+
Shrimp	0	4	brown shrimp	10.91 mpds	10,908,183	Apr-10	2011+
Shrimp	0	4	pink shrimp	2.70 mpds	2,691,072	Apr-10	2011+
Shrimp	0	4	rock shrimp	No landings avail		Apr-10	2011+
Shrimp	0	4	white shrimp	23.691 mpds	23,691,923	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	0	4	atlantic spadefish	UNK	282,841	Apr-11	2012+
Snap-Grp	0	3	bank sea bass	E	NA	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	0	3	bar jack	UNK	282,841	Apr-11	2011+
Snap-Grp	0	1	black grouper	818,959	610,482	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	0	1	black sea bass	Yield @ MFMT	RANGE	Nov-11	<b>2012-14</b>
Snap-Grp	0	4	blue runner	UNK	1,289,941	Apr-11	2011+
Snap-Grp	0	3	cottonwick	E	NA	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	0	1	gag grouper	Yield @ MFMT	885,000	Jun-09	<b>2010</b>
Snap-Grp	0	2	goliath grouper	UNK	0	Apr-11	2012+
Snap-Grp	0	4	gray triggerfish	UNK	672,565	Apr-11	2012+
Snap-Grp	0	2	greater amberjack	2,005,000	1,968,000	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	0	4	hogfish	UNK	147,638	Apr-11	2012+
Snap-Grp	0	3	longspine porgy	E	NA	Apr-11	2011+
Snap-Grp	0	2	mutton snapper	1,727,573	1,409,597	Aug-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	0	4	nassau grouper	UNK	0	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	0	3	ocean triggerfish	E	NA	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	0	1	red grouper	669,000	573,000	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	0	1	red porgy	UNK	395,281	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	0	1	red snapper	Yield at MFMT	range	Nov-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	0	3	rock sea bass	E	NA	Apr-11	2011+
Snap-Grp	0	4	scamp	UNK	492,572	Apr-11	2012+
Snap-Grp	0	3	schoolmaster	E	NA	Apr-11	2011+
Snap-Grp	0	1	snowy grouper	Yield @ MFMT	102,960	Dec-08	2010+
Snap-Grp	0	4	speckled hind	UNK	0	Jun-08	2010+
Snap-Grp	0	1	tilefish	TBD	668,000	Nov-11	<b>2012</b>
Snap-Grp	0	1	vermilion snapper	Yield @ MFMT	1,109,000	Jun-09	<b>2010</b>
Snap-Grp	0	4	warsaw grouper	UNK	0	Jun-08	2010+
Snap-Grp	0	4	wreckfish	UNK	235,000	Nov-11	2012+
Snap-Grp	0	2	yellowtail snapper	yield @ FMSY	2,898,500	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	1	3	black snapper	UNK	382	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	1	3	blackfin snapper	UNK	4,154	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	1	4	blueline tilefish	UNK	592,602	Apr-11	2011+
Snap-Grp	1	3	misty grouper	UNK	2,863	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	1	3	queen snapper	UNK	9,344	Apr-11	2011+
Snap-Grp	1	3	sand tilefish	UNK	8,823	Apr-11	2011+
Snap-Grp	1	4	silk snapper	UNK	27,519	Apr-11	2011+
Snap-Grp	1	4	yellowedge grouper	UNK	30,221	Apr-11	2011+
Snap-Grp	2	4	almaco jack	UNK	291,222	Nov-11	2011+
Snap-Grp	2	4	banded rudderfish	UNK	152,999	Apr-11	2011+
Snap-Grp	2	4	lesser amberjack	UNK	10,568	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	3	4	cupera snapper	UNK	31,772	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	3	3	dog snapper	UNK	7,523	Jun-09	2011+
Snap-Grp	3	4	gray snapper (mangrv)	UNK	894,019	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	3	4	lane snapper	UNK	153,466	Nov-11	2011+
Snap-Grp	3	3	mahogany snapper	UNK	160	Apr-11	2011+
Snap-Grp	4	3	margate	UNK	34,662	Apr-11	2011+
Snap-Grp	4	3	sailors choice	UNK	35,266	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	4	3	tomtate	UNK	70,948	Jun-09	2011+

Snap-Grp	4	4	white grunt	UNK	635,899	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	5	3	coney	UNK	2,589	Apr-11	2011+
Snap-Grp	5	3	graysby	UNK	17,856	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	5	4	red hind	UNK	25,885	Nov-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	5	4	rock hind	UNK	37,569	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	5	3	yellowfin grouper	UNK	9,258	Aug-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	5	3	yellowmout grouper	UNK	4,661	Nov-11	2011+
Snap-Grp	6	3	jolthead porgy	UNK	42,533	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	6	3	knobbed porgy	UNK	61,194	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	6	3	saucereye porgy	UNK	4,205	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	6	3	scup	UNK	8,999	Apr-10	2011+
Snap-Grp	6	3	whitebone porgy	UNK	30,684	Apr-10	2011+
Spiny Lob	0	2	spiny lobster	7,900,000	7,320,000	Apr-11	2011+

ABC Status

1: Assessed and P\*

2: assessed, no P\*

3: SSC April 2010 - ssc used medians, added back in by council, using 3rd highest and revised control rule

4: SSC April 2011 - 3rd highest or other evaluateon

ACTIONS BY FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

# Snapper Grouper

## I. Reorganization of Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit (FMU)

### (1. Removing Species from Unit)

The South Atlantic Council manages 73 species in the Snapper Grouper FMU. Most of these fish represent a small portion of the overall catch, or are mostly caught in state waters. Therefore, the Council is proposing a re-organization of the snapper grouper complex using the following three methods: (1) removing species from the complex, (2) designation of ecosystem component species, and (3) grouping species together for management purposes. The species highlighted below would be removed from the complex under the current preferred alternatives.

	Snappers	Groupers	Grunts	Jacks
Removal	Blackfin	Black	Black margate	Almaco
	Black	Coney	Blue-striped	B. rudderfish
	Cubera	Gag	Cottonwick	Bar jack
	Dog	Goliath	French	Blue runner
	Gray	Graysby	Margate	Crevalle
	Lane	Misty	Porkfish	G. amberjack
	Mahogany	Nassau	Sailors choice	L. amberjack
	Queen	Red	Smallmouth	Yellow
	Red	Red hind	Spanish	<b>Porgys</b>
	Schoolmaster	Rock hind	Tomtate	Grass
	Silk	Scamp	White	Jolthead
	Vermilion	Snowy	<b>Triggerfish</b>	Knobbed
	Yellowtail	Speckled hind	Gray	Longspine
	Mutton	Tiger	Ocean	Red
	<b>Tilefishes</b>	Warsaw	Queen	Saucereye
	Blueline	Yellowedge	<b>Sea basses</b>	Scup
	Sand	Yellowfin	Bank	Sheepshead
	Tilefish	Yellowmouth	Black	Whitebone
	<b>Spadefishes</b>	<b>Wreckfish</b>	Rock	<b>Wrasses</b>
	A. spadefish	Wreckfish		Hogfish
			Puddingwife	

 = Species to be Removed

The preferred alternative would remove species based on the following criteria:

- (1) 95% (or greater) of landings in state waters\*
- (2) If managed under the Florida Marine Life Rule
- (3) Zero reported landings from 2005-2009

\*Except mutton snapper and hogfish

### Will those species removed have less biological protection?

If species are removed from the FMU, federal regulations would no longer apply when caught in federal waters.

Most of these species have little management in federal waters. State regulations would continue to apply when caught in state waters.

Depending on the species removed, there would be no effects to the stocks or little potential for negative effects. Many of these fish to be removed are primarily caught in state waters so removing federal regulations would be expected to cause little to no effect.

A comparison of the effects for all the alternatives for actions considered can be found in Section 2 of the amendment.

# I. Reorganization of Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit (FMU)

## (2. Ecosystem Component Species)

In addition to removing species (those highlighted) in the previous action, the South Atlantic Council is proposing designation of some species as Ecosystem Component (EC) species. The EC species would be retained in the Snapper Grouper FMU, but would not have a specification for ACLs, AMs, or management measures such as bag limits and size limits. The Council is also proposing grouping many of the remaining species into six complexes (see next action).

Ecosystem	Snappers	Groupers	Grunts	Jacks
	Blackfin	Black	Black margate	Almaco
	Black	Coney	Blue-striped	B. rudderfish
	Cubera	Gag	Cottonwick	Bar jack
	Dog	Goliath	French	Blue runner
	Gray	Graysby	Margate	Crevalle
	Lane	Misty	Porkfish	G. amberjack
	Mahogany	Nassau	Sailors choice	L. amberjack
	Queen	Red	Smallmouth	Yellow
	Red	Red hind	Spanish	<b>Porgys</b>
	Schoolmaster	Rock hind	Tomtate	Grass
	Silk	Scamp	White	Jolthead
	Vermilion	Snowy	<b>Triggerfish</b>	Knobbed
	Yellowtail	Speckled hind	Gray	Longspine
	Mutton	Tiger	Ocean	Red
	<b>Tilefishes</b>	Warsaw	Queen	Saucereye
	Blueline	Yellowedge	<b>Sea basses</b>	Scup
	Sand	Yellowfin	Bank	Sheepshead
	Tilefish	Yellowmouth	Black	Whitebone
<b>Spadefishes</b>	<b>Wreckfish</b>	<b>Rock</b>	<b>Wrasses</b>	
A. spadefish	Wreckfish		Hogfish	
			Puddingwife	

 = Species to be Removed

 = Species to be designated as Ecosystem Component Species

The National Standard 1 (NS 1) guidelines pertaining to ecosystem component species (74 FR 3178; Section 50 CFR 600.310 (d) (5) (i)) indicate a species should meet four criteria to be considered for possible classification as an EC species:

- (1) Be a non-target species or non-target stock;
- (2) not be determined to be subject to overfishing, approaching overfished, or overfished;
- (3) not be likely to become subject to overfishing or overfished, according to the best available information, in the absence of conservation and management measures; and
- (4) not generally be retained for sale or personal use.

The preferred alternative would designate species that meet three out of four criteria outlined in the NS 1 guidelines as ecosystem component species.

# I. Reorganization of Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit (FMU)

## (3. Grouping Species)

The South Atlantic Council is proposing grouping the species into six complexes. The species to be removed and those to be designated as ecosystem component species are highlighted brown and green, respectively. Ecosystem component species would be retained in the Snapper Grouper FMU, but would not have a specification for ACL, AM, or management measures such as bag limits and size limits.

**The preferred alternative would group species based on species associations using one or more of the following criteria:**

1. life history;
2. catch statistics from commercial logbook and observer data; and
3. recreational headboat logbook, private/charter survey, and fishery-independent MARMAP data.

Snappers	Groupers	Grunts	Jacks
Blackfin	Black	Black margate	Almaco
Black	Coney	Blue-striped	B. rudderfish
Cubera	Gag	Cottonwick	Bar jack
Dog	Goliath	French	Blue runner
Gray	Graysby	Margate	Crevalle
Lane	Misty	Porkfish	G. amberjack
Mahogany	Nassau	Sailors choice	L. amberjack
Queen	Red	Smallmouth	Yellow
Red	Red hind	Spanish	<b>Porgys</b>
Schoolmaster	Rock hind	Tomtate	Grass
Silk	Scamp	White	Jolthead
Vermilion	Snowy	<b>Triggerfish</b>	Knobbed
Yellowtail	Speckled hind	Gray	Longspine
Mutton	Tiger	Ocean	Red
<b>Tilefishes</b>	Warsaw	Queen	Saucereye
Blueline	Yellowedge	<b>Sea basses</b>	Scup
Sand	Yellowfin	Bank	Sheepshead
Tilefish	Yellowmouth	Black	Whitebone
<b>Spadefishes</b>	<b>Wreckfish</b>	Rock	<b>Wrasses</b>
A. spadefish	Wreckfish		Hogfish
			Puddingwife

**The Remaining Species Would Not Be Grouped**

Atlantic spadefish  
 Bar jack  
 Black grouper  
 Black sea bass  
 Blue runner  
 Gag  
 Golden tilefish  
 Goliath grouper  
 Gray triggerfish  
 Greater amberjack  
 Hogfish  
 Mutton snapper  
 Nassau grouper  
 Red grouper  
 Scamp  
 Snowy grouper  
 Speckled hind  
 Red porgy  
 Red snapper  
 Vermilion snapper  
 Warsaw grouper  
 Wreckfish  
 Yellowtail snapper

## Groupings

**Complex 1 Deepwater**  
 Black snapper  
 Blackfin snapper  
 Blueline tilefish  
 Misty grouper  
 Queen snapper  
 Sand tilefish  
 Silk snapper  
 Yellowedge grouper

**Complex 2 Jacks**  
 Almaco jack  
 Banded rudderfish  
 Lesser amberjack

**Complex 3 Snappers**  
 Cubera snapper  
 Dog snapper  
 Gray snapper  
 Lane snapper  
 Mahogany snapper

**Complex 4 Grunts**  
 Margate  
 Tomtate  
 Sailors choice  
 White grunt

**Complex 5 Shallow-water Groupers**  
 Coney  
 Graysby  
 Red hind  
 Rock hind  
 Yellowfin grouper  
 Yellowmouth grouper

**Complex 6 Porgies**  
 Jolthead porgy  
 Knobbed porgy  
 Saucereye porgy  
 Scup  
 Whitebone porgy

## PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

		Definition	Value (lbs whole weight)
Overfishing Level (OFL)		unknown	
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)		bt: Highest pre-2006 landings x 2	bt: 592,602
		bf, bs, mg, qs, st: 3 <sup>rd</sup> highest landings 1999-2008	bs: 382 bf: 4,154 mg: 2,863 qs: 9,344 st: 8,823
		ss, yg: Median landings 1999-2008	ss: 27,519 yg: 30,221
Allocations		(50% X average of 1986-2008) + (50% X average of 2006-2008)	bs: 91.52% comm.; 8.48%rec. bf:31.68% comm.; 68.32%rec. bt:47.39% comm.; 52.61%rec. mg:70.91%comm.; 29.09%rec. qs:93.12% comm.; 6.88%rec. st:16.22% comm.; 83.78%rec. ss:73.14% comm.; 26.86%rec. yg:96.19% comm.; 3.81%rec.
Complex Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Optimum Yield (OY)		ACL=OY=ABC	343,869 comm. 332,039 rec.
Accountability Measures	Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT)	Recreational ACT= ACL*(1-PSE) or ACL*0.5, whichever is greater	205,516
	In-season	<b>Comm.:</b> If the commercial complex ACL is met or projected to be met, all purchase and sale of species in the complex is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit.	
	Post-season	<b>Comm.:</b> If the commercial sector complex ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries Service in the Southeast Region shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial sector complex ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage only if at least one of the species is overfished.  <b>Rec.:</b> If the rec. sector complex ACL is exceeded, the following year's landings would be monitored in-season for persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator will publish a notice to reduce the length of the fishing season as necessary.	

### Complex 1 Deepwater

- Black snapper (bs)
- Blackfin snapper (bf)
- Blueline tilefish (bt)
- Misty grouper (mg)
- Queen snapper (qs)
- Sand tilefish (st)
- Silk snapper (ss)
- Yellowedge grouper (yg)

**How would the groupings work?**

The ACL for each species in a complex is totaled for one complex ACL. The total ACL will be the trigger for the AM. In other words, when reported landings are expected to exceed the complex ACL in a given fishing season, action will be taken.

**PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES**

		Definition	Value (lbs whole weight)
<b>Overfishing Level (OFL)</b>		unknown	
<b>Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)</b>		3 <sup>RD</sup> highest landings 1999-2008	aj: 291,922 br: 152,999 la: 10,568
<b>Allocations</b>		(50% X average of 1986-2008) + (50% X average of 2006-2008)	aj: 51.53% comm.; 48.47%rec. br: 25.25% comm.; 74.75%rec. la: 46.62% comm.; 53.38%rec.
<b>Complex Annual Catch Limit (ACL) &amp; Optimum Yield (OY)</b>		ACL=OY=ABC	193,999 comm. 261,490 rec.
<b>Accountability Measures</b>	<b>Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT)</b>	Recreational ACT= ACL*(1-PSE) or ACL*0.5, whichever is greater	186,972
	<b>In-season</b>	<b>Comm.:</b> If the commercial complex ACL is met or projected to be met, all purchase and sale of species in the complex is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit.	
	<b>Post-season</b>	<b>Comm.:</b> If the commercial sector complex ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries Service in the Southeast Region shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial sector complex ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage only if at least one of the species is overfished.  <b>Rec.:</b> If the rec. sector complex ACL is exceeded, the following year's landings would be monitored in-season for persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator will publish a notice to reduce the length of the fishing season as necessary.	

**Complex 2  
Jacks**

Almaco jack  
(aj)  
Banded rudderfish  
(br)  
Lesser amberjack  
(la)

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

		Definition	Value (lbs whole weight)
Overfishing Level (OFL)		unknown	
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)	3 <sup>RD</sup> highest landings 1999-2008	cs: 31,772	
		ds: 7,523	
		gs: 894,019	
		ls: 153,466	
		ms: 160	
Allocations		(50% X average of 1986-2008) + (50% X average of 2006-2008)	cs: 19.75% comm.; 80.25% rec. ds: 9.41% comm.; 90.59% rec. gs: 20.00% comm.; 80.00% rec. ls: 12.21% comm.; 87.79% rec. ms: 5.05% comm.; 94.95% rec.
Complex Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Optimum Yield (OY)		ACL=OY=ABC	204,552 comm. 882,388 rec.
Accountability Measures	Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT)	Recreational ACT= ACL*(1-PSE) or ACL*0.5, whichever is greater	775,001
	In-season	<b>Comm.:</b> If the commercial complex ACL is met or projected to be met, all purchase and sale of species in the complex is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit.	
	Post-season	<b>Comm.:</b> If the commercial sector complex ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries Service in the Southeast Region shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial sector complex ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage only if at least one of the species is overfished.  <b>Rec.:</b> If the rec. sector complex ACL is exceeded, the following year's landings would be monitored in-season for persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator will publish a notice to reduce the length of the fishing season as necessary.	

**Complex 3 Snappers**

- Cubera snapper (cs)
- Dog snapper (ds)
- Gray snapper (gs)
- Lane snapper (ls)
- Mahogany snapper (ms)



PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

		Definition	Value (lbs whole weight)
Overfishing Level (OFL)		unknown	
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)	3 <sup>RD</sup> highest landings 1999-2008	mg, tt, sc:	mg: 34,662
			tt: 70,948
			sc: 35,266
	Wg: Median landings 1999-2008	wg: 635,899	
Allocations		(50% X average of 1986-2008) + (50% X average of 2006-2008)	mg:19.83% comm.; 80.17%rec. tt:0.00% comm.; 100.00%rec. sc: 0.00% comm.; 100.00%rec. wg: 32.67% comm.; 67.33%rec.
Complex Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Optimum Yield (OY)		ACL=OY=ABC	214,624 comm. 562,151 rec.
Accountability Measures	Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT)	Recreational ACT= ACL*(1-PSE) or ACL*0.5, whichever is greater	466,864
	In-season	<b>Comm.:</b> If the commercial complex ACL is met or projected to be met, all purchase and sale of species in the complex is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit.	
	Post-season	<b>Comm.:</b> If the commercial sector complex ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries Service in the Southeast Region shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial sector complex ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage only if at least one of the species is overfished.  <b>Rec.:</b> If the rec. sector complex ACL is exceeded, the following year's landings would be monitored in-season for persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator will publish a notice to reduce the length of the fishing season as necessary.	

**Complex 4  
Grunts**

Margate (mg)  
Tomtate (tt)  
Sailors choice (sc)  
White grunt (wg)

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

		Definition	Value (lbs whole weight)
Overfishing Level (OFL)		unknown	
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)		3 <sup>RD</sup> highest landings 1999-2008	cg: 2,589
			gg: 17,856
			rh: 25,885
			ro: 37,569
			yg: 9,258
		ym: 4,661	
Allocations		(50% X average of 1986-2008) + (50% X average of 2006-2008)	cg:23.26%comm.; 76.74%rec. gg: 14.48% comm.; 85.52%rec. rh:73.28% comm.; 26.72%rec. ro:62.54%comm.; 37.46%rec. yg: 40.78% comm.; 59.22%rec. ym:1.35% comm.; 98.65%rec.
Complex Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Optimum Yield (OY)		ACL=OY=ABC	49,488 comm. 48,329 rec.
Accountability Measures	Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT)	Recreational ACT= ACL*(1-PSE) or ACL*0.5, whichever is greater	33,082
	In-season	<b>Comm.:</b> If the commercial complex ACL is met or projected to be met, all purchase and sale of species in the complex is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit.	
	Post-season	<b>Comm.:</b> If the commercial sector complex ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries Service in the Southeast Region shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial sector complex ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage only if at least one of the species is overfished.  <b>Rec.:</b> If the rec. sector complex ACL is exceeded, the following year's landings would be monitored in-season for persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator will publish a notice to reduce the length of the fishing season as necessary.	

**Complex 5  
Shallow-water  
Groupers**

Coney (cg)  
Graysby (gg)  
Red hind (rh)  
Rock hind (ro)  
Yellowfin grouper (yg)  
Yellowmouth grouper (ym)

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

		Definition	Value (lbs whole weight)
Overfishing Level (OFL)		unknown	
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)		3 <sup>RD</sup> highest landings 1999-2008	jp: 42,533
			kp: 61,194
			sp: 4,205
			cp: 8,999
			wp: 30,684
Allocations		(50% X average of 1986-2008) + (50% X average of 2006-2008)	jp:4.05%comm.; 95.95%rec. kp: 54.12% comm.; 45.88%rec. sp:0.01% comm.; 99.99%rec. cp:0.00%comm.; 100.00%rec. wp: 0.96% comm.; 99.04%rec.
Complex Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Optimum Yield (OY)		ACL=OY=ABC	35,129 comm. 112,485 rec.
Accountability Measures	Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT)	Recreational ACT= ACL*(1-PSE) or ACL*0.5, whichever is greater	74,933
	In-season	<b>Comm.:</b> If the commercial complex ACL is met or projected to be met, all purchase and sale of species in the complex is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit.	
	Post-season	<b>Comm.:</b> If the commercial sector complex ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries Service in the Southeast Region shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial sector complex ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage only if at least one of the species is overfished.  <b>Rec.:</b> If the rec. sector complex ACL is exceeded, the following year's landings would be monitored in-season for persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator will publish a notice to reduce the length of the fishing season as necessary.	

## Complex 6 Porgies

Jolthead porgy (jp)  
Knobbed porgy (kp)  
Saucereye porgy (sp)  
Scup (cp)  
Whitebone porgy (wp)

# Individual Species (Those Not Grouped)

## The Remaining Species Would Not Be Grouped

Atlantic spadefish  
Bar jack  
Black grouper  
Black sea bass  
Blue runner  
Gag  
Golden tilefish  
Goliath grouper  
Gray triggerfish  
Greater amberjack  
Hogfish  
Mutton snapper  
Nassau grouper  
Red grouper  
Red porgy  
Red snapper  
Scamp  
Snowy grouper  
Speckled hind  
Vermilion snapper  
Warsaw grouper  
Wreckfish  
Yellowtail snapper

## NOT specifying ACLs/AM in this amendment (done in Amendments 17A & 17B, will be done in Amendment 24)

Black sea bass  
Gag  
Golden tilefish  
Red grouper  
Red snapper  
Snowy grouper  
Speckled hind  
Vermilion snapper  
Warsaw grouper

## Specifying ACLs/AMs in this amendment for ungrouped species

Atlantic spadefish  
Bar jack  
Black grouper  
Blue runner  
Goliath  
Gray triggerfish  
Greater amberjack  
Hogfish  
Mutton snapper  
Nassau  
Red porgy  
Scamp  
Wreckfish  
Yellowtail snapper

Note: Black grouper ABC values are included in Action 13 (36.88% comm. & 63.12% rec.). Yellowtail and mutton snapper ABCs are based on jurisdictional allocations shown in Actions 18 & 19, respectively.  
Warsaw = 17.79% comm. & 82.21% rec.; Speckled hind = 65.59% comm. & 34.41% rec.; Goliath = 43.77% comm. & 56.23% rec.; Nassau = 9.52% comm. & 90.48% rec.; and Red snapper = 28.07% com. & 71.93% rec.

*For red grouper, AMs will not be specified in this amendment; they will be specified in Amendment 24. Also, non-ABC black grouper actions and wreckfish actions are outlined in the next section. Red porgy's recreational ACL is included in this amendment; the commercial ACL has already*

	Atlantic Spadefish	Bar Jack	Blue Runner	Gray Triggerfish	Greater Amberjack (assessed)	Hogfish	Goliath & Nassau	Scamp	Red Porgy <sup>2</sup> (assessed)	Yellowtail Snapper (assessed)	Mutton Snapper (assessed)
<b>Overfishing Level (OFL)</b>	Unknown										
<b>Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)</b>	282,841	20,520	1,289,941	672,565	1,968,000	147,638	0	492,572	395,304	2,173,875	926,600
<b>Allocations<sup>1</sup></b>	12.90% comm. 87.10% rec.	32.58% comm. 67.42% rec.	14.60% comm. 85.40% rec.	45.39% comm. 54.61% rec.	40.66% comm. 59.34% rec.	33.03% comm. 66.97% rec.	See note above	69.36% comm. 30.64% rec.	50.00% comm. 50.00% rec.	52.56% comm. 47.44% rec.	17.02% comm. 82.98% rec.
<b>Annual Catch Limit (ACL) &amp; Optimum Yield (OY)</b>	ACL=OY=ABC										
	36,476 comm. 246,365 rec.	6,686 comm. 13,834 rec.	188,329 comm. 1,101,612 rec.	305,262 comm. 367,303 rec.	800,163 comm. 1,167,837 rec.	48,772 comm. 98,866 rec.	0	341,636 comm. 150,936 rec.	197,652 comm. 197,652 rec.	1,142,589 comm. 1,031,286 rec.	157,707 comm. 768,893 rec.
<b>Rec. Annual Catch Target (ACT)</b>	177,382	9,936	892,305	312,208	992,662	71,184	n/a	96,599	160,098	897,219	668,937
<b>Accountability Measures</b>	<p><b>Comm.:</b> If the commercial sector ACL is met or projected to be met, all purchase and sale is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit. If the commercial sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial sector ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage only if the species is overfished.</p> <p><b>Rec.:</b> If the rec. sector ACL is exceeded, the following year's landings would be monitored in-season for persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator will publish a notice to reduce the length of the fishing season as necessary.</p>										

<sup>1</sup>Allocations are determined through the following equation: (50% X average of 1986-2008) + (50% X average of 2006-2008).

<sup>2</sup>Commercial quota (ACL) in place for red porgy of 190,050 lbs gutted weight (197,652 lbs whole weight).

# Snapper Grouper Species All Alternatives

## Accountability Measures

	No.	Definition
<b>Overfishing Level (OFL)</b>		Unknown
<b>Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)</b>	1	No Action
	2	ABC=OFL
	3	Unassessed sp. (% OFL or median landings 99-08)
	3a	ABC=65%OFL
	3b	ABC=75%OFL
	3c	ABC=85%OFL
	3d	ABC=95%OFL
	4	Assessed sp.
	4a	ABC=65%MFMT
	4b	ABC=75%MFMT
	4c	ABC=85%MFMT
	5	Assessed sp. - SAFMC SSC Control Rule; Unassessed sp. - ABC=median landings 99-08
	6	Assessed sp. - SAFMC SSC Control Rule; Unassessed sp. - GMFMC SSC Control Rule
	7	Assessed sp. - SAFMC SSC Control Rule; Unassessed sp. - SAFMC SSC Control Rule
<b>Allocations</b>	1	No Action
	2	2 sectors: 50%(86-08)+50%(06-08)
	3	3 sectors: 50%(86-08)+50%(06-08)
	4	2 sectors: 86-08
	5	2 sectors: 86-98
	6	2 sectors: 99-08
	7	2 sectors: 06-08 <b>*All calculations based on averages*</b>
<b>Annual Catch Limit (ACL) &amp; Optimum Yield (OY)</b>	1	No Action
	2	ACL=OY=ABC
	3	ACL=OY=90%ABC
	4	ACL=OY=80%ABC

<b>Commercial Sector</b>		No.	Definition
<b>Accountability Measures</b>		1	No action
	<b>Annual Catch Target (ACT)</b>	2a 2b 2c	No ACT 90%ACL 80%ACL
	<b>In-season</b>	3	Close fishery if ACL met or projected to be met
	<b>Post-season</b>	4	Reduce ACL by overage only if species is overfished

<b>Recreational Sector</b>		No.	Definition
<b>Accountability Measures</b>		1	No action
	<b>Annual Catch Target (ACT)</b>	2a 2b 2c 2d	No ACT 85%ACL 75%ACL ACL*(1-PSE) or ACL*0.5, whichever is greater
	<b>AM Trigger</b>	3a 3b 3c 3d 3e	No AM trigger. If annual landings > ACL If mean landings > ACL If modified mean > ACL If lower bound of 90% confidence interval of mean landings (MRFSS + headboat) > ACL
	<b>In-season</b>	4a 4b	No in-season AM Close fishery if ACL met
	<b>Post-season</b>	5a 5b 5c 5d	No post-season AM Use 3-year mean Monitor following year Monitor following year/shorten season as necessary
		5e 5f 5g	Monitor following year/reduce bag limit as necessary Shorten following season Reduce ACL by overage

Snapper-Grouper Amendment 17B Excerpt

Table S-1. Overfishing Level (OFL) and Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Recommendations from SSC, Including the Annual Catch Limits In Place and Proposed In Amendment 17B.

Species	OFL Recommendation from SSC	ABC Recommendation from SSC	ACLs In Place	ACLs In Preferred Alternatives in 17B
Black grouper	None specified	None specified	None in place	Comm Aggregate ACL (black, red, & gag) = 662,403 lbs gw Rec Aggregate ACL = 648,663 lbs gw
Black sea bass	OFL = Yield at MFMT	ABC = rebuilding plan = 847,000 lbs ww or 717,797 lbs gw	309,000 lbs gw (comm.) 409,000 lbs gw (rec.)	No change proposed
Gag	OFL = Yield at MFMT	805,000 lbs gw (landed catch); 885,000 lbs gw (total kill)	353,940 lbs gw (comm.) 340,060 lbs gw (rec.)	<u>KEEP</u> 353,940 lbs gw (comm.) 340,060 lbs gw (rec.) <u>IN ADDITION</u> Comm Aggregate ACL (black, red, & gag) = 662,403 lbs gw Rec Aggregate ACL = 648,663 lbs gw
Golden tilefish	None specified	None specified	331,000 lbs ww (comm.) 295,000 lbs gw (comm.) (F <sub>MSY</sub> level)	282,819 lbs gw (comm.) 1,578 fish (rec)
Red grouper	None specified	None specified	None in place	Comm Aggregate ACL (black, red, & gag) = 662,403 lbs gw Rec Aggregate ACL = 648,663 lbs gw
Snowy grouper	OFL = Yield at MFMT	ABC = rebuilding plan = 102,960 lbs ww or 87,254 lbs gw	82,900 lbs gw (comm.) 523 fish (rec)	No change proposed
Speckled hind	SSC Recommendation=Unknown	0 (landings only)	None in place	0 (landings only) comm. and rec.
Vermilion snapper	None specified	1,078,000 lbs ww (landed catch); 1,109,000 lbs ww (total kill)	315,523 lb gw (Jan-June) (comm.) 302,523 lbs gw (July-Dec) (comm.) 307,315 lbs gw (rec.)=TOTAL <b>925,361 lbs gw</b>	No change proposed
Warsaw grouper	SSC Recommendation=Unknown	0 (landings only)	None in place	0 (landings only) comm. and rec.

### 3. Rebuilding Schedule

- Proposed Actions in Amendment 24**
1. Maximum Sustainable Yield
  2. Minimum Stock Size Threshold
  - 3. Rebuilding Schedule**
  4. Rebuilding Strategy and Acceptable Biological Catch
  5. Allocations
  6. Annual Catch Limits and Optimum Yield
  7. Commercial ACT
  8. Recreational ACT
  9. Commercial AMs
  10. Recreational AMs

Alternatives	Definition
Alternative 1 (No Action)	Do not implement a rebuilding plan for red grouper. There currently is not a rebuilding plan for red grouper. Snapper Grouper Amendment 4 (regulations effective January 1992) implemented a 15-year rebuilding plan beginning in 1991, which expired in 2006.
Alternative 2	Define a rebuilding schedule as the shortest possible period to rebuild in the absence of fishing mortality ( $T_{MIN}$ ). This would equal <u>3 years</u> with the rebuilding time period ending in 2013. 2011 is Year 1.
Alternative 3	Define a rebuilding schedule intermediate between the shortest possible and maximum recommended period to rebuild. This would equal <u>7 years</u> with the rebuilding time period ending in 2017. 2011 is Year 1.
Alternative 4	Define a rebuilding schedule of <u>8 years</u> with the rebuilding time period ending in 2018. 2011 is Year 1.
Alternative 5 (Preferred)	<b>Define a rebuilding schedule as the maximum period allowed to rebuild (<math>T_{MAX}</math>). This would equal <u>10 years</u> with the rebuilding time period ending in 2020. 2011 is Year 1.</b>



**Impacts**

**Biological:** Preferred Alternative 5 would take the longest time period to rebuild the red grouper stock. A longer rebuilding schedule would, in general: 1) offer lower beneficial impacts to the biological environment, 2) allow the stock to be harvested at higher rates as it rebuilds, and 3) increase the risk that environmental or other factors could prevent the stock from recovering.

**Economic:** Preferred Alternative 5 would provide the least restrictive management measures over the rebuilding timeframe. The degree of short-term adverse economic consequences would vary according to the restrictiveness of management measures. It can be expected that future benefits would accrue soonest under **Alternative 1 (No Action)** and latest under the preferred alternative.

**Social:** Generally, the shorter the rebuilding schedule, the more severe the necessary harvest restrictions and the greater the short-term adverse effects associated with business failure, job or living dislocations, and overall adjustments for the social environment. Preferred Alternative 5 would be expected to allow the greatest flexibility to recover red grouper and minimize the adverse social and economic effects on associated fisheries.

## 4. Rebuilding Strategy and ABC

The South Atlantic Council is proposing the implementation of a rebuilding plan for red grouper as the stock is overfished. The Council is considering a range of rebuilding strategy alternatives that define the maximum fishing mortality rate throughout the rebuilding timeframe. The table below summarizes the alternatives.

### Proposed Actions in Amendment 24

1. Maximum Sustainable Yield
2. Minimum Stock Size Threshold
3. Rebuilding Schedule
- 4. Rebuilding Strategy and Acceptable Biological Catch**
5. Allocations
6. Annual Catch Limits and Optimum Yield
7. Commercial ACT
8. Recreational ACT
9. Commercial AMs
10. Recreational AMs

Alternatives	Rebuilding strategy (F <sub>OY</sub> Equal To)		ABC (lbs whole weight) Landings & Discards	ABC (lbs whole weight) Landings (Preferred)
	Scenario	F rate		
Alternative 1 (No Action)	F <sub>45%SPR</sub>	0.1055	399,000 (2011)	374,000 (2011)
			468,000 (2012)	442,000 (2012)
			537,000 (2013)	511,000 (2013)
			602,000 (2014)	575,000 (2014)
Alternative 2	F <sub>REBUILD</sub> (10 years)	0.181	665,000 (2011)	622,000 (2011)
			737,000 (2012)	693,000 (2012)
			806,000 (2013)	762,000 (2013)
			866,000 (2014)	822,000 (2014)
Alternative 3 (Preferred)	75%F <sub>MSY</sub>	0.166	613,000 (2011)	<b>573,000 (2011)</b>
			687,000 (2012)	<b>647,000 (2012)</b>
			759,000 (2013)	<b>718,000 (2013)</b>
			821,000 (2014)	<b>780,000 (2014)</b>
Alternative 4	65%F <sub>MSY</sub>	0.144	535,000 (2011)	501,000 (2011)
			610,000 (2012)	575,000 (2012)
			683,000 (2013)	648,000 (2013)
			749,000 (2014)	713,000 (2014)
Alternative 5	F <sub>REBUILD</sub> (7 years)	0.157	583,000 (2011)	545,000 (2011)
			657,000 (2012)	619,000 (2012)
			730,000 (2013)	691,000 (2013)
			794,000 (2014)	755,000 (2014)
Alternative 6	F <sub>REBUILD</sub> (8 years)	0.168	620,000 (2011)	580,000 (2011)
			695,000 (2012)	654,000 (2012)
			765,000 (2013)	724,000 (2013)
			828,000 (2014)	787,000 (2014)





**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Do not specify a rebuilding strategy for red grouper.

**Alternative 2.** Define a rebuilding strategy for red grouper that sets ABC equal to the yield at  $F_{REBUILD}$ .  $F_{REBUILD}$  is a fishing mortality rate that would have a 70% probability of rebuilding success to  $SSB_{MSY}$  in  $T_{MAX}$  (ten years for red grouper). Under this strategy, the fishery would have at least a 50% chance of rebuilding to  $SSB_{MSY}$  by 2017 and 70% chance of rebuilding to  $SSB_{MSY}$  by 2020.



**Alternative 3 (Preferred).** Define a rebuilding strategy for red grouper that sets ABC equal to the yield at  $75\%F_{MSY}$ . Under this strategy, the fishery would have at least a 50% chance of rebuilding to  $SSB_{MSY}$  by 2016 and 81% chance of rebuilding to  $SSB_{MSY}$  by 2020.

**Alternative 4.** Define a rebuilding strategy for red grouper that sets ABC equal to the yield at  $65\%F_{MSY}$ . Under this strategy, the fishery would have at least a 50% chance of rebuilding to  $SSB_{MSY}$  by 2016 and 92% chance of rebuilding to  $SSB_{MSY}$  by 2020.

**Alternative 5.** Define a rebuilding strategy for red grouper that sets ABC equal to the yield at  $F_{REBUILD}$ .  $F_{REBUILD}$  is a fishing mortality rate that would have a 70% probability of rebuilding success to  $SSB_{MSY}$  in 7 years. Under this strategy, the fishery would have at least a 48% chance of rebuilding to  $SSB_{MSY}$  by 2015 and 70% chance of rebuilding to  $SSB_{MSY}$  by 2017.

**Alternative 6.** Define a rebuilding strategy for red grouper that sets ABC equal to the yield at  $F_{REBUILD}$ .  $F_{REBUILD}$  is a fishing mortality rate that would have a 70% probability of rebuilding success to  $SSB_{MSY}$  in 8 years. Under this strategy, the fishery would have at least a 54% chance of rebuilding to  $SSB_{MSY}$  by 2016 and 70% chance of rebuilding to  $SSB_{MSY}$  by 2018.

A comparison of rebuilding strategy alternatives in terms of probability of stock recovery.

	Alternatives					
	1 (No Action)	2 $F_{REBUILD}$ (10 years)	3 $75\%F_{MSY}$ (Preferred)	4 $65\%F_{MSY}$	5 $F_{REBUILD}$ (7 years)	6 $F_{REBUILD}$ (8 years)
Probability of rebuilding to $SSB_{MSY}$ in <u>10 years</u> (2020)	n/a	70%	<b>81%</b>	92%	n/a	n/a
Probability of rebuilding to $SSB_{MSY}$ in <u>7 years</u> (2017)	n/a	54%	<b>64%</b>	78%	70%	n/a
Probability of rebuilding to $SSB_{MSY}$ in <u>8 years</u> (2018)	n/a	61%	<b>72%</b>	85%	n/a	70%
Year in which 50% probability of rebuilding to $SSB_{MSY}$ would be reached	2014 <sup>1</sup>	2017	<b>2016</b>	2016	2015 <sup>2</sup>	2016 <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Based upon a  $F_{30\%SPR}$  proxy for  $F_{MSY}$   
<sup>2</sup>A 48% probability of rebuilding  
<sup>3</sup>A 54% probability of rebuilding  
 NOTE: Alternatives 2-4 are based on a 70% probability of rebuilding success in 10 years. Alternative 5 is based on a 70% probability of rebuilding success in 7 years.  
 Alternative 6 is based on a 70% probability of rebuilding success in 8 years.