

Reg Amendment 13 -
**Revision of Acceptable Biological
Catches, Annual Catch Limits (ACLs,
including Sector ACLs), Allocations,
and Annual Catch Targets**

SAFMC – December 4, 2012

Why this amendment?

- 37 un-assessed species have ACLs and allocations based on landings data as laid out in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment.
- Recreational landings used to determine ACLs and Allocations were based on MRFSS landings
- MRFSS has been replaced by MRIP
- Commercial data were updated, as well.

- MRFSS landings are no longer being calculated. If the update isn't done, MRIP landings would be compared to MRFSS landings.
- The new MRIP landings and updated commercial landings now represent the “best available data”.

Regulatory Amendment 13

- Reg Amend 13 contains 1 action
 - No Action – don't change the ABC, ACL, sector ACLs, allocations or recreational ACT
 - Change the ABC, ACL, sector ACLs, allocations and the recreational ACT based on the most current data.

How Will Reg 13 Affect Fisheries?

- Deepwater and porgies complexes that closed early potentially could have remained open longer for the commercial fishery.
 - Impact would have been greater to the deepwater complex than the porgies complex due to the relatively small size of the porgies complex increase.

- The revised ACL for the jacks complex would have resulted in the commercial sector of that fishery closing sooner.
 - However the size of the reduced ACL is fairly small. Based on ex-vessel value, it represents about a \$4,000 decrease in allowable catch.

- ACLs for the commercial fisheries for blue runner and gray triggerfish would be revised downward.
 - Blue runner fishery is expected to make it through December 2012 without a closure, but the size of the new ACL might cause it to close early next year.
 - Gray triggerfish closed on 9/11/12. It would be expected to close relatively sooner next year.

- The recreational fishery for Atlantic spadefish is the only recreational fishery would be expected in the future to exceed its ACL.
 - The recreational reduction is 37%, however this is not a considered a major fishery.
 - Much of the landings occur in state waters.

SSC Comments

- The SSC and SEP were in favor of implementing the changes.
 - The SSC received a presentation from Nick Farmer that explained to them how the numbers changed from the Comprehensive ACL Amendment to Regulatory Amendment 13.

Snapper Grouper AP Comments

- The AP did not disagree with the Council's approach in Reg Amendment 13 to modify the ABC, ACLs, sector ACLs, allocations, and recreational ACT.
- AP members would like the Council to consider a change in the Accountability Measures for all stocks to allow the commercial sector to continue fishing until the TOTAL ACL was projected to be met.