

Mutton Snapper Bag Limit Analysis

Action 2. Mutton snapper recreational bag limit in Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic

Option 1. No action. Mutton snapper is part of the aggregate 10 snapper bag limit in the Gulf of Mexico* and the South Atlantic**.

Option 2. Set a bag limit for mutton snapper during the regular season of 5 per person and during the spawning season (May-June) of 2 per person.

Option 3. Set a bag limit for mutton snapper during the regular season of 3 per person and during the spawning season (May-June) of 1 per person.

Option 4. Set a bag limit for mutton snapper during the regular season of 2 per person and during the spawning season (May-June) of 0 per person.

Option 5. Retain mutton snapper within the aggregate 10 snapper bag limit.

* In the Gulf of Mexico, the 10 snapper per person aggregate includes all snapper species in the reef fish management unit except red snapper, vermilion snapper, and lane snapper (Table 1).

** In the South Atlantic, the 10 snapper per person aggregate includes all snapper species in the reef fish management unit except red snapper and vermilion snapper (Table 1). Cubera snapper less than 30" TL are included in the 10 fish bag limit. The aggregate 10 snapper bag limit includes a maximum of 2 cubera snapper per person (not to exceed 2 per/vessel) for fish 30" Total Length (TL) or larger off Florida.

Table 1. Composition of the 10 snapper aggregate in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic.

Gulf of Mexico	South Atlantic
Gray snapper	Gray snapper
Mutton snapper	Mutton snapper
Yellowtail snapper	Yellowtail snapper
Cubera snapper	Cubera snapper
Queen snapper	Queen snapper
Blackfin snapper	Blackfin snapper
Silk snapper	Silk snapper
Wenchman	Dog snapper
	Lane snapper
	Mahogany snapper

Note: If any of Options 2 - 4 were chosen for Action 1, taking no action for Action 2 would allow Florida to make the bag limit change on their own.

Table 2. Percent of status quo harvest remaining under various bag limits for Gulf and South Atlantic **headboat-harvested** mutton snapper.

Year	Status Quo (10)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2011	100%	64%	77%	86%	91%	95%	97%	99%	99%	100%
2012	100%	57%	69%	78%	85%	91%	94%	96%	98%	98%
2013	100%	67%	79%	87%	92%	95%	97%	98%	98%	99%
Mean 11-13	100%	63%	75%	84%	90%	93%	96%	98%	98%	99%

Table 3. Percent of status quo harvest remaining under various bag limits for Gulf and South Atlantic **private/charter-harvested** mutton snapper.

Year	Status Quo (10)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2010	100%	82%	94%	98%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
2011	100%	76%	90%	93%	94%	95%	95%	96%	97%	97%
2012	100%	78%	88%	91%	94%	95%	96%	97%	98%	99%
Mean 10-12	100%	78%	91%	94%	96%	96%	97%	98%	98%	99%

Table 4. Percent of status quo harvest remaining under various bag limits for Gulf and South Atlantic **headboat-harvested** mutton snapper for Wave 3 (May-June) during 2010-2012, Waves 1,2,4,5, and 6 combined, and Waves 1-6 during 2010-2012.

Waves	Status Quo (10)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Wave 3	100%	67%	78%	85%	90%	93%	96%	97%	99%	99%
Waves 1,2,4,5,6	100%	61%	74%	84%	90%	94%	96%	98%	98%	99%
Waves 1-6	100%	63%	75%	84%	90%	93%	96%	98%	98%	99%

Table 5. Percent of status quo harvest remaining under various bag limits for Gulf and South Atlantic **private/charter-harvested** mutton snapper for Wave 3 (May-June) during 2010-2012, Waves 1,2,4,5, and 6 combined, and Waves 1-6 during 2010-2012.

Waves	Status Quo (10)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Wave 3	100%	72%	82%	88%	91%	93%	95%	96%	97%	98%
Waves 1,2,4,5,6	100%	83%	95%	97%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%
Waves 1-6	100%	78%	91%	94%	96%	96%	97%	98%	98%	99%

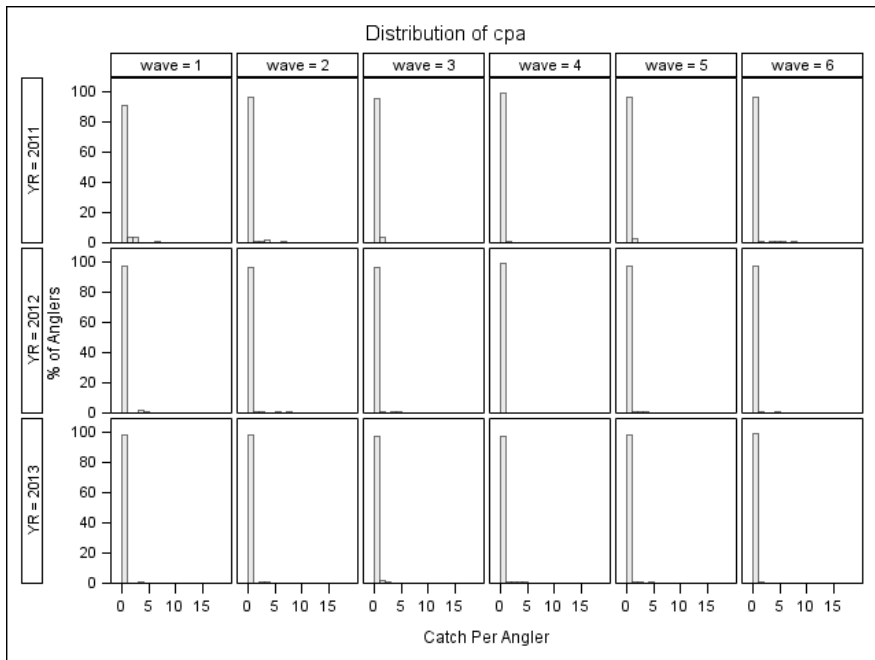


Figure 1. Histogram of the distribution of SA and GOM mutton snapper **headboat** catch per angler, by wave.

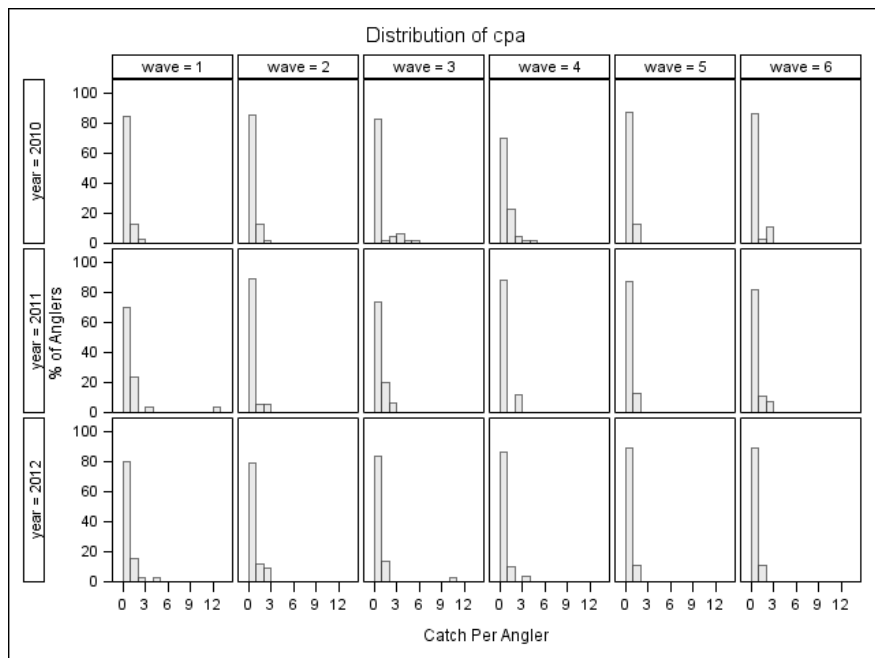


Figure 2. Histogram of the distribution of SA and GOM Mutton Snapper catch per angler, by **MRFS** wave.