SUMMARY
of the
COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL CATCH LIMIT AMENDMENT

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (South Atlantic Council) is developing actions for many species. The proposed actions are specified in the Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Amendment. The amendment is referred to as "comprehensive" as one document amends two or more fishery management plans; actions are taken in one document as the actions are similar in nature.

This document is intended to serve as a SUMMARY for all the actions and alternatives in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment. It outlines the alternatives with a focus on the preferred alternatives. It also provides background information and includes a summary of the expected biological and socio-economic effects from the management measures.

Table of Contents for the Summary

BACKGROUND

What Actions Are Being Proposed?

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (South Atlantic Council) is proposing, where applicable, the following actions for many managed species:

- changes to species compositions;
- control rules for acceptable biological catch;
- annual catch limits;
- annual catch targets;
- allocations; and,
- accountability measures

Who is Proposing Action?

The South Atlantic Council is proposing the actions. The South Atlantic Council develops the actions and submits them to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) who ultimately approves, disapproves, or partially approves the actions in the amendment on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce. NOAA Fisheries Service is an agency in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

- Responsible for conservation and management of fish stocks
- Consists of 13 voting members who are appointed by the Secretary of Commerce
- Management area is from 3 to 200 miles off the coasts of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida
- Develops fishery management plans and recommends actions to NMFS and NOAA for implementation

Where is the Project Located?

Management of the federal snapper grouper and golden crab fishery is located off the South Atlantic in the 3-200 nautical mile (nm) U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is conducted under the Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for Snapper Grouper and Golden Crab of the South Atlantic Region (SAFMC 1983 and 1995, respectively) (**Figure 1-1**). The dolphin wahoo fishery extends from Maine through the east coast of Florida, and is conducted under the FMP for Dolphin Wahoo of the Atlantic (SAFMC 2003). The FMP for pelagic *Sargassum* habitat in the South Atlantic Region (SAFMC 2002) prohibits harvest south of the North Carolina/South Carolina state boundary.

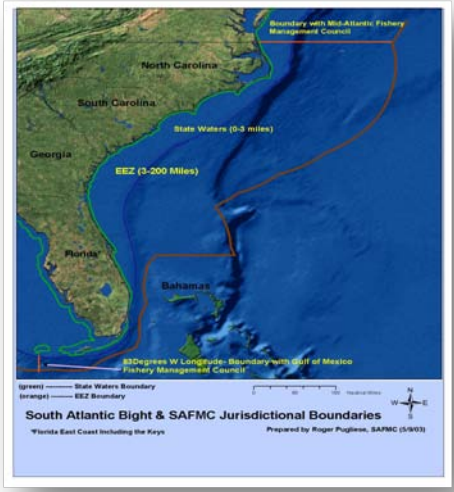


Figure 1-1. Jurisdictional boundaries of the South Atlantic Council.

Which Species Will Be Affected?

These actions would apply to species in the following fishery management plans:

- Snapper Grouper
- Dolphin Wahoo
- Golden Crab
- Sargassum

Why is the South Atlantic Council Considering Action?

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires the Regional Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Service to prevent overfishing while achieving optimum yield (OY) from each fishery. When it is determined a stock is undergoing overfishing, measures must be implemented to end overfishing. In cases where stocks are overfished, the Councils and NOAA Fisheries Service must implement rebuilding plans. Revisions to the Magnuson-Stevens Act in 2006 require that by 2010, FMPs for fisheries determined by the Secretary of Commerce to be subject to overfishing establish a mechanism for specifying ACLs at a level that prevents overfishing and does not exceed the recommendations of the respective Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) or other established peer review processes. These FMPs must also establish, within this timeframe, measures to ensure accountability. By 2011, FMPs for all other fisheries, except fisheries for species with annual life cycles, must meet these requirements. Amendments 17A and 17B to the Snapper Grouper FMP specified ACLs for species subject to overfishing. The South Atlantic Council is addressing the remaining species in this amendment, in addition to dolphin, wahoo, and golden crab.

CATERGORIES OF ACTIONS

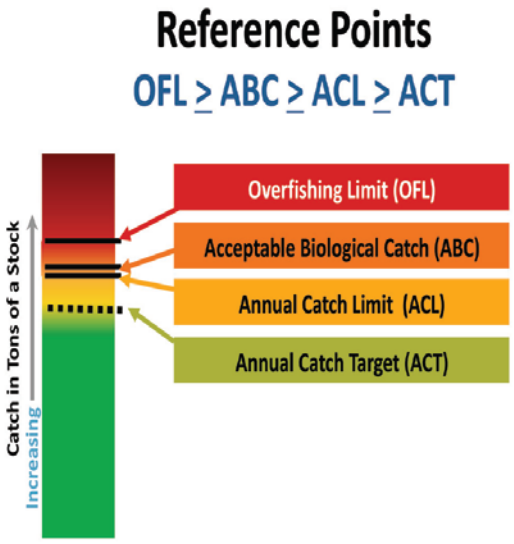
There are six categories of actions in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment.

Changes to Species Compositions

The South Atlantic Council is considering removing species from the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit in addition to designating ecosystem component species, and organizing species into complexes.

Control Rules for Acceptable Biological Catch

Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) is the range of estimated allowable catch for a species of species group. The *ABC Control Rule* is a policy for establishing a limit or target fishing level that is based on the best available scientific information and is established by fishery managers in consultation with fisheries scientists. Control rules should be designed so that management actions become more conservative as biomass estimates, or other proxies, for a stock or stock complex decline and as science and management uncertainty increases.



Allocations

Allocation is distribution of the opportunity to fish among user groups or individuals. The share a user group gets is sometimes based on historic harvest amounts.

Annual Catch Limits

Annual catch limit (ACL) is the level of catch that triggers accountability measures. It is expressed either in pounds or numbers of fish. The level may not exceed the Acceptable Biological Catch.

Annual Catch Targets

Annual catch target (ACT) is an amount of annual catch of a stock or stock complex that is the management target of the fishery, and accounts for management uncertainty in controlling the actual catch at or below the ACL. The ACTs are recommended in the system of accountability measures so that ACL is not exceeded, and may be considered as "soft targets" (do not trigger action).

Accountability Measures

Accountability measure (AM) is an action taken in order to avoid exceeding an identified catch level (usually the ACL). The following are four AMs: specification of an ACT, in-season regulations changes, post-season regulation changes, and specification of other management measures (e.g., bag limits).

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. The South Atlantic Council believes that federal management is not required. Therefore, it is considering a re-organization of the snapper grouper complex by 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.

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

Removal

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	**Porgys**
Schoolmaster	Rock hind	Tomtate	Grass
Silk	Scamp	White	Jolthead
Vermilion	Snowy	**Triggerfish**	Knobbed
Yellowtail	Speckled hind	Gray	Longspine
Mutton	Tiger	Ocean	Red
Tilefishes	Warsaw	Queen	Saucereye
Blueline	Yellowedge	**Sea basses**	Scup
Sand	Yellowfin	Bank	Sheepshead
Tilefish	Yellowmouth	Black	Whitebone
Spadefishes	**Wreckfish**	Rock	**Wrasses**
A. spadefish	Wreckfish		Hogfish
			Puddingwife

= Species to be Removed

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 Complex

(2. Ecosystem Component Species)

The South Atlantic Council is considering grouping the species into four complexes. The species to be removed are highlighted. 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.

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	**Porgys**
Schoolmaster	Rock hind	Tomtate	Grass
Silk	Scamp	White	Jolthead
Vermilion	Snowy	**Triggerfish**	Knobbed
Yellowtail	Speckled hind	Gray	Longspine
Mutton	Tiger	Ocean	Red
Tilefishes	Warsaw	Queen	Saucereye
Blueline	Yellowedge	**Sea basses**	Scup
Sand	Yellowfin	Bank	Sheepshead
Tilefish	Yellowmouth	Black	Whitebone
Spadefishes	**Wreckfish**	Rock	**Wrasses**
A. spadefish	Wreckfish		Hogfish
			Puddingwife

= Species to be Removed

= Species to be desginated 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)) indicates 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
(4) not generally be retained for sale or personal use

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

I. Reorganization of Snapper Grouper Complex

(3. Grouping Species)

The South Atlantic Council is considering 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.

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	**Porgys**
Schoolmaster	Rock hind	Tomtate	Grass
Silk	Scamp	White	Jolthead
Vermilion	Snowy	**Triggerfish**	Knobbed
Yellowtail	Speckled hind	Gray	Longspine
Mutton	Tiger	Ocean	Red
Tilefishes	Warsaw	Queen	Saucereye
Blueline	Yellowedge	**Sea basses**	Scup
Sand	Yellowfin	Bank	Sheepshead
Tilefish	Yellowmouth	Black	Whitebone
Spadefishes	**Wreckfish**	Rock	**Wrasses**
A. spadefish	Wreckfish		Hogfish
			Puddingwife

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 and private/charter survey, and fishery-independent MARMAP data.

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: Median 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: 92% comm.; 8%rec. bf:32% comm.; 68%rec. bt:47% comm.; 53%rec. mg:71% comm.; 29%rec. qs:93% comm.; 7%rec. st:16% comm.; 84%rec. ss:73% comm.; 27%rec. yg:96% comm.; 4%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	**Comm.:** After the commercial complex ACL is 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	**Comm.:** 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. **Rec.:** If the 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)
Overfishing Level **(OFL)**		unknown	
Acceptable Biological Catch **(ABC)**		3RD highest landings 1999-2008	aj: 291,922 br: 152,999 la: 10,568
Allocations		(50% X average of 1986-2008) + (50% X average of 2006-2008)	am: 52% comm.; 48%rec. br: 25% comm.; 75%rec. la: 47% comm.; 53%rec.
Complex Annual Catch Limit **(ACL)** & Optimum Yield **(OY)**		ACL=OY=ABC	193,999 comm. 261,490 rec.
Accountability Measures	**Recreational** Annual Catch Target **(ACT)**	Recreational ACT= ACL*(1-PSE) or ACL*0.5, whichever is greater	186,972
	In-season	**Comm.:** After the commercial complex ACL is 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	**Comm.:** 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. **Rec.:** If the 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)		3RD 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:20% comm.; 80%rec. ds:9% comm.; 91%rec. gs: 20% comm.; 80%rec. ls: 12% comm.; 88%rec. ms: 5% comm.; 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	**Comm.:** After the commercial complex ACL is 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	**Comm.:** 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. **Rec.:** If the 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)		mg, tt, sc: 3RD highest landings 1999-2008	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:20% comm.; 80%rec. tt:0% comm.; 100%rec. sc: 0% comm.; 100%rec. wg: 33% comm.; 67%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	**Comm.:** After the commercial complex ACL is 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	**Comm.:** 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. **Rec.:** If the 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)		3RD 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%comm.; 77%rec. gg: 14% comm.; 86%rec. rh:73% comm.; 27%rec. ro:63%comm.; 37%rec. yg: 41% comm.; 59%rec. ym:1% comm.; 99%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	**Comm.:** After the commercial complex ACL is 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	**Comm.:** 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. **Rec.:** If the 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)		3RD 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%comm.; 96%rec. kp: 54% comm.; 46%rec. sp:0% comm.; 100%rec. cp:0%comm.; 100%rec. wp: 1% comm.; 99%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	**Comm.:** After the commercial complex ACL is 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	**Comm.:** 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. **Rec.:** If the 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)

The Remaining Species <u>Would Not Be Grouped</u>

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

Individual Species
(Those Not Grouped)

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

	Atlantic Spadefish	Bar Jack	Blue Runner	Gray Triggerfish	Greater Amberjack *(assessed)*	Hogfish	Goliath & Nassau	Scamp	Red Porgy[2] *(assessed)*	Yellowtail Snapper *(assessed)*	Mutton Snapper *(assessed)*
Overfishing Level (OFL)	Unknown										
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)	282,841	20,520	1,289,941	672,565	1,968,000	147,638	0	492,572	395,304	2,173,875	926,600
Allocations[1]	13% comm. 87% rec.	33% comm. 67% rec.	15% comm. 85% rec.	45% comm. 55% rec.	41% comm. 59% rec.	33% comm. 67% rec.	n/a	69% comm. 31% rec.	50% comm. 50% rec.	53% comm. 47% rec.	17% comm. 83% rec.
Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Optimum Yield (OY)	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.	1,142,657 comm. 1,031,218 rec.	157,743 comm. 768,857 rec.
Accountability Measures: Rec. Annual Catch Target (ACT)	177,382	9,936	892,305	312,208	992,662	71,184	n/a	96,599	160,098	897,160	668,906
Accountability Measures: In-season and post-season	**Comm.:** After the commercial complex ACL is 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. If the commercial sector complex ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial sector complex ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage only if the species is overfished. **Rec.:** If the 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.										

[1]Allocations are determined through the following equation: (50% X average of 1986-2008) + (50% X average of 2006-2008). [2]Commercial quota (ACL) in place for red porgy of 190,050 lbs gutted weight (197,652 lbs whole weight).

Snapper Grouper Species
All Alternatives

	No.	Definition
Overfishing Level (OFL)		Unknown
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)	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
Allocations	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 ***All calculations based on averages***
Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Optimum Yield (OY)	1	No Action
	2	ACL=OY=ABC
	3	ACL=OY=90%ABC
	4	ACL=OY=80%ABC

Accountability Measures

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

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

Wreckfish

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

		Definition	Value (lbs whole weight)
Overfishing Level (OFL)		Unknown	n/a
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)		Average landings 97-08	250,000
Allocations		n/a	95% comm. 5% rec.
Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Optimum Yield (OY)		ACL=OY=ABC	237,500 comm. 12,500 rec.
Accountability Measures	Post-season	**Comm.:** No changes proposed. Currently, the commercial sector is managed under an ITQ system, whereby permitted fishery participants are only allowed to harvest the poundage of wreckfish associated with the shares issued to them each year. **Rec.:** If the 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.	
	Management Measures	For the recreational sector, implement a one wreckfish per vessel per day bag limit. The recreational fishery would be open July 1 through August 31 each year.	

Wreckfish Life History
An Overview

- Occur in the Eastern and Western Atlantic Ocean, on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, on Atlantic islands and seamounts, and in the Mediterranean Sea, southern Indian Ocean, and southwestern Pacific Ocean.
- The commercial fishery off the southeastern United States occurs at the Charleston Bump, located 130-160 km southeast of Charleston, South Carolina.
- Fishing occurs at water depths of 450-600 m.
- Spawn from December through May, with a peak during February and March.
- Juvenile wreckfish are pelagic, and often associate with floating debris, which accounts for their common name.

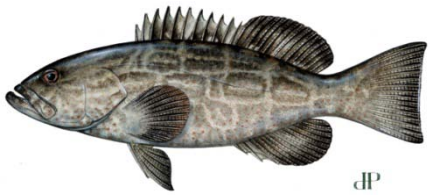
ALL ALTERNATIVES
Wreckfish

	No.	Definition
Overfishing Level **(OFL)**	Unknown	
Acceptable Biological Catch **(ABC)**	SAFMC SSC recomm. – 250,000	
Allocations	1 2 3 4	No action 90% comm./10% rec. 95% comm./5% rec. 100% comm.
Annual Catch Limit **(ACL)** & Optimum Yield **(OY)**	1 2 3 4	No Action ACL=OY=ABC ACL=OY=90%ABC ACL=OY=80%ABC

Recreational Sector		No.	Definition
Accountability Measures		1	No action
	Annual Catch Target **(ACT)**	n/a	n/a
	AM Trigger	2a 2b 2c 2d 2e	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
	In-season	n/a	n/a
	Post-season	3a 3b 3c 3d 3e 3f 3g	No post-season AM Use 3-year mean Monitor following year Monitor/shorten season as necessary Monitor/reduce bag limit as necessary Shorten following season Reduce ACL by overage

Black grouper

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES



BLACK GROUPER *Mycteroperca bonaci*

		Definition	Value (lbs whole weight)		
Overfishing Level **(OFL)** Note: For both Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic		2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	695,007 652,810 627,552 619,665 615,801		
Acceptable Biological Catch **(ABC)** Note: For both Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic		2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	523,000 522,543 545,595 558,711 564,737		
Jurisdictional Allocations		(50% X average of 1986-2008) + (50% X average of 2006-2008)	53% Gulf of Mexico of Mexico 47% South Atlantic		
Sector Allocations for South Atlantic		(50% X average of 1991-2008) + (50% X average of 2006-2008)	37% comm. 63% rec.		
Annual Catch Limit **(ACL)** & Optimum Yield **(OY)**		ACL=OY=ABC	Year 2012 2013 2014 and onwards	Comm 90,575 94,571 96,844	rec 155,020 161,859 165,750
Accountability Measures	**Recreational** Annual Catch Target **(ACT)**	Recreational ACT= ACL*(1-PSE) or ACL*0.5, whichever is greater	Year 2012 2013 2014 and onwards	ACT 94,562 98,734 101,107	
	In-season	**Comm.:** After the commercial ACL is projected to be met, all purchase and sale of black grouper is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit. If the commercial sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries Service in the Southeast Region 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.			
	Post-season	**Rec.:** If the 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.			

Black Grouper Life History *An Overview*

- Occurs in the Western Atlantic, from North Carolina to Florida, Bermuda, the Gulf of Mexico of Mexico, West Indies, and from Central America to Southern Brazil
- Occur in water depths of 30-98 feet
- Live for at least 33 years
- Form spawning aggregations
- Protogynous

ALL ALTERNATIVES

Black grouper

	No.	Definition
Overfishing Level (OFL)		Unknown
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)	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
Allocations (Sector)	1	No Action
	2a	2 sectors: 86-08
	2b	2 sectors: 86-98
	2c	2 sectors: 99-08
	2d	2 sectors: 06-08
	2e	2 sectors:50%(91-08)+50%(06-08)
	3a	3 sectors: 86-08
	3b	3 sectors: 86-98
	3c	3 sectors: 99-08
	3d	3 sectors: 06-08
	3e	3 sectors:50%(91-08)+50%(06-08) ***All calculations based on averages***
Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Optimum Yield (OY)	1	No Action
	2	ACL=OY=ABC
	3	ACL=OY=90%ABC
	4	ACL=OY=80%ABC

Accountability Measures

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

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

Dolphin

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

DOLPHIN (male) *Coryphaena hippurus*

		Definition	Value (lbs whole weight)
Overfishing Level (OFL)		n/a	n/a
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)		OFL	n/a
		SAFMC SSC	14,596,216
Allocations		(50% X average of 1999-2008) + (50% X average of 2006-2008)	7.3% comm. 92.7% rec.
Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Optimum Yield (OY)		ACL=OY=ABC	1,065,524 comm. 13,530,692 rec.
Accountability Measures	Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT)	Recreational ACT= ACL*(1-PSE) or ACL*0.5, whichever is greater	11,595,803
	In-season	**Comm.:** After the commercial ACL is projected to be met, all purchase and sale of dolphin is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit	
	Post-season	**Rec.:** If the 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.	
	Management Measures	Prohibit bag limit sales of dolphin from for-hire vessels. Note: It is the South Atlantic Council's intent that if a for-hire vessel has a commercial permit, they would be allowed to sell their catch only when they are not operating under a for-hire mode. Establish a minimum size limit of 20 inches fork length from Florida through South Carolina.	

Dolphin Life History
An Overview

- Oceanic pelagic fish found worldwide in tropical and subtropical waters.
- Range in western Atlantic is from George's Bank, Nova Scotia to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- The life span is short with a maximum of 5 years; males live longer than females
- Growth is extremely rapid. Specific rates vary among regions and are sensitive to water temperatures.
- Reach maturity at 4 to 5 months.
- Young dolphin fish school, but older individuals are more solitary. Adults make seasonal north-south migrations.

ALL ALTERNATIVES
Dolphin

	No.	Definition
Overfishing Level **(OFL)**		Unknown
Acceptable Biological Catch **(ABC)**	1 2 3 4	No Action ABC=OFL GMFMC ABC Control Rule SAFMC SSC ABC Control Rule
Allocations	1 2 3 4	No Action 2 sectors:(99-08) 2 sectors:(50%99-08)+50%(06-08) 3 sectors:(50%99-08)+50%(06-08) ***All calculations based on averages***
Annual Catch Limit **(ACL)** & Optimum Yield **(OY)**	1 2 3 4 5	No Action ACL=OY=ABC ACL=OY=85%ABC ACL=OY=75%ABC ACL=OY=65%ABC

Accountability Measures

Commercial Sector		No.	Definition
Accountability Measures		1	No action
	Annual Catch Target **(ACT)**	2a 2b 2c	No ACT. 90%ACL 80%ACL
	In-season	3	Close fishery if ACL met
	Post-season	4	Reduce by overage

Recreational Sector		No.	Definition
Accountability Measures		1	No action
	Annual Catch Target **(ACT)**	2a 2b 2c 2d	No ACT. 85%ACL 75%ACL ACL*(1-PSE) or ACL*0.5, whichever is greater
	AM Trigger	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
	In-season	4a 4b	No in-season AM Close fishery if ACL met
	Post-season	5a 5b 5c 5d 5e 5f 5g 5h	No post-season AM Use 3-year mean Monitor following year Monitor/shorten season as necessary Monitor/reduce bag limit as necessary Shorten following season Reduce bag limit Reduce ACL by overage

Wahoo

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

		Definition	Value (lbs whole weight)
Overfishing Level (OFL)		n/a	n/a
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)		OFL	n/a
		SAFMC SSC	1,491,785
Allocations		(50% X average of 1999-2008) + (50% X average of 2006-2008)	4.3% comm. 95.7% rec.
Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Optimum Yield (OY)		ACL=OY=ABC	64,147 comm. 1,427,638 rec.
Accountability Measures	Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT)	Recreational ACT= ACL*(1-PSE) or ACL*0.5, whichever is greater	1,149,249
	In-season	**Comm.:** After the commercial ACL is projected to be met, all purchase and sale of wahoo is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit.	
	Post-season	**Rec.:** If the 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.	
	Management Measures	No changes proposed as preferred alternative	

Wahoo Life History
An Overview

- An oceanic pelagic fish found worldwide in tropical and subtropical waters.
- Range in the western Atlantic from New York through Colombia including Bermuda, the Bahamas, the Gulf of Mexico of Mexico, and the Caribbean.
- Spawning season extends from June through August with peak spawning in June and July.
- Adult wahoo in the Atlantic are pelagic in nature and generally associated with *Sargassum.*
- Both females and males mature within the first year of life.

ALL ALTERNATIVES

Wahoo

	No.	Definition
Overfishing Level **(OFL)**		Unknown
Acceptable Biological Catch **(ABC)**	1 2 3 4	No Action ABC=OFL GMFMC ABC Control Rule SAFMC SSC ABC Control Rule
Allocations	1 2 3 4	No Action 2 sectors:(06-08) 2 sectors:(50%99-08)+50%(06-08) 3 sectors:(50%99-08)+50%(06-08) ***All calculations based on averages***
Annual Catch Limit **(ACL)** & Optimum Yield **(OY)**	1 2 3 4 5	No Action ACL=OY=ABC ACL=OY=85%ABC ACL=OY=75%ABC ACL=OY=65%ABC

Accountability Measures

Commercial Sector		No.	Definition
Accountability Measures		1	No action
	Annual Catch Target **(ACT)**	2a 2b 2c	No ACT. 90%ACL 80%ACL
	In-season	3	Close fishery if ACL met
	Post-season	4	Reduce by overage

Recreational Sector		No.	Definition
Accountability Measures		1	No action
	Annual Catch Target **(ACT)**	2a 2b 2c 2d	No ACT. 85%ACL 75%ACL ACL*(1-PSE) or ACL*0.5, whichever is greater
	AM Trigger	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
	In-season	4a 4b	No in-season AM Close fishery if ACL met
	Post-season	5a 5b 5c 5d 5e 5f 5g 5h	No post-season AM Use 3-year mean Monitor following year Monitor/shorten season as necessary Monitor/reduce bag limit as necessary Shorten following season Reduce bag limit Reduce ACL by overage

Golden Crab

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

	Definition	Value (lbs whole weight)
Overfishing Level (OFL)	Unknown	n/a
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)	n/a	2 million
Annual Catch Limit (ACL) and Optimum Yield (OY)	ACL=OY=ABC	2 million
Accountability Measures (AM)	After the ACL is projected to be met, all harvest, purchase, and sale of golden crab is prohibited. If the ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage, only if the species is overfished.	

Golden Crab Life History
An Overview

- Inhabits the continental slope of Bermuda and the southeastern United States from off Chesapeake Bay, south through the Straits of Florida and into the eastern Gulf of Mexico of Mexico
- Reported depth distributions of range from 205 m off the Dry Tortugas to 1007 m off Bermuda
- Scavengers that feed opportunistically on dead carcasses deposited on the bottom from overlying waters

ALL ALTERNATIVES

Golden Crab

	No.	Definition	Value (lbs)
Overfishing Level **(OFL)**	n/a	n/a	n/a
Acceptable Biological Catch **(ABC)**	n/a	n/a	2 million
Annual Catch Limit **(ACL)** & Optimum Yield **(OY)**	1 2 3 4 5	No Action ACL=OY=ABC ACL=OY=85%ABC ACL=OY=75%ABC ACL=OY=65%ABC	1 2 million 1.7 million 1.5 million 1.3 million
Accountability Measure **(AM)**	1 2 3	No Action After the ACL is projected to be met, all harvest, purchase, and sale of golden crab is prohibited. If the ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage, only if the species is overfished.	n/a

Sargassum

	Current definitions and values	
	Definition	**Value (lbs whole weight)**
Overfishing Level **(OFL)**	Unknown	n/a
Acceptable Biological Catch **(ABC)**	Avg. catch (1976 - 2009)	12,800
Annual Catch Limit **(ACL)** and Optimum Yield **(OY)**	ACL=OY=ABC	5,000
Accountability Measures **(AM)**	Restrict all harvest of the species after the quota (5,000 lbs) is met or projected to be met.	
Management Measures	(1) Harvest and possession of *Sargassum* is prohibited south of the latitude line representing the North Carolina/South Carolina border (34 degrees North latitude); (2) all harvest is prohibited within 100 miles of shore between the 34 degrees North latitude line and the line representing the North Carolina/Virginia border; (3) harvest is limited to the months of November through June; (4) official observers are required on any harvesting trip; (5) an annual quota of 5,000 pounds landed wet weight; and (6) nets used to harvest *Sargassum* must be constructed of 4" stretch mesh or larger fitted to a frame no larger than 4 x 6 feet.	

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS

Biological effects

The Comprehensive ACL Amendment proposes the implementation of a system of management benchmarks in the form of ACTs , ACLs, and ACLs. The ACLs are derived from ABCs recommended by the SSC. The amendment also proposes allocation of the catch between the commercial and recreational sectors for some snapper grouper species, dolphin, and wahoo; the allocations are necessary in order to develop sector-specific ACLs and ACTs.

The system of management benchmarks, accountability measures, and allocations (Snapper Grouper and Dolphin Wahoo) are being proposed for species in the Snapper Grouper, Dolphin Wahoo, and Golden Crab FMUs. The South Atlantic Council has never specified such a system for many of these species, including those in Snapper Grouper FMU. For other species, such as those in the Dolphin Wahoo FMU, catch levels have been established; however, the South Atlantic Council proposes to update these values based upon the most recent scientific information.

In general, establishing such a system would be expected to have a beneficial effect to the biological environment, including the managed species. More specifically, setting ACTs, ACLs, and AMs would provide a greater insurance that overfishing is prevented and the long-term average biomass is near or above the biomass when fishing at the maximum sustainable yield. The establishment of AMs would provide beneficial effects by establishing a mechanism to maintain harvest levels at or below the ACLs. Overall, the South Atlantic Council believes the implementation of this system is necessary to manage the resources sustainably.

Socio-economic effects

The establishment of ACLs is intended to reduce the risk of overfishing for those snapper grouper species that do not currently have them. For those stocks requiring biological protection, ACLs constrain existing catch levels to increase the long-run abundance of these stocks.

By constraining current harvest levels, ACLs may lead to short-run reductions in gross revenue for the commercial sector, but may also generate higher long-run gross revenue as annual allowable harvest levels are raised due to the recovery of overfished stocks and/or to the reduction of the risk of overfishing. As the long-run abundance of these stocks increases, the potential for economic benefits and the likelihood of achieving OY is improved. However, the magnitude of the actual economic benefits as well as whether and when OY is achieved will depend on the regulatory framework in place (e.g., individual transferable quota versus limited entry in commercial sector case or bag limits versus season length in the recreational sector case) and the continued compliance with the ACLs. The resulting benefits will be a function of the actual behavioral response, which are presently unknown.

Establishing AMs for the commercial and recreational sector is an administrative action, and thus has no direct effects on the economic environment. However, establishing AMs may result in management actions that could increase the snapper grouper stocks from their present levels, which would in turn allow these stocks to support higher catch levels without becoming overfished. As such, AMs would potentially result in indirect economic effects on fishing participants. Direct economic effects on fishing participants would only occur in the future if and when the AMs are triggered.