

Amendment 44 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region

Amendment 55 to the Fishery Management Plan for Reef Fish Resources in the Gulf of Mexico

Catch Level Adjustments and Allocations for Southeastern U.S. Yellowtail Snapper



Decision Document
September 2023

Background

Yellowtail snapper is considered a single stock in the South Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico. It is managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (South Atlantic Council) and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) (together, Councils) under two separate fishery management plans (FMP). An [Interim Analysis](#) was conducted for yellowtail snapper following the benchmark Southeast Data Assessment and Review (SEDAR) 64 stock assessment. [SEDAR 64](#) used data through 2017. Both the South Atlantic Council and the Gulf Council determined that too much time had passed after SEDAR 64 had been completed to address the acceptable biological catch (ABC) guidance they received from the Councils' Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC) review of SEDAR 64. Therefore, both Councils requested an interim analysis using data through 2020. The 2022 SEDAR 64 Interim Analysis applied updated landings and discards data for

each fleet from 2018 through 2020. Adjusted projections of spawning stock biomass, recruitment, retained yield, updated landings and discards were used to inform the overfishing limit (OFL) and the ABC. In this amendment, the Councils will use this information when they consider the jurisdictional allocation, catch limits, and sector allocations (South Atlantic only). The 2022 SEDAR 64 Interim Analysis estimated that the stock was **not overfished nor undergoing overfishing** as of 2020.

SEDAR 27A (2012) defined the current maximum fishing mortality threshold (MFMT), minimum stock size threshold (MSST), maximum sustainable yield (MSY), and optimum yield (OY) for yellowtail snapper.

- MFMT (F30%SPR): 3,072 metric tons (mt) or 6.8 million pounds (mp)
- MSST ((1-M)*SSB30%SPR): 583.6 mt or 1.3 mp.
- OFL (equilibrium MSY) (recommended by Joint SSCs): 4.51 mp (landed catch without discards). 4.61 mp (landings plus dead discards).
- Stock OY (F40%SPR): Varied by Council. Yellowtail snapper is managed under two distinct management plans. Table 1 below shows the differences.

SEDAR 64 defined MFMT as F30%SPR and estimated it to be 0.438 yr⁻¹. MSST is defined as 75% of the spawning stock biomass associated with F30%SPR (0.75*SSB30%SPR), and is estimated to be 1,428 metric tons (mt) or 3,148,201 pounds (lb). The current stock OY is defined as the yield at F_{OY} and is estimated to be 1,497 mt or 3,300,320 lbs. SEDAR 64 also recommended using F30%SPR as a maximum sustainable yield (MSY) proxy.

Table 1. Stock criteria for yellowtail snapper, defining Council, definition, amendment, and effective year.

Criteria	Defining Council	Definition	Amendment	Year Effective
MSST	SAFMC	0.75*SSB _{30%SPR}	SG Reg Am 21	2015
MFMT	SAFMC	F _{30%SPR}	SG Reg Am 15	2014
MSY	SAFMC	F _{30%SPR}	SG Reg Am 15	2014
OY	SAFMC	40% (static) SPR	SG Amendment 11	1999
	GMFMC	90% of GOM MSY or GOM MSY proxy	RF Amendment 48	2022

The current OFL and ABC for yellowtail snapper are based on the 2012 [SEDAR 27A](#) stock assessment. That assessment used landings information that has since been revised by the 2017 SEDAR 64 stock assessment, and then again by the 2022 SEDAR 64 interim analysis. The OFL, ABC, and all subsequent catch level recommendations proposed in this document are based on the 2022 SEDAR 64 interim analysis. The most recent landings data through the 2020/2021 fishing year will be reviewed by the Councils.

The OFL and ABC for a stock are recommended by a Council’s SSC. Because the yellowtail snapper stock is distributed across two Council jurisdictions (South Atlantic and Gulf), both of the Councils’ SSCs met and agreed on a recommendation for the OFL and ABC during a joint SSC meeting in August 2022. The Gulf Council reviewed the SSCs’ recommendations

from the 2022 SEDAR 64 interim analysis in August 2022, and the South Atlantic Council reviewed the same in September 2022.

Yellowtail snapper’s recreational landings are currently being tracked using the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Fishing Effort Survey (FES); however, the current ACL is expressed in units consistent with the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS). This amendment will establish catch levels that include recreational landings estimates in MRIP FES units.

South Atlantic Fishery Overview: https://safmc-shinyapps.shinyapps.io/SA_FisheryDataYellowtailSnapper/

Table 2. Summary of the assessment and amendment milestone history.

Background Overview		
SEDAR History	Stock Status	
Assessment	Overfished	Overfishing
SEDAR 3 (2003)	N	N
SEDAR 27A (2012)	N	N
SEDAR 64 (2020)	N	N
2022 SEDAR 64 Interim Analysis	N	N
Amendment Action Schedule		
SEDAR 64 (2020) Assessment review	October 2020	
Direction to begin joint Amendment	December 2020	
Joint Amendment paused for Interim Analysis Completion	December 2021	
Interim Analysis joint SSC review	August 2022	
Gulf Council Interim Analysis Review	August 2022	
South Atlantic Council Interim Analysis Review	September 2022	

Possible actions in Snapper Grouper (SG) Amendment 44/Reef Fish (RF) Amendment 55

- Modify the OFL, ABC, and jurisdictional allocation of the ABC between the South Atlantic and Gulf regions
- Adjust the South Atlantic total ACL and annual optimum yield (OY)
- Adjust the Gulf ABC buffer to set ACL
- Revise South Atlantic sector allocations and sector ACLs

Objectives for this meeting

- Review actions and alternatives and add any additional actions and alternatives if needed.
- Discuss the potential preferred alternative for **Action 1** (jurisdictional allocation).

Tentative amendment timing

✓ August 2023	GMFMC review draft amendment
September 2023	SAFMC review draft document and effects analysis for Action 1 and select a preferred alternative
October 2023	GMFMC review draft, SA preferred for Action 1 and select preferreds
December 2023	SAFMC review draft document, select any preferreds as needed and consider approval for public hearings
January 2024	GMFMC consider approval for public hearings
Spring 2024	Conduct public hearings
March/April 2024	Both Councils review final document, public comments, and consider for final approval

Acceptable Biological Catch

In October 2012, following the SEDAR 27A stock assessment, the Joint SSCs recommended a stock ABC of 4.05 mp for the yellowtail snapper stock (landed catch without dead discards) ([Joint SSC Report](#)).

Following the completion of the 2022 SEDAR 64 Interim Analysis, the Joint SSCs recommended OFL and ABC levels (Table 3).

Table 3. Annual combined (South Atlantic and Gulf) SSC recommended OFLs and ABCs for yellowtail snapper, **based on the 2022 SEDAR 64 Interim Analysis**. Values are in millions of pounds (mp) whole weigh (ww) and include recreational estimates in MRIP-FES units.

Year	OFL	ABC
2023	3.922	3.887
2024	3.774	3.749
2025	3.684	3.665
2026	3.625	3.610
2027+	3.584	3.572

Note: ABC was provided by calendar year. Fishing year for yellowtail snapper for both commercial and recreational sectors in both jurisdictions is August 1 through July 31.

While the SSCs provided OFLs and ABCs based on the calendar year, they need to be associated with the fishing year which runs August 1 through July 31. Because the recommended ABC values decrease over time and the fact the yellowtail stock is not overfished or undergoing overfishing, the IPT decided to associate the calendar year catch limits with the forward fishing year. The 2023 recommended catch limits would correspond to the catch limit for the 2023/2024 fishing year.

Purpose and Need Statements

The *purpose* of this fishery management plan amendment is to revise the southeastern U.S. yellowtail snapper overfishing limit, acceptable biological catch, and the jurisdictional allocation between the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils, South Atlantic annual optimum yield, and revise South Atlantic and Gulf annual catch limits, and South Atlantic sector allocations, based on the results of the 2020 SEDAR 64 stock assessment and the subsequent 2022 SEDAR 64 Interim Analysis.

The *need* for this fishery management plan amendment is to update existing catch limits and allocations for southeastern U.S. yellowtail snapper to be consistent with the best scientific information available, and achieve optimum yield while minimizing, to the extent practicable, adverse social and economic effects.

Committee Action: SUGGEST MODIFICATIONS AS APPROPRIATE.

Data Issues Resolution

- A review of the 2015 commercial yellowtail snapper landings data, in response to a seemingly premature closure of the fishery in 2016, identified a coding error in a script used to automatically assign landings originating in the Dry Tortugas. The landings were not properly coded in the area-depth script which meant that any yellowtail snapper commercial landings data reported from the Tortugas were incorrectly assigned to track the ACLs in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.
- Prior to correcting the data, 2015 South Atlantic commercial landings were 1,184,473 lbs ww. After corrections, the year's commercial landings were adjusted *upwards* to 1,692,508 lbs ww. These corrected landings exceeded the commercial quota by 95,998 lbs ww, therefore the closure would have occurred regardless of the error.
- FWC stated that the error had been happening for multiple years, possibly starting in 2008, due to a miscoding within the FWC's system.
- This raised concerns about the current jurisdictional allocation (implemented in 2012) and whether data used to calculate that allocation were affected by the coding issue. The years used in the allocation formula are 1993 through 2008.
- In 2016 the Council was considering a single yellowtail snapper ABC for the South Atlantic and Gulf and so the allocation was not recalculated but a motion was made during the December 2016 meeting to have staff consult with FWC to determine if the data had been corrected.
- The IPT investigated these data issues, which were also discussed at the June 2023 Gulf and South Atlantic meetings, and determined the following:
 - The IPT confirmed that the assessment (2022 SEDAR 64 Interim Analysis) is consistent with BSIA¹.

¹ <https://apps-st.fisheries.noaa.gov/stocksmart?app=homepage>

- The commercial landings estimates that the IPT used to calculate the current range of alternatives for jurisdictional allocation are the landings that FWC staff corrected in 2016.
- When the IPT recalculated the jurisdictional allocation percentages with corrected commercial landings data, the percentages remained 75/25 to the South Atlantic and Gulf, respectively

Proposed Actions

1. Modify the yellowtail snapper stock overfishing limit and stock acceptable biological catch and jurisdictional allocation of the stock acceptable biological catch between the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils' Jurisdictions

Purpose of Action

This action will update the OFL and stock ABC for southeastern U.S. yellowtail snapper, based on the results of the Scientific and Statistical Committees' review of the 2022 SEDAR 64 Interim Analysis. This action will also divide the SSC's recommended yellowtail snapper ABC between the South Atlantic and Gulf jurisdictions. The Councils are considering revising the jurisdictional allocation because of the updated assessment and the change to the MRIP-FES for estimating and monitoring recreational landings.

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain the **current** yellowtail snapper stock overfishing limit and stock acceptable biological catch, and allocation of the stock acceptable biological catch for yellowtail snapper between the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils' jurisdictions. **The current jurisdictional allocation between the South Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico is 75% and 25% of the stock acceptable biological catch, respectively, and is in Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey data units.** This jurisdictional allocation is based on 50% of the average landings from 1993-2008, plus 50% of the average landings from 2006-2008.

Alternative 2. Update the yellowtail snapper stock overfishing limit and stock acceptable biological catch based on the results of the 2022 SEDAR 64 Interim Analysis and the Scientific and Statistical Committees' recommendations. Retain the current jurisdictional allocation of yellowtail snapper **updated stock acceptable biological catch** between the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils' jurisdictions at 75% for the South Atlantic and 25% for the Gulf of Mexico. The updated stock acceptable biological catch to be allocated is in the Marine Recreational Information Program's Fishing Effort Survey data units.

Alternative 3. Update the yellowtail snapper stock overfishing limit and stock acceptable biological catch based on the results of the 2022 SEDAR 64 Interim Analysis and the Scientific and Statistical Committees' recommendations. Allocate 80% of the **updated stock acceptable biological catch** to the South Atlantic and 20% to the Gulf of Mexico. These allocation percentages strike a balance between the other reasonable alternatives and were recommended by

the South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel. The updated stock acceptable biological catch to be allocated is in the Marine Recreational Information Program’s Fishing Effort Survey data units.

Alternative 4. Update the yellowtail snapper stock overfishing limit and stock acceptable biological catch based on the results of the 2022 SEDAR 64 Interim Analysis and the Scientific and Statistical Committees’ recommendations. Apply the Marine Recreational Information Program’s Fishing Effort Survey data units to the 2012 – 2021 fishing years. The average landings from that period yield a jurisdictional allocation of 84% of the updated stock acceptable biological catch to the South Atlantic and 16% to the Gulf of Mexico. The updated stock acceptable biological catch to be allocated is in the Marine Recreational Information Program’s Fishing Effort Survey data units.

Alternative 5. Update the yellowtail snapper stock overfishing limit and stock acceptable biological catch based on the results of the 2022 SEDAR 64 Interim Analysis and the Scientific and Statistical Committees’ recommendations. Allocate 84% of the **updated stock acceptable biological catch** to the South Atlantic and 16% to the Gulf of Mexico based on 50% of the average landings from 1993-2008, plus 50% of the average landings from 2006-2008 using recreational landings from the Marine Recreational Information Program’s Fishing Effort Survey.

NOTE: For **Alternatives 2** through **4** above, recreational landings from Monroe County, Florida, are attributed to the South Atlantic region. Commercial landings are attributed to the location of reporting from the Trip Ticket System.

Table 4. A summary of the jurisdictional allocations of the stock acceptable biological catch (ABC) for yellowtail snapper, including the basis for the allocation proposed in each alternative.

Alternative	Gulf of Mexico Allocation	South Atlantic Allocation	Basis for Allocation
Alternative 1 (No Action)	25%	75%	(avg landings 1993-2008)*0.5 + (avg landings 2006-2008)*0.5. Recreational landings estimates in MRFSS data units
Alternative 2	25%	75%	Retain current percentages. Allocate ABC in MRIP FES data units
Alternative 3	20%	80%	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper AP recommendation, option which results in no expected closures for either region.
Alternative 4	16%	84%	Distribution of landings from 2012-2021 (last ten years). Recreational landings estimates in MRIP FES data units
Alternative 5	16%	84%	(avg landings 1993-2008)*0.5 + (avg landings 2006-2008)*0.5. Recreational landings estimates in FES data units

Table 5. The yellowtail snapper overfishing limit (OFL), stock acceptable biological catch (ABC), and regional ABC allocations for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic jurisdictions, for all alternatives under **Action 1**. Note: **Alternative 1 (No Action)** is not a viable alternative (not BSIA). The 2027/2028 fishing year values would remain in effect until modified.

Fishing Year	OFL (lb ww)	ABC (lb ww)	Gulf Stock ABC (lb ww)	South Atlantic Stock ABC (lb ww)
Alternative 1 (No Action) GOM 25%/SA 75% - Current Stock ABC				
2023/2024	4,510,000	4,050,000	1,012,500	3,037,500
2024/2025	4,510,000	4,050,000	1,012,500	3,037,500
2025/2026	4,510,000	4,050,000	1,012,500	3,037,500
2026/2027	4,510,000	4,050,000	1,012,500	3,037,500
2027/2028	4,510,000	4,050,000	1,012,500	3,037,500
Alternative 2 GOM 25%/SA 75% - Updated Stock ABC				
2023/2024	3,922,000	3,887,000	971,750	2,915,250
2024/2025	3,774,000	3,749,000	937,250	2,811,750
2025/2026	3,684,000	3,665,000	916,250	2,748,750
2026/2027	3,625,000	3,610,000	902,500	2,707,500
2027/2028	3,584,000	3,572,000	893,000	2,679,000
Alternative 3 GOM 20%/SA 80% - Updated Stock ABC				
2023/2024	3,922,000	3,887,000	777,400	3,109,600
2024/2025	3,774,000	3,749,000	749,800	2,999,200
2025/2026	3,684,000	3,665,000	733,000	2,932,000
2026/2027	3,625,000	3,610,000	722,000	2,888,000
2027/2028+	3,584,000	3,572,000	714,400	2,857,600
Alternative 4 GOM 16%/SA 84% - Updated Stock ABC				
2023/2024	3,922,000	3,887,000	621,920	3,265,080
2024/2025	3,774,000	3,749,000	599,840	3,149,160
2025/2026	3,684,000	3,665,000	586,400	3,078,600
2026/2027	3,625,000	3,610,000	577,600	3,032,400
2027/2028	3,584,000	3,572,000	571,520	3,000,480
Alternative 5 GOM 16%/SA 84% - Updated Stock ABC				
2023/2024	3,922,000	3,887,000	621,920	3,265,080
2024/2025	3,774,000	3,749,000	599,840	3,149,160
2025/2026	3,684,000	3,665,000	586,400	3,078,600
2026/2027	3,625,000	3,610,000	577,600	3,032,400
2027/2028	3,584,000	3,572,000	571,520	3,000,480

Note: The recreational portion of **Alternative 1** is in MRFSS units. The recreational portion of **Alternatives 2-5** are in MRIP-FES units.

Discussion:

Current Alternatives

- **Alternative 1 (No Action)** is a true no action – it would retain the 75% South Atlantic/25% Gulf allocation applied to the **current stock ABC**. This option is not viable since it would not implement BSIA.

- **Alternative 2** retains current jurisdictional allocation percentages between the South Atlantic and the Gulf as 75% and 25% of the ABC, respectively, but applies these percentages to the **updated stock ABC** based on the 2022 SEDAR 64 Interim Analysis. The new ABC includes MRIP-FES recreational estimates.
- **Alternative 3** was presented in June 2023. It replaced the 81% South Atlantic/19% Gulf allocation alternative, which was recalculated with the current dataset. This alternative was suggested by the SG AP in April 2023 and strikes a balance between **Alternative 2** and **Alternatives 4** and **5**.
- The Gulf Council requested that an additional alternative be included that incorporates the most recent ten years of landings. **Alternative 4** is based on the distribution of landings for 2012 through 2021 and includes recreational landings estimates based on the MRIP FES. This results in an allocation of 84% to the South Atlantic and 16% to the Gulf. The resulting allocation is applied to the **updated stock ABC**. The new ABC includes recreational estimates based on the MRIP-FES. **Alternative 4** represents the largest allocation to the South Atlantic and the least to the Gulf of the alternatives considered in this action.
- **Alternative 5** arrives at the same allocation percentages as **Alternative 4** but utilizes the formula used to develop the current allocation percentages as rationale.
- Any additional alternatives?

August Gulf Council Discussion

- The Gulf Council noted concerns over altering allocations in light of the MRIP-FES pilot study results.
- The Gulf Council discussed placing an additional buffer to account for management uncertainty since the stock ABC and stock OFL values are fairly close. They discussed possibly of incorporating a buffer between the South Atlantic ABC and South Atlantic ACL since there is currently, and will most likely continue to be, a buffer between the Gulf ABC and Gulf ACL.
- **GULF MOTION: IN ACTION 1, TO SUGGEST THE SAFMC MOVE ALTERNATIVE 5 TO CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED.**

Effects Summary:

Biological Effects

- Viable options are expected to provide biological benefits compared to **Alternative 1 (No Action)** since they incorporate BSIA.
- All viable alternatives (**2-5**) are not expected to result in substantive biological effects.

Economic Effects

- Economic effects differ depending on the region: the higher the allocation, the higher the anticipated economic benefit.
- **South Atlantic** economic benefits greatest to least: **Alternative 4** and **5**, **Alternative 3**, and **Alternative 2**.
- **Gulf of Mexico** economic benefits greatest to least: **Alternative 2**, **Alternative 3**, and **Alternatives 4** and **5**.

Social Effects

- All viable options incorporate BSIA, which provide social benefit for both regions.
- Social benefits increase for the region that receives more of the allocation.
- **South Atlantic** social benefits greatest to least: **Alternative 4** and **5**, **Alternative 3**, and **Alternative 2**.
- **Gulf of Mexico** social benefits greatest to least: **Alternative 2**, **Alternative 3**, and **Alternatives 4** and **5**.

Committee Action:

- REVIEW RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES .
- REVIEW GULF COUNCIL FEEDBACK FROM AUGUST.
- PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON ANY ADDITIONAL ALTERNATIVES.
- SELECT PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE?

2. Revise the total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic and revise the total annual catch limit for yellowtail snapper in the Gulf of Mexico

2a. Revise the South Atlantic total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield for yellowtail snapper to reflect the new overfishing limit, acceptable biological catch, and jurisdictional allocation of the stock acceptable biological catch limit

Purpose of Sub-Action

The yellowtail snapper total annual catch limit is being revised to incorporate the best scientific information available via the new acceptable biological catch recommendations of the Scientific and Statistical Committees, based on the SEDAR 64 (2020) stock assessment and following 2022 SEDAR 64 Interim Analysis, both of which included updated recreational landings from the Marine Recreational Information Program’s Fishing Effort Survey. The total annual catch limit and annual optimum yield in pounds whole weight that result from each alternative depend on the preferred jurisdictional allocation alternative selected in **Action 1**.

NOTE: Annual catch limit totals for all alternatives under Action 2a will be dependent on the jurisdictional allocation from Action 1.

Table 6. A summary of alternatives for **Sub-action 2a**.

Alternative	SA ACL
Alternative 1 (No Action)	ACL=OY=current ABC
Alternative 2	ACL=OY=updated ABC
Alternative 3	ACL=OY=90% of updated ABC
Alternative 4	ACL=OY=95% of updated ABC
Alternative 5	ACL=OY=lowest Updated ABC value
Alternative 6	F30% SPR at equilibrium

Table 7. The total South Atlantic ACLs for each alternative for **Sub-action 2a** under each **viable** jurisdictional allocation under **Action 1 (Alternatives 2-5)**. All values are in pounds whole weight.

Alternative	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028+
Current SA ABC (lbs ww)	3,037,500	3,037,500	3,037,500	3,037,500	3,037,500
Alternative 1 (No Action)	3,037,500	3,037,500	3,037,500	3,037,500	3,037,500
Updated SA ABC (lbs ww) 75%	2,915,250	2,811,750	2,748,750	2,707,500	2,679,000
Alternative 2	2,915,250	2,811,750	2,748,750	2,707,500	2,679,000
Alternative 3	2,623,725	2,530,575	2,473,875	2,436,750	2,411,100
Alternative 4	2,769,488	2,671,163	2,611,313	2,572,125	2,545,050
Alternative 5	2,679,000				
Alternative 6	2,555,728				
Updated SA ABC (lbs ww) 80%	3,109,600	2,999,200	2,932,000	2,888,000	2,857,600
Alternative 2	3,109,600	2,999,200	2,932,000	2,888,000	2,857,600
Alternative 3	2,798,640	2,699,280	2,638,800	2,599,200	2,571,840
Alternative 4	2,954,120	2,849,240	2,785,400	2,743,600	2,714,720
Alternative 5	2,857,600				
Alternative 6	2,726,110				
Updated SA ABC (lbs ww) 84%	3,265,080	3,149,160	3,078,600	3,032,400	3,000,480
Alternative 2	3,265,080	3,149,160	3,078,600	3,032,400	3,000,480
Alternative 3	2,938,572	2,834,244	2,770,740	2,729,160	2,700,432
Alternative 4	3,101,826	2,991,702	2,924,670	2,880,780	2,850,456
Alternative 5	2,907,251				
Alternative 6	2,862,415				
Updated SA ABC (lbs ww) 84%	3,265,080	3,149,160	3,078,600	3,032,400	3,000,480
Alternative 2	3,265,080	3,149,160	3,078,600	3,032,400	3,000,480
Alternative 3	2,938,572	2,834,244	2,770,740	2,729,160	2,700,432
Alternative 4	3,101,826	2,991,702	2,924,670	2,880,780	2,850,456
Alternative 5	2,907,251				
Alternative 6	2,862,415				

Discussion:

- **Alternative 1 (No Action)** is not a viable option since it does not represent BSIA. **Alternatives 2** through **4** are standard alternatives that are often considered for setting the total ACL in the South Atlantic region.
- **Alternative 5** uses the lowest ABC to set a constant catch level and retains this catch level until modified. **Alternative 6** also sets a constant catch but uses $F_{30\%SPR}$ at equilibrium (a “true” constant catch scenario).

- Projections were completed considering the alternatives under this action as well as sector allocations – see discussion under Action 3 for projected dates when ACLs will be met.

Committee Action:

- REVIEW RANGE OF ALTERANTIVES.

2b. Revise the Gulf of Mexico acceptable biological catch buffer to set the total annual catch limit for yellowtail snapper

Purpose of Sub-Action

The yellowtail snapper total annual catch limit is being revised based on the jurisdictional allocation selected in Action 1, and to incorporate the best scientific information available as reflected in the Scientific and Statistical Committees' new acceptable biological catch recommendations, based on the 2022 SEDAR 64 stock assessment and the subsequent 2022 SEDAR 64 interim analysis, which includes updated recreational landings from the Marine Recreational Information Program's (MRIP) Fishing Effort Survey (FES).

NOTE: The alternatives under **Sub-action 2b** are dependent on the jurisdictional allocation from Action 1.

Table 8. A summary of alternatives for **Sub-action 2b**.

Alternative	GOM ACL
Alternative 1 (No Action)	ACL = 89% of current ABC
Alternative 2	ACL = 92% of updated ABC
Alternative 3	ACL = updated ABC

Table 9. Predicted dates when the ACL would be met for Gulf of Mexico yellowtail snapper for each proposed ABC buffer to set the ACL (**Action 2**) and each proposed jurisdictional allocation (**Action 1**). Gulf of Mexico yellowtail snapper are managed as a stock annual catch limit without sector allocations. No closure is projected for all alternatives and proposed annual catch limits.

Action 1, Alternative 1 (No Action): GOM 25% / SA 75% Current Gulf of Mexico ACL (lb ww)					
Action 2 Alternative 1	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028+
Current GOM ACL= 89% ABC	ACL not met 901,125				
Action 1, Alternative 2: GOM 25% / SA 75%					
Action 2	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028+
Alternative 1 (ACL=89% Updated ABC)	ACL not met 864,858	ACL not met 834,153	ACL not met 815,463	ACL not met 803,225	ACL not met 794,770
Alternative 2 (ACL=92% Updated ABC)	ACL not met 894,010	ACL not met 862,270	ACL not met 842,950	ACL not met 830,300	ACL not met 821,560
Alternative 3 (ACL= Updated ABC)	ACL not met 971,750	ACL not met 937,250	ACL not met 916,250	ACL not met 902,500	ACL not met 893,000
Action 1, Alternative 3: GOM 20% / SA 80%					
Action 2	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028+
Alternative 1 (ACL=89% Updated ABC)	ACL not met 691,886	ACL not met 667,322	ACL not met 652,370	ACL not met 642,580	ACL not met 635,816
Alternative 2 (ACL=92% Updated ABC)	ACL not met 715,208	ACL not met 689,816	ACL not met 674,360	ACL not met 664,240	ACL not met 657,248
Alternative 3 (ACL= Updated ABC)	ACL not met 777,400	ACL not met 749,800	ACL not met 733,000	ACL not met 722,000	ACL not met 714,400
Action 1, Alternative 4: GOM 16% / SA 84%					
Action 2	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028+
Alternative 1 (ACL=89% Updated ABC)	ACL not met 553,509	ACL not met 533,858	ACL not met 521,896	ACL not met 514,064	ACL not met 508,653
Alternative 2 (ACL=92% Updated ABC)	ACL not met 572,166	ACL not met 551,853	ACL not met 539,488	ACL not met 531,392	ACL not met 525,798
Alternative 3 (ACL= Updated ABC)	ACL not met 621,920	ACL not met 599,840	ACL not met 586,400	ACL not met 577,600	ACL not met 571,520
Action 1, Alternative 5: GOM 16% / SA 84%					
Action 2	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028+
Alternative 1 (ACL=89% Updated ABC)	ACL not met 553,509	ACL not met 533,858	ACL not met 521,896	ACL not met 514,064	ACL not met 508,653
Alternative 2 (ACL=92% Updated ABC)	ACL not met 572,166	ACL not met 551,853	ACL not met 539,488	ACL not met 531,392	ACL not met 525,798
Alternative 3 (ACL= Updated ABC)	ACL not met 621,920	ACL not met 599,840	ACL not met 586,400	ACL not met 577,600	ACL not met 571,520

Discussion:

- **Alternative 1 (No Action)** retains the existing ABC buffer (11%) that was established in the 2013 Reef Fish Framework (GMFMC 2013) and is based in part on MRFSS units. There has never been a yellowtail closure in the Gulf based on this buffer. However, the time series used to calculate the ABC buffer is over ten years old.

- **Alternative 2** uses the Gulf ACL/ACT Control Rule to calculate the ABC buffer. However, it uses a more recent time series of available landings (2017/2018-2020/2021). It also incorporates the current fishing year, which splits the calendar year. This results in an ABC buffer of 9% (Appendix III). This is a reduction from the current buffer of 11% and is due in part to a more recent time series being used in the ACL/ACT Control Rule.
- **Alternative 3** sets the ACL equal to the ABC.
- The ACL is not expected to be fully harvested under any of the alternatives being examined (Table 9).

Committee Action:

- REVIEW RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES.

3. Revise the South Atlantic yellowtail snapper sector allocations and sector annual catch limits

Purpose of Action

Sector allocations need to be reviewed since the recreational landings estimates changed in the new assessment. Recreational landings are now estimated using data from the Fishing Effort Survey (FES) rather than the Coastal Household Telephone Survey (CHTS).

Table 10. A summary of alternatives for **Action 3.**

Alternative	Commercial Allocation	Recreational Allocation	Basis for Allocation
Alternative 1 (No Action)	52.56%	47.44%	(avg landings from 1986-2008)*0.5 + (avg landings from 2006-2008)*0.5 using recreational estimates from MRFSS and applied to the UPDATED SA ACL.
Alternative 2	40.73%	59.27%	(avg landings from 1986-2008)*0.5 + (avg landings from 2006-2008)*0.5 using recreational estimates from MRIP FES and applied to the UPDATED SA ACL.

Table 11. Sector allocation alternatives for **Action 3**. Allocations are shown for each **viable** jurisdictional allocation of Action 1 with an ACL=South Atlantic ABC (Alternative 2 of Sub-Action 2a).

Year	SA Total ACL (lbs ww)	Commercial ACL (lbs ww)	Recreational ACL (lbs ww)
BASED ON 75% SA JURISDICTIONAL ALLOCATION			
Alternative 1 (No Action) Com: 52.56% Rec: 47.44%			
2023/2024	2,915,250	1,532,255	1,382,995
2024/2025	2,811,750	1,477,856	1,333,894
2025/2026	2,748,750	1,444,743	1,304,007
2026/2027	2,707,500	1,423,062	1,284,438
2027/2028	2,679,000	1,408,082	1,270,918
Alternative 2 Com: 40.73% Rec: 59.27%			
2023/2024	2,915,250	1,187,381	1,727,869
2024/2025	2,811,750	1,145,226	1,666,524
2025/2026	2,748,750	1,119,566	1,629,184
2026/2027	2,707,500	1,102,765	1,604,735
2027/2028	2,679,000	1,091,157	1,587,843
BASED ON 80% SA JURISDICTIONAL ALLOCATION			
Alternative 1 (No Action) Com: 52.56% Rec: 47.44%			
2023/2024	3,109,600	1,634,406	1,475,194
2024/2025	2,999,200	1,576,380	1,422,820
2025/2026	2,932,000	1,541,059	1,390,941
2026/2027	2,888,000	1,517,933	1,370,067
2027/2028	2,857,600	1,501,955	1,355,645
Alternative 2 Com: 40.73% Rec: 59.27%			
2023/2024	3,109,600	12,666,540	1,843,060
2024/2025	2,999,200	1,221,574	1,777,626
2025/2026	2,932,000	1,194,204	1,737,796
2026/2027	2,888,000	1,176,282	1,711,718
2027/2028	2,857,600	1,163,900	1,693,700
BASED ON 84% SA JURISDICTIONAL ALLOCATION			
Alternative 1 (No Action) Com: 52.56% Rec: 47.44%			
2023/2024	3,265,080	1,716,126	1,548,954
2024/2025	3,149,160	1,655,198	1,492,962
2025/2026	3,078,600	1,618,112	1,460,488
2026/2027	3,032,400	1,593,829	1,438,571
2027/2028	3,000,480	1,577,052	1,423,428
Alternative 2 Com: 40.73% Rec: 59.27%			
2023/2024	3,265,080	1,329,867	1,935,213
2024/2025	3,149,160	1,282,653	1,866,507
2025/2026	3,078,600	1,253,914	1,824,686
2026/2027	3,032,400	1,235,097	1,797,303
2027/2028	3,000,480	1,222,096	1,778,384
BASED ON 84% SA JURISDICTIONAL ALLOCATION			

Year	SA Total ACL (lbs ww)	Commercial ACL (lbs ww)	Recreational ACL (lbs ww)
Alternative 1 (No Action) Com: 52.56% Rec: 47.44%			
2023/2024	3,265,080	1,716,126	1,548,954
2024/2025	3,149,160	1,655,198	1,492,962
2025/2026	3,078,600	1,618,112	1,460,488
2026/2027	3,032,400	1,593,829	1,438,571
2027/2028	3,000,480	1,577,052	1,423,428
Alternative 2 Com: 40.73% Rec: 59.27%			
2023/2024	3,265,080	1,329,867	1,935,213
2024/2025	3,149,160	1,282,653	1,866,507
2025/2026	3,078,600	1,253,914	1,824,686
2026/2027	3,032,400	1,235,097	1,797,303
2027/2028	3,000,480	1,222,096	1,778,384

Discussion:

- The current allocation is based on 50% of average landings from 1986-2008 + 50% of average landings from 2006-2008 using recreational landings estimates from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) which results in a 52.56% commercial allocation and a 47.44% recreational allocation. **Alternative 1 (No Action)** would apply these percentages to the updated ABC.
- **Alternative 2** would apply the same formula used to determine the sector allocation in **Alternative 1 (No Action)** but would use the recreational landings data informed by MRIP-FES.
- The predicted outcome of the sector allocation alternatives are highly dependent on previous actions that set the jurisdictional allocation and the total ACL. In some scenarios, sector ACLs would be met for both the commercial and recreational sectors under **Alternative 1 (No Action)** and for the commercial sector under **Alternative 2** (Table 12).

Committee Action:

- REVIEW RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES.

South Atlantic Projections

Tables 12 through 14 show when the South Atlantic commercial and recreational sector ACLs will be met for each jurisdictional allocation alternative (Action 1) as well as each South Atlantic ACL alternative (Action 2a) under the current sector allocations.

Table 12. Predicted dates when the ACL would be met for South Atlantic yellowtail snapper for each proposed annual catch limit (**Action 2**) based on current jurisdictional allocations (**Action 1, Alternative 2: GOM 25% and SA 75%**) and current sector allocations (**Action 3, Alternative 1: 52.56% commercial and 47.44% recreational**).

75% SA Jurisdictional Allocation and Current Sector Allocations			
Action 2, Alternative 1 (No Action): Current South Atlantic ACL (lb ww)			
Year	SA Total ACL (lb ww)	Commercial	Recreational
2023/2024+	3,037,500	ACL not met ACL=1,596,510	ACL not met ACL=1,440,990
Action 2a, Alternative 2: ACL = Updated ABC			
Year	SA Total ACL (lb ww)	Commercial	Recreational
2023/2024	2,915,250	ACL not met ACL=1,532,255	ACL not met ACL=1,382,995
2024/2025	2,811,750	Jul 27 ACL=1,477,856	ACL not met ACL=1,333,894
2025/2026	2,748,750	Jul 19 ACL=1,444,743	ACL not met ACL=1,304,007
2026/2027	2,707,500	Jul 14 ACL=1,423,062	ACL not met ACL=1,284,438
2027/2028+	2,679,000	Jul 11 ACL=1,408,082	ACL not met ACL=1,270,918
Action 2a, Alternative 3: ACL = 90% Updated ABC			
Year	SA Total ACL (lb ww)	Commercial	Recreational
2023/2024	2,623,725	Jul 4 ACL=1,379,030	ACL not met ACL=1,244,695
2024/2025	2,530,575	Jun 24 ACL=1,330,070	Jul 28 ACL=1,200,505
2025/2026	2,473,875	Jun 19 ACL=1,300,269	Jul 22 ACL=1,173,606
2026/2027	2,436,750	Jun 15 ACL=1,280,756	Jul 18 ACL=1,155,994
2027/2028+	2,411,100	Jun 13 ACL=1,267,274	Jul 16 ACL=1,143,826
Action 2a, Alternative 4: ACL = 95% Updated ABC			
Year	SA Total ACL (lb ww)	Commercial	Recreational
2023/2024	2,769,488	Jul 22 ACL=1,455,643	ACL not met ACL=1,313,845
2024/2025	2,671,163	Jul 10 ACL=1,403,963	ACL not met ACL=1,267,200
2025/2026	2,611,313	Jul 3 ACL=1,372,506	ACL not met ACL=1,238,807
2026/2027	2,572,125	Jun 28	ACL not met

		ACL=1,351,909	ACL=1,220,216
2027/2028+	2,545,050	Jun 26 ACL=1,337,678	Jul 30 ACL=1,207,372
Action 2, Alternative 5: ACL/OY = Lowest ABC			
Year	SA Total ACL (lb ww)	Commercial	Recreational
2023/2024+	2,679,000	Jul 11 ACL=1,408,082	ACL not met ACL=1,270,918
Action 2, Alternative 6: F30%SPR at equilibrium			
Year	SA Total ACL (lb ww)	Commercial	Recreational
2023/2024+	2,555,728	Jun 27 ACL=1,343,291	Jul 31 ACL=1,212,437

Table 13. Predicted dates when the ACL will be met for South Atlantic yellowtail snapper for each proposed annual catch limits (**Action 2**) based on proposed jurisdictional allocation (**Action 1, Alternative 3: GOM 20% and SA 80%**) and current sector allocations (**Action 3, Alternative 1: 52.56% commercial and 47.44% recreational**).

80% SA Jurisdictional Allocation and Current Sector Allocations			
Action 2, Alternative 1 (No Action): Current South Atlantic ACL (lb ww)			
Year	SA Total ACL (lb ww)	Commercial	Recreational
2023/2024+	3,037,500	ACL not met ACL=1,596,510	ACL not met ACL=1,440,990
Action 2, Alternative 2: ACL = Updated ABC			
Year	SA Total ACL (lb ww)	Commercial	Recreational
2023/2024	3,109,600	ACL not met ACL=1,634,406	ACL not met ACL=1,475,194
2024/2025	2,999,200	ACL not met ACL=1,576,380	ACL not met ACL=1,422,820
2025/2026	2,932,000	ACL not met ACL=1,541,059	ACL not met ACL=1,390,941
2026/2027	2,888,000	ACL not met ACL=1,517,933	ACL not met ACL=1,370,067
2027/2028+	2,857,600	ACL not met ACL=1,501,955	ACL not met ACL=1,355,645
Action 2, Alternative 3: ACL = 90% Updated ABC			
Year	SA Total ACL (lb ww)	Commercial	Recreational
2023/2024	2,798,640	Jul 25 ACL=1,470,965	ACL not met ACL=1,327,675
2024/2025	2,699,280	Jul 13 ACL=1,418,742	ACL not met ACL=1,280,538
2025/2026	2,638,800	Jul 6 ACL=1,386,953	ACL not met ACL=1,251,847
2026/2027	2,599,200	Jul 1 ACL=1,366,140	ACL not met ACL=1,233,060
2027/2028+	2,571,840	Jun 28 ACL=1,351,759	ACL not met ACL=1,220,081
Action 2, Alternative 4: ACL = 95% Updated ABC			
Year	SA Total ACL (lb ww)	Commercial	Recreational
2023/2024	2,954,120	ACL not met ACL=1,552,685	ACL not met ACL=1,401,435

2024/2025	2,849,240	ACL not met ACL=1,497,561	ACL not met ACL=1,351,679
2025/2026	2,785,400	Jul 24 ACL=1,464,006	ACL not met ACL=1,321,394
2026/2027	2,743,600	Jul 19 ACL=1,442,036	ACL not met ACL=1,301,564
2027/2028+	2,714,720	Jul 15 ACL=1,426,857	ACL not met ACL=1,287,863
Action 2, Alternative 5: ACL/OY = Lowest ABC			
Year	SA Total ACL (lb ww)	Commercial	Recreational
2023/2024+	2,857,600	ACL not met ACL=1,501,955	ACL not met ACL=1,355,645
Action 2, Alternative 6: F30%SPR at equilibrium			
Year	SA Total ACL (lb ww)	Commercial	Recreational
2023/2024+	2,726,110	Jul 21 ACL=1,432,843	ACL not met ACL=1,293,267

Table 14. Predicted dates when the ACL will be met for South Atlantic yellowtail snapper for each proposed annual catch limits (**Action 2**) based on proposed jurisdictional allocation (**Action 1, Alternative 4 or 5: GOM 16% and SA 84%**) and current sector allocations (**Action 3, Alternative 1: 52.56% commercial and 47.44% recreational**).

84% SA Jurisdictional Allocation and Current Sector Allocations			
Action 2, Alternative 1 (No Action): Current South Atlantic ACL (lb ww)			
Year	SA Total ACL (lb ww)	Commercial	Recreational
2023/2024+	3,037,500	ACL not met ACL=1,596,510	ACL not met ACL=1,440,990
Action 2, Alternative 2: ACL = Updated ABC			
Year	SA Total ACL (lb ww)	Commercial	Recreational
2023/2024	3,265,080	ACL not met ACL=1,716,126	ACL not met ACL=1,548,954
2024/2025	3,149,160	ACL not met ACL=1,655,198	ACL not met ACL=1,493,962
2025/2026	3,078,600	ACL not met ACL=1,618,112	ACL not met ACL=1,460,488
2026/2027	3,032,400	ACL not met ACL=1,593,829	ACL not met ACL=1,438,571
2027/2028+	3,000,480	ACL not met ACL=1,577,052	ACL not met ACL=1,423,428
Action 2, Alternative 3: ACL = 90% Updated ABC			
Year	SA Total ACL (lb ww)	Commercial	Recreational
2023/2024	2,938,572	ACL not met ACL=1,544,513	ACL not met ACL=1,394,059
2024/2025	2,834,244	Jul 30 ACL=1,489,679	ACL not met ACL=1,344,565
2025/2026	2,770,740	Jul 22 ACL=1,456,301	ACL not met ACL=1,314,439
2026/2027	2,729,160	Jul 17 ACL=1,434,446	ACL not met ACL=1,294,714
2027/2028+	2,700,432	Jul 13	ACL not met ACL=1,281,085

		ACL=1,419,347	
Action 2, Alternative 4: ACL = 95% Updated ABC			
Year	SA Total ACL (lb ww)	Commercial	Recreational
2023/2024	3,101,826	ACL not met ACL=1,630,320	ACL not met ACL=1,471,506
2024/2025	2,991,702	ACL not met ACL=1,572,439	ACL not met ACL=1,419,263
2025/2026	2,924,670	ACL not met ACL=1,537,207	ACL not met ACL=1,387,463
2026/2027	2,880,780	ACL not met ACL=1,514,138	ACL not met ACL=1,366,642
2027/2028+	2,850,456	ACL not met ACL=1,498,200	ACL not met ACL=1,352,256
Action 2, Alternative 5: ACL/OY = Lowest ABC			
Year	SA Total ACL (lb ww)	Commercial	Recreational
2023/2024+	2,907,251	ACL not met ACL=1,528,051	ACL not met ACL=1,379,200
Action 2, Alternative 6: F30%SPR at equilibrium			
Year	SA Total ACL (lb ww)	Commercial	Recreational
2023/2024+	2,862,415	ACL not met ACL=1,504,485	ACL not met ACL=1,357,930

Appendix

Appendix I. Previous Council Action

SAFMC (September 2021):

- Add option for constant catch total ACL that is based upon the year with the lowest recommended ABC.
- Request feedback from the advisory panel(s) on:
 1. potential trip limit during spawning season (May 15 to July 31)
 2. trip limit step down after 75% of ACL is met?
 3. trip limit for part-time fishermen – 500 or 400 pounds?
 4. trip limit for multi-day fishermen – 3,500 lbs per week?
- Take the amendment out for scoping and obtain additional feedback from the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel, Gulf Reef Fish Advisory Panel, and Gulf Council.

Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel (October 2021):

- Clarify that *commercial* landings are allocated based on where they come from whereas *recreational* landings for Monroe County are attributed to the SA.
- **Motion: Recommend retaining current allocation between the SA and Gulf. Adopt constant catch as total ACL for the SA and retain sector allocations for the SA.**
- Don't need to discuss trip limits for this fishery until the commercial ACL is being met in-season for two years in a row.
- Part-time trip limits could make new entry into the fishery difficult.
- Since commercial landings are not reaching the ACL, consideration of multi-day trips is not necessary at this time. Large trips are vessels making several day trips and those vessels should not have a different set of rules than for other vessels (quality of product is lower on longer trips too).

GMFMC Meeting (October 2021):

- Concern over using current jurisdictional allocation formula since landings are “old” and the formula does not account for changes in recent state of nature.
 - Include a couple options:
 - Most recent 10 years
 - 50% of average landings from 2000-2008 and 50% from most recent 10 years
 - *Resulted in same jurisdictional allocation (84% South Atlantic, 16% Gulf)*
- Council discussed also looking at a constant catch scenario derived from stock assessment projection (not based on lowest recommended ABC).
- More information on catch and effort in the SA to come up with options for apportionment. Need more alternatives.

- Concern over swings in recreational landings under FES, especially in recent years.
- No interest in Gulf for trip limits. Would need to look at how dually-permitted vessels would be affected.
- Concern over enforceability of trip limits between regions.

SAFMC Scoping (November 2021):

- The scoping period for possible actions pertaining to the South Atlantic was from October 21 to November 5, 2021. Scoping hearings were held via webinar on November 2 and 3, 2021.
- No comments were received online during the scoping comment period. Three members of the public attended the scoping hearings, and one offered the following for the Councils' consideration:
 - Concern about significant reduction to yellowtail snapper catch levels.
 - Consider managing as a single stock and not splitting the ABC between the Councils. It is genetically a single stock and managing jointly may reduce administrative burden.
 - There is anecdotal evidence of population shifts, possibly related to climate change (have seen the same for mangrove snapper).
- There has also been a significant increase in depredation by sharks.
- These elements combined may be responsible for the perceived decline in the population based on the latest assessment.
- Fishermen are skeptical of landings used in assessment, particularly recreational estimates.

GMFMC Reef Fish AP and Scoping at Council meetings:

- January and October 2022: Reef Fish AP Meetings
 - Does not want sector allocations
 - Does not want to see a closure
- January, April, and October 2022: Council Meetings
 - Does not want sector allocations
 - Does not want to see a closure
 - No commercial trip limits desired

Appendix I. Current Catch Levels and Regulations

Table I-1. Proportion of South Atlantic sector ACLs landed and proportion of total ACL landed for yellowtail in MRFSS for the 2016/2017 – 2020/2021 fishing years under current allocation. The total ACL, commercial ACL, recreational ACL, recreational landings, and commercial landings are in lbs ww.

Fishing Year	Total ACL (MRFSS)	Com. Sector ACL	Com. Landings	Rec. Sector ACL	Rec. Landings (MRFSS)	% of Sector ACL Landed		% of Total ACL (MRFSS) Landed	% of 2027 Total ABC (FES)/75% allocation landed	% of 2027 Total ABC (FES)/84% allocation landed
						Comm ¹	Rec ²			
2016/17	3,037,500	1,596,510	2,423,704	1,440,990	692,957	151.8	48.1	102.6	116.3	103.9
2017/18	3,037,500	1,596,510	1,703,541	1,440,990	513,128	106.7	35.6	73.0	82.7	73.9
2018/19	3,037,500	1,596,510	1,662,102	1,440,990	605,285	104.1	42.0	74.6	84.6	75.6
2019/20	3,037,500	1,596,510	1,435,167	1,440,990	489,686	89.9	34.0	63.4	71.9	64.2
2020/21	3,037,500	1,596,510	1,204,637	1,440,990	508,862	75.5	35.3	56.4	64.0	57.1

¹Commercial allocation = 52.56% ²Recreational allocation = 47.44%

Source: SEFSC Commercial ACL data (September 29, 2021). Recreational SEFSC Recreational ACL data (Accessed September 21, 2021).

Note: The Total ABC (FES) columns show FES landings compared to the lowest proposed South Atlantic ABC (2027) under the highest (84%) and lowest (75%) South Atlantic jurisdictional allocation of the total ABC. Numbers are highlighted in yellow for landings that exceeded current sector allocation or the proposed 2027 South Atlantic ABC under a certain jurisdictional allocation and the current sector allocation.

Table I-2. Gulf yellowtail recreational and commercial landings (lbs ww), recreational landings in MRFSS and MRIP-FES, the recreational ACL in MRFSS, the commercial ACL, total landings using MRFSS and MRIP-FES units, and the total Gulf yellowtail ACL in MRFSS, for the fishing years 2016/2017 – 2020/2021. Only Total Landings (MRFSS) should be compared to the Total ACL (MRFSS) and Total Landings (FES) compared to Total ABC (FES) columns.

Year	Rec. Landings (MRFSS)	Rec. Landings (FES)	Com. Landings	Total Landings (MRFSS)	Total Landings (FES)	Total ACL (MRFSS)	% of Total ACL (MRFSS) landed	% of Total ABC (MRFSS) landed	% of 2027 Total ABC (FES)/ 16% allocation landed	% of 2027 Total ABC (FES)/ 25% allocation landed
2016/2017	118,815	249,512	682,875	801,690	932,387	901,125	89.0	79.2	163.1	104.4
2017/2018	40,495	206,785	589,868	630,363	796,653	901,125	70.0	62.3	139.4	89.2
2018/2019	34,633	104,527	527,112	561,745	631,639	901,125	62.3	55.5	110.5	70.7
2019/2020	8,453	12,348	287,940	296,393	300,288	901,125	32.9	29.3	52.5	33.6
2020/2021	71,836	79,765	212,630	284,466	292,395	901,125	31.6	28.1	51.2	32.7

Source: SEFSC Commercial ACL data (September 29, 2021). Recreational SEFSC Recreational ACL data (Accessed September 21, 2021).

Note: The Total ABC (FES) columns show landings compared to the lowest proposed Gulf ABC (2027) under the highest (25%) and lowest (16%) Gulf jurisdictional allocation of the total ABC. Numbers are highlighted in yellow for landings that exceeded the proposed 2027 Gulf ABC under a certain jurisdictional allocation.

Table I-3. The current Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic commercial and recreational regulations.

Commercial			Recreational		
Size limit	Fishing Season	Trip limit	Size Limit	Fishing Season	Bag Limit
12 in TL	Aug 1 - Jul 31	none	12 in TL	Aug 1 - Jul 31	Aggregate: 10/person/day Bag: 10/person/day

Weighting factor				
	Element weight	Element	Selection	Weighting
Overfished status	0	1. Stock biomass is at or above B_{OY} .	x	0
	0.1	2. Stock biomass is below B_{OY} but at or above B_{MSY} .		
	0.2	3. Stock biomass is below B_{MSY} but at or above MSST.		
	0.3	4. Stock is overfished, below MSST.		
	0.3	5. Status criterion is unknown.		

Figure II-1. Application of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council’s (Gulf Council) Annual Catch Limit/Annual Catch Target (ACL/ACT) Control Rule (GMFMC 2012) for southeastern U.S. yellowtail snapper landed in the Gulf Council’s jurisdiction from the 2017/2018 – 2020/2021 fishing years.

Table II-1. Recreational reference years used for the Gulf of Mexico ACT/ACL Control Rule.

Fishing Year	Comm	Rec	Total
2017/18	589,868	206,785	796,653
2018/19	527,112	104,527	631,638
2019/20	287,940	12,348	300,289
2020/21	212,630	79,765	292,395

Source: SERO ACL Monitoring Database 8/9/2022