



Snapper Grouper Amendment 18B – Golden Tilefish

Snapper Grouper AP October 2011 –
Charleston, SC

Decision Document

Background and need for this amendment:

Recent amendments to the Snapper Grouper FMP have imposed more restrictive harvest limitations on snapper grouper fishermen. In an effort to identify other species to target, a greater number of fishermen have targeted golden tilefish. This increase in effort is intensifying the “race to fish” that already exists, which has resulted in a shortened season. The fishing season for golden tilefish in recent years has already been shortened to such a degree that South Carolina longline fishermen--who are typically unable to fish until April or May due to weather conditions-- and hook and line fishermen from Florida--who typically do not fish until the fall--are increasingly unable to participate in the fishery. The South Atlantic Council is concerned a continued increase effort will deteriorate profits even further and result in more unsafe fishing conditions.

The following was established through Snapper Grouper Amendment 17B. Regulations became effective in January 2011.

1. Allocations were specified as 97% commercial and 3% recreational.
2. ACL was set at the F_{OY} level (Total ACL = 326,554 lbs whole weight or 291,566 lbs gutted weight).
3. Commercial ACL = 282,819 lbs gutted weight based on the allocation alternative selected (97% commercial, 3% recreational).
4. Commercial AM: prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the quota is projected to be met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is projected to be met.
5. Recreational ACL = 1,578 fish based upon allocation alternative selected (97% commercial, 3% recreational).
6. Recreational AM: If the 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 sector ACL for the following fishing season. Compare

the recreational ACL with projected 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.

Specific goals of the amendment:

- Limit participation in the golden tilefish fishery
- Change the golden tilefish fishing year
- Change the golden tilefish commercial trip limits
- Update MSA parameters based on the current SEDAR stock assessment as necessary.

Management actions proposed in this Amendment:

1. Limit Participation in the Golden Tilefish Fishery
2. Establish Initial Eligibility Requirements for a Golden Tilefish Hook and Line Endorsement
3. Establish Initial Eligibility Requirements for a Golden Tilefish Longline Endorsement
4. Establish an Appeals Process
5. Allocate Commercial Golden Tilefish Quota Among Gear Groups
6. Allow for Transferability of Golden Tilefish Endorsements
7. Adjust Golden Tilefish Fishing Year
8. Establish Golden Tilefish Fishing Limits
9. Establish Trip Limits for Fishermen Who Do Not Receive a Golden Tilefish Hook-and-Line Endorsement
10. Establish Trip Limits for Fishermen Who Receive a Golden Tilefish Hook-and-Line Endorsement
11. Update MSA parameters based on the current SEDAR stock assessment as necessary
12. Revise Annual Catch Limit (ACL) and Optimum Yield (OY) for golden tilefish
13. Specify a Commercial Sector ACT
14. Specify a Recreational Sector ACT
15. Revise Accountability Measures (AMs) for golden tilefish

General Timing for this Amendment:

1. Approve for public hearings – September 2011
2. Public hearings – November 2011
3. Public Hearing at December 2011 Council meeting
4. Review comments and approve all actions – December 2011
5. Send to Secretary of Commerce – December 2011 or January 2012

Specific actions and alternatives being considered:

At the June 2011 Council meeting in Key West, Florida, the Council decided to move the actions pertaining to golden tilefish in Amendment 18A into a separate amendment. Amendment 18B now contains all actions pertaining only to the management of golden tilefish. This amendment currently has 11 actions. In addition, the amendment will contain a discussion of the updated parameters from the golden tilefish assessment (SEDAR 25) due to be completed later this year.

Action 1. Limit Participation in the Golden Tilefish Fishery

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not limit effort in the golden tilefish fishery through an endorsement program.

Alternative 2. Limit golden tilefish effort through a golden tilefish gear endorsement program: Only snapper grouper permit holders with a golden tilefish longline endorsement or a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement associated with their snapper grouper permit will be allowed to possess golden tilefish.

Subalternative 2a. Individuals that meet the qualifying criteria for both hook and line and longline endorsements may receive both endorsements.

Subalternative 2b. Individuals that meet the qualifying criteria for both hook and line and longline endorsements only receive one endorsement, chosen by the individual that qualifies.

NEW Subalternative 2c (Preferred). Individuals that meet the qualifying criteria only receive a longline endorsement.

~~**Subalternative 2c.** Individuals that meet the qualifying criteria for both hook and line and longline endorsements only receive a hook and line endorsement.~~

~~**Subalternative 2d.** Individuals that meet the qualifying criteria for both hook and line and longline endorsements only receive a longline endorsement.~~

Council changes/guidance:

1. Approved splitting of Action 1 into three actions: one to establish an endorsement program, one to establish eligibility criteria for the hook-and-line sector and one to establish eligibility criteria for the longline sector.
2. Approved deleting Subalternatives 2c and 2d.
3. Selected a subalternative 2a as preferred.
4. Added a new alternative that only establishes a longline endorsement and selected as preferred.

AP recommendation (November 2010): Delay decision on establishment of endorsement program until the assessment is complete.

Action 2. Establish Initial Eligibility Requirements for a Golden Tilefish Hook and Line Endorsement

Action 1 (No Action) (Preferred). Do not establish initial eligibility requirements for a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement

Alternative 2. Establish initial eligibility requirements for a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement based on the following criteria:

Subalternative 2a (Preferred). To receive a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement, the permit must have a harvest level of 1,000 pounds gutted weight (gw) (with hook and line gear) when the individual's best three of five years from 2001-2005 are aggregated. (Sub-alternative devised by the GT LAP WG.)

~~**Subalternative 2b.** To receive a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement, the permit must have a harvest level of 500 pounds gw (with hook and line gear) when the individual's best three of five years from 2001-2005 are aggregated. (Sub-alternative devised by the GT LAP WG)~~

~~**Subalternative 2c.** To receive a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement, the permit must have a harvest level of 500 pounds gw (with hook and line gear) when the individual's landings from 2001-2005 are averaged.~~

~~**Subalternative 2d.** To receive a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement, the permit must have a harvest level of 500 pounds gw (with hook and line gear) when the individual's landings from 1999-2008 are averaged.~~

~~**Subalternative 2e.** To receive a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement, the permit must have a harvest level of 1,000 pounds gw (with hook and line gear) when the individual's landings from 1999-2008 are averaged.~~

~~**Subalternative 2f.** To receive a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement, the permit must have a harvest level of 1,000 pounds gw (with hook and line gear) when the best 3 of 5 yrs 2001-05 are aggregated and at least 1 lb was landed in 2008.~~

~~**Subalternative 2g.** To receive a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement, the permit must have a harvest level of 1,000 pounds gw (with hook and line gear) when the best 3 of 5 yrs 2001-05 are aggregated and at least 1 lb was landed in 2007 or 2008.~~

~~**Subalternative 2h.** To receive a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement, the permit must have a harvest level of 500 pounds gw (with hook and line gear) when the best 3 of 5 yrs 2001-05 are aggregated and at least 1 lb was landed in 2008.~~

Subalternative 2i. To receive a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement, the permit must have a harvest level of 500 pounds gw (with hook and line gear) when the best 3 of 5 yrs 2001-05 are aggregated and at least 1 lb was landed in 2007 or 2008.

~~**Subalternative 2j.** To receive a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement, the permit must have a harvest level of 500 pounds gw (with hook and line gear) when the best 3 of 5 yrs 2001-05 are averaged and at least 1 lb was landed in 2008.~~

~~**Subalternative 2k.** To receive a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement, the permit must have a harvest level of 500 pounds gw (with hook and line gear) when the best 3 of 5 yrs 2001-05 are averaged and at least 1 lb was landed in 2007 or 2008.~~

Subalternative 2l. To receive a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement, the permit must have a harvest level of 500 pounds gw (with hook and line gear) when the best 3 of 5 yrs from 2005-2009 are aggregated. ***NOTE: This alternative added in June 2011

Subalternative 2m. To receive a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement, the permit must have a harvest level of 1,000 pounds gw (with hook and line gear) when the best 3 of 5 yrs from 2005-2009 are aggregated. ***NOTE: This alternative added in June 2011

Council changes/guidance:

1. Clarified that landings must have already been reported into logbook.
2. Substituted the word "individual" with "permit" in the alternatives.
3. Clarified that a valid SG permit is required over the specified years.
4. Reduced the number of alternatives significantly (see strikethrough).
5. Clarified that 2005-2009 are used in Subalternatives 2l and 2m to include a more recent timeframe.
6. Selected Alternative 1 (No Action) as Preferred.

AP recommendation (November 2010): Select Subalternative 2f as preferred. The AP did not recommend an endorsement for the hook-and-line sector.

Action 3. Establish Initial Eligibility Requirements for a Golden Tilefish Longline Endorsement

Action 1 (No Action). Do not establish initial eligibility requirements for a golden tilefish longline endorsement

Alternative 2. Establish initial eligibility requirements for a golden tilefish longline endorsement based on the following criteria:

Subalternative 2a (Preferred). To receive a golden tilefish longline endorsement, the individual must have a total of 2,000 pounds gw golden tilefish caught (with longline gear) between 2006 and 2008. (Sub-alternative devised by the GT LAP WG)

Subalternative 2b. To receive a golden tilefish longline endorsement, the individual must have a total of 5,000 pounds gw golden tilefish caught (with longline gear) between 2006 and 2008.

Subalternative 2c. To receive a golden tilefish longline endorsement, the individual must have an average of 5,000 pounds gw golden tilefish caught (with longline gear) between 2006 and 2008.

Subalternative 2d. To receive a golden tilefish longline endorsement, the individual must have an average of 5,000 pounds gw golden tilefish caught (with longline gear) between 2007 and 2009.

Subalternative 2e. To receive a golden tilefish longline endorsement, the individual must have an average of 10,000 pounds gw golden tilefish caught (with longline gear) between 2007 and 2009.

Recommendations:

1. Clarify what is meant by “years between 2007 and 2009”. Does it mean only 2008 or 2007 through 2009?
2. Clarify whether 5,000 pounds is required each year and does this poundage refer to the average between the years specified?
3. Consider changing the wording of the alternatives similar to the hook-and line alternatives in Action 2
4. Clarify whether landings must have already been reported into existing data systems (logbook and/or trip tickets).
5. Clarify whether a valid SG permit is required over the specified years.
6. New alternative added: Look at time series from 2007-2010 as the qualifying period and include subalternatives for the level of landings of 10K, 20K and 30K pounds

Action 4. Establish an Appeals Process

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not establish an appeals process for fishermen who believe they were omitted from the endorsement program based on eligibility criteria.

Alternative 2 (Preferred). Establish an appeals process. (This process would be developed by NMFS and would be consistent with similar processes in the region.)

Recommendations:

1. Clarify that this does not include hardship appeals.
2. Staff recommends adopting the following alternatives similar to what is being recommended in Wreckfish Amendment 20A and Amendment 18A

Alternative 1: No Action. Do not specify provisions for an appeals process.

Alternative 2: A period of 90 days will be set aside to accept appeals to the black sea bass endorsement program starting on the effective date of the final rule. The (RA) will review, evaluate, and render final decisions on appeals. Hardship arguments will not be considered. The RA will determine the outcome of appeals based on NMFS' logbooks. If NMFS' logbooks are not available, the RA may use state landings records. Appellants must submit NMFS' logbooks or state landings records to support their appeal.

Alternative 3: A period of 90 days will be set aside to accept appeals to the black sea bass endorsement program starting on the effective date of the final rule. The (RA) will review, evaluate, and render final decisions on appeals. Hardship arguments will not be considered. A special board composed of state directors/designees will review, evaluate, and make individual recommendations to RA on appeals. Hardship arguments will not be considered. The special board and the RA will determine the outcome of appeals based on NMFS' logbooks. If NMFS' logbooks are not available, the RA may use state landings records. Appellants must submit NMFS' logbooks or state landings records to support their appeal.

Action 5. Allocate Commercial Golden Tilefish Quota Among Gear Groups

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not allocate commercial golden tilefish quota among gear groups.

Alternative 2. Allocate the golden tilefish commercial quota based on 75% longline, 25% hook and line.

Alternative 3. Allocate the golden tilefish commercial quota based on 85% longline, 15% hook and line.

Alternative 4 (Preferred). Allocate the golden tilefish commercial quota based on 90% longline and 10% hook and line.

Recommendations:

1. Change action and alternatives to read as follows:

Action 5. Allocate the Commercial Golden Tilefish Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Among Gear Groups

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not allocate the commercial golden tilefish ACL among gear groups (currently commercial ACL = 282,819 pounds gw).

Alternative 2. Allocate the golden tilefish commercial ACL as follows: 75% to the longline sector and 25% to the hook and line sector (currently would be 212,114 pounds gw to longlines and 70,705 pounds gw to hook and line).

Alternative 3. Allocate the golden tilefish commercial ACL as follows: 85% to the longline sector and 15% to hook and line sector (currently would be 240,396 pounds gw to longlines and 42,423 pounds gw to hook and line).

Alternative 4 (Preferred). Allocate the golden tilefish commercial ACL as follows: 90% to the longline sector and 10% to hook and line sector (currently would be 254,537 pounds gw to longlines and 28,282 pounds gw to hook and line).

2. Clarify that Action 11 may change the commercial ACL which would change the allocations shown above.

AP recommendation (November 2010): Select Alternative 4 as preferred.

Action 6. Allow for Transferability of Golden Tilefish Endorsements

Alternative 1 (No Action). Longline and hook and line golden tilefish endorsements *cannot* be transferred.

Alternative 2 (Preferred). Longline golden tilefish endorsements can be transferred between any two individuals or entities that hold valid unlimited Federal commercial snapper grouper permits and fish with longline gear.

Subalternative 2a (Preferred). Transferability allowed upon program implementation.

Subalternative 2b. Transferability not allowed during the first 2 years of the program.

Subalternative 2c. Transferability not allowed during the first 3 years of the program.

Subalternative 2d. Transferability not allowed during the first 5 years of the program.

Alternative 3 (Preferred). Hook and line golden tilefish endorsements can be transferred between any two individuals or entities that hold valid unlimited Federal commercial snapper grouper permits and fish with hook and line gear.

Subalternative 3a (Preferred). Transferability allowed upon program implementation.

Subalternative 3b. Transferability not allowed during the first 2 years of the program.

Subalternative 3c. Transferability not allowed during the first 3 years of the program.

Subalternative 3d. Transferability not allowed during the first 5 years of the program.

Alternative 4. Hook and line and longline golden tilefish endorsements can be transferred between any two individuals or entities that hold valid unlimited Federal commercial snapper grouper permits, regardless of the gear endorsement category.

Subalternative 4a. Transferability allowed upon program implementation.

Subalternative 4b. Transferability not allowed during the first 2 years of the program.

Subalternative 4c. Transferability not allowed during the first 3 years of the program.

Subalternative 4d. Transferability not allowed during the first 5 years of the program.

Recommendations:

1. Approve wording change for Alternative 1 (insert the word “cannot”)
2. Determine whether the 3- & 5-year subalternatives are really necessary.
3. Clarify how we determine what gear they fish with (logbook?)
4. Remove subalternatives c and d from Alternatives 2-4.

AP recommendation (November 2010): Longline endorsement should be transferrable.

Action 7. Adjust Golden Tilefish Fishing Year

Preferred Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain existing January 1 start date for the golden tilefish fishing year.

Alternative 2. Change the start of the golden tilefish fishing year from January 1 to September 1.

Alternative 3. Change the start of the golden tilefish fishing year from January 1 to August 1.

Alternative 4. Change the start of the golden tilefish fishing year from January 1 to May 1.

Recommendations:

Recommend adopting language below for alternatives under this action:

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain the existing calendar year as the golden tilefish fishing year (January 1 through December 31).

Alternative 2. Specify the golden tilefish fishing year as September 1 through August 31.

Alternative 3. Specify the golden tilefish fishing year as August 1 through July 31.

Alternative 4. Specify the golden tilefish fishing year as May 1 through April 30.

AP recommendation (November 2010): Select Alternative 1 as preferred.

Action 8. Establish Golden Tilefish Fishing Limits

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain the 300 pound gutted weight trip limit when 75% of the ~~quota~~ ACL is taken.

Alternative 2 (Preferred). Remove the 300 pound gutted weight trip limit when 75% of the ~~quota~~ ACL is taken.

Alternative 3. Prohibit longline fishing after 75% of the ~~quota~~ ACL is taken.

Recommendations:

1. Delete Action 8. The longline and hook and line sectors now have separate sector allocations, which equate to quotas. The existing trip limit is no longer applicable. This will be considered for removal under Action 10.
2. Change the wording of Action 8 to: "Modify the Golden Tilefish Trip Limit".
3. Approve language change in alternatives.

Action 9. Establish Trip Limits for Fishermen Who Do Not Receive a Golden Tilefish Hook-and-Line Endorsement

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not establish trip limits for the golden tilefish hook and line fishery for commercial fishermen who do not receive an endorsement in the commercial golden tilefish hook and line fishery.

Alternative 2 (Preferred). Establish trip limits of 300 pounds gw for the golden tilefish hook and line fishery for commercial fishermen who do not receive an endorsement in the commercial golden tilefish hook and line fishery. Vessels with longline endorsements are not eligible to fish for this trip limit.

Alternative 3. Establish trip limits of 400 pounds gw for the golden tilefish hook and line fishery for commercial fishermen who do not receive an endorsement in the commercial golden tilefish hook and line fishery. Vessels with longline endorsements are not eligible to fish for this trip limit.

Alternative 4. Establish trip limits of 500 pounds gw for the golden tilefish hook and line fishery for commercial fishermen who do not receive an endorsement in the commercial golden tilefish hook and line fishery. Vessels with longline endorsements are not eligible to fish for this trip limit.

NEW Alternative 5 (Preferred). Establish trip limits of 100 pounds gw for the golden tilefish hook and line fishery for commercial fishermen who do not receive an endorsement in the commercial golden tilefish hook and line fishery. Vessels with longline endorsements are not eligible to fish for this trip limit. ***NOTE: This alternative added in June 2011 (Note: Catches under the trip limits would count towards the hook and line gear group quota established under Action 2.)

Recommendations:

1. Delete this action. The existing amount of effort is more than enough to fill the quota very quickly. Distributing among those that qualify will only limit the derby to those that qualify. Fishermen have fished with longline gear under the existing 300-pound trip limit that was intended to prevent such fishing. Allowing all other commercial fishermen (we don't even limit it to other federal snapper grouper permit holders) to target golden tilefish under a 100, 300, 400 or 500 pound trip limit will only encourage further effort shifts into the golden tilefish fishery which goes against the purpose and need of this amendment.
2. Under Preferred Alternative 4 for Action 5, the hook and line allocation is 28,282 pounds. The endorsement system and trip limits for those that receive endorsements would only apply to this small quantity of fish.

AP recommendation (November 2010): Select Alternative 2 as preferred and not establish a hook-and-line endorsement.

Action 10. Establish Trip Limits for Fishermen Who Receive a Golden Tilefish Hook-and-Line Endorsement

NOTE: New action added by Council in June 2011

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not establish trip limits for fishermen who receive hook and line endorsements in the golden tilefish fishery.

Alternative 2. Establish trip limits of 300 pounds *gutted weight* for fishermen who receive hook and line endorsement in the golden tilefish fishery.

Alternative 3. Establish trip limits of 400 pounds *gutted weight* for fishermen who receive hook and line endorsement in the golden tilefish fishery.

Alternative 4. Establish trip limits of 500 pounds *gutted weight* for fishermen who receive hook and line endorsement in the golden tilefish fishery.

Recommendations:

1. Approve suggested change to the wording of alternatives
2. If the Council considers a trip limit for the hook and line sector, then they should consider establishing a separate ACL for that sector. Action 5 establishes separate quotas for each sector. Otherwise, a trip limit for the hook and line sector simply reduces the catch for that sector and gives it to the longline sector. Action 8 includes an option to close the longline sector when 75% of the quota is met but 25% of the quota (~70K) is twice what is taken by the hook and line sector so there would be no point for a hook and line trip limit.
3. Change the wording of Action 10 to: Modify Golden Tilefish Trip limits
4. Change the wording of alternatives to:
 - Alternative 1 (No Action).** *Retain the existing 300-pound gutted weight trip limit when 75% of the commercial ACL is taken.*
 - Alternative 2.** *Remove the 300 pound gutted weight trip limit when 75% of the commercial ACL is taken.*
 - Alternative 3.** *Establish a trip limit of 100 pounds gutted weight for the hook and line sector (under the current preferred for Action 5, this would allow for 282 trips)*
 - Alternative 4.** *Establish a trip limit of 200 pounds gutted weight for the hook and line sector (under the current preferred for Action 5, this would allow for 141 trips)*
 - Alternative 5.** *Establish a trip limit of 300 pounds gutted weight for the hook and line sector (under the current preferred for Action 5, this would allow for 94 trips)*

Alternative 6. Establish a trip limit of 400 pounds gutted weight for the hook and line sector (under the current preferred for Action 5, this would allow for 70 trips)

Alternative 7. Establish a trip limit of 500 pounds gutted weight for the hook and line sector (under the current preferred for Action 5, this would allow for 56 trips)

5. Consider reducing the number of alternatives significantly.

Action 11. Update MSA parameters *NOTE: New action proposed by staff*****

Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY), Minimum Stock Size Threshold (MSST) Maximum Fishing Mortality Threshold (MFMT), Overfishing Limit (OFL) and Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for Golden Tilefish

Current parameters for golden tilefish are shown in **Table 1** below.

Table 1. Current and proposed parameters for golden tilefish.

Criteria	South Atlantic - Current		South Atlantic - Proposed	
	Definition	Value	Definition	Value
MSST	$SSB_{MSY}(0.75)$	1,454,063 lbs whole weight	$SSB_{MSY}(0.75)$	SEDAR 25
MFMT	F_{MSY}	0.043	F_{MSY}	SEDAR 25
MSY	Yield at F_{MSY}	336,425 lbs whole weight	Yield at F_{MSY}	SEDAR 25
F_{MSY}	F_{MSY}	0.043	F_{MSY}	SEDAR 25
OY	Yield at F_{OY}	326,554 lbs whole weight	Yield at F_{OY}	SEDAR 25
F_{OY}	$75\%F_{MSY}$	0.03225	$F_{OY} = 65\%, 75\%, 85\% F_{MSY}$	SEDAR 25
M	n/a	0.08	M	SEDAR 25

Amendment 18B will update the current values with those obtained from the ongoing stock assessment (SEDAR 25).

Overfishing Level (OFL) for Golden Tilefish

The OFL, if provided by a SSC, is an annual amount of catch that corresponds to the estimate of MFMT applied to a stock or complex's abundance; MSY is the long-term average of such catches.

The SSC provided the following OFL at their April 2010 meeting: "OFL: 336,400 lbs. ABC: 311,000 lbs. OFL is MSY from SEDAR 4 (2004) and ABC is from May 5, 2009 golden tilefish memo from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center."

The ABC Control Rule is being adopted in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment. Once the new stock assessment is completed, the SSC will apply the control rule applied to determine the ABC for golden tilefish. Golden tilefish would fall under Level 1 of the Control Rule.

Once the ABC is specified, the Council should consider specification of an ACL. Based on alternatives for other snapper grouper species in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment, the Council may consider the following options for revising ACLs and OY, ACTs (commercial and recreational) and AMs (commercial and recreational).

Action 12. Revise Annual Catch Limit (ACL) and Optimum Yield (OY) for Golden Tilefish *NOTE: New action proposed by staff*****

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not specify an ACL for golden tilefish.

Alternative 2. ACL = OY = ABC.

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

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

Action 13. Specify a Commercial Sector ACT *NOTE: New action proposed by staff*****

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not specify a commercial sector ACTs for golden tilefish

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

Alternative 3. The commercial sector ACT equals 80% of the commercial sector ACL.

Action 14. Specify a Recreational Sector ACT *NOTE: New action proposed by staff*****

Alternative 1 (No Action). Do not specify a recreational sector

Alternative 2. The recreational sector ACT equals 85% of the recreational sector ACL

Alternative 3. The recreational sector ACT equals 75% of the recreational sector ACL

Alternative 4. The recreational sector ACT equals sector $ACL * (1 - PSE)$ or $ACL * 0.5$, whichever is greater

Action 15. Revise Accountability Measures (AMs) for Golden Tilefish *NOTE:**
New action proposed by staff***

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain current commercial and recreational AMs for golden tilefish:

- Commercial AM: prohibit harvest, possession, and retention when the quota is projected to be met. All purchase and sale is prohibited when the quota is projected to be met.
- Recreational AM: If the 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 sector ACL for the following fishing season. Compare the recreational ACL with projected 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.

Alternative 2. Adopt new commercial AMs

Alternative 3. Adopt new recreational AMs

Commercial and recreational AMs are being proposed in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment for other snapper grouper species as follows:

Alternative 2. Specify the AM trigger.

Subalternative 2a. Do not specify an AM trigger.

Subalternative 2b. If the annual landings exceed the ACL in a given year.

Subalternative 2c. If the mean landings for the past three years exceed the ACL^{1,2}

Subalternative 2d. If the modified mean landings exceed the ACL. The modified mean is the average of the most recent 5 years of available landings data with highest and lowest landings estimates removed^{1,2}

Subalternative 2e. If the lower bound of the 90% confidence interval estimate of the MRFSS landings' population mean plus headboat landings is greater than the ACL.

Notes:

¹ Start the clock over. In any year the ACL is reduced or increased, the sequence of future ACLs will begin again starting with a single year of landings compared to the ACL for that year, followed by a 2-year average of landings compared to the 2-year average annual catch limits in the next year, followed by a 3-year average of landings compared to the 3-year average of ACLs for the third year, and so on.

² For 2011, use only 2011 landings. For 2012, use the mean landings of 2011 and 2012. For 2013 and beyond, use the most recent three-year running mean.

Alternative 3. Specify the in-season AM.

Subalternative 3a. Do not specify an in-season AM.

Subalternative 3b. The Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to close the recreational sector when the ACL is projected to be met.

Alternative 4. Specify the post-season AM.

Subalternative 4a. Do not specify a post-season AM.

Subalternative 4b. For post-season accountability measures, compare ACL with landings over a range of years. For 2011, use only 2011 landings. For 2012, use the mean landings of 2011 and 2012. For 2013 and beyond, use the most recent three-year running mean.¹

Subalternative 4c. Monitor following year. If the ACL is exceeded, the following year's landings would be monitored for persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator would take action as necessary.

Subalternative 4d. Monitor following year and shorten season as necessary. 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.

Subalternative 4e. Monitor following year and reduce bag limit as necessary. If the ACL is exceeded, the following year's landings would be monitored for persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator will publish a notice to reduce the bag limit as necessary.

Subalternative 4f. Shorten following season. If the 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 ACL for the following fishing season.

Subalternative 4g. Payback. If the ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage.