

# DRAFT – Awaiting SEFSC Review

*Science, Service, Stewardship*



## Species groupings for ACL/AM management in the Gulf of Mexico

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June 1, 2010

**NOAA  
FISHERIES  
SERVICE**

**Presentation for SAFMC**

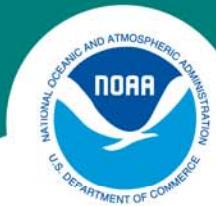


## WHY SPECIES GROUPINGS?

Traditionally, management measures are implemented based upon species-specific stock assessment results.

Limitations on time, finances, and/or data will require the Gulf Council to establish ACLs for ~28 unassessed finfish species without the benefit of an assessment.

One possible approach for these unassessed species would be to assign them to assemblages that would be managed as units.



## STOCK COMPLEXES

**“The vulnerability of stocks to the fishery should be evaluated when determining if a particular stock complex should be established or reorganized, or if a particular stock should be included in a complex.”**

*ACL Final Rule*



## STOCK COMPLEXES

“Stock complexes may be comprised of:

- 1) One or more indicator stocks, each of which has SDC and ACLs, and several other stocks;
- 2) Several stocks without an indicator stock, with SDC and an ACL for the complex as a whole; or
- 3) One or more indicator stocks, each of which has SDC and management objectives, with an ACL for the complex as a whole...”



## SETTING ABCs AND ACLs

**“...ABC control rule means a specified approach to setting the ABC for a stock or stock complex as a function of the scientific uncertainty in the estimate of OFL and any other scientific uncertainty...”**

*ACL Final Rule*

**“Every managed species needs to be covered by an ABC and ACL...but the individual species need not have species-specific ABC and ACL.”**

*SERO General Counsel*

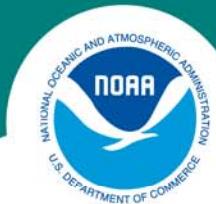


## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

**GOAL:** Provide guidance for Gulf Council in establishing species groupings for ACL/AM management.

### OBJECTIVES:

1. To determine whether species assemblages can be identified in the Gulf of Mexico.
2. To determine if these assemblages are consistent between commercial and recreational fisheries.
3. To develop species complexes that are "...sufficiently similar in geographic distribution, life history, and vulnerabilities to the fishery such that the impact of management actions on the stocks is similar." (NS1)



## METHODS

1. Life history, vulnerability
2. Percent landings and percent trips by dataset
3. Principal components analysis
  - *PCA on root-root transformed landings*
  - *PCA on binary transformed landings*
4. Hierarchical cluster analysis
  - **Ward's Minimum Variance** on root-root transformed landings
  - **Sorenson Average Linkage** on binary transformed landings
5. Median correlation matrices
6. Nodal analysis
7. Weighted mean cluster association index
8. Maps of species distribution



## DATA OVERVIEW

### **1. Commercial Logbook (2005-2009)**

- 27,566 longline records (5904 trips)
- 121,767 vertical line records (35,217 trips)
- Trip-level, self-reported landings in weight
- By Gear
- Aggregated Year, Month, Area, Depth

### **2. Reef Fish Observer Program (2006-2009)**

- 140,204 set-level records (9031 sets)
- Trained observer landings in numbers



## DATA OVERVIEW (con't)

### 3. Headboat Logbook (2004-2009)

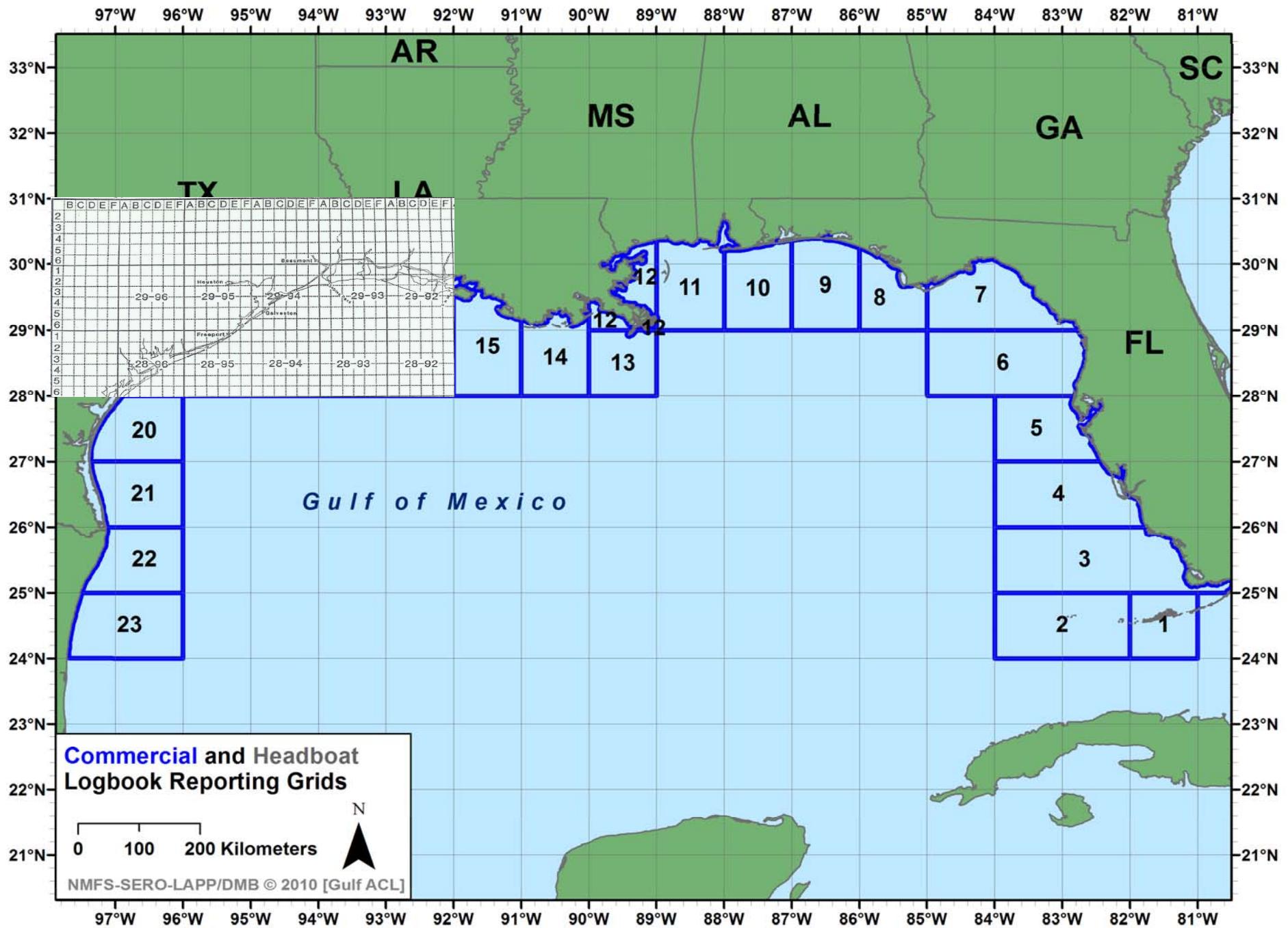
- 121,334 trip-level records (10,893 trips)
- Self-reported encounters (landings+releases) in numbers
- Aggregated by Year, Month, Area, Trip Duration

### 4. MRFSS (2000-2009)

- 64,782 dockside intercept records (430 intercepts)
- Trip-level, self-reported catch-per-angler ( $A+B1+B2$  catch)
- Aggregated Year, Wave, Mode, Area Fished

### 5. NMFS Bottom Longline Survey (1995-2009)

- 831 set-level, fishery-independent records (684 sets)





# % LANDINGS

HIGHEST % <5% <1%

COMMON NAME	CLL	CVL	RFOP	HBS	MRFSS	BLL
red snapper	3%	31%	20%	26%	44%	29%
red grouper	51%	19%	36%	1%	2%	29%
vermilion snapper	0%	24%	21%	47%	6%	0%
yellowedge grouper	15%	0%	5%	0%	0%	16%
golden tilefish	8%	0%	2%			14%
gag	9%	10%	3%	2%	8%	2%
gray snapper	0%	2%	1%	3%	27%	0%
gray triggerfish	0%	1%	2%	7%	7%	
sand perch			0%	4%	2%	
greater amberjack	1%	4%	1%	1%	3%	2%
blueline tilefish	2%	0%	2%	0%		3%
scamp	2%	2%	3%	0%	0%	1%
lane snapper	0%	1%	0%	6%	1%	0%
yellowtail snapper	0%	4%	1%	0%	0%	
snowy grouper	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%
warsaw grouper	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%
mutton snapper	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
black grouper	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
speckled hind	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%
almaco jack	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
banded rudderfish	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	

COMMON NAME	CLL	CVL	RFOP	HBS	MRFSS	BLL
silk snapper	0%	0%	0%	0%		
dwarf sand perch			0%			0%
goliath grouper			0%	0%	0%	0%
misty grouper	0%	0%			0%	
lesser amberjack	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
rock hind			0%	0%	0%	
queen snapper	0%	0%	0%	0%		0%
yellowfin grouper	0%	0%	0%	0%		
wenchman	0%	0%	0%		0%	0%
blackfin snapper	0%	0%	0%	0%		
red hind	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
goldface tilefish			0%			0%
yellowmouth grouper		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
hogfish	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
cubera snapper	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
dog snapper	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
anchor tilefish			0%			
schoolmaster snapper	0%	0%				
Nassau grouper		0%			0%	
blackline tilefish			0%			
mahogany snapper		0%				

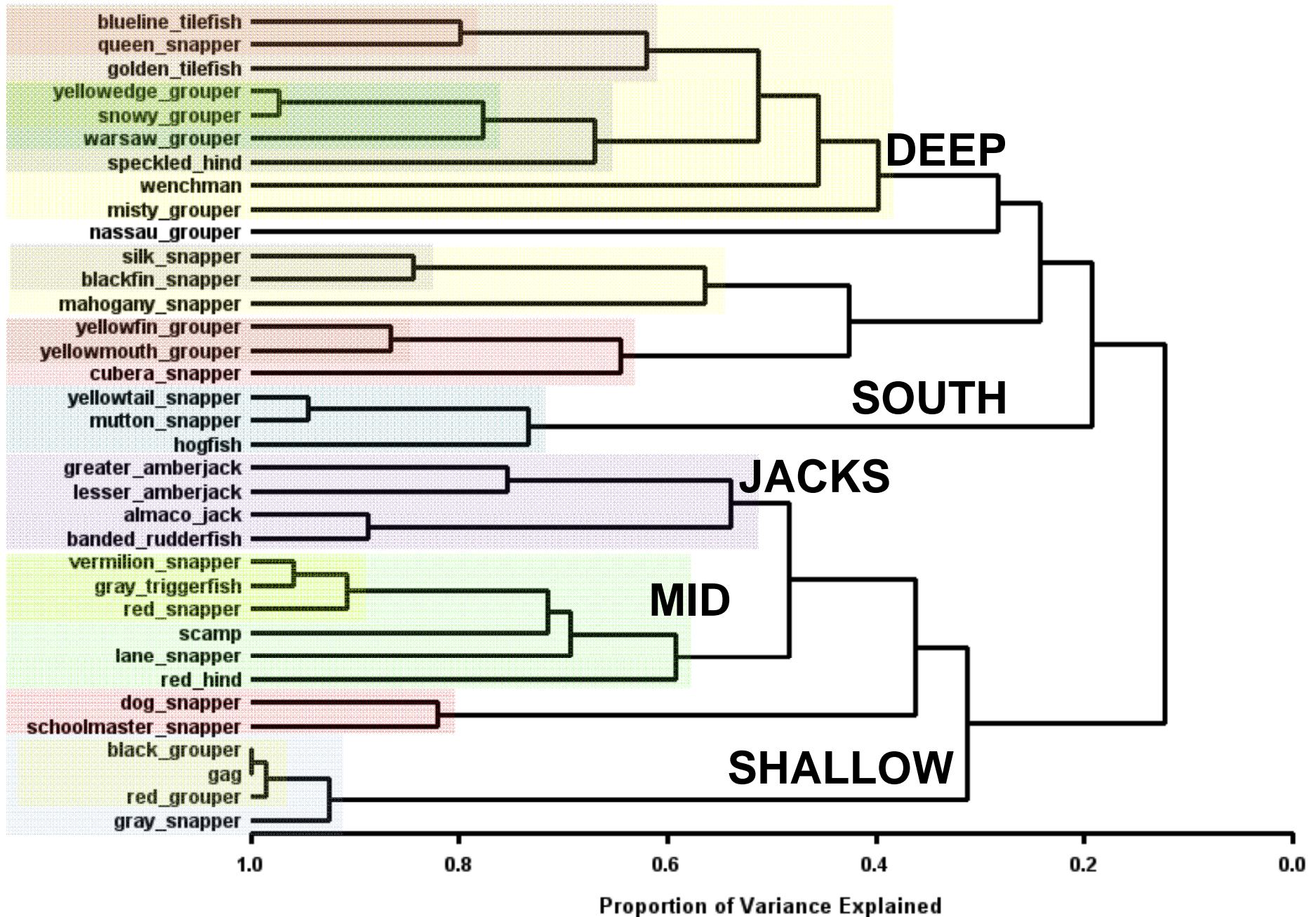
# % RECORDS

HIGHEST %      <5%    <1%

COMMON NAME	CLL	CVL	RFOP	HBS	MRFSS	BLL
red grouper	74%	53%	51%	74%	29%	28%
gag	73%	53%	17%	72%	75%	4%
red snapper	14%	40%	36%	78%	60%	33%
gray snapper	31%	32%	5%	53%	84%	1%
gray triggerfish	12%	24%	11%	76%	42%	
vermilion snapper	9%	34%	24%	73%	30%	1%
scamp	55%	28%	17%	35%	18%	2%
sand perch			1%	44%	30%	
lane snapper	10%	18%	4%	67%	43%	0%
black grouper	73%	53%	1%	4%	5%	0%
greater amberjack	24%	12%	7%	31%	31%	2%
yellowedge grouper	30%	3%	6%	1%	2%	24%
golden tilefish	17%	1%	1%			14%
almaco jack	1%	6%	6%	19%	13%	0%
snowy grouper	25%	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%
goliath grouper			0%	0%	24%	0%
yellowtail snapper	2%	12%	0%	10%	4%	
warsaw grouper	9%	4%	1%	7%	7%	3%
mutton snapper	18%	5%	1%	2%	3%	0%
banded rudderfish	1%	2%	2%	14%	4%	
blueline tilefish	12%	3%	3%	0%		4%

COMMON NAME	CLL	CVL	RFOP	HBS	MRFSS	BLL
rock hind				2%	8%	2%
speckled hind	14%	1%	4%	2%	0%	1%
silk snapper	8%	2%	0%	0%		
blackfin snapper	5%	1%	0%	0%		
hogfish	0%	1%	0%	3%	3%	
lesser amberjack	4%	3%	1%	1%	1%	0%
red hind	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	
queen snapper	3%	1%	0%	0%		0%
misty grouper	2%	0%			0%	
dog snapper	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	
dwarf sand perch			0%			1%
cubera snapper	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	
yellowmouth grouper		0%	1%	1%	0%	0%
wenchman	0%	0%	0%		0%	1%
yellowfin grouper	0%	0%	0%	0%		
Nassau grouper		0%			0%	
goldface tilefish			0%			0%
schoolmaster	0%	0%				
anchor tilefish			0%			
blackline tilefish			0%			
mahogany snapper		0%				

Principle Components Clustering of BINARY Gulf Commercial Vertical Line Landings Partitioned by Depth and Area



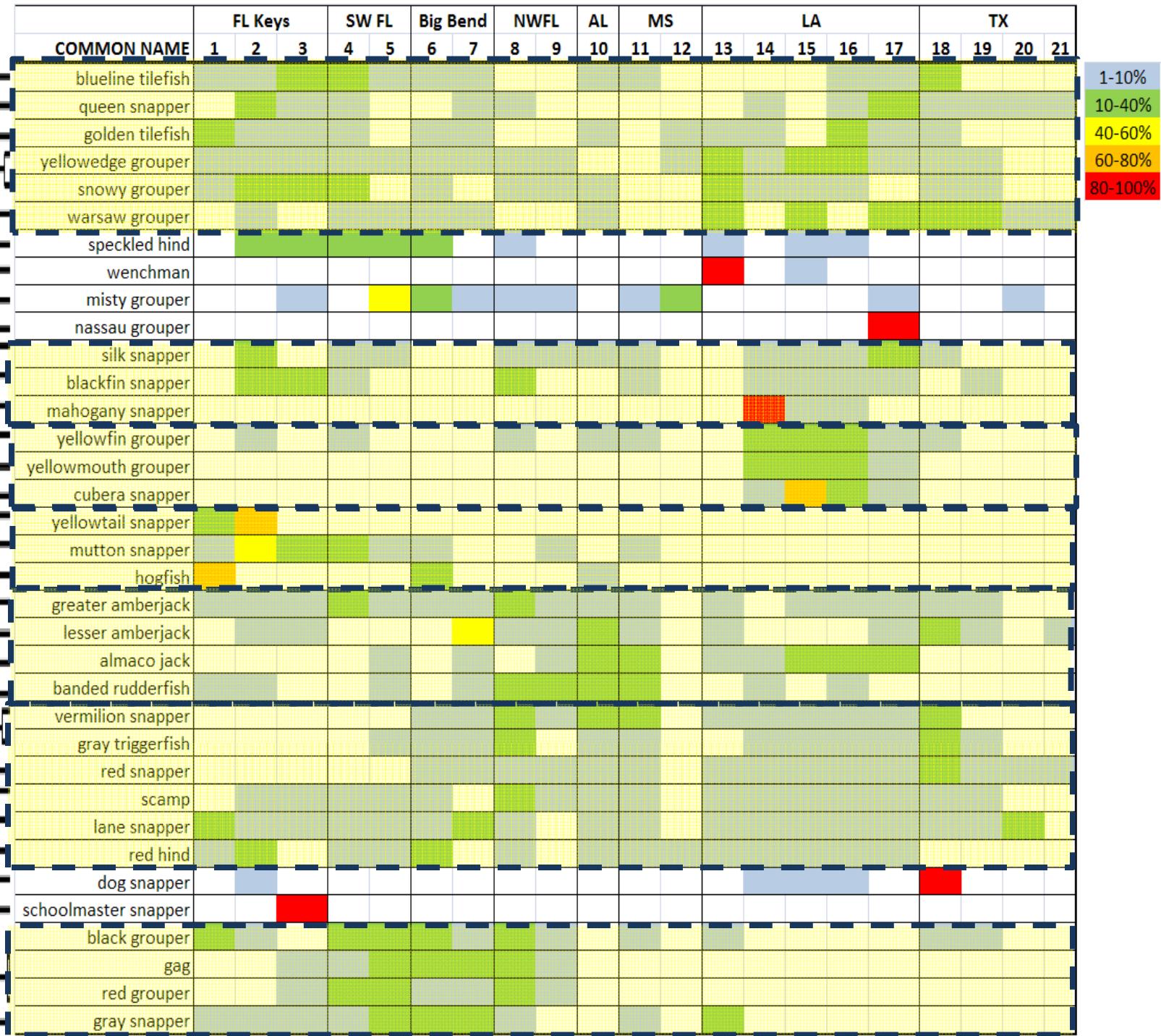


# MEDIAN PEARSON CORRELATION MATRIX & NODAL ANALYSIS

- Integrate across data sources
- Useful for placing rare species

	almaco jack	anchor tilefish	banded rudderfish	bald grouper	blackfin snapper	blueline tilefish	bluefin snapper	cubera snapper	dog snapper	dwarf sand perch	gag	golden tilefish	goliath grouper	gray snapper	gray triggerfish	greater amberjack	hogfish	lance snapper	Nassau grouper	queen snapper	red grouper	red hind	red snapper	rock hind	sand perch	scamp	schoolmaster snapper	silk snapper	snowy grouper	speciated hind	vermillion snapper	warsaw grouper	wenchman	yellowedge grouper	yellowtail snapper
almaco jack		-0.01	<b>0.27</b>	0.01	0.06	0.00	-0.01	0.04	0.05	0.00	0.08	-0.02	-0.01	0.00	<b>0.28</b>	0.17	0.04	0.06	0.04	0.00	-0.01	0.04	0.13	0.13	0.01	0.09	0.00	0.06	0.23	0.10	0.00				
anchor tilefish	-0.01		0.06	0.04	0.08	0.01	-0.01	0.09	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.12	0.19	0.01	-0.01	0.16	-0.05	0.00	0.04	0.07	0.09	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00				
banded rudderfish	<b>0.27</b>		0.00	0.06	0.04	0.08	0.01	-0.01	0.09	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.12	0.19	0.01	-0.01	0.16	-0.05	0.00	0.04	0.07	0.09	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01				
black grouper	0.01	0.00	0.06		0.06	0.01	-0.01	0.09	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.12	0.19	0.01	-0.01	0.16	-0.05	0.00	0.04	0.07	0.09	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01					
blackline tilefish	0.08	0.00	0.04		0.06	0.01	-0.01	0.09	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.09	0.08	0.12	0.04	0.08	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.09	0.04	0.01	0.06	0.16	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00				
blackline tilefish	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
bluefin tilefish	-0.01	0.06	0.04		0.02	0.00	-0.01	0.04	0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.02	0.08	-0.01	0.01	-0.02	0.02	0.00	0.07	-0.02	0.06	0.13	0.11	0.00	0.06	0.08	0.26	0.24	0.02	0.02	0.03				
cubera snapper	0.04	0.00	-0.01	<b>0.11</b>	0.07	0.00	-0.01	0.04	0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.00	-0.01	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					
dog snapper	0.05	0.00	-0.03	0.03	0.05	0.00	-0.01	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.05	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.05	0.01	0.06	0.04	<b>0.21</b>	<b>0.07</b>	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.02			
dwarf sand perch	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
gag	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
golden tilefish	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
goliath grouper	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
gray snapper	0.03	0.00	0.12	0.09	0.06	0.00	-0.01	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.39</b>	0.06	0.19	0.10	0.04	0.05	0.21	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
gray triggerfish	0.28	0.01	0.19	0.17	0.09	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.27	0.04	0.12	0.01	<b>0.39</b>	0.17	0.04	0.23	0.10	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.19	0.12	0.18	0.04	0.24	0.03	0.00	0.08	0.53			
greater amberjack	0.17	0.02	0.01	0.07	0.12	0.04	0.06	0.01	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.17	0.01	0.05	0.08	0.02	0.02	0.08	0.04	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.08</b>	0.05	0.18	0.08	0.05	0.00	0.12	0.05			
hogfish	0.04	0.00	-0.01	0.06	0.04	0.00	-0.01	0.01	0.00	0.09	0.01	<b>0.18</b>	0.16	0.04	0.00	0.05	0.02	0.06	0.03	0.00	0.08	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					
lance snapper	0.06	0.00	0.16	0.08	0.08	0.00	-0.01	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.00	-0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	<b>0.23</b>	0.05	0.06	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
lesser amberjack	0.04	0.05	0.10	0.06	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.00	0.10	-0.01	0.02	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
mahogany snapper	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.03	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	<b>0.08</b>	-0.03	0.11	0.04	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					
misty grouper	0.00	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.07	0.00	-0.02	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.00	<b>0.20</b>	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					
mtton snapper	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.19	0.00	0.00	-0.02	0.12	0.00	-0.01	0.02	0.00	<b>0.21</b>	0.06	0.08	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					
Nassau grouper	0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					
queen snapper	0.04	0.00	-0.01	0.04	<b>0.20</b>	0.00	0.00	-0.02	0.06	0.07	0.00	-0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					
red grouper	0.07	0.02	0.16	0.08	-0.04	-0.01	0.13	0.03	-0.01	0.03	<b>0.35</b>	-0.18	0.03	<b>0.28</b>	0.19	0.02	0.11	0.20	0.09	-0.01	0.05	0.00	-0.01	0.04	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.13	0.20	0.03					
red hind	0.08	0.00	0.04	0.10	0.11	0.08	0.00	0.05	0.10	-0.01	0.09	0.01	0.12	0.08	0.08	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
red snapper	0.13	0.00	0.12	0.02	0.08	-0.01	0.01	0.02	0.10	-0.10	0.03	-0.02	0.16	0.04	-0.04	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
rock hind	0.04	0.00	-0.01	0.10	0.04	0.08	0.03	0.06	-0.01	0.10	<b>0.24</b>	0.07	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.16	0.01	-0.05	0.15	-0.08	-0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					
sand perch	0.13	0.00	<b>0.39</b>	0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.06	0.00	0.23	-0.01	0.08	0.05	0.22	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
scamp	0.14	0.00	0.07	0.23	0.12	0.02	-0.01	0.03	0.04	<b>0.30</b>	-0.05	0.01	0.01	0.34	0.18	0.05	0.09	0.13	0.00	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
schoolmaster snapper	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
silk snapper	0.09	0.00	-0.01	0.10	<b>0.16</b>	0.00	0.06	0.03	0.07	0.00	0.02	-0.03	0.09	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.08	0.08	0.03	-0.01	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.02	0.09	<b>0.11</b>	-0.01	0.02					
snowy grouper	0.00	0.05	-0.06	0.01	0.00	<b>0.26</b>	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.22	-0.01	-0.01	0.03	0.01	-0.05	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
speckled hind	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.05	0.00	<b>0.24</b>	0.06	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.08	0.05	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
vermillion snapper	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.08	-0.01	-0.01	0.03	0.11	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.07	0.01	<b>0.16</b>	0.00	0.11	0.07	0.05	0.07	<b>0.22</b>	0.06	0.05			
wahoo	0.18	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.08	0.04	-0.01	-0.01	0.03	0.11	0.05	0.02	0.01																		

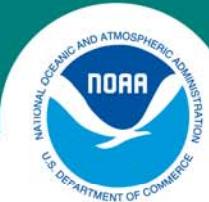
# COMMERCIAL VERTICAL LINE CO-OCCURRENCE



	COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	ASSESSED	PSA
V U L	golden tilefish (tilefish)	<i>Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps</i>	2010	3.33
	blueline tilefish	<i>Caulolatilus microps</i>	2010	3.4*
	anchor tilefish	<i>Caulolatilus intermedius</i>		-
	blackline tilefish	<i>Caulolatilus cyanops</i>		-
	goldface tilefish	<i>Caulolatilus crysops</i>		-
N E R	yellowedge grouper	<i>Epinephelus flavolimbatus</i>	2010	3.64
	snowy grouper	<i>Epinephelus niveatus</i>		3.54
	warsaw grouper	<i>Epinephelus nigritus</i>		3.89
	speckled hind	<i>Epinephelus drummondhayi</i>		3.42*
	misty grouper	<i>Epinephelus mystacinus</i>		3.66
	queen snapper	<i>Etelis oculatus</i>		3.08*
	wenchman	<i>Pristipomoides aquilonaris</i>		-
A B I	gray triggerfish	<i>Balistes capriscus</i>	2006	2.46*
	red snapper	<i>Lutjanus campechanus</i>	2010	3.37
	vermillion snapper	<i>Rhomboplites aurorubens</i>	2006	3.07
	lane snapper	<i>Lutjanus synagris</i>		2.99
	blackfin snapper	<i>Lutjanus buccanella</i>		3.36*
	silk snapper	<i>Lutjanus vivanus</i>		3.52
	gray (mangrove) snapper	<i>Lutjanus griseus</i>		3.17
L I T Y	yellowtail snapper	<i>Ocyurus chrysurus</i>	2003	2.84
	hogfish	<i>Lachnolaimus maximus</i>	2004	3.05
	mutton snapper	<i>Lutjanus analis</i>	2008	3.27
	cubera snapper	<i>Lutjanus cyanopterus</i>		3.92*
	dog snapper	<i>Lutjanus jocu</i>		3.29*
	schoolmaster	<i>Lutjanus apodus</i>		3.49*
	mahogany snapper	<i>Lutjanus mahogoni</i>		3.55*

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COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	ASSESSED	PSA
greater amberjack	<i>Seriola dumerili</i>	2006	3.23
almaco jack	<i>Seriola rivoliana</i>		3.35*
banded rudderfish	<i>Seriola zonata</i>		3.26*
lesser amberjack	<i>Seriola fasciata</i>		3.64
black grouper	<i>Mycteroperca bonaci</i>	2010	3.48
gag	<i>Mycteroperca microlepis</i>	2006	3.52
red grouper	<i>Epinephelus morio</i>	2007	3.28
scamp	<i>Mycteroperca phenax</i>		3.25
dwarf sand perch	<i>Diplectrum formosum</i>		-
sand perch	<i>Diplectrum bivattatum</i>		-
red hind	<i>Epinephelus guttatus</i>		3.05
rock hind	<i>Epinephelus adscensionis</i>		3.23*
yellowfin grouper	<i>Mycteroperca venenosa</i>		3.39*
yellowmouth grouper	<i>Mycteroperca interstitialis</i>		3.2*
goliath grouper	<i>Epinephelus itajara</i>	2004	3.42
Nassau grouper	<i>Epinephelus striatus</i>		3.3



## ADVANTAGES OF STOCK COMPLEXES

Stock complexes achieve management goals:

1. Avoids AMs associated with exceeding ACL for species whose landings fluctuate widely due to rarity / ID issues
2. Allow primary data collection and enforcement focus on economically-important species
3. Promotes regulations considering multispecies context; prelude to ecosystem-based management

Ideally, stock complexes would:

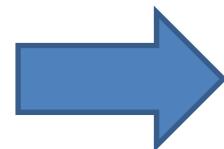
1. Be adaptive management, modified by new data/assessment
2. Use indicator species to trigger AMs



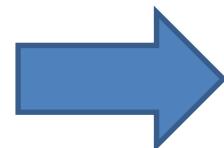
## DISADVANTAGES OF STOCK COMPLEXES

- Main goal of a stock complex is to place rarely caught species with some indicator, but these species are the most difficult to cluster.
- Use of assessed species as indicator species may be only practical way to set ACL, but assessed species may not be the most vulnerable species in the complex.
- Most vulnerable species in complex may still be prone to overfishing, although no SDC exists to determine this.
- Current assemblages may not be natural, as overexploitation may alter community structure.

**DEEPWATER GROPER**  
YELLOWEDGE GROPER<sub>1</sub>  
WARSAW GROPER<sub>2</sub>  
SNOWY GROPER  
MISTY GROPER  
SPECKLED HIND  
QUEEN SNAPPER  
WENCHMAN



**1A**  
**YELLOWEDGE GROPER**



**1B**  
WARSAW GROPER  
SNOWY GROPER  
MISTY GROPER  
SPECKLED HIND  
QUEEN SNAPPER  
WENCHMAN

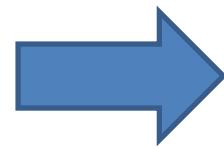


*Assessed Species<sub>1</sub>*

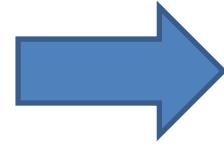
*Most Vulnerable Species<sub>2</sub>*

*Vulnerability based on MRAG PSA 'Overall Risk' Scores (Gulf when available)*

**TILEFISH**  
TILEFISH (GOLDEN)<sub>1</sub>  
BLUELINE TILEFISH<sub>2</sub>  
ANCHOR TILEFISH  
GOLDFACE TILEFISH  
BLACKLINE TILEFISH



**1A**  
**TILEFISH (GOLDEN)**



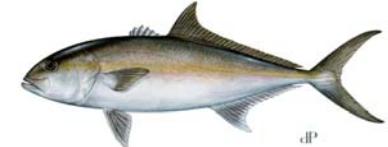
**1B**  
BLUELINE TILEFISH  
ANCHOR TILEFISH  
GOLDFACE TILEFISH  
BLACKLINE TILEFISH



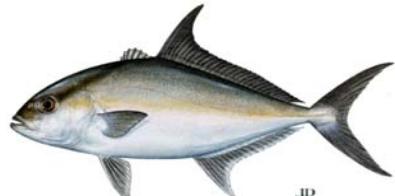
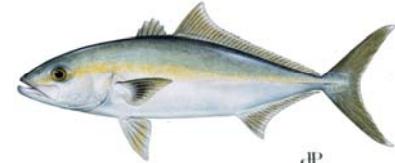
**JACKS**  
 GREATER AMBERJACK<sub>1</sub>  
 LESSER AMBERJACK<sub>2</sub>  
 BANDED RUDDERFISH  
 ALMACO JACK



**1A**  
**GREATER AMBERJACK**

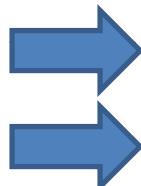


**1B**  
**LESSER AMBERJACK**  
**BANDED RUDDERFISH**  
**ALMACO JACK**



ALMACO JACK *Seriola rivoliana*

**MID/DEEPWATER**  
 GRAY TRIGGERFISH<sub>1</sub>  
 RED SNAPPER<sub>1</sub>  
 VERMILION SNAPPER<sub>1</sub>  
 LANE SNAPPER  
 SILK SNAPPER<sub>2</sub>  
 BLACKFIN SNAPPER  
 QUEEN SNAPPER  
 WENCHMAN



**1A-B**  
**GRAY TRIGGERFISH**



**RED SNAPPER**



**1C-E**  
**VERMILION SNAPPER**  
**LANE SNAPPER**



**BLACKFIN SNAPPER**  
**SILK SNAPPER**



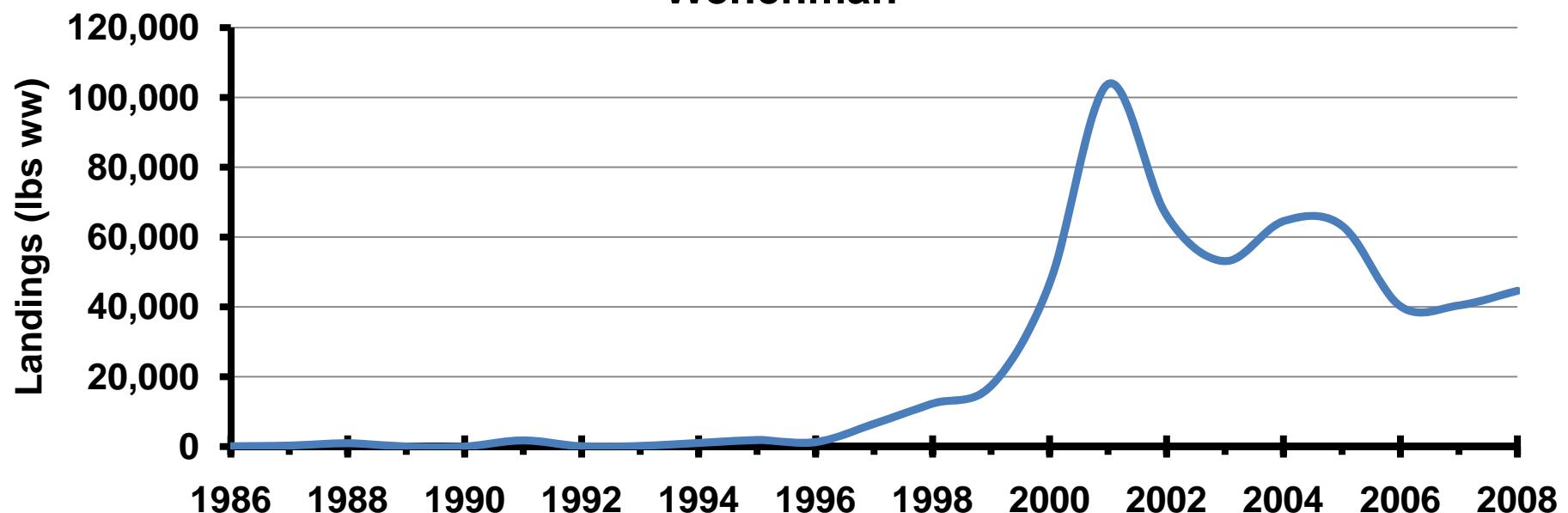
**QUEEN SNAPPER**  
**WENCHMAN**

OR

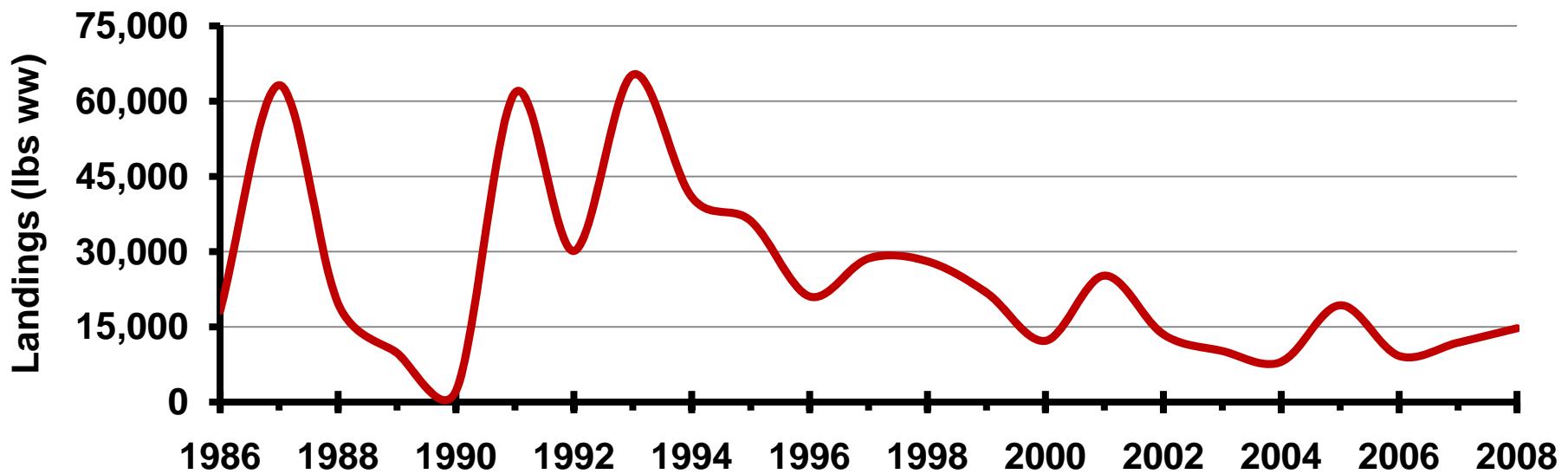
**1C-D**  
**VERMILION SNAPPER**  
**LANE SNAPPER**  
**BLACKFIN SNAPPER**  
**SILK SNAPPER**

**QUEEN SNAPPER**  
**WENCHMAN**

## Wenchman

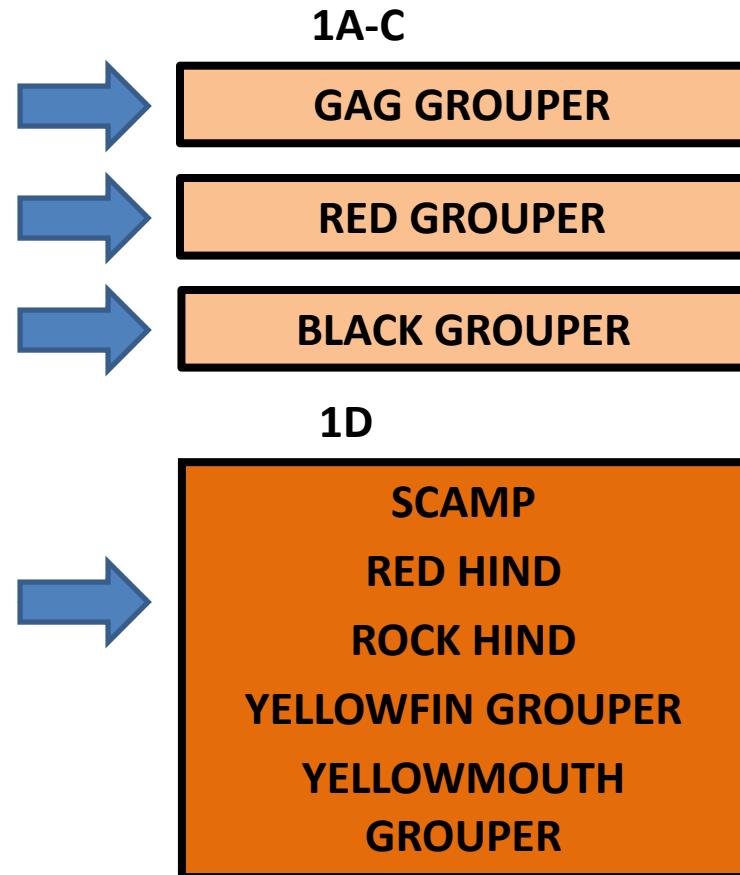


## Queen Snapper



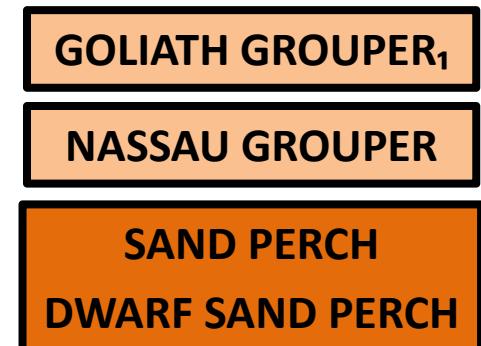
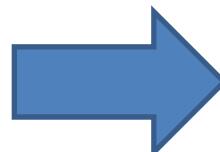


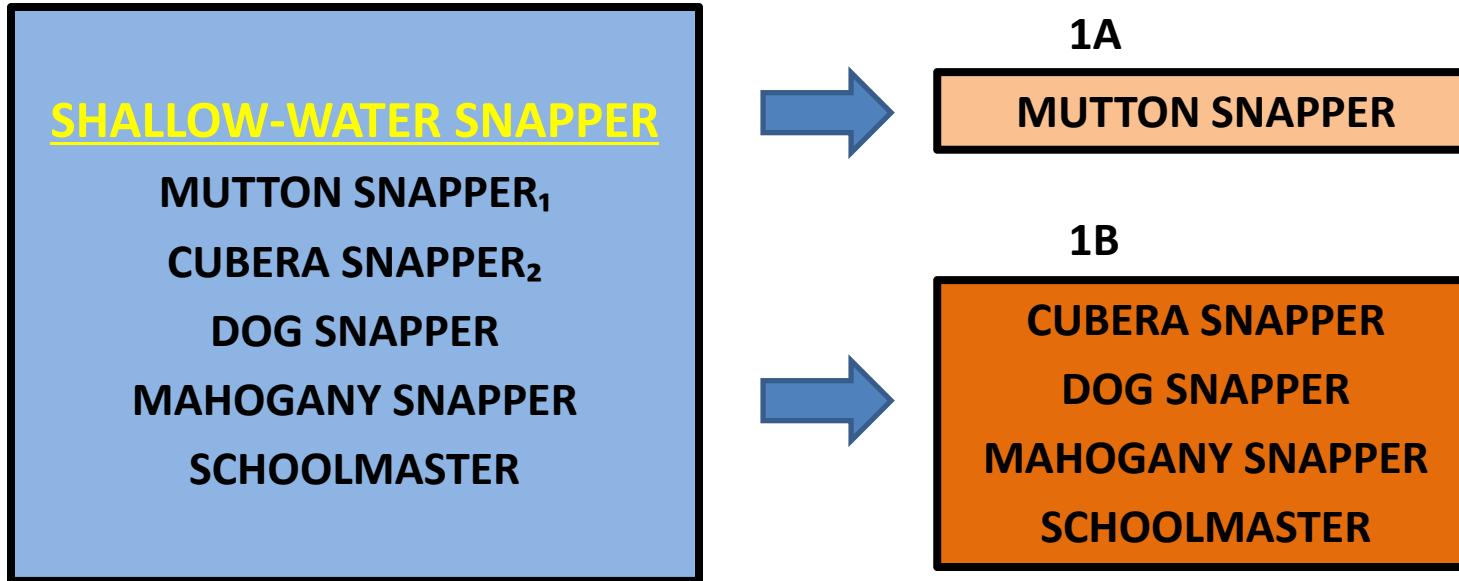
Assessed Species<sub>1</sub>  
Most Vulnerable Species<sub>2</sub>



*Vulnerability based on MRAG PSA 'Overall Risk' Scores (Gulf when available)*

**ADDITIONAL  
COMPLEXES**





Assessed Species<sub>1</sub>  
Most Vulnerable Species<sub>2</sub>

*Vulnerability based on MRAG PSA 'Overall Risk' Scores (Gulf when available)*

## ADDITIONAL COMPLEXES





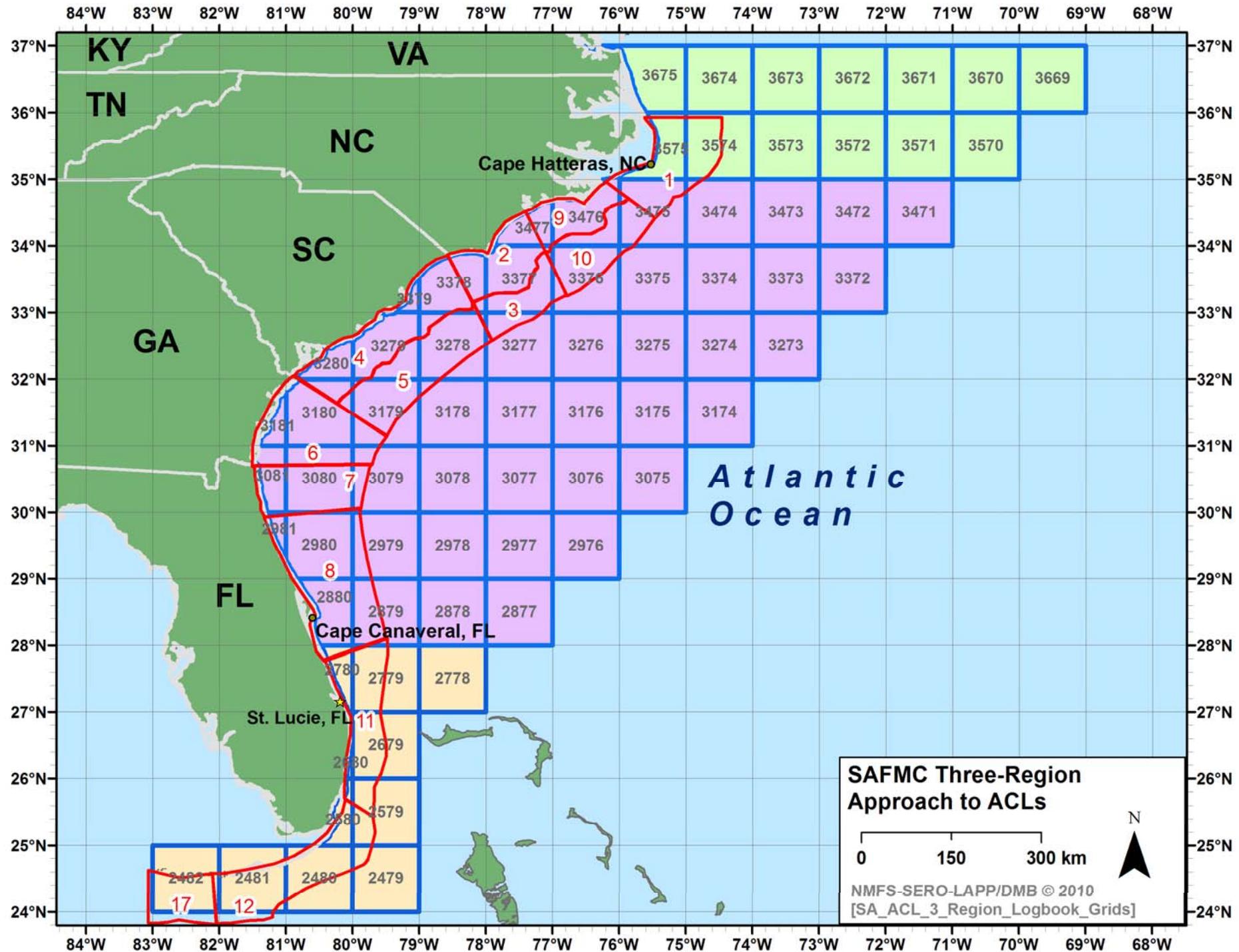
## FUTURE GOALS

- Management using stock complexes is a temporary solution; however, single-species management should not be the end goal.
- Ecosystem-based management that seeks to understand linkages between communities and environmental forces should be next step.



## SAFMC Differences

- SAFMC manages **73** finfish species under the Snapper-Grouper FMU, as opposed to **42** finfish species managed by Gulf Reef Fish FMP.
- SAFMC jurisdiction covers broad range of latitudes with 2-3 biogeographic regions.
- Bathymetric slope on continental shelf in SAFMC waters is extreme, results in broad depth range available to fishers on a single trip – may not see the distinct depth separation in fisheries and stocks observed in Gulf.



SOUTH OF CANAVERAL		CANAVERAL TO HATTERAS		NORTH OF HATTERAS	
almaco jack	mutton snapper	almaco jack	queen triggerfish	almaco jack	vermillion snapper
Atlantic spadefish	ocean triggerfish	Atlantic spadefish	red grouper	Atlantic spadefish	warsaw grouper
banded rudderfish	porkfish	banded rudderfish	red hind	banded rudderfish	white grunt
bank sea bass	puddingwife	bank sea bass	red porgy	bank sea bass	whitebone porgy
bar jack	queen snapper	bar jack	red snapper	black grouper	yellowedge grouper
black grouper	queen triggerfish	black grouper	rock hind	black margate	yellowfin grouper
black margate	red grouper	black margate	rock sea bass	black sea bass	yellowtail snapper
black sea bass	red hind	black sea bass	sand tilefish	blue runner	
black snapper	red porgy	blackfin snapper	saucereye porgy	blueline tilefish	
blackfin snapper	red snapper	blue runner	scamp	crevalle jack	
blue runner	rock hind	blueline tilefish	schoolmaster	cubera snapper	
blueline tilefish	sailors choice	bluestriped grunt	scup	gag	
bluestriped grunt	sand tilefish	coney	sheepshead	golden tilefish	
coney	saucereye porgy	crevalle jack	silk snapper	gray triggerfish	
cottonwick	scamp	cubera snapper	snowy grouper	graysby	
crevalle jack	schoolmaster	dog snapper	speckled hind	greater amberjack	
cubera snapper	schoolmaster snapper	french grunt	tomtate	grunts	
dog snapper	sheepshead	gag	unc amberjack	jolthead porgy	
french grunt	silk snapper	golden tilefish	unc groupers	knobbed porgy	
gag	snowy grouper	gray snapper	unc jacks	lesser amberjack	
golden tilefish	speckled hind	gray triggerfish	unc scup or porgies	margate	
grass porgy	tomtate	graysby	unc snappers	misty grouper	
gray snapper	unc groupers	greater amberjack	unc tilefish	ocean triggerfish	
gray triggerfish	unc jacks	grunts	unc triggerfish	porkfish	
graysby	unc scup or porgies	hogfish	vermillion snapper	queen triggerfish	
greater amberjack	unc snappers	jewfish	warsaw grouper	red grouper	
grunts	unc tilefish	jolthead porgy	white grunt	red hind	
hogfish	unc triggerfish	knobbed porgy	whitebone porgy	red porgy	
jewfish	vermillion snapper	lane snapper	wreckfish	red snapper	
jewfish	warsaw grouper	lesser amberjack	yellowedge grouper	rock sea bass	
jolthead porgy	white grunt	longspine porgy	yellowfin grouper	sand tilefish	
knobbed porgy	whitebone porgy	mahogany snapper	yellowjack	scamp	
lane snapper	yellow jack	margate	yellowmouth grouper	scup	
lesser amberjack	yellowedge grouper	misty grouper	yellowtail snapper	sheepshead	
longspine porgy	yellowfin grouper	mutton snapper		silk snapper	
mahogany snapper	yellowjack	ocean triggerfish		snowy grouper	
margate	yellowmouth grouper	porkfish		speckled hind	
misty grouper	yellowtail snapper	queen snapper		tomtate	
70 SPECIES		65 SPECIES		45 SPECIES	

**Any questions?**

