

SUMMARY

of the COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL CATCH LIMIT AMENDMENT

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (South Atlantic Council) is developing actions for many species. The actions are expected to be implemented by 2012. The proposed actions are specified in the Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit 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 Annual Catch Limit 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.

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BACKGROUND

What Actions Are Being Proposed?

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

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

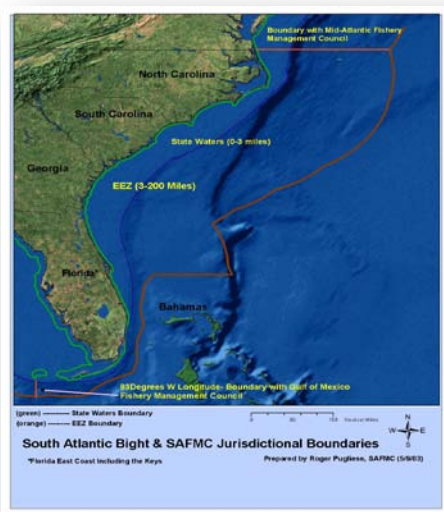
- Responsible for conservation and management of fish stocks
- Consists of 13 voting members who are appointed by the Secretary of Commerce
- Management area is from 3 to 200 miles off the coasts of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida
- Develops fishery management plans and recommends 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 (SAFMC 2003).

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

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 to be subject to overfishing establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits (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 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 Council is considering removing species from the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit in addition to 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. *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**

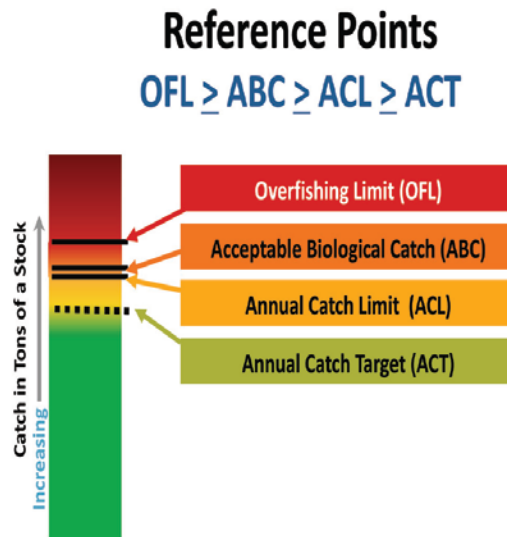
Annual catch limit (ACL) is the level of catch that triggers accountability measures. It is expressed either in pounds or numbers of fish. The level may not exceed the Acceptable Biological Catch.

■ **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. ACTs are recommended in the system of accountability measures so that ACL is not exceeded. ACTs may be considered “soft targets” (do not trigger action).

■ **Accountability Measures**

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



Snapper Grouper

I. Reorganization of Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit

(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, are caught in shallow, state waters, and state regulations would continue to apply (including data collection). The South Atlantic Council is concerned that the requirement for ACLs and AMs could trigger common overages. Therefore, it is considering a re-organization of the snapper grouper complex by the following two methods: (1) removing species from the complex and (2) grouping species together for management purposes. The species highlighted in yellow below would be removed from the complex under the current preferred alternatives.

	Snappers	Groupers	Grunts	Jacks
R e m o v a l	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
		Tiger	Ocean	Red
		Tilefishes	Warsaw	Queen
		Blueline	Yellowedge	Sea basses
		Sand	Yellowfin	Bank sea
		Tilefish	Yellowmouth	Black sea
	Spadefishes	Wreckfish	Rock	
	A. spadefish	Wreckfish		
			Wrasses	
			Hogfish	
			Puddingwife	

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

- (1) 80% (or greater) of landings in state waters*
- (2) State and Federal (combined) landings that are ≤ 20,000 lbs annually**
- (3) If managed under the Florida Marine Life Rule
- (4) Four additional species: tomtate, jolthead porgy, knobbed porgy, and whitebone porgy

*Except mutton snapper and hogfish

**Except cubera snapper, warsaw grouper, lesser amberjack, and speckled hind

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. 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 the 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.

I. Reorganization of Snapper Grouper Complex

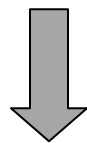
(2. Grouping Species)

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

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
	Tiger	Ocean	Red
Tilefishes	Warsaw	Queen	Saucereye
Blueline	Yellowedge	Sea basses	Scup
Sand	Yellowfin	Bank sea	Sheepshead
Tilefish	Yellowmouth	Black sea	Whitebone
Spadefishes	Wreckfish	Rock	Wrasses
A. spadefish	Wreckfish		Hogfish
			Puddingwife

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

Associations based on life history, catch statistics from commercial logbook and observer data, recreational headboat logbook and private/charter survey, and fishery-independent MARMAP data.



Groupings

Complex 1 Deep-Water Grouper & Tilefish

Blueline tilefish
Silk snapper
Yellowedge grouper

Complex 2 Jacks

Almaco
Banded rudderfish
Lesser amberjack

Complex 3 Snappers

Cubera snapper
Gray snapper
Lane snapper

Complex 4 Hinds & Grunts

Red hind
Rock hind
White grunt

The Remaining Species Would Not Be Grouped

Atlantic spadefish
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

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
		ss: Median landings 1999-2008	ss: 27,519
		yg: Median landings 1999-2008	yg: 30,221
Allocations		(50% X average of 1986-2008) + (50% X average of 2006-2008)	bt: 64% comm.; 36%rec. ss:74% comm.; 26%rec. yg:94% comm.; 6%rec.
Complex Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Optimum Yield (OY)		ACL=OY=ABC	428,037 comm. 222,305 rec.
Accountability Measures	Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT)	Recreational ACT= ACL X [(1-PSE)] or 0.5, whichever is greater	137,074
	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	<p>Comm.: If the commercial sector complex ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator of NMFS 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	

Complex 1 Deep-Water Grouper & Tilefish

Blueline tilefish (bt)
 Silk snapper (ss)
 Yellowedge grouper (yg)

How would the groupings work?

The annual catch limits (ACL) for each species in a complex is totaled for one complex ACL. The total ACL will be the trigger for the accountability measure. 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)	3 RD 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: 46% comm.; 54%rec. br: 23% comm.; 77%rec. la:57% comm.; 43%rec.
Complex Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Optimum Yield (OY)		ACL=OY=ABC	175,498 comm. 279,991 rec.
Accountability Measures	Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT)	Recreational ACT= ACL X [(1-PSE)] or 0.5, whichever is greater	199,967
	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 NMFS 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)
		unknown	
Overfishing Level (OFL)		unknown	
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)		3 RD highest landings 1999-2008	cs: 31,772
			gs:849,019
			ls: 153,466
Allocations		(50% X average of 1986-2008) + (50% X average of 2006-2008)	cs:17% comm.; 83%rec. gs:27% comm.; 73%rec. ls: 16% comm.; 84%rec.
Complex Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Optimum Yield (OY)		ACL=OY=ABC	271,341 comm. 807,916 rec.
Accountability Measures	Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT)	Recreational ACT= ACL X [(1-PSE)] or 0.5, whichever is greater	707,918
	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 NMFS 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)
Gray snapper (gs)
Lane snapper (ls)

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

		Definition	Value (lbs whole weight)
Overfishing Level (OFL)		unknown	
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)	rh: 3 RD highest landings 1999-2008	rh: 25,885	
	ro: 3 RD highest landings 1999-2008	ro: 37,569	
	wg: Median landings 1999-2008	wg: 635,899	
Allocations		(50% X average of 1986-2008) + (50% X average of 2006-2008)	rh:75%comm.; 25%rec. ro: 57% comm.; 43%rec. wg:35% comm.; 65%rec..
Complex Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Optimum Yield (OY)		ACL=OY=ABC	263,393 comm. 435,960 rec.
Accountability Measures	Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT)	Recreational ACT= ACL X [(1-PSE)] or 0.5, whichever is greater	367,253
	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 NMFS 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
Hinds &
Grunts**

Red hind (rh)
Rock hind (ro)
White grunt (wg)

The Remaining Species Would Not Be Grouped

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

Specifying ACLs/AMs in this amendment for ungrouped species

Atlantic spadefish
 Blue runner
 Goliath
 Gray triggerfish
 Greater amberjack
 Mutton snapper
 Hogfish
 Nassau
 Red grouper*
 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, wreckfish actions are outlined in the next section.

	Atlantic Spadefish	Blue Runner	Gray Triggerfish	Greater Amberjack <i>(assessed)</i>	Hogfish	Goliath & Nassau	Scamp	Yellowtail Snapper <i>(assessed)</i>	Mutton Snapper <i>(assessed)</i>
Overfishing Level (OFL)	Unknown								
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)	282,841	1,289,941	672,565	1,968,000	147,638	0	492,572	2,898,500	926,600
Allocations¹	15% comm. 85% rec.	15% comm. 85% rec.	47% comm. 53% rec.	52% comm. 48% rec.	37% comm. 63% rec.	n/a	71% comm. 29% rec.	72% comm. 28% rec.	24% comm. 76% rec.
Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Optimum Yield (OY)	ACL=OY=ABC								
	42,426 comm. 240,415 rec.	193,491 comm. 1,096,450 rec.	316,106 comm. 356,459 rec.	1,023,360 comm. 944,640 rec.	54,626 comm. 93,012 rec.	0	349,726 comm. 142,846 rec.	2,086,920 comm. 811,580 rec.	222,384 comm. 704,216 rec.
Accountability Measures	Recreation at Annual Catch Target (ACT)	173,051	890,975	302,705	805,400	66,783	n/a	91,164	708,672
	In-season and post-season	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>							
¹ Allocations are determined through the following equation: (50% X average of 1986-2008) + (50% X average of 2006-2008)									

Snapper Grouper Species All Alternatives

Accountability Measures

	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. – Interim 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. – Interim 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
Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Optimum Yield (OY)	1	No Action
	2	ACL=OY=ABC
	3	ACL=OY=90%ABC
	4	ACL=OY=80%ABC

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 ACL by overage only if species is overfished

Recreational Sector		No.	Definition
Accountability Measures		1	No action
	Annual Catch Target (ACT)	2a 2b 2c 2d	No ACT 85%ACL 75%ACL ACL x [(1-PSE)] or 0.5, whichever is greater
	AM Trigger	3a 3b 3c 3d 3e	No AM trigger. If 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	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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
	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

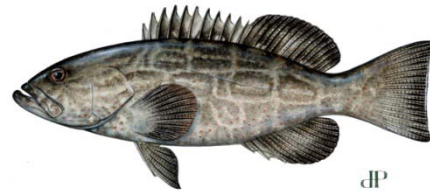
ALL ALTERNATIVES
Wreckfish

	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 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 GROUPE

Mycteroperca bonaci

		Definition	Value (lbs whole weight)		
Overfishing Level (OFL)		2011	818,959		
		2012	780,206		
		2013	757,765		
		2014	749,902		
		2015	746,008		
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)		2011	649,761		
		2012	654,942		
		2013	676,574		
		2014	689,025		
		2015	694,755		
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)	65% comm. 35% rec.			
Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Optimum Yield (OY)	ACL=OY=ABC	Year	Comm	rec	
		2012	159,777	86,034	
		2013	159,637	85,958	
		2014 and onwards	166,679	89,750	
Accountability Measures	Recreational Annual Catch Target (ACT)	[(1-PSE) or 0.50] whichever is greater	52,434		
	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 NMFS 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 30-98 feet
- Live for at least 33 years
- Form spawning aggregations
- Protogynous

ALL ALTERNATIVES
Black grouper

Accountability Measures

	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. – Interim 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. – Interim 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
Annual Catch Limit (ACL) & Optimum Yield (OY)	1	No Action
	2	ACL=OY=ABC
	3	ACL=OY=90%ABC
	4	ACL=OY=80%ABC

Commercial Sector		No.	Definition
Accountability Measures	Annual Catch Target (ACT)	1	No action
		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

Recreational Sector		No.	Definition
Accountability Measures	Annual Catch Target (ACT)	1	No action
		2a	No ACT
		2b	85%ACL
		2c	75%ACL
	2d	ACL x [(1-PSE)] or 0.5, whichever is greater	
	AM Trigger	3a	No AM trigger.
		3b	If landings > ACL
		3c	If mean landings > ACL
3d		ACL	
3e		If modified mean > ACL 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)	[(1-PSE) or 0.50] whichever is greater	9,856,433
	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 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 Gulf 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)
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 X [(1-PSE)] or 0.5, whichever is greater
	AM Trigger	3a 3b 3c 3d 3e	No AM trigger. If 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



dp

WAHOO

Acanthocybium solandri

		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)	[(1-PSE) or 0.50] whichever is greater	1,229,196
	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

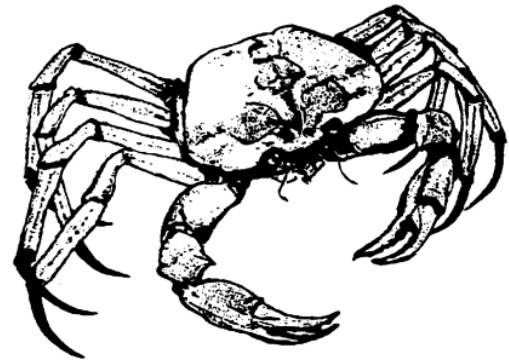
Accountability Measures

	No.	Definition
Overfishing Level (OFL)		Unknown
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)	1 2 3 4	No Action ABC=OFL Gulf 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)
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

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 X [(1-PSE)] or 0.5, whichever is greater
	AM Trigger	3a 3b 3c 3d 3e	No AM trigger. If 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	No post-season AM Use 3-year mean Monitor following year Monitor/shorten season as necessary
		5e 5f 5g 5h	Monitor/shorten season 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 or ACT in the following season by the amount of the overage.	

Golden Crab Life History *An Overview*

- Inhabit 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) & Annual Catch Target (ACT)	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 or ACT in the following season by the amount of the overage.	n/a

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 AMs. The ACLs are derived from OFLs and ABCs recommended by the SSC. The amendment also proposes allocation of the catch between the commercial and recreational sectors; the allocations are necessary in order to develop sector-specific ACLs and ACTs.

The system of management benchmarks, accountability measures, and allocations 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, the 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 will provide a greater insurance that overfishing is prevented and the long-term average biomass is near or above the biomass when fishing at the MSY. 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.