



Amendment 37 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region

Modification to the hogfish fishery management unit, fishing level specifications for the two South Atlantic hogfish stocks, rebuilding plan for the Florida Keys/East Florida stock, and establishment/revision of management measures for both stocks



Background

An assessment of the hogfish stock was conducted in 2014 with data through 2012 (SEDAR 37 2014).

Recent evidence from genetic studies show that hogfish in the South Atlantic belong to two distinct stocks:

1. Georgia through North Carolina (GA-NC)
2. Florida Keys and East Florida (FLK/EFL)

Stock status:

GA-NC – **unknown**

FLK/EFL - **overfished and undergoing overfishing**



GA-NC Stock

- The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee reviewed the SEDAR 37 assessment and did not find it adequate for managing the GA-NC stock.
- The SSC recommended instead that catch level recommendations for the GA-NC stock be developed using the Only Reliable Catch Stocks (ORCS) approach, as outlined in the Council's ABC control rule.



What is ORCS?

The ORCS approach is used to calculate the ABC for unassessed stocks with only reliable catch data.

The approach involves selection of a “catch statistic”, a scalar (number) to denote the risk of overexploitation for the stock, and a scalar to denote the management risk level.

The SSC provides the first two criteria for each stock, and the Council specified the risk management level for several unassessed snapper grouper species in Amendment 29.



ABC recommendation for the GA-NC hogfish stock

Statistic	Value
Risk of Overexploitation (Moderately High)	1.25
Catch Statistic (highest landings 1999-2007)	40,818 lbs ww
Risk Tolerance (Am 29)	0.7
Recommended ABC	35,716 lbs ww



FLK/EFL stock

- The SSC recommended using the SEDAR 37 assessment for managing the hogfish stock off Florida.
- The assessment indicated the stock is
 - Overfished: $F/F_{msy} = 1.593 (> 1)$
 - Undergoing overfishing: $SSB/MSST = 0.466 (< 1)$
- When a stock is overfished, the Council has two years to put in place a rebuilding plan.



What Amendment 37 does

- Specify two stocks of hogfish and establish the boundary between the FLK/EFL stock and the West Florida stock (managed by the Gulf of Mexico Council).
- Specify MSY, MSST, ABC, OY, ACLs, recreational ACT, and AMs for each stock.
- Modify or establish commercial and recreational management measures for each stock.



Questions??

