



# Amendment 51 Snowy Grouper

## Snapper Grouper AP April 2022

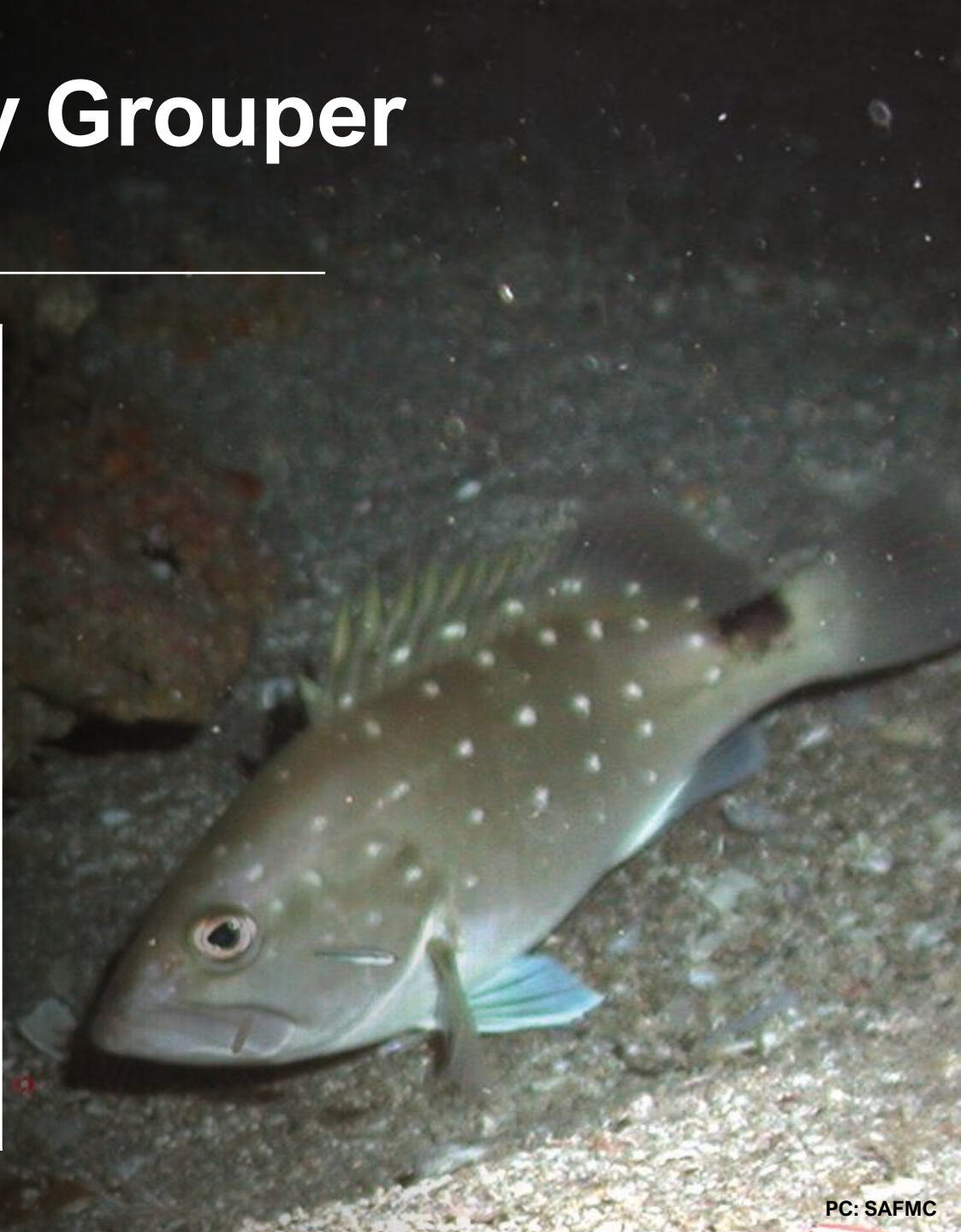
- Background
  - SEDAR 36 Update: overfished, experiencing overfishing
  - Existing 34-yr rebuilding plan in place
  - ~40% reduction in harvest needed
  - Amendment Scoping – February 2022





# Amendment 51 Snowy Grouper Timeline

March 2021	Reviewed SEDAR 36 Update results and direct staff to begin a plan amendment
September 2021	Review options paper and provide guidance to staff
October 2021	Obtain input from AP
December 2021	Review AP comments, review preliminary analyses, and approve for scoping
March 2022	Review scoping comments and make needed modifications
April 2022	<b>Obtain input from AP</b>
June 2022	Review modifications to the amendment, AP comments, select preferred alternatives, and approve for public hearings
July/August 2022	Conduct public hearings
September 2022	Review public hearing comments and approve all actions
December 2022	Review final draft amendment and consider approval for formal review





# Amendment 51 Snowy Grouper Actions

## 1. Revise ABC, ACL, and OY

Alternatives	ABC, total ACL, annual OY	Recreational landings data used
Alternative 1 (No Action)	ACL=OY=current ABC	MRIP-CHTS
<b>Alternative 2</b>	<b>ACL=OY=updated ABC</b>	<b>MRIP-FES</b>
Alternative 3	ACL=OY=95% updated ABC	MRIP-FES
Alternative 4	ACL=OY=90% updated ABC	MRIP-FES

## 2. Revise sector allocations and sector ACLs

Alternatives	Commercial/recreational allocation	Basis for allocation
Alternative 1 (No change)	83%/17%	Average landings from 1986-2005 used in Reg. Amendment 20
<b>Alternative 2</b>	<b>87.55%/12.45%</b>	<b>Updated Average landings from 1986-2005</b>
Alternative 3	73.36%/26.64%	Allocation formula





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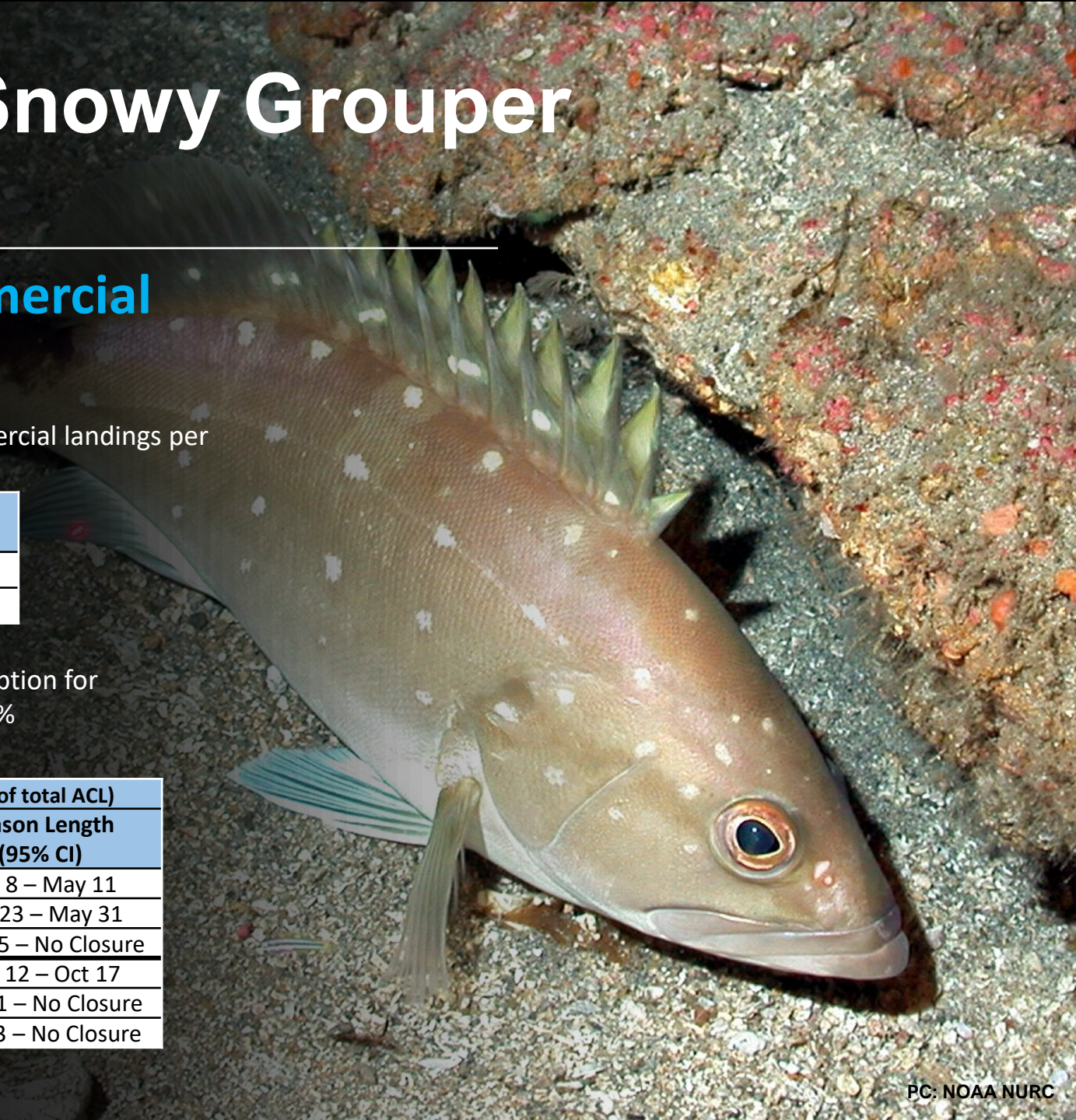
## 3. Reduce the snowy grouper commercial trip limit

**Table 9.** The predicted percent change in snowy grouper commercial landings per trip from reductions in the current 200-lb gw trip limit.

Current Trip Limit (lbs gw)	Potential Trip Limit (lbs gw)	Predicted Change in Landings
200-lb	150-lb	-16%
200-lb	100-lb	-38%

The projected closure dates in 2023 with each commercial ACL option for snowy grouper by season with different trip limit options and 95% confidence interval (CI).

Action 2 Sector ACL Alternative 2: Commercial ACL= 109,038 lbs gw (87.55% of total ACL)				
Season	ACL (lbs gw)	Trip Limit (lbs gw)	Closure Date	Season Length (95% CI)
January 1 – June 30	76,327	200	April 22	Apr 8 – May 11
January 1 – June 30	76,327	150	May 8	Apr 23 – May 31
January 1 – June 30	76,327	100	June 16	May 25 – No Closure
July 1 – December 31	32,711	200	August 27	Aug 12 – Oct 17
July 1 – December 31	32,711	150	September 11	Aug 21 – No Closure
July 1 – December 31	32,711	100	October 24	Sep 13 – No Closure





# Amendment 51 Snowy Grouper Actions

## 3. Reduce the snowy grouper commercial trip limit

Alternative	Trip Limit
Alternative 1 (no change)	200 lbs gw
Alternative 2	150 lbs gw
Alternative 3	100 lbs gw

### AP Action:

- Consider the preferred alternative
  - Does the AP still prefer this alternative?
- What are the pros/cons of a higher trip limit?
- Is there seasonality to the snowy grouper catch where you fish? What time of the year is most important in your area for targeting snowy?





# Amendment 51 Snowy Grouper Actions

## 4. Modify the recreational season

**Table 11.** Average number of snowy grouper landed by the recreational sector by wave from the South Atlantic from 2015 to 2019. The landings included trips reported from Monroe County, FL. The confidence interval was developed based on the standard deviation of the five years.

Wave	Average	Confidence Interval	Average Number Per Month
Jan-Feb	351	0 - 1,372	175.5
Mar-Apr	395	0 - 1,256	197.5
<b>May-Jun</b>	<b>2,354</b>	<b>0 - 5,520</b>	<b>1,177.0</b>
<b>Jul-Aug</b>	<b>1,674</b>	<b>138 - 3,210</b>	<b>837.0</b>
Sep-Oct	45	0 - 230	22.5
Nov-Dec	30	0 - 163	15.0

**Table 12.** The predicted recreational season length based on landings from 2015-2019 for each potential allocation scenario and the current recreational season of May 1st – August 31st. Allocations percentages applied to total ACL=ABC (Preferred Option 2 in Action 1).

Note: the current recreational season is shown as 2 waves in table 12.

Year	Recreational Allocation	Recreational ACL (numbers of fish)	Predicted Season Length*
<b>Action 2 Sector ACL Option 2</b>			
2023	12.45%	1,679	< 1 wave
2024		1,698	< 1 wave
2025		1,720	< 1 wave
2026		1,720	< 1 wave





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## 4. Modify the recreational season

Option	Wave Number	Recreational Season Length
Option 1 (no change)	Waves 3 and 4	May 1 - August 31
Option 2	Wave 3 only	May 1 - June 30
Option 3	Wave 4 only	July 1 - August 31

### AP Action:

- What recreational season does the AP think would be most appropriate?
- Do you have any suggestions for how to address regional differences in recreational access to snowy?





# Amendment 51 Snowy Grouper

## Actions **Removed** in March

### Previous Action 3. Establish a commercial spawning season closure

The Council removed this action based on the following rationale:

- MPAs already protect spawning fish
- Commercial quota closures already act as a spawning season
- Data collection during spawning could be advantageous

