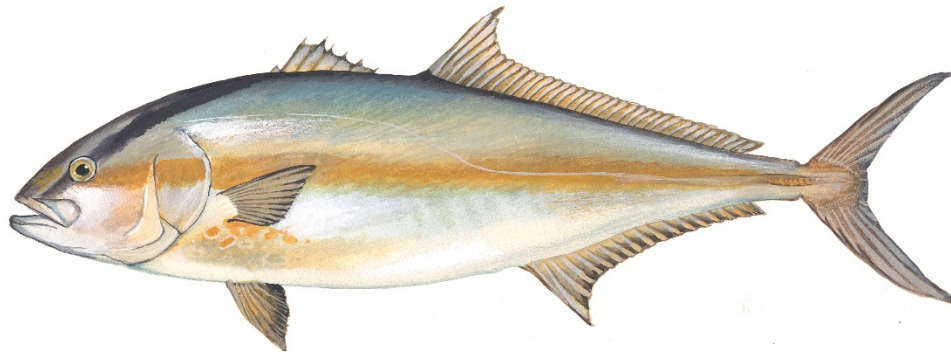




Catch Level Adjustments and Allocations for Greater Amberjack

Amendment 49 Options Paper

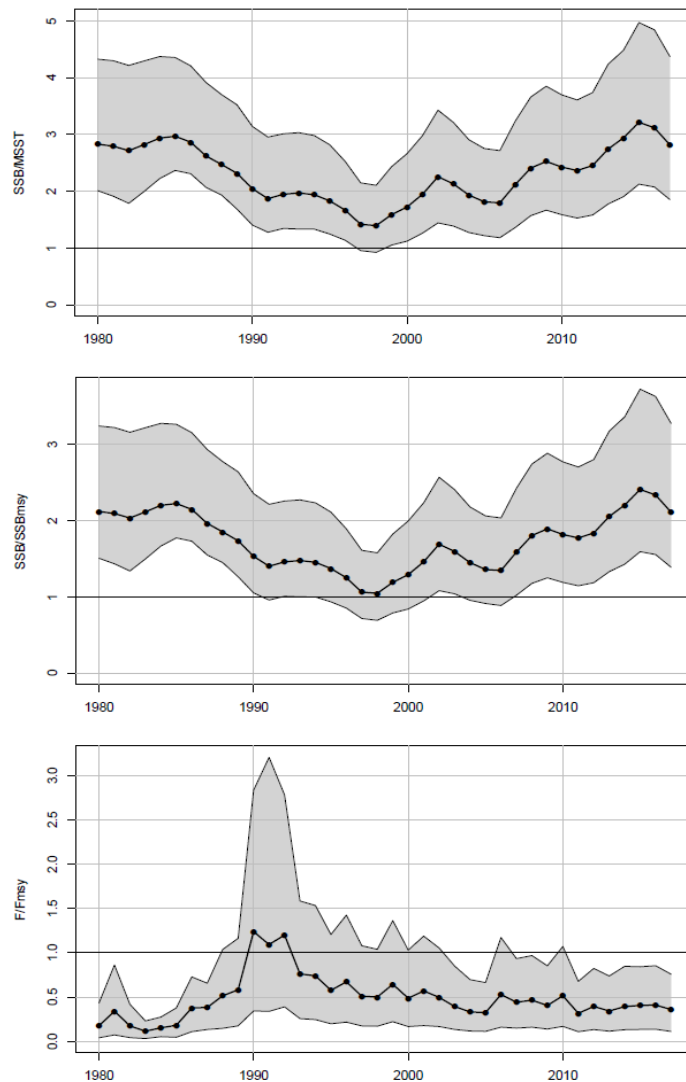


December 2020

Michael Schmidtke, SAFMC Staff

Background

- S Atlantic Greater Amberjack assessed earlier in 2020 (SEDAR 59) (Fig. 1)
 - Not overfished
 - Not experiencing overfishing
- FES recreational estimates
- Projections for 2020-2024



SSC Recommendations

- SSC reviewed SEDAR 59 in April 2020
 - Recommended OFLs and ABCs through 2024 (Table 1)
 - Current ABC = 1,968,000 lbs ww

OFL RECOMMENDATIONS		
Year	Landings (lbs ww)	Landings (numbers of fish)
2020*	5,234,000	403,000
2021*	3,439,000	300,000
2022	2,890,000	270,000
2023	2,744,000	263,000
2024	2,704,000	260,000
ABC RECOMMENDATIONS		
Year	Landings (lbs ww)	Landings (numbers of fish)
2020*	4,978,000	382,000
2021*	3,394,000	292,000
2022	2,871,000	263,000
2023	2,725,000	257,000
2024	2,687,000	254,000



Management Issues/Questions

- Current ABC, total and sector ACLs, sector allocation percentages, and recreational ACT based on MRFSS recreational data
- MRIP will use FES moving forward
- **Does the Council want to update management numeric values to reflect the new assessment and recreational estimation methodology?**
 - Current values are as/more conservative
- **Does the Council want to make other changes to management of S Atlantic Greater Amberjack?**



Potential Amendment Timing

Dates	Process Steps
December 2020	Review options paper and provide guidance to staff
March 2021	Review draft amendment and approve for scoping
Apr-May 2021	Conduct scoping hearings
June 2021	Review scoping comments, review preliminary analyses, and provide guidance to staff
September 2021	Review modifications to the amendment, select preferred alternatives, and approve for public hearings
Oct-Nov 2021	Conduct public hearings
December 2021	Review public comment and approve all actions
March 2022	Review final draft amendment and consider approval for formal review
Mid to late 2022	Regulations effective



Action 1 – Total ACL and OY

- ABC = OY = Total ACL = 1,968,000 lbs ww
- Alternatives include Total ACL =
 1. Current value
 2. SSC-recommended ABC

Year	Total ACL (lbs ww)	Total ACL (numbers)
2020*	4,978,000	382,000
2021*	3,394,000	292,000
2022	2,871,000	263,000
2023	2,725,000	257,000
2024	2,687,000	254,000

3. 90% SSC-recommended ABC
4. 80% SSC-recommended ABC



Action 1 – Total ACL and OY

- Projections beyond 2024 will be requested (management likely to be effective in 2022-23 fishing year)
- Modify OY separate from ACL?
- Guidance on unit?
 - lbs ww, lbs gw, or numbers of fish used in different parts of management
 - Conversions available
 - Projections and ABC recommendations in lbs ww and numbers of fish



Action 2 – Sector Allocations

- Current formula:
 - weighted average of com/rec landings over total landings
 - 50% 1986-2008, 50% 2006-2008
 - MRFSS recreational data
- Commercial: 40.66% (800,163 lbs ww)
- Recreational: 59.34% (1,167,837 lbs ww)



Action 2 – Sector Allocations

- Alternatives:
 1. Current formula and values (1986-2008 MRFSS estimates) (**Framework**)
 2. Current formula and updated values (1986-2008 FES estimates); C: 29.85%, R: 70.15% (**Framework**)
 3. Maintain commercial allocation poundage (800,163 lbs ww); C: 28-30%, R: 70-72% (**Plan**)
 4. No sector allocations (**Plan**)



Action 3 – Recreational ACT

- Current ACT: 992,662 lbs ww
 - Based on current ACL and MRFSS data through 2008
 - Uses average of PSEs from the last 5 years (when previously applied, 2005-2009)
- ACT not currently used in Accountability Measures



Action 3 – Recreational ACT

- Alternatives (**Framework**):
 1. Current formula and value (Current ACL and PSEs from 2005-2009)
 2. Current formula and updated values (ACL from Actions 1 and 2 and PSEs from 2015-2019)

Assuming Total ACL=Revised ABC in Pounds Whole Weight (Action 1 Option 2) and Sector Allocation Defined in Action 2 Option 2		
Year	Recreational ACL (lbs ww)	Recreational ACT (lbs ww)
2020*	3,492,129	2,577,889
2021*	2,380,933	1,757,605
2022	2,014,042	1,486,766
2023	1,911,621	1,411,159
2024	1,884,964	1,391,480

3. No ACT



Anything Else?

- Does the Council want to include any other changes to S Atlantic Greater Amberjack management in this amendment?
 - Changes to spawning closure
 - Changes to minimum size limits (sector-specific)
 - Changes to recreational bag limit
 - Changes to accountability measures (sector-specific)
 - Changes to fishing year
 - Changes to commercial split season and trip limits



A school of blue fish swimming in a dark ocean. The fish are arranged in a loose formation, moving towards the right. In the bottom right corner, there is a piece of light-colored, branching coral and a bright orange sea slug. The background is a deep, dark blue-green color.

Questions/Discussion