



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Snapper Grouper Amendment 61

Evaluation of the Fishery Management Unit

John Hadley
john.hadley@safmc.net
843-302-8432

Allie Iberle
allie.iberle@safmc.net
843-225-8135



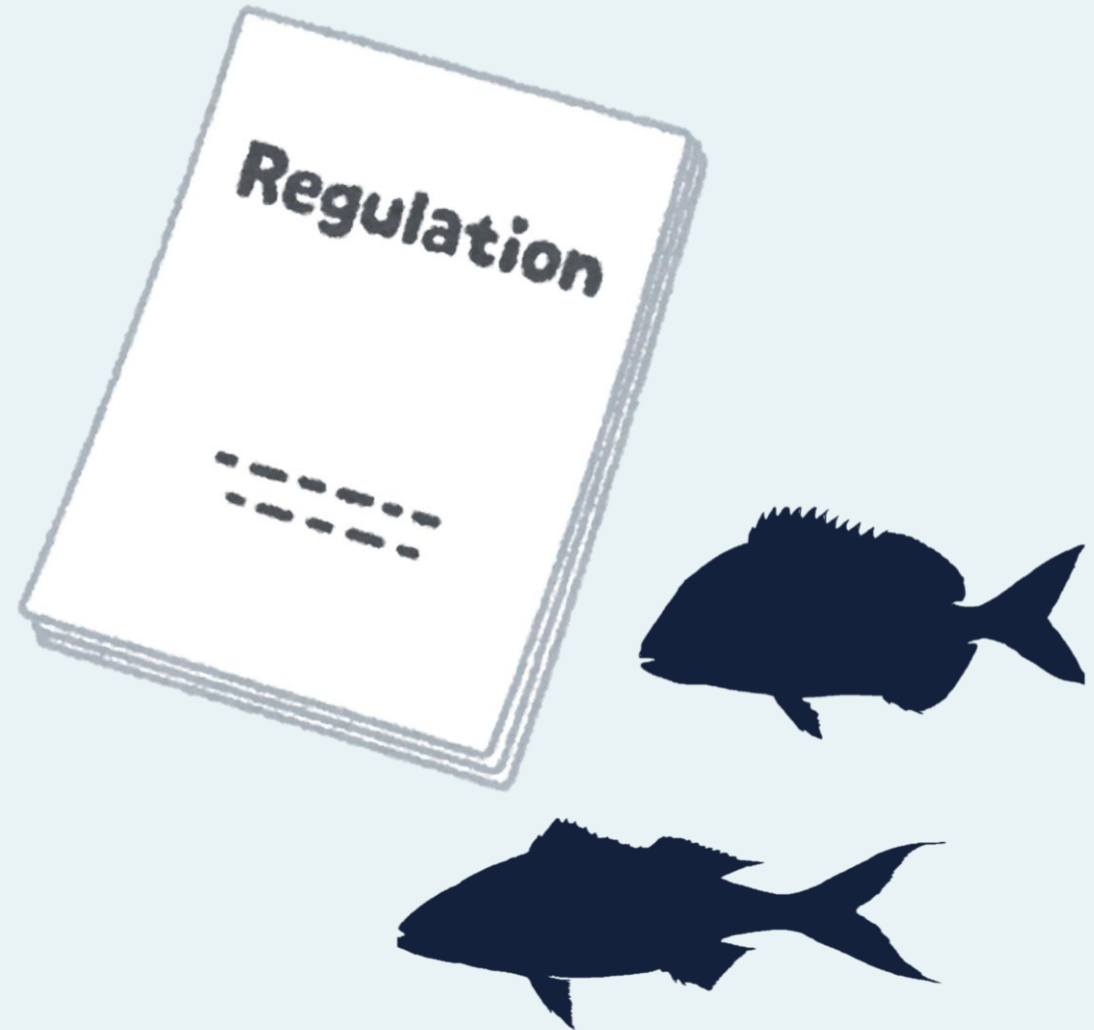
OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES FOR THIS MEETING

- Review provided information.
 - What is the Council considering?
 - What happens when species are removed from federal management?
 - What are ecosystem component (EC) species?
- Provide feedback and recommendations for the Council to consider when evaluating whether to remove 17 species from federal management (either removal from the fishery management unit (FMU) or designate as EC species).



WHAT IS THE COUNCIL CONSIDERING?

- The Council has begun to evaluate the need for **federal management** for **17 Snapper Grouper species**.
- Several Council members have noted that they do not want most of this group of species to be **completely unregulated**.



WHAT SPECIES ARE BEING EVALUATED?

The **17 Snapper Grouper species** being evaluated are:



Atlantic Spadefish



Banded Rudderfish



Jolthead Porgy



Bar Jack



Cubera Snapper



Saucereye Porgy



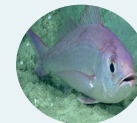
Misty Grouper



White Grunt



Knobbed Porgy



Queen Snapper



Tomtate



Scup



Sand Tilefish



Sailor's Choice



Whitebone Porgy



Blackfin Snapper



Margate

SPECIES COMPLEXES

- Some of the species being considered make up all or part of **management complexes** that catch levels are tied to.
- **2 species** are not included in a species complex, and have individual catch levels:



**Atlantic
Spadefish**

ACL: 812,478 lbs ww



Bar Jack

ACL: 62,249 lbs ww

SPECIES COMPLEXES

DEEPWATER COMPLEX

Misty Grouper



Queen Snapper



Sand Tilefish



Blackfin Snapper

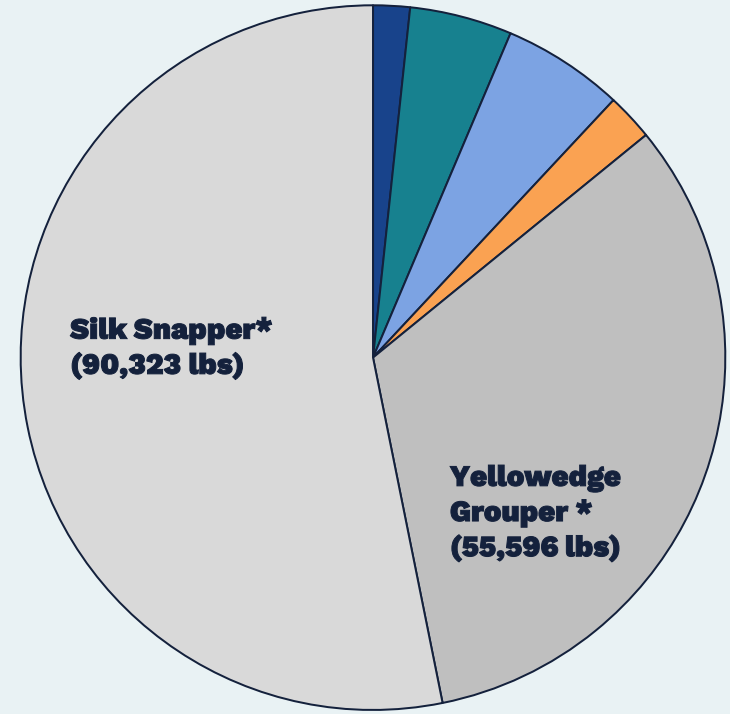


Species in the Deepwater Complex **NOT** being considered for removal:

Yellowedge Grouper

Silk Snapper

Complex ACL: 169,896 lbs
*species not considered for removal in AM 61



Misty Grouper
(2,863 lbs)
Sand Tilefish
(7,983 lbs)

Queen Snapper
(9,466 lbs)
Blackfin Snapper
(3,665 lbs)

SPECIES COMPLEXES

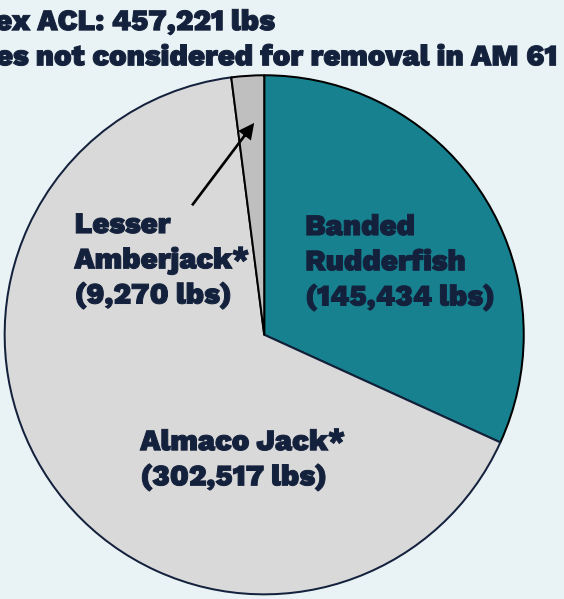
JACKS COMPLEX



Banded Rudderfish

Species in the Jacks Complex NOT being considered for removal:

Almaco Jack
Lesser Amberjack



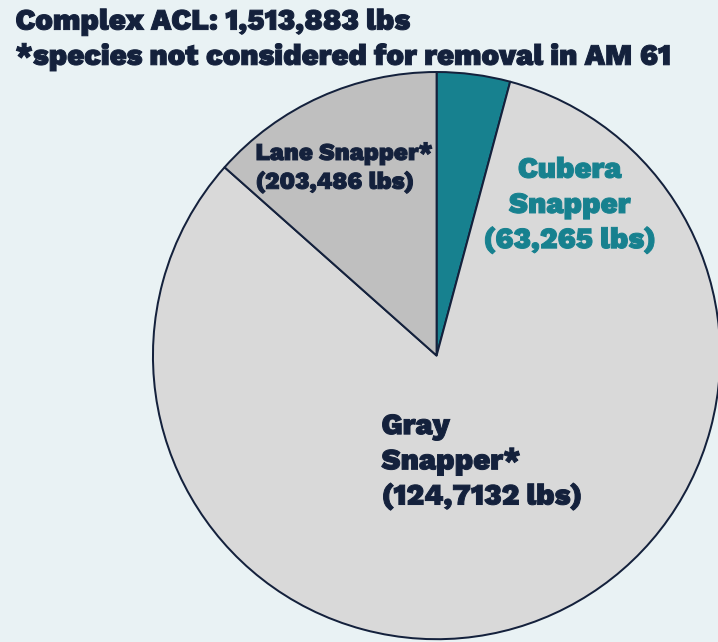
SNAPPERS COMPLEX



Cubera Snapper

Species in the Snappers Complex NOT being considered for removal:

Gray Snapper
Lane Snapper



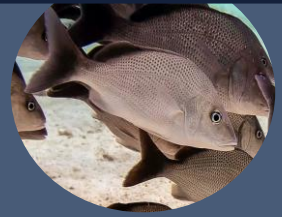
SPECIES COMPLEXES

GRUNTS COMPLEX

White Grunt



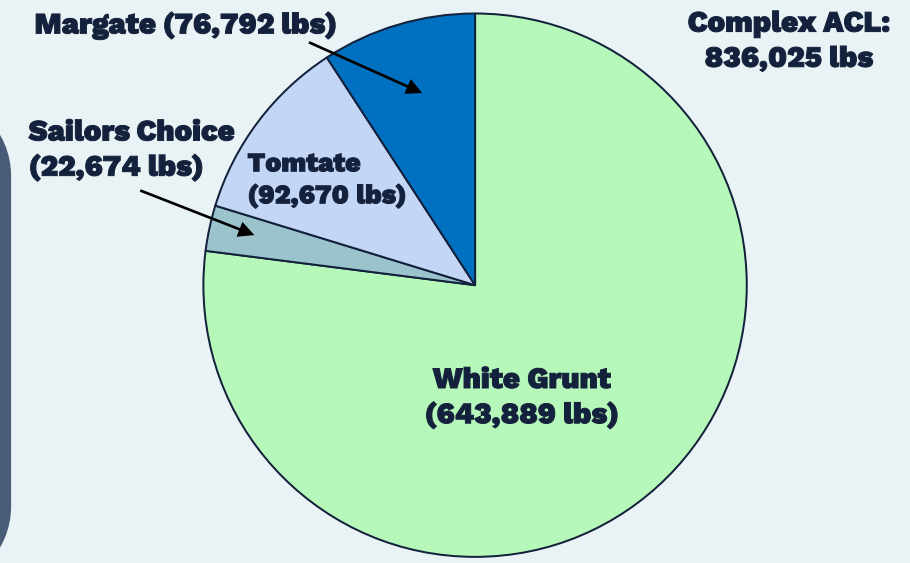
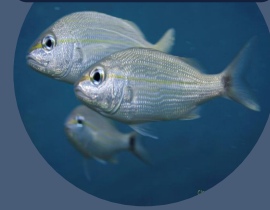
Sailor's Choice



Margate



Tomtate



PORGIES COMPLEX

Jolthead Porgy



Saucereye Porgy



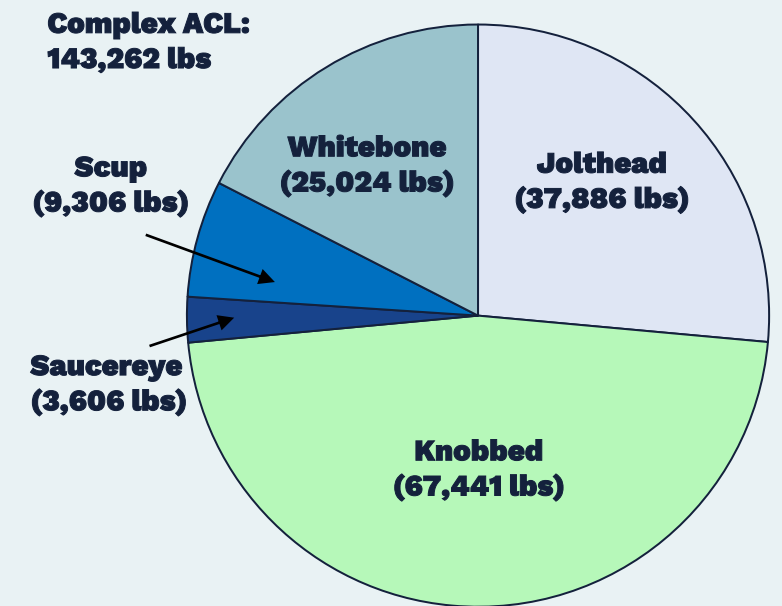
Knobbed Porgy



Scup



Whitebone Porgy



WHAT HAPPENS TO THESE 17 SPECIES?

- If federal management is no longer needed for some or all of the 17 species being evaluated, the Council is considering either:

➖ **Removing** some or all the species from the **Fishery Management Unit (FMU)**

OR



Designating them as **Ecosystem Component Species (EC Species)**



SPECIES REMOVAL



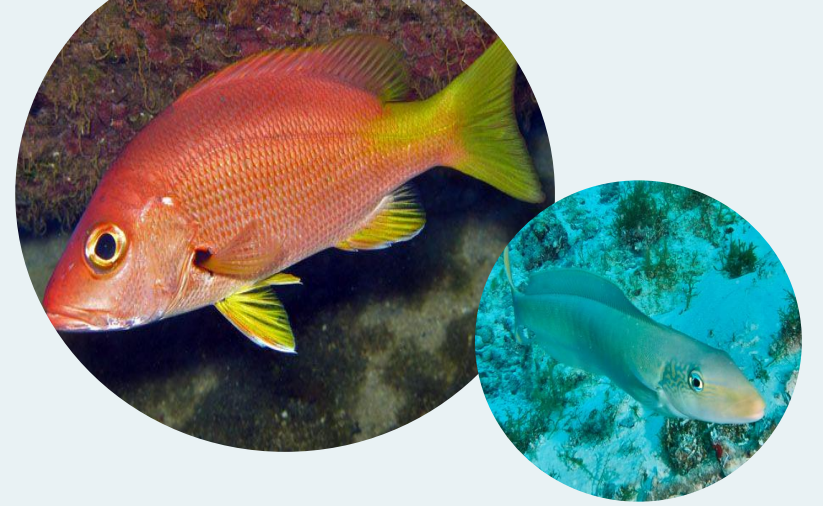
- **If these species are removed from the FMU:**
 - All existing federal regulations (possession limits, permit requirements, reporting requirements, ACLs, etc.) would **no longer apply**.
 - **States** would be able to implement regulations for the species that could be extended into federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) if they chose to do so.

ECOSYSTEM COMPONENT SPECIES

- **What are ecosystem component species?**
 - EC species are stocks that a Council has determined do not require conservation and management, but desire to list in an FMP to achieve ecosystem management objectives.
 - There are currently five species in the Snapper Grouper FMP that are designated EC species with no associated management measures.
- **If these species are designated as EC species:**
 - Most federal regulations and management measures such as ACLs, restrictive trip or bag limits, and size limits would be removed in federal waters.
 - Some non-restrictive measures could remain in place such as **permitting** and **reporting requirements** and there could potentially be **aggregate possession limits** put in place that are relatively non-restrictive.



POTENTIAL COUNCIL ACTION



1) No Action.

- Species remain in the Snapper Grouper FMU. Species will continue to have annual catch limits, accountability measures, and other existing management measures.

2) Remove Species from the FMU.

- Species are removed from the FMU, and federal management measures would no longer apply.
- States would be able to implement management measures that extend in federal waters if they chose to do so.

POTENTIAL COUNCIL ACTION



3) Designate species as Ecosystem Component species.

- This may elevate the importance of these species for data collection and research and monitoring. Other potential measures for ecosystem component species include:
 - 3a)** Do not implement or retain management measures,
 - 3b)** Retain a reporting requirement for these species,
 - 3c)** Retain a permit requirement for landing these species (would likely need to develop an option for a commercial permit that is **not** limited entry), and
 - 3d)** Implement an aggregate trip limit (would need to specify limits per sector and would need to be relatively large/non-restrictive)

WHAT INFORMATION DOES THE COUNCIL NEED?

- 1) Are there potential law enforcement concerns for removing any of the selected 17 species from the Snapper Grouper FMU?
 - a. Please include both a federal and state waters perspective.

- 2) Are there potential benefits from this action from a law enforcement perspective?
 - a. Please include both a federal and state waters perspective.

- 3) Would your comments change if these species are listed as ecosystem component species rather than completely removed from the FMU, potentially with the inclusion of a permit requirement, reporting requirement, or aggregate trip limit?

Complex	Species
NA	Atlantic Spadefish
NA	Bar Jack
Other Jacks Complex	Banded Rudderfish
Other Snappers Complex	Cubera Snapper
Deepwater Complex	Misty Grouper
	Sand Tilefish
	Queen Snapper
	Blackfin Snapper
Other Porgies Complex (entire complex)	Jolthead Porgy
	Knobbed Porgy
	Saucereye Porgy
	Scup
	Whitebone Porgy
Grunts Complex (entire complex)	White Grunt
	Sailor's Choice
	Tomtate
	Margate