

Actions and Alternatives Currently Included in the Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Amendment

Action 1: Remove Species from Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit (FMU)

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not remove any species from the Snapper Grouper FMU.

Alternative 2. Remove species from the Snapper Grouper FMU with 95% (or greater) of landings in state waters.

French grunt	Spanish grunt	Yellow jack	Grass porgy	Porkfish	Puddingwife
Bluestriped grunt	Sheepshead	Crevalle jack	Black margate		

Alternative 3. Remove species from the Snapper Grouper FMU with 90% (or greater) of landings in state waters.

French grunt	Spanish grunt	Yellow jack	Grass porgy	Porkfish	Puddingwife
Bluestriped grunt	Sheepshead	Crevalle jack	Black margate	Sailors Choice	

Alternative 4 (Preferred). Remove species from the Snapper Grouper FMU with 80% (or greater) of landings in state waters, except hogfish.

French grunt	Spanish grunt	Yellow jack	Grass porgy	Porkfish
Bluestriped grunt	Sheepshead	Crevalle jack	Black margate	Sailors Choice
Graysby	Schoolmaster	Saucereye porgy	Puddingwife	Margate
Mutton snapper				

Alternative 5 (Preferred). Remove all the species under the Florida Marine Life Species Rule from the Snapper Grouper FMU.

Queen triggerfish	Porkfish	Puddingwife
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Alternative 6. Remove species with state and federal (combined) landings that are less than, or equal to 10,000 lbs (with the exception of speckled hind) from the Snapper Grouper FMU.

Tiger grouper	Black snapper	Misty grouper	Coney	Bank sea bass	Spanish grunt
Smallmouth grunt	Longspine porgy	Blackfin snapper	Yellowmouth grouper	Dog snapper	Puddingwife
Cottonwick	Mahogany snapper	Rock sea bass	Queen snapper	Scup	
French grunt	Saucereye porgy	Grass porgy	Queen triggerfish	Schoolmaster	

Alternative 7 (Preferred). Remove species with state and federal (combined) landings that are less than, or equal to 20,000 lbs (with the exception of cubera snapper, warsaw grouper, lesser amberjack and speckled hind) from the Snapper Grouper FMU.

Tiger grouper	Black snapper	Misty grouper	Coney	Bank sea bass	Puddingwife
Smallmouth grunt	Longspine porgy	Blackfin snapper	Yellowmouth grouper	Dog snapper	Bar jack
Cottonwick	Mahogany snapper	Rock sea bass	Queen snapper	Scup	Ocean triggerfish
French grunt	Saucereye porgy	Grass porgy	Queen triggerfish	Schoolmaster	
Sand tilefish	Yellowfin grouper	Graysby	Sailors choice	Spanish grunt	

New Alternative 8 (Preferred). Remove tomtate, knobbed porgy, jolthead porgy, and whitebone porgy from the Snapper Grouper FMU.

Tomtate	Knobbed porgy	Jolthead porgy	Whitebone porgy
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Action 2: Establish Species Groupings for Snapper Grouper Species

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not establish multi-species groupings for the Snapper Grouper FMU.

Alternative 2. Establish species groups for the Snapper Grouper FMU using 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. Establish sub-complexes within species complexes. Complex and/or sub-complex ACLs will be a sum of the individual ACLs included in that complex (all sectors combined) and/or sub-complex. When a complex ACL is exceeded, all species in that complex, as well as those in sub-complexes will be subject to AMs. When a sub-complex ACL is exceeded, but is below the combined ACL of the complex, only the species in that particular sub-complex will be subject to AMs.

Table 2-8. Complexes (dark gray), sub-complexes (light gray), and individual ACLs (white) for snapper grouper species under the Alternative 2 species grouping approach.

Deep-Water Grouper & Tilefish Complex	Subcomplexes	‘Snappers’ Complex	Subcomplexes
Yellowedge grouper ₂	Yellowedge grouper ₂	Gray snapper ₂	Gray snapper ₂
Blueline tilefish	Blueline tilefish	Lane snapper	Lane snapper
Silk Snapper ₂	Silk Snapper ₂	Cubera snapper	Cubera snapper
Snowy grouper ₁	Snowy grouper ₁	Yellowtail snapper ₁	Yellowtail snapper ₁
Golden tilefish ₁	Golden tilefish ₁	Mutton snapper ₁	Mutton snapper ₁
Shallow Water Grouper Complex	Subcomplexes	Porgies, Grunts & Hinds Complex	
Scamp	Scamp	Whitebone porgy	
Gag _{1,2}	Gag _{1,2}	Knobbed porgy	
Red grouper ₁	Red grouper ₁	Jolthead porgy	
Black grouper ₁	Black grouper ₁	Red hind	
‘Jacks’ Complex	Subcomplexes	Rock hind	
Almaco jack ₂	Almaco jack ₂	Tomtate	
Banded rudderfish	Banded rudderfish	White grunt	
Lesser amberjack	Lesser amberjack		
Greater amberjack ₁	Greater amberjack ₁		
Individual ACLs Not Affiliated With A Complex			
Red snapper ₁	Vermilion snapper ₁	Wreckfish	Warsaw grouper ₃
Red porgy ₁	Goliath grouper _{1,3}	Hogfish ₁	Speckled hind ₃
Blue runner	Atlantic spadefish	Nassau grouper ₃	Black sea bass ₁
Gray triggerfish			

1 = Assessed species; 2 = Most vulnerable species in complex (PSA analysis); 3 = Prohibited (ACL = 0).

Alternative 3. Establish species groups for the Snapper Grouper FMU based on similar life histories. (indicator species in bold).

Table 2-9. Complexes (units) for snapper grouper species under the Alternative 3 grouping approach.

<p>SHALLOW WATER GROUPE UNIT 1 Gag Red grouper Red hind Rock hind Black grouper Scamp</p> <p>UNIT 2 Goliath grouper</p> <p>UNIT 3 Nassau grouper</p>	<p>JACK UNIT Greater amberjack Almaco jack Banded rudderfish Lesser amberjack Blue runner</p> <p>GRUNT AND PORGY UNIT 1 Red porgy UNIT 2 White grunt Tomtate Jointhead porgy Whitebone porgy Knobbed porgy</p> <hr/> <p>SEA BASS UNIT Black sea bass</p>
<p>DEEP WATER GROUPE AND TILEFISH UNIT Snowy grouper Yellowedge grouper Warsaw grouper Speckled hind Tilefish (golden) Blueline tilefish</p>	<p>SHALLOW WATER SNAPPER, TILEFISH, AND WRASSE UNIT Yellowtail snapper Mutton snapper Gray (mangrove) snapper Lane snapper Hogfish Cubera snapper</p>
<p>WRECKFISH Wreckfish</p>	<p>TRIGGERFISH AND SPADEFISH UNIT Gray triggerfish Atlantic spadefish</p>
<p>MID-SHELF SNAPPER UNIT Vermilion snapper Silk snapper Red snapper</p>	

Alternative 4 (Preferred). Establish single species ACLs and grouped species complexes for the establishment of ACLs. Single species ACLs would be established for assessed and targeted species, and species where the ACL = 0. Complexes for groups of species would be established for other species using 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. When a complex ACL is exceeded, all species in that complex will be subject to AMs. When an individual ACL is exceeded, the individual stock, and in some cases, other species that are closely associated with it, will be subject to AMs.

Table 2-10. Complexes (gray) and individual ACLs (white) for snapper grouper species under the Alternative 4 grouping approach.

Deep-Water Grouper & Tilefish Complex	Individual ACLs
Yellowedge grouper ₂	Atlantic spadefish
Blueline tilefish	Greater amberjack ₁
Silk Snapper ₂	Blue runner
Jacks Complex	Gray triggerfish
Almaco jack ₂	Snowy grouper ₁
Banded rudderfish	Golden tilefish ₁
Lesser amberjack	Warsaw grouper ₃
Snappers Complex	Wreckfish
Gray snapper ₂	Scamp
Lane snapper	Gag ₁
Cubera snapper	Red grouper ₁
Porgies, Grunts & Hinds Complex	Goliath grouper _{1,3}
Whitebone porgy₂	Nassau grouper ₃
Knobbed porgy	Black sea bass ₁
Jolthead porgy	Black grouper ₁
Red hind	Speckled hind ₃
Rock hind	Red porgy ₁
Tomtate	Hogfish ₁
White grunt	Yellowtail snapper ₁
	Mutton snapper ₄
	Red snapper ₁
	Vermilion snapper ₁

1 = Assessed species; 2 = Most vulnerable species in complex (PSA analysis); 3 = Prohibited (ACL = 0).

Action 3: Establish an Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule for Snapper Grouper Species

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not establish an ABC Control Rule for species in the Snapper Grouper FMU.

Alternative 2. Where applicable, establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals OFL.

Alternative 3. For unassessed species: establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of OFL or a percentage of the median landings 1999-2008, as appropriate.

Subalternative 3a. ABC=65% (OFL or median landings 1999-2008)

Subalternative 3b. ABC=75% (OFL or median landings 1999-2008)

Subalternative 3c. ABC=85% (OFL or median landings 1999-2008)

Subalternative 3d. ABC =95% (OFL or median landings 1999-2008)

Alternative 4. For assessed species: establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals a percentage of the yield at MFMT.

Subalternative 4a. ABC=yield at 65%MFMT

Subalternative 4b. ABC=yield at 75%MFMT

Subalternative 4c. ABC=yield at 85%MFMT

Alternative 5 (Preferred). For assessed species: establish ABCs based on the South Atlantic SSC's ABC control rule described in Table 2-1x. For unassessed species: adopt the South Atlantic Council SSC's Control Rule in Table 2-1x but establish an interim ABC = median landings 1999-2008 and OFL = unknown until the SSC's control rule can be fully applied.

Alternative 6. For assessed species: establish ABCs based on the South Atlantic's SSC's ABC control rule. For unassessed species: Adopt the Gulf Council SSC's ABC Control Rule for unassessed species as described in Table 2-2x. The indicated default ABC buffer levels for Tier 3a and 3b are to be used unless specified otherwise by the Council on a stock by stock basis.

Table 2-1x. The SAFMC SSC's Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule. The rule provides a hierarchy of dimensions and tiers within dimensions used to characterize uncertainty associated with stock assessments in the South Atlantic. Parenthetical values indicate (1) the maximum adjustment value for a dimension; and (2) the adjustment values for each tier within a dimension.

Level 1 – Assessed Stocks	
Tier	Tier Classification and Methodology to Compute ABC
1. Assessment Information (10%)	1. Quantitative assessment provides estimates of exploitation and biomass; includes MSY-derived benchmarks. (0%) 2. Reliable measures of exploitation or biomass; no MSY benchmarks, proxy reference points. (2.5%) 3. Relative measures of exploitation or biomass, absolute measures of status unavailable. Proxy reference points. (5%) 4. Reliable catch history. (7.5%) 5. Scarce or unreliable catch records. (10%)

<p>2. Uncertainty Characterization (10%)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete. Key Determinant – uncertainty in both assessment inputs and environmental conditions are included. (0%) 2. High. Key Determinant – reflects more than just uncertainty in future recruitment. (2.5%) 3. Medium. Uncertainties are addressed via statistical techniques and sensitivities, but full uncertainty is not carried forward in projections. (5%) 4. Low. Distributions of Fmsy and MSY are lacking. (7.5%) 5. None. Only single point estimates; no sensitivities or uncertainty evaluations. (10%)
<p>3. Stock Status (10%)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Neither overfished nor overfishing. Stock is at high biomass and low exploitation relative to benchmark values. (0%) 2. Neither overfished nor overfishing. Stock may be in close proximity to benchmark values. (2.5%) 3. Stock is either overfished or overfishing. (5%) 4. Stock is both overfished and overfishing. (7.5%) 5. Either status criterion is unknown. (10%)
<p>4. Productivity and Susceptibility – Risk Analysis (10%)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low risk. High productivity, low vulnerability, low susceptibility. (0%) 2. Medium risk. Moderate productivity, moderate vulnerability, moderate susceptibility. (5%) 3. High risk. Low productivity, high vulnerability, high susceptibility. (10%)
<p>Level 2 - Unassessed Stocks. Reliable landings and life history information available</p>	
<p>OFL derived from "Depletion-Based Stock Reduction Analysis" (DBSRA). ABC derived from applying the assessed stocks rule to determine adjustment factor if possible, or from expert judgment if not possible.</p>	
<p>Level 3 - Unassessed Stocks. Inadequate data to support DBSRA</p>	
<p>ABC derived directly, from "Depletion-Corrected Average Catch" (DCAC). Done when only a limited number of years of catch data for a fishery are available. Requires a higher level of "informed expert judgment" than Level 2.</p>	
<p>Level 4 - Unassessed Stocks. Inadequate data to support DCAC or DBSRA</p>	
<p>OFL and ABC derived on a case by case basis. ORCS ad hoc group is currently working on what to do when not enough data exist to perform DCAC.</p>	

Table 2-2x. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council’s SSC’s Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule for assessed and unassessed species.

<p>Tier 1 Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule</p>	
<p>Condition for Use</p>	<p>A quantitative assessment provides both an estimate of overfishing limit based on MSY or its proxy and a probability density function of overfishing limit that reflects scientific uncertainty. Specific components of scientific uncertainty can be evaluated through a risk determination table.</p>
<p>OFL</p>	<p>OFL = yield resulting from applying F_{MSY} or its proxy to estimated biomass.</p>
<p>ABC</p>	<p>The Council with advice from the SSC will set an appropriate level of risk (P^*) using a risk determination table that calculates a P^* based on the level of information and uncertainty in the stock assessment. ABC = yield at P^*.</p>
<p>Tier 2 Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule</p>	

Condition for Use*	An assessment exists but does not provide an estimate of MSY or its proxy. Instead, the assessment provides a measure of overfishing limit based on alternative methodology. Additionally, a probability density function can be calculated to estimate scientific uncertainty in the model-derived overfishing limit measure. This density function can be used to approximate the probability of exceeding the overfishing limit, thus providing a buffer between the overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch.
OFL	An overfishing limit measure is available from alternative methodology.
ABC	Calculate a probability density function around the overfishing limit measure that accounts for scientific uncertainty. The buffer between the overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch will be based on that probability density function and the level of risk of exceeding the overfishing limit selected by the Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Risk of exceeding OFL = 45% b. Risk of exceeding OFL = 35% c. Risk of exceeding OFL = 25% (default level for unassigned stocks) d. Risk of exceeding OFL = 15% Set ABC = OFL – buffer at risk of exceeding OFL
Tier 3a Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule	
Condition for Use*	No assessment is available, but landings data exist. The probability of exceeding the overfishing limit in a given year can be approximated from the variance about the mean of recent landings to produce a buffer between the overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch. Based on expert evaluation of the best scientific information available, recent historical landings are without trend, landings are small relative to stock biomass, or the stock is unlikely to undergo overfishing if future landings are equal to or moderately higher than the mean of recent landings. For stock complexes, the determination of whether a stock complex is in Tier 3a or 3b will be made using all the information available, including stock specific catch trends.
OFL	Set the overfishing limit equal to the mean of recent landings plus two standard deviations. A time series of at least ten years is recommended to compute the mean of recent landings, but a different number of years may be used to attain a representative level of variance in the landings.
ABC	Set acceptable biological catch using a buffer from the overfishing limit that represents an acceptable level of risk due to scientific uncertainty. The buffer will be predetermined for each stock or stock complex by the Council with advice from the SSC as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ABC = mean of the landings plus 1.5 * standard deviation (risk of exceeding OFL = 31%) b. ABC = mean of the landings plus 1.0 * standard deviation (default) (risk of exceeding OFL = 16%) c. ABC = mean of the landings plus 0.5 * standard deviation (risk of exceeding OFL = 7%) d. ABC = mean of the landings (risk of exceeding OFL = 2.3%)
Tier 3b Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule	
Condition for Use*	No assessment is available, but landings data exist. Based on expert evaluation of the best scientific information available, recent landings may be unsustainable.
OFL	Set the overfishing limit equal to the mean of landings. A time series of at least ten years is recommended to compute the mean of recent landings, but a different number of years may be used to attain a representative level of variance in the landings.
ABC	Set acceptable biological catch using a buffer from the overfishing limit that represents

	<p>an acceptable level of risk due to scientific uncertainty. The buffer will be predetermined for each stock or stock complex by the Council with advice from its SSC as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. ABC = 100% of OFL f. ABC = 85% of OFL g. ABC = 75% of OFL (default level for unassigned stocks) h. ABC = 65% of OFL
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*Changes in the trend of a stock’s landings or a stock complex’s landings in three consecutive years shall trigger a reevaluation of their acceptable biological catch control rule determination under Tiers 2, 3a, or 3b.

Action 4: Specify Allocations for Snapper Grouper Species That Do Not Currently Have Allocations

[Note: When considering two sectors (Commercial and Recreational), the Recreational sector includes private recreational (shore and rental boats) as well as for-hire (charter/headboat).

When considering three sectors (Commercial, Recreational, and For-hire), the Recreational sector includes only private recreational (shore and rental boats).]

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain the current allocations. Do not specify allocations for those species where no allocations have been specified.

Table 2-16. Allocations for snapper grouper species established in other amendments. Allocations are specified in wreckfish and black grouper in Actions 7 and 12, respectively.

	Allocations	
	Commercial	Recreational
Black sea bass	43%	57%
Gag	51%	49%
Golden tilefish	97%	3%
Red porgy	50%	50%
Snowy grouper	95%	5%
Vermilion snapper	68%	32%
Red grouper (proposed in 24)	47%	53%

Alternative 2 (Preferred). Specify allocations for species that do not currently have allocations among two sectors, commercial and recreational, using the following equation:

Allocation by sector = (0.5 * catch history) + (0.5 * current trend) whereby, catch history =1986 onward, current trend = 2006-2008 for this amendment. The commercial and recreational ACLs specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Alternative 3. Specify allocations for species that do not currently have allocations among three sectors, commercial, recreational, and for-hire, using the following equation:

Allocation by sector = (0.5 * catch history) + (0.5 * current trend) whereby, catch history =1986 onward, current trend = 2006-2008 for this amendment. The commercial and recreational ACLs specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Alternative 4. Specify allocations for species that do not currently have allocations among two sectors, commercial and recreational using data from 1986-2008. The commercial and recreational ACLs specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Alternative 5. Specify allocations for species that do not currently have allocations among two sectors, commercial and recreational using data from 1986-1998. The commercial and recreational ACLs specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Alternative 6. Specify allocations for species that do not currently have allocations among two sectors, commercial and recreational using data from 1999-2008. The commercial and recreational ACLs specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Alternative 7. Specify allocations for species that do not currently have allocations among two sectors, commercial and recreational using data from 2006-2008. The commercial and recreational ACLs specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Action 5: Establish Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and Optimum Yield (OY) for the Snapper Grouper Fishery

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain existing ACLs for snapper grouper species or species groups. Do not specify ACLs for species that do not have them.

Table 2-19. Annual Catch Limits in place.

Species	ACLs In Place	ACLs In Preferred Alternatives in 17A (red snapper) or 17B
Black grouper	None in place	Comm Aggregate ACL (black, red, gag) = 662,403 lbs gw Rec Aggregate ACL = 648,663 lbs gw
Black sea bass	309,000 lbs gw (comm.) 409,000 lbs gw (rec.)	No change proposed
Gag	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	331,000 lbs gw (comm.) (F _{MSY} level)	282,819 lbs (comm.) 1,578 fish (rec)
Red grouper	None in place. Will be specified in Amendment 24	Comm Aggregate ACL (black, red, gag) = 662,403 lbs gw Rec Aggregate ACL = 648,663 lbs gutted weight
Snowy grouper	82,900 lbs gw (comm.) 523 fish (rec.)	No change proposed
Speckled hind	None in place	0 (landings only) comm. and rec.
Vermilion snapper	315,523 lb gw (Jan-June) (comm.) 302,523 lbs gw (July-Dec) (comm.) 307,315 lbs gw (rec.)=TOTAL 925,361 lbs gw	No change proposed
Warsaw grouper	None in place	0 (landings only) comm. and rec.
Red Snapper	None in place	0 (landings only) comm. and rec.
Red porgy	190,050 lbs gw (comm.) 190,050 lbs gw (rec.)	Not in Amendment 17A or 17B
Greater amberjack	1,169,931 lbs gw (comm.)	Not in Amendment 17A or 17B

Alternative 2 (Preferred). Establish ACLs for species as needed where ACL = OY = ABC.

Alternative 3. Establish ACLs for species as needed where ACL = OY = 90% of the ABC.

Alternative 4. Establish ACLs for species as needed where $ACL = OY = 80\%$ of the ABC.

Action 6: Specify Accountability Measures (AMs)/Annual Catch Targets (ACTs) for species in the Snapper Grouper FMU

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not specify new AMs for the following species:

Yellowedge grouper	Blueline tilefish	Silk snapper	Almaco jack	Banded rudderfish	Lesser amberjack
Gray snapper	Lane snapper	Cubera snapper	White grunt	Atlantic spadefish	Greater amberjack
Red hind	Rock hind	Scamp	Red pogy (rec only)	Hogfish	Yellowtail snapper
Blue runner	Gray triggerfish	Red grouper			

Table was updated to reflect additional species removed in Action 1

Commercial

Alternative 2. Specify individual Annual Catch Targets (ACT) for the species in the table above.

Subalternative 2a (Preferred). Do not establish a commercial sector ACT.

Subalternative 2b. The individual ACT equals 90% of the individual ACL. The complex ACT equals 90% of the complex ACL.

Subalternative 2c. The individual ACT equals 80% of the individual ACL. The complex ACT equals 80% of the complex ACL.

Alternative 3 (Preferred). For the species in the table above, if an ACL (i.e., individual or complex) is met or is projected to be met, all subsequent purchase and sale is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit for the species covered by that ACL. For example, if a complex ACL is met or projected to be met, all purchase and sale of all the species in the complex is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit.

Alternative 4 (Preferred). For the species in the table above, if the individual ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the individual ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage. If the complex ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the complex ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage.

Recreational

Alternative 5. Specify Annual Catch Targets (ACT) for the species in the table above.

Subalternative 5a. The individual ACT equals 85% of the individual ACL. The complex ACT equals 85% of the complex ACL.

Subalternative 5b. The individual ACT equals 75% of the individual ACL. The complex ACT equals 75% of the complex ACL.

Subalternative 5c (Preferred). The individual ACT equals individual ACL [(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater]. The complex ACT equals the complex ACL [(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater].

Alternative 6 (Preferred). For post-season accountability measures, consider **smoothing** the recreational landings to account for landings that are significantly higher or lower than the mean as a function of the sampling methodology.

Subalternative 6a (Preferred). For the species in the table above for post-season accountability measures, compare both individual and complex ACLs with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2011, use only 2011 landings. For 2012, use the average landings of 2011 and 2012. For 2013 and beyond, use the most recent three-year running average.

Subalternative 6b. For the species in the table above implement a step-wise process in order to determine if **smoothing** of landings would occur when comparing recreational landings to the recreational ACLs (both individual and complex ACLs).

1. *Determine if an overage has occurred.* If the lower 90% confidence interval of MRFSS and headboat landings data is greater than the ACL, then an overage has occurred.
2. *Determine if future action is required.* Review the last 5 years of landings. Remove the highest and lowest values from consideration. If the 3 year average is greater than ACL, adjustment is required to prevent further overages in the following year.

Alternative 7 (Preferred). Implement AMs if an overage occurs.

Subalternative 7a. If the individual ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the individual ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage. If the complex ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the complex ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage.

Subalternative 7b (Preferred). If the individual ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the individual ACL for the following fishing season. If the complex ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the complex ACL for the following fishing season.

Alternative 8. For the species in the table above, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to close the recreational fishery when the individual ACL is projected to be met. The Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to close the recreational fishery for the complex when the complex ACL is projected to be met.

Table 2-25. Recreational ACTs (lbs whole weight) based on preferred Alternative 4 in Action 3 (species groupings), preferred Alternative 4 in Action 5 (allocations), and preferred Alternative 2 in Action 6 (ACLs and OY). ACTs for wreckfish and black grouper are based on preferred Alternatives 2-3 and preferred Alternative 2 in Actions 9 and 14, respectively. ACT for red grouper based on ACL being proposed in Amendment 24.

Deep-Water Grouper & Tilefish	Rec ACT	Individual ACTs	Rec ACT
Yellowedge Grouper	38,965	Atlantic Spadefish	141,367
Blueline Tilefish		Greater Amberjack	805,400
Silk Snapper		Blue Runner	695,628
Jacks	Rec ACT	Gray Triggerfish	179,726
Almaco Jack	156,829	Snowy Grouper	307 fish
Banded Rudderfish		Golden Tilefish	805 fish
Lesser Amberjack		Warsaw Grouper	0
Snappers	Rec ACT	Wreckfish	12,500
Gray Snapper	594,612	Scamp	91,164
Lane Snapper		Gag	328,882
Cubera Snapper		Red Grouper	227,004
Hinds and Grunts	Rec ACT	Goliath Grouper	0
Red Hind	365,836	Nassau Grouper	0
Rock Hind		Black Sea Bass	421,906
White Grunt		Black Grouper	48,234
		Speckled Hind	0
		Red Pogy	159,228
		Hogfish	60,223
		Yellowtail Snapper	708,672
		Red Snapper	0
	Vermilion Snapper	288,929	

Source: Average PSE's from MRFSS (2005-2009).

Action 7: Specify Allocations for the Wreckfish Fishery

[Note: When considering two sectors (Commercial and Recreational), the Recreational sector includes private recreational (shore and rental boats) as well as for-hire (charter/headboat).]

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not specify allocation.

In this scenario, the TAC is essentially allocated 100% to the commercial sector.

Alternative 2. Divide allocations as 90% Commercial and 10% Recreational.

Alternative 3 (Preferred). Divide allocations as 95% Commercial and 5% Recreational.

Alternative 4. Allocate 100% of the allowable catch to the commercial sector.

Table 2-24. Allocation of wreckfish (lbs whole weight) by sector.

Alternative	Commercial		Recreational	
	Allocation(%)	Pounds (ww)	Allocation(%)	Pounds (ww)
1 (No Action)	100	250,000	0	0
2	90	225,000	10	25,000
3 (Preferred)	95	237,500	5	12,500
4	100	250,000	0	0

Action 8: Establish an Annual Catch Limit (ACL) and Optimum Yield (OY) for Wreckfish

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not establish an Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for wreckfish.

Alternative 2 (Preferred). ACL = OY = ABC.

Alternative 3. ACL = OY = 90% of the ABC.

Alternative 4. ACL = OY = 80% of the ABC.

Table 2-26. ACLs (lbs whole weight) for wreckfish.

Alternative	ACL (lbs ww)
1 (No Action)	N/A (TAC=2 Million lbs)
2 (Preferred) (ACL=OY=ABC)	250,000
3 (ACL=OY=90% ABC)	225,000
4 (ACL=OY=80% ABC)	200,000

Action 9: Specify Accountability Measures (AM) for the Wreckfish Fishery

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not specify AMs for a recreational sector of the wreckfish fishery. Currently, the commercial sector for wreckfish 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.

Recreational

Alternative 2 (Preferred). For post-season accountability measures, compare recreational ACL with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2011, use only 2011 landings. For 2012, use the average landings of 2011 and 2012. For 2013 and beyond, use the most recent three-year running average.

Alternative 3. Take corrective action if the recreational ACL has been exceeded.

Subalternative 3a (Preferred). If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the recreational sector ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage.

Subalternative 3b (Preferred). If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing season by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year.

Alternative 4. For wreckfish, implement a step-wise process in order to determine if smoothing of landings would occur when comparing recreational landings to the recreational ACLs (both individual and complex ACLs).

1. *Determine if an overage has occurred.* If the lower 90% confidence interval of MRFSS and headboat landings data is greater than the ACL, then an overage has occurred.
2. *Determine if future action is required.* Review the last 5 years of landings. Remove the highest and lowest values from consideration. If the 3 year average is greater than ACL, adjustment is required to prevent further overages in the following year.

Action 10: Establish Management Measures for Wreckfish

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain the January 15-April 15 spawning season closure. Wreckfish is included in the 20-fish snapper grouper aggregate bag limit. The TAC for wreckfish is 2 million pounds.

Recreational Sector

Alternative 2. Remove wreckfish from the 20 fish aggregate snapper grouper bag limit.

Alternative 3 (Preferred). Implement a one-wreckfish per vessel per day bag limit for the recreational fishery.

Alternative 4. Implement a one-wreckfish per angler per day bag limit for the recreational fishery.

Alternative 5. Implement a 5-wreckfish per vessel per day bag limit for the recreational fishery.

Alternative 6 (Preferred). Establish a July-August recreational season.

Alternative 7. Establish a May-June recreational season.

New Alternative 8. Exempt the recreational sector from having to have commercial permits (snapper-grouper and wreckfish), wreckfish shares, and coupons to land wreckfish.

Note: In order to accomplish this action, several revisions need to be made to the codified text. See draft proposed codified text and related questions for the Council to address (**Appendix P**). IPT recommends alternative options:

1. Consider this motion as a separate action in this amendment (before **Action 7**), but time constraints may not permit detailed analysis.
2. Consider this motion in a future amendment (Amendment 20). If so, all alternatives and actions related to the recreational effort for wreckfish will need revisiting.

Action 11: Specify Jurisdictional Allocations for Black Grouper

Alternative 1 (No action). Do not establish jurisdictional allocation of the black grouper acceptable biological catch (ABC) between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils.

Alternative 2. Establish a jurisdictional allocation based on the Florida Keys (Monroe County) jurisdictional boundary between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils for black grouper acceptable biological catch (ABC) based on one of the following methods:

Subalternative 2a. South Atlantic = 46% of ABC and Gulf = 54% of ABC (Established by using catch history from 1991-2008).

Subalternative 2b (Preferred). South Atlantic = 47% of ABC and Gulf = 53% of ABC (Established by using 50% of catch history from 1986-2008 + 50% of catch history from 2006-2008).

Subalternative 2c. South Atlantic = 48% of ABC and Gulf = 52% of ABC (Established by using 50% of catch history from 1991-2008 + 50% of catch history from 2006-2008).

Subalternative 2d. South Atlantic = 50% of ABC and Gulf = 50% of ABC (Divide the ABC evenly between the two Councils).

Action 12: Specify Sector Allocations for Black Grouper

[Note: When considering two sectors (Commercial and Recreational), the Recreational sector includes private recreational (shore and rental boats) as well as for-hire (charter/headboat).

When considering three sectors (Commercial, Recreational, and For-hire), the Recreational sector includes only private recreational (shore and rental boats).]

Alternative 1 (No action). Do not establish sector allocations for black grouper

Alternative 2 (Preferred). Establish commercial and recreational sector allocations based on criteria outlined in subalternatives below.

Subalternative 2a. Commercial = 68% and recreational = 32% using catch history from 1986-2008. The commercial and recreational ACLs specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Subalternative 2b. Commercial = 71% and recreational = 29% using catch history from 1986-1998. The commercial and recreational ACLs specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Subalternative 2c. Commercial = 63% and recreational = 37% using catch history from 1999-2008. The commercial and recreational ACLs specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Subalternative 2d. Commercial = 60% and recreational = 40% using catch history from 2006-2008. The commercial and recreational ACLs specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Subalternative 2e (Preferred). Commercial = 65% and recreational = 35% using 50% of catch history from 1991-2008 + 50% of catch history from 2006-2008. The commercial and recreational ACLs specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Alternative 3. Establish commercial, recreational, and for-hire sector allocations based on criteria outlined in subalternatives below.

Subalternative 3a. Commercial = 68% , for-hire = 25%, and recreational = 7% using catch history from 1986-2008. The commercial, for-hire, and recreational ACLs specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Subalternative 3b. Commercial = 71% , for-hire = 24%, and recreational = 5% using catch history from 1986-1998. The commercial, for-hire, and recreational ACLs specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Subalternative 3c. Commercial = 63% , for-hire = 26%, and recreational = 11% using catch history from 1999-2008. The commercial, for-hire, and recreational ACLs specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Subalternative 3d. Commercial = 60% , for-hire = 29%, and recreational = 11% using catch history from 2006-2008. The commercial, for-hire, and recreational ACLs specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Subalternative 3e. Commercial = 65% , for-hire = 26%, and recreational = 9% using 50% of catch history from 1991-2008 + 50% of catch history from 2006-2008. The commercial, for-hire, and recreational ACLs specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Action 13: Establish Annual Catch Limits (ACL) and Optimum Yield (OY) for Black Grouper

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain aggregate recreational and commercial ACLs for black grouper, red grouper, and gag.

Alternative 2 (Preferred). ACL = OY = ABC.

Alternative 3. ACL = OY = 90% of the ABC.

Alternative 4. ACL = OY = 80% of the ABC.

Table 2-32. ACL formula and ACL value (lbs whole weight) for black grouper. Commercial and recreational ACL values are based on preferred allocation alternative (65% commercial/35% recreational) in **Action 13**.

Alternative	ACL Formula	Total ACL	Comm ACL	Rec ACL
1 (No Action)	Group ACL (gag, black/red grouper)	1,311,066 gw	662,403 gw	648,663 gw
2 (Preferred)	ABC	245,810	159,777	86,034
3	90% ABC	221,229	143,799	77,430
4	80% ABC	196,648	127,821	68,827

Action 14: Establish Accountability Measures/Management Measures for Black Grouper

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain the existing commercial and recreational AMs for black grouper (Table 2-37).

Table 2-37. Existing regulations and those proposed in Amendment 17B for black grouper.

Current Regulations		
	Commercial	Recreational
Bag limit		Three grouper aggregate bag limit per person per day. Exclude the captain and crew on for-hire vessels from possessing a bag limit for groupers
In-season closures	Gag commercial ACL of 352,940 lbs gutted weight. After the commercial ACL is met, all purchase and sale of the following species is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit: gag; black grouper; red grouper; scamp; red hind; rock hind; yellowmouth grouper; tiger grouper; yellowfin grouper; graysby; and coney.	
Minimum size limit	20 inch	
Seasonal closure	No fishing for and/or possession of the following species is allowed January through April: black grouper; red grouper; scamp; red hind; rock hind; yellowmouth grouper; tiger grouper; yellowfin grouper; graysby, and coney.	
Regulations established by Amendment 17B		
	Commercial	Recreational
	In addition to the gag sector-ACLs, establish an ACL for gag, black grouper, and red grouper of 662,403 lbs gutted weight (commercial) and 648,663 lbs gutted weight (recreational). The table below shows how the aggregate ACL was calculated. Prohibit the commercial possession of shallow water groupers when the gag or the gag, black grouper, and red grouper when	Establish a recreational ACL for gag, black grouper, and red grouper of 648,663 lbs gutted weight. If at least one of the species (gag, red grouper, or black grouper) <i>is overfished</i> and the sector ACL is projected to be met, prohibit the harvest and retention of the species or species group. If the ACL is exceeded, independent of stock status, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the sector ACL in the following year by the amount of the

	the ACL is projected to be met.	overage. For black grouper, black sea bass, gag, red grouper, and vermilion snapper, compare the recreational ACL with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2010, use only 2010 landings. For 2011, use the average landings of 2010 and 2011. For 2012 and beyond, use the most recent three-year running average.
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Commercial

Alternative 2. Specify Annual Catch Targets (ACT) for the commercial sector, apply the ACT to commercial AM Alternatives 3 and 4.

Subalternative 2a (Preferred). Do not establish a commercial sector ACT.

Subalternative 2b. The commercial sector ACT equals 90% of the commercial sector ACL.

Subalternative 2c. The commercial sector ACT equals 80% of the commercial sector ACL.

Alternative 3 (Preferred). After the commercial ACL is met or projected to be met, all purchase and sale of black grouper is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit.

Alternative 4 (Preferred). 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.

Table 2-38. The commercial sector ACT for each of the alternatives. Values are in lbs gutted weight.

Species	Preferred Commercial ACL	Commercial Sector ACT		
		ACT Subalt. 2a (Preferred); No ACT	ACT Subalt. 2b; ACT=90%(ACL)	ACT Subalt. 2c; ACT=80%(ACL)
Black grouper	159,777	N/A	143,799	127,821

Recreational

Alternative 5. Specify Annual Catch Targets (ACT) for the recreational sector, apply the ACT to recreational AM Alternatives 6-7.

Subalternative 5a. The recreational sector ACT equals 85% of the recreational sector ACL.

Subalternative 5b. The recreational sector ACT equals 75% of the recreational sector ACL.

Subalternative 5c (Preferred). The recreational sector ACT equals sector ACL [(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater].

Alternative 6 (Preferred). For post-season accountability measures, consider **smoothing** the recreational landings to account for landings that are significantly higher or lower than the mean as a function of the sampling methodology.

Subalternative 6a (Preferred). For black grouper, for post-season accountability measures, compare both individual and complex ACLs with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2011, use only 2011 landings. For 2012, use the average landings of 2011 and 2012. For 2013 and beyond, use the most recent three-year running average.

Subalternative 6b. For black grouper, implement a step-wise process in order to determine if **smoothing** of landings would occur when comparing recreational landings to the recreational ACLs (both individual and complex ACLs).

1. *Determine if an overage has occurred.* If the lower 90% confidence interval of MRFSS and headboat landings data is greater than the ACL, then an overage has occurred.
2. *Determine if future action is required.* Review the last 5 years of landings. Remove the highest and lowest values from consideration. If the 3 year average is greater than ACL, adjustment is required to prevent further overages in the following year.

Alternative 7 (Preferred). Implement AMs if an overage occurs.

Subalternative 7a. If the individual ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the individual ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage. If the complex ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the complex ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage.

Subalternative 7b (Preferred). If the individual ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the individual ACL for the following fishing season. If the complex ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the complex ACL for the following fishing season.

Alternative 8. For black grouper, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to close the recreational fishery when the individual ACL is projected to be met. The Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to close the recreational fishery for the complex when the complex ACL is projected to be met.

Table 2-39. The recreational ACT for each of the alternatives. Average PSE during 2005-09) equals 39. Values are in lbs whole weight.

Species	Preferred Recreational Sector ACL	Recreational Sector ACT		
		ACT Subalt. 5a; ACT=85%(ACL)	ACT Subalt. 5b; ACT=75%(ACL)	ACT Subalt. 5c (Preferred); ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater]
Black grouper	86,034	73,128	64,525	61,084

Table 2-40. Projected landings for black and red grouper in 2010. ACL currently in place for gag, and proposed aggregate ACL for gag, black, and red grouper.

	Commercial (lbs gw)	Recreational (lbs gw)	Total (lbs gw)
Gag ACL (<i>Amend 16</i>)	352,940	340,060	693,000
Projected black grouper landings (2010) ¹	86,886	31,863	118,749
Projected red grouper landings (2010) ²	221,557	276,740	498,297
Gag, black, red aggregate ACL (<i>proposed in Amend 17B</i>)	662,403	648,663	1,311,006

¹The commercial projected landings for 2010 was computed by using the annual average from 04-06. The landings from Jan through April were zero to account for the 4 month closure implemented on July 29, 2009. The landings from December were zero to account for the projected shallow water grouper closure when the gag commercial ACL would be met.

²The recreational projected landings for 2010 was computed by using the annual average from 04-06. The landings from Jan through April were zero to account for the 4 month closure implemented on July 29, 2009. In addition, harvest was reduced by 2.5% to account for the change in aggregate bag limit from 5 to 3.

Action 15: Establish Jurisdictional Allocations for Yellowtail Snapper

Notes: Analysis for Alternative 2 is based on the 2003 SEDAR stock assessment. These may not be viable alternatives because Florida Keys (Monroe County) is not post-stratified between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils.

Regions 1 through 3 were combined to represent South Atlantic jurisdiction, while Region 4 was used to represent the Gulf of Mexico jurisdiction.

Regions: 1 - North of Palm Beach county; 2 - Palm Beach through Miami-Dade counties; 3 - Monroe county (Florida Keys); and 4 - Gulf of Mexico north or west of the Keys.

Analysis for Alternatives 3-6 catch histories begin in 1993 due to issues associated with post-stratifying Florida Keys (Monroe County) landings prior to that date (1993-2009).

Alternative 1 (No action). Do not establish jurisdictional allocation of the yellowtail snapper acceptable biological catch (ABC) between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils.

Alternative 2. Establish a jurisdictional allocation for yellowtail snapper based on the most recent stock assessment for the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico (SEDAR 3, 2003).

Subalternative 2a. South Atlantic = 98% of ABC and Gulf = 2% of ABC (Established by using catch history from 1987-2001).

IPT recommends Subalternative 2a be folded into the discussion, since the resulting percentages are identical to those in Subalternative 2b.

Subalternative 2b. South Atlantic = 98% of ABC and Gulf = 2% of ABC (Established by using 50% of catch history from 1987-2001 + 50% of catch history from 1999-2001).

Subalternative 2c. South Atlantic = 100% of ABC and Gulf = 0% of ABC (Established by using highest catch history from 1987-2001).

Subalternative 2d. South Atlantic = 95% of ABC and Gulf = 5% of ABC (Established by using lowest catch history from 1987-2001).

Alternative 3: Establish a jurisdictional apportionment based on the Florida Keys (Monroe County) jurisdictional boundary between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils for yellowtail snapper acceptable biological catch (ABC) based on the following method: South Atlantic = 73% of ABC and Gulf = 27% of ABC (Established by using 50% of catch history from 1993-2009 + 50% of catch history from 2007-2009).

Alternative 4: Establish a jurisdictional apportionment based on the Florida Keys (Monroe County) jurisdictional boundary between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils for yellowtail snapper acceptable biological catch (ABC) based on the following method: South Atlantic = 75% of ABC and Gulf = 25% of ABC (Established by using 50% of catch history from 1993-2008 + 50% of catch history from 2006-2008).

Alternative 5: Establish a jurisdictional apportionment based on the Florida Keys (Monroe County) jurisdictional boundary between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils for yellowtail snapper acceptable biological catch (ABC) based on the following method: South Atlantic = 77% of ABC and Gulf = 23% of ABC (Established by using catch history from 1999-2008).

Alternative 6: Establish a jurisdictional apportionment based on the Florida Keys (Monroe County) jurisdictional boundary between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils for yellowtail snapper acceptable biological catch (ABC) based on the following method: South Atlantic = 71% of ABC and Gulf = 29% of ABC (Established by using catch history from 2005-2009).

Action 16: Establish an Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule and ABC for Dolphin

During their March 2011 meeting, the Council approved the following motion: For dolphin and wahoo, provide guidance to the SSC that based on biology and productivity and not overfishing/overfished status, the Council is comfortable using mean landings over the last 10 years + 1.0 standard deviation to set ABC.

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not establish an ABC Control Rule for Dolphin.

Alternative 2 (Preferred). Establish an ABC Control Rule where ABC equals OFL. This is 13,709,523 lbs whole weight.

Alternative 3. Adopt the SAFMC's SSC Control Rule and set ABC equal to a percentage of OFL

Subalternative 3a. $ABC = 65\%OFL = 8,911,190$ lbs whole weight.

Subalternative 3b. $ABC = 75\%OFL = 10,282,142$ lbs whole weight.

Subalternative 3c. $ABC = 85\%OFL = 11,653,095$ lbs whole weight.

Alternative 4. Establish ABC based on the Gulf Council's ABC control rule. Note: The Gulf Council's Control Rule, if applied to dolphin, would likely be Tier 3a and would set the OFL = mean 10 years most recent landings + 2 SD and set the ABC = mean or mean + 0.5-1.5 SD.

Action 17: Specify Allocations for Dolphin

[Note: When considering two sectors (Commercial and Recreational), the Recreational sector includes private recreational (shore/rental boats and charter boats), as well as headboats. When considering three sectors (Commercial, Recreational, and For-hire), the Recreational sector includes only private recreational (shore/rental boats) and for-hire includes headboats and charter boats.]

Alternative 1 (No Action). Continue to use the allocations for dolphin specified in the Dolphin Wahoo FMP (13% commercial/87% recreational).

Alternative 2. Define allocations for dolphin based upon landings from the ALS, MRFSS, and headboat databases. The allocation would be based on landings from the years 1999-2008. The allocation would be 7% commercial and 93% recreational. The commercial and recreational allocation specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Note: Using the new landings data to calculate allocations based on the Council's formula results in no change to Alternative 2 but it does change Alternatives 3 & 4. Alternative 3 percentages go from 8% to 7.3% commercial and from 92% to 92.7% recreational. Alternative 4 percentages go from 7.7% to 7.3% commercial, from 0.3 to 38.4% for-hire although the previous for-hire number only included headboats, and from 92% to 54.4% private because charterboats have been moved to the for-hire sector.

Alternative 3 (Preferred). Define allocations for dolphin based upon landings from the ALS, MRFSS, and headboat databases. The allocation would be based on the following formula for each sector:

Sector apportionment = (50% * average of long catch range (lbs) 1999-2008) + (50% * average of recent catch trend (lbs) 2006-2008). The allocation would be 7.3% commercial and 92.7% recreational. The commercial and recreational allocation specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Alternative 4. Define allocations for dolphin based upon landings from the ALS, MRFSS, and headboat databases. The allocation would be based on the following formula for each sector:

Sector apportionment = (50% * average of long catch range (lbs) 1999-2008) + (50% * average of recent catch trend (lbs) 2006-2008). The allocation would be 7.3% commercial, 38.4% for-hire, and 54.4% private recreational. The commercial, for-hire, and private recreational allocations specified for 2011 would remain in effect beyond 2011 until modified.

Action 18: Establish Annual Catch Limits (ACL) and Optimum Yield (OY) for Dolphin

Alternative 1 (No Action). There is no ACL specified for dolphin. OY for dolphin is the amount of harvest that can be taken by fishermen while not exceeding 75% of MSY (between 14.1 and 34.9 million pounds).

Alternative 2. ACL = OY = ABC = 13,709,523 pounds.

Alternative 3 (Preferred). ACL = OY = 85% of the ABC = 11,653,095 pounds.

Alternative 4. ACL = OY = 75% of the ABC = 10,282,142 pounds.

Alternative 5. ACL = OY = 65% of the ABC = 8,911,190 pounds.

Discussion

The Dolphin/Wahoo FMP (SAFMC 2004) established what is called a “soft cap” on the commercial sector. This soft cap does not trigger a closure of the commercial sector; however, it does trigger a review of the data and a determination whether action is necessary. The wording is as follows:

ACTION 12. Establish a cap of 1.5 million pounds or 13% of total landings, whichever is greater, for the commercial fishery for dolphin. Should the catch exceed this level, the Council will review the data and evaluate the need for additional regulations which may be established through the framework.

The AP discussed adding an alternative that would set ACL equal to 65%, 75%, or 85% of 46.5 million pounds (the top end of the current MSY range). The AP could not provide an ACL recommendation at this time given the problems with the landings data. The AP did recommend the Council examine a regional approach to allocating the quotas.

Table 2-44. ACL formula and ACL value (lbs whole weight) for dolphin under Alternatives 2-5. Commercial and recreational ACL values are based on preferred allocation alternative (8% commercial/92% recreational) in Action 17.

Alternative	ACL Formula	ACL value	Comm ACL	Rec ACL
2 (Preferred)	ABC	10,100,463	808,037	9,292,426
3	85% ABC	8,585,394	686,832	7,898,562
4	75% ABC	7,575,347	606,028	6,969,319
5	65% ABC	6,565,301	525,224	6,040,077

Action 19: Establish Accountability Measures for Dolphin

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not specify sector ACTs or AMs for dolphin. There is no hard quota for dolphin and there are no AMs in place for dolphin.

Commercial

Alternative 2. Specify commercial sector ACTs for dolphin, apply to commercial AM Alternatives 3 and 4.

Subalternative 2a (Preferred). Do not specify a commercial sector ACT.

Subalternative 2b. The commercial sector ACT equals 90% of the commercial sector ACL.

Subalternative 2c. The commercial sector ACT equals 80% of the commercial sector ACL.

Table 2-46. The commercial sector ACT for each of the alternatives. Values are in lbs gutted weight.

Species	Preferred Commercial ACL	Commercial Sector ACT		
		ACT Subalt. 2a (Preferred); No ACT	ACT Subalt. 2b; ACT=90%(ACL)	ACT Subalt. 2c; ACT=80%(ACL)
Dolphin	850,676	N/A	765,608	680,541

Alternative 3 (Preferred). After the commercial ACL is met or projected to be met, all purchase and sale of dolphin is prohibited and harvest and/or possession is limited to the bag limit.

Alternative 4. 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.

Recreational

Alternative 5. Specify recreational sector ACTs for dolphin, apply to recreational AM Alternatives 6-7.

Subalternative 5a. The recreational sector ACT equals 85% of the recreational sector ACL.

Subalternative 5b. The recreational sector ACT equals 75% of the recreational sector ACL.

Subalternative 5c (Preferred). The recreational sector ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater] Council guidance in December was to use the 3-year average (7.0)

Table 2-47. Proportional Standard Errors (PSEs) for dolphin from numbers estimates (A+B1) for all modes.

Obtained from <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov> on May 13, 2010.

Species	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	3 year average (2007-09)	5 year average (2005-09)
Dolphin	7.2	6.4	10.2	6.3	6.7	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.5

Note: The Council decided to use the 3 year average PSE because this better represented recent catches than the 5 year average.

Table 2-48. The recreational ACT for each of the alternatives. Values are in lbs whole weight.

Species	Preferred Recreational Sector ACL	Recreational Sector ACT		
		ACT Subalt. 5a; ACT=85%(ACL)	ACT Subalt. 5b; ACT=75%(ACL)	ACT Subalt. 5c; ACT equals sector ACL[(1-PSE) or 0.5, whichever is greater]
Dolphin	10,802,419	9,182,056	8,101,814	10,046,249

Alternative 6 (Preferred). Implement AMs if overage occurs.

Subalternative 6a. If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the recreational sector ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage.

Subalternative 6b. If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of the following fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year.

Subalternative 6c (Preferred). If the recreational sector ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the bag limit by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the recreational sector ACL for the following fishing year.

Alternative 7 (Preferred). For post-season accountability measures, consider smoothing the recreational landings to account for landings that are significantly higher or lower than the mean as a function of the sampling methodology.

Subalternative 7a (Preferred). For post-season accountability measures, compare recreational ACL with recreational landings over a range of years. For 2011, use only 2011 landings. For 2012, use the average landings of 2011 and 2012. For 2013 and beyond, use the most recent three-year running average.

Subalternative 7b. For dolphin implement a step-wise process in order to determine if smoothing of landings would occur when comparing recreational landings to the recreational ACLs (both individual and complex ACLs).

1. *Determine if an overage has occurred.* If the lower 90% confidence interval of MRFSS and headboat landings data is greater than the ACL, then an overage has occurred.
2. *Determine if future action is required.* Review the last 5 years of landings. Remove the highest and lowest values from consideration. If the 3 year average is greater than ACL, adjustment is required to prevent further overages in the following year.

Alternative 8. The Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to close the recreational fishery when the ACL is projected to be met.

Action 20: Establish Management Measures for Dolphin

Note: The Council's preferred recreational ACT does not require a reduction based on 2005-2009 average recreational catch; in fact, the average catch (2005-09) is 2% below the ACT (**Table 2-50**). The commercial sector will be closed when the commercial ACL is met or projected to be met.

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain current management regulations.

- Sale of recreationally caught dolphin in or from the Atlantic EEZ prohibited. For-hire vessels possessing the necessary state and Federal commercial permits can sell dolphin harvested under the bag limit in or from the Atlantic EEZ.
- Commercial soft cap of 1.5 million pounds or 13% of total landings, whichever is greater.
- Recreational daily bag limit of 10 dolphin per person per day in or from the EEZ not to exceed 60 dolphin per boat per day whichever is less. Bag limit of 10 dolphin per paying passenger on headboats.
- Minimum size limit for dolphin of 20 inches fork length off Florida and Georgia, and no minimum size limit north of Georgia. Note: Florida regulations require a minimum size limit of 20 inches fork length; a 10 fish per person bag limit with a 60 fish boat limit; and a saltwater products license, a restricted species endorsement, and a federal commercial

vessel permit to sell dolphin, exceed the 10-fish bag limit, or exceed 60 per vessel per day statewide.

- Vessel permits and operator permits are required for commercial and for-hire sectors.

Alternative 2 (Preferred). 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.

Alternative 3 (Preferred). Establish a minimum size limit of 20 inches fork length off South Carolina.

Alternative 4. Establish a minimum size limit of 20 inches fork length from Florida through New England.

Alternative 5. Increase the minimum size limit in Florida and Georgia to 22 inches or 24 inches fork length.

Alternative 6. Reduce the boat limit (e.g. reduce by 1/3). Note: this applies only to charterboats and recreational vessels, not headboats.

Subalternative 6a. Reduce the boat limit by 25%.

Subalternative 6b. Reduce the boat limit by 33%.

Subalternative 6c. Reduce the boat limit by 50%.