



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Review of Allocations for Species Meeting Time- Based Criterion

March 2026





Overview

- Background
 - The Council's Allocation Review Guidelines.
 - Caveats to the current sector ACLs and landings.
- Review the Snapper Grouper FMP Goals and Objectives.
- Jump to the discussion document.
 - Review relevant information on Vermilion Snapper.
 - Questions for the Council on whether current sector allocations are adequate and why.



Background

- At the December 2023 meeting, the Council approved their Allocation Review Guidelines and updated their Allocation Review Trigger Policy.
 - The guidelines specify how the Council's sector allocations will be reviewed and documented.
 - The policy specifies when allocations reviews will occur.
- One criterion that the Council chose to trigger an allocation review is time-based.
 - Each species will have its sector allocations reviewed **at least once every seven years**.
 - Vermilion Snapper meet this criterion.



Background (Continued)

- Currently no new stock assessment or catch level recommendations.
 - Catch levels will be revised through the next stock assessment and associated amendment.
 - Assessment results not likely available until 2028 at the earliest.
- Recreational landings estimates for Vermilion Snapper are based on the MRIP's Coastal Household Telephone Survey methodology.



Background (Continued)

- The Council will be presented with the following to determine whether reallocation is warranted or if the current allocations are sufficient:
 - The FMP Goals and Objectives,
 - Current allocations and rationale for setting those allocations,
 - Landings and ACL usage by sector for the most recent 5 years of available data, and
 - The most recent Fishery Performance Report.
- A summary allocations report will be developed based on the discussion and presented to the Council for approval in June 2026.



SG FMP Goals and Objectives: Goal 1

Goal 1 (Science): Management decisions for the snapper grouper fishery are based upon robust, defensible science that considers qualitative and quantitative data analyzed in a timely, clear, and transparent manner that builds stakeholder confidence.

Objective 1	Promote collection of quality data to support management plans and programs considered by the Council.
Objective 2	Encourage development of mechanisms to effectively engage and collaborate with stakeholders on cooperative research, data collection and analysis.
Objective 3	Improve knowledge about the social and economic elements of the snapper grouper fishery in the South Atlantic.
Objective 4	Support improved and expanded monitoring and reporting programs for the snapper grouper fishery.
Objective 5	Promote data collection and analysis to support ecosystem and habitat considerations for the snapper grouper fishery.



SG FMP Goals and Objectives: Goal 2

Goal 2 (Management): Adopt management strategies for the snapper grouper fishery that rebuild and maintain fishery resources, adapt to regional differences in the fishery, and consider the social and economic needs of fishing communities.

Objective 1	Develop management measures that consider sub-regional differences and issues within the fishery.
Objective 2	Develop innovative management measures that allow consistent access to the fishery for all sectors.
Objective 3	Ensure that management decisions help maximize social and economic opportunity for all sectors.
Objective 4	Develop management measures that reduce and mitigate discards.
Objective 5	Support management measures that incorporate ecosystem and habitat considerations for the snapper grouper fishery.
Objective 6	Develop management measures that support optimal sector allocations for the snapper grouper fishery.



SG FMP Goals and Objectives: Goal 3

Goal 3 (Communication): Employ interactive outreach strategies that encourage continuous participation and support two-way engagement between managers and snapper grouper fishery stakeholders while building a greater understanding of science and management.

Objective 1

Develop communication approaches that provide streamlined and timely information to increase awareness and engage stakeholders.

Objective 2

Ensure that Council communication encourages and supports engagement with a diverse audience of stakeholders.

Objective 3

Improve awareness and understanding of fishery science and research and how these inform management.

Objective 4

Improve awareness and understanding of how social and economic issues are linked to fisheries management measures.



SG FMP Goals and Objectives: Goal 4

Goal 4 (Governance): Commit to a transparent, balanced, and timely decision-making process that allows flexible yet well-defined protocols and strategies for managing the snapper grouper fishery.

Objective 1

Create an accountable and flexible decision-making process for development and evaluation of management measures.

Objective 2

Build capacity to streamline management efforts and better coordinate with management partners.

Objective 3

Improve communication with stakeholders to ensure the needs of the fishery are understood and considered throughout the Council process.

Questions?



- Coming up in the discussion:
 - Review ACL, allocation, management measures, and other information on Vermilion Snapper.
 - Provide feedback whether current allocations are adequate for the fishery and why.
- But first: Any questions before jumping to the decision document?