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THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## **Approach for long-term SG management and ending overfishing of red snapper**

SAFMC December 2023





# Red snapper catch level recommendations

- SEDAR 73 results presented to the Council in June 2021
  - Stock not yet rebuilt and overfishing occurring
- SSC meets in July 2021 and provides catch level recommendations
- Discards identified as a significant issue



# Overall Plan

## Immediate action

Explore actions to reduce Red Snapper discards

Implement the revised ABC through framework to address overfishing promptly

## Long term action

Expand outreach efforts to reduce Snapper-Grouper fishery discard losses

Develop an MSE to evaluate impacts of Red Snapper regulations and discard reductions on the overall Snapper-Grouper fishery

Implement broad actions through an FMP amendment



# September 2021

## Immediate action

### Framework amendment exploring discard reduction

- gear modifications
- Time/area closures
- Slot or max size limits

## Long term action

- Increase outreach on BFP
- Workgroup to explore MSE
- Plan amendment to revise red snapper catch levels and incorporate MSE results



# December 2021

## Immediate action

- Compile data to determine if demonstrable change in dead discards can be estimated
- Adopt ABC and consider adjustments from potential management measures in framework amendment.
- Conduct informal scoping to solicit additional ideas to address recreational discards

## Long term action

- Workplan for MSE presented and approved by Council



# March 2022

## Immediate action

- Initiate Regulatory Amendment 35 (formerly “framework amendment”) to adjust catch levels for red snapper based on SEDAR 73
- Detailed guidance on analyses to bring back in June

## Long term action

- Request for proposals to conduct a multi-species MSE
- Blue Matter Science selected as contractor to begin work in July 2022



# June 2022

## Immediate action

- Staff presents requested information and analyses
- Direction to add gear modifications, outreach and education and time/area restrictions to Reg 35

## Long term action

- Direction to include spatial and time closures in the MSE



# September 2022

## Immediate action

- Staff presents options for Reg 35 actions and alternatives and data report responding to June requests
- Appendix added to Reg 35 to promote BFPs and expand education and outreach

## Long term action

- Presentations on MSE requested for SG AP and SSC meetings in October





# December 2022

## Immediate action

- Direction to add discussion to Reg 35 on other ongoing red snapper management activities
- Approved Reg 35 for public hearings

## Long term action

- Request for MSE presentation at March 2023 Council meeting



# March 2023

## Immediate action

- Council approves Reg 35 for formal review

## Long term action

- Presentation on MSE progress. Feedback provided on conceptual management options and key uncertainties
- Input provided on SEFSC's FY2023 spend plan and additional funding to better understand discards in the fishery



# Additional considerations

- South Atlantic Red Snapper Research Program – scheduled to be completed in fall 2025.
- Red Snapper legislation – in October 2023 the House Natural Resources Committee voted to advance the Red Snapper Act.
  - The Act would prevent NOAA from making sweeping changes to Atlantic Red Snapper management until the results of the research program are integrated into stock assessments.