



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Snapper Grouper Amendment 44

Reef Fish Amendment 55

Revising stock catch levels and jurisdictional allocation for mutton snapper and yellowtail snapper

Decision Document, December 2025

Background

Both mutton snapper and yellowtail snapper are considered single stocks in the South Atlantic and Gulf of America (Gulf) and are managed by the South Atlantic and Gulf Councils under the Snapper Grouper and Reef Fish Fishery Management Plans, respectively. Recently, [SEDAR 79 \(2024\)](#) (terminal year: 2022) and [SEDAR 96 \(2025\)](#) (terminal year: 2023) were completed for mutton snapper and yellowtail snapper, respectively. Neither stock was determined to be overfished or experiencing overfishing.

In December 2024, the South Atlantic Council decided on a management approach in anticipation of obtaining catch level recommendations for both stocks from the Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC) early in 2025. In February 2025, a [joint meeting](#) of South Atlantic and Gulf Scientific SSCs reviewed the results of both assessments and recommended catch levels. This joint amendment, led by the Gulf Council, will update the stock acceptable biological catch (ABC) and overfishing limit (OFL) for both mutton and yellowtail snapper based on their respective assessments. Based on these new stock ABC values, the amendment will also update the jurisdictional apportionment between the two regions, update each region's annual catch limit (ACL), and update South Atlantic sector allocations for both species.

At Your Last Meeting (September 2025)

- During the [September 2025](#) meeting, the SG Committee reviewed a decision document. The Council did the following:
 - Removed alternatives that considered jurisdictional apportionment based off of the distribution of landings versus the current formula (bowtie).
 - Directed staff to split Action 1 into two actions, one for each species.
 - Directed staff to include language that would update the total ACLs for each species within Actions 1 and 2.
 - The Council noted that it did not want to consider a buffer between the ABC and ACL for either species, noting that the stocks are healthy.
 - Directed staff to include two additional actions that would update the South Atlantic sector allocations for mutton and yellowtail snapper and develop a suite of alternatives based on previous allocation methods and the Allocation Decision Tool.

Objectives for this Meeting (December 2025)

- Review the proposed actions and alternatives
- Review Snapper Grouper AP and November Gulf Council discussion
- Use the Allocation Decision Tool to select a range of sector allocation alternatives for Actions 3 and 4.

Tentative Amendment Timing

✓February 2025	Joint SSC to review both assessments
✓June 2025	Reinitiate work on the amendment
✓August 2025	Gulf Council reviewed action and proposed alternatives
✓September 2025	South Atlantic will review action and proposed alternatives
✓November 2025	Gulf Council will review draft document
December 2025	South Atlantic Council will review draft document
January 2026	<i>If data is available and projections can be run the Gulf will review the amendment, select preferreds, and approve for public hearings</i>
March 2026	South Atlantic Council will review public hearing draft with preliminary analysis, confirm preferreds, and approve for public hearings
April 2026	<i>If the Gulf has not approved for public hearings then they will review public hearing draft with preliminary analysis, confirm preferreds, and approve for public hearings</i>
May 2026	Public hearings conducted
June 2026	Both Councils review public hearing comments and consider final action
Summer 2026	Amendment submission

Acceptable Biological Catch

Mutton Snapper

Table 1 shows the stock ABC and OFL recommendations from the joint SSCs for **mutton snapper** for 2024 through 2028 based on SEDAR 79 (2024). The SSCs used the geometric mean of the most recent five years of recruitment (2019-2023) for informing OFL and ABC. The OFL is set at $F_{30\%SPR}$, and the ABC is set at 75% of $F_{30\%SPR}$, for the years 2026 – 2028, as derived from the provided projections for 2024 – 2028. The final report for this meeting can be found [HERE](#). Status determination criteria are listed in **Table 2**.

Table 1. Stock OFL and ABC recommendations for **mutton snapper** from the Joint SSCs (February 2025) in response to SEDAR 79 (2024). ABCs are based on projections at $F=75\%$ of $F_{30\%SPR}$. Catch levels are in pounds (lbs) whole weight (ww).

Year	OFL ($F_{30\%SPR}$)	ABC (75% of $F_{30\%SPR}$)
2026	3,363,706	2,725,359
2027	3,313,030	2,752,377
2028	3,270,355	2,772,615

Table 2. Status determination criteria and management benchmarks for southeastern U.S. mutton snapper, based on the results of the SEDAR 79 stock assessment.

Southeastern US Mutton Snapper		
Criteria	Definition	Base Model Value
Fishing mortality (F)_{30%SPR} 30% Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR)	the fishing mortality rate associated with 30% SPR and the proxy used for F _{MSY}	0.149 yr ⁻¹
F_{40%SPR}	the fishing mortality rate associated with 40% SPR and the proxy used for F _{OY}	0.11 yr ⁻¹
Maximum Fishing Mortality Threshold (MFMT)	F _{30%SPR}	0.149 yr ⁻¹
F_{Optimum Yield (OY)}	F _{40%SPR}	0.11 yr ⁻¹
F_{current}	the geometric mean of F on age-3 fish for 2021-2023	0.08 yr ⁻¹
Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB)_{F30%SPR}	the estimated spawning stock biomass associated with F at 30% SPR	3,352, metric tons (mt)
Minimum Stock Size Threshold (MSST)	0.75*SSB _{F30%SPR}	2,514 mt (5,542,421 lbs)
SSB_{current}	the geometric mean of SSB for 2021-2023	5,403 mt (11,911,576 lbs)
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) proxy	Yield at F _{30%SPR}	681.87 mt (1,503,266 lbs)

Yellowtail Snapper

Table 3 shows stock ABC and OFL recommendations for **yellowtail snapper** for 2024 through 2028 based on SEDAR 96 (2025). The SSCs used the arithmetic mean of the most recent five years of recruitment (2019-2023) for informing OFL and ABC projections. The OFL is set at F_{30%SPR}, and the ABC is set at 75% of F_{30%SPR}, for the years 2026-2028, as derived from the provided projections for 2024-2028. The final report for this meeting can be found [HERE](#). Status determination criteria are listed in **Table 4**.

Table 3. Stock OFL and ABC recommendations for **yellowtail snapper** from the Joint SSC (February 2025) in response to SEDAR 96 (2025). ABCs are based on projections at F=75% of F_{30%SPR}. Catch levels are in lbs ww.

Year	OFL (F _{30%SPR})	ABC (75% of F _{30%SPR})
2026	4,495,187	3,925,031
2027	4,364,600	3,913,426
2028	4,307,856	3,918,634

Table 4. Status determination criteria and management benchmarks for southeastern U.S. **yellowtail snapper** for the South Atlantic and Gulf Councils, based on the results of the SEDAR 96 stock assessment.

Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper		
Criteria	Definition	Base Model Value
MSY	The retained yield at F_{MSY} (or proxy, $F_{30\%SPR}$)	1,391.44 mt (3,067,600 lbs)
F_{MSY} or proxy	The fishing mortality rate associated with MSY (or proxy 30% SPR)	0.398 yr ⁻¹
MFMT	F_{MSY} or 30%SPR	0.398 yr ⁻¹
$F_{current}$	the geometric mean of F on age-4 fish for 2021-2023	0.263 yr ⁻¹
SSB_{MSY} or proxy	the estimated spawning stock biomass associated with F_{MSY} or $F_{30\%SPR}$	1,816.54 mt (4,004,785 lbs)
MSST	$0.75 * SSB_{F_{30\%SPR}}$	1,362.41 mt (3,003,589 lbs)
$SSB_{current}$	the geometric mean of SSB for 2021-2023	2,518.21 mt (5,551,692 lbs)

Recent Landings and Closures

Mutton Snapper

Mutton snapper landings averaged roughly 150,000 lbs annually from 1986-2024 in the Gulf and roughly 1,100,000 lbs annually in the South Atlantic (Figure 1). Neither region has experienced an ACL closure from 2012-2024.

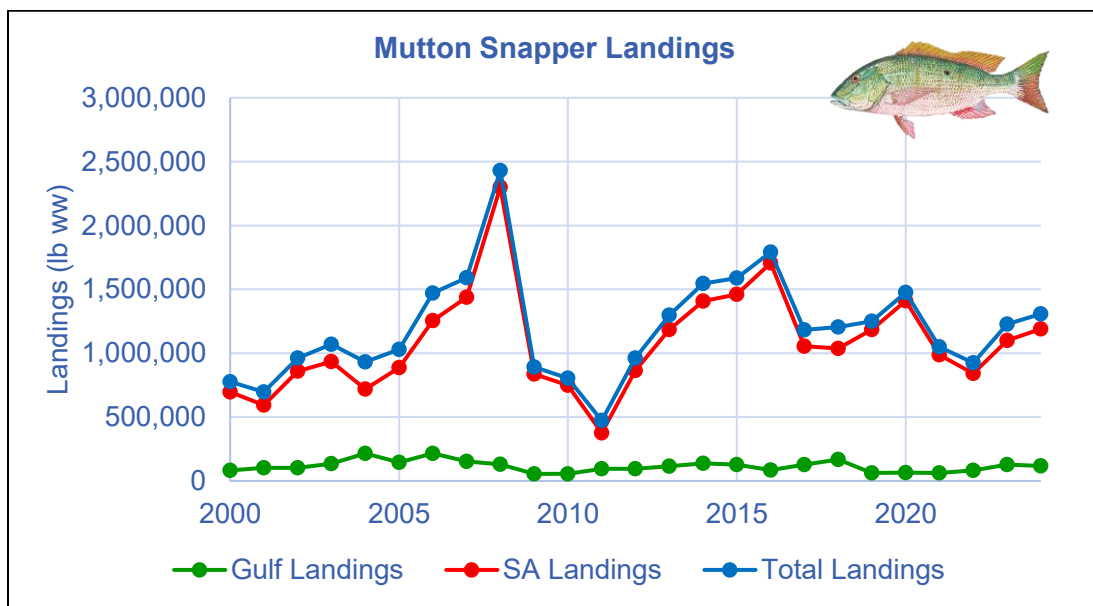


Figure 1. Total, Gulf, and South Atlantic landings for mutton snapper from 2000–2024.

Yellowtail Snapper

Yellowtail snapper landings averaged roughly 610,000 lbs annually from 1986-2024 in the Gulf and roughly 3,200,000 lbs annually in the South Atlantic (Figure 2). There has not been an ACL closure in the Gulf from 2012-2024. There has not been a recreational ACL closure in the South Atlantic from 2012-2024, however there has been commercial ACL closure in the following years: October 2015, June 2017, June 2018, and June 2019.

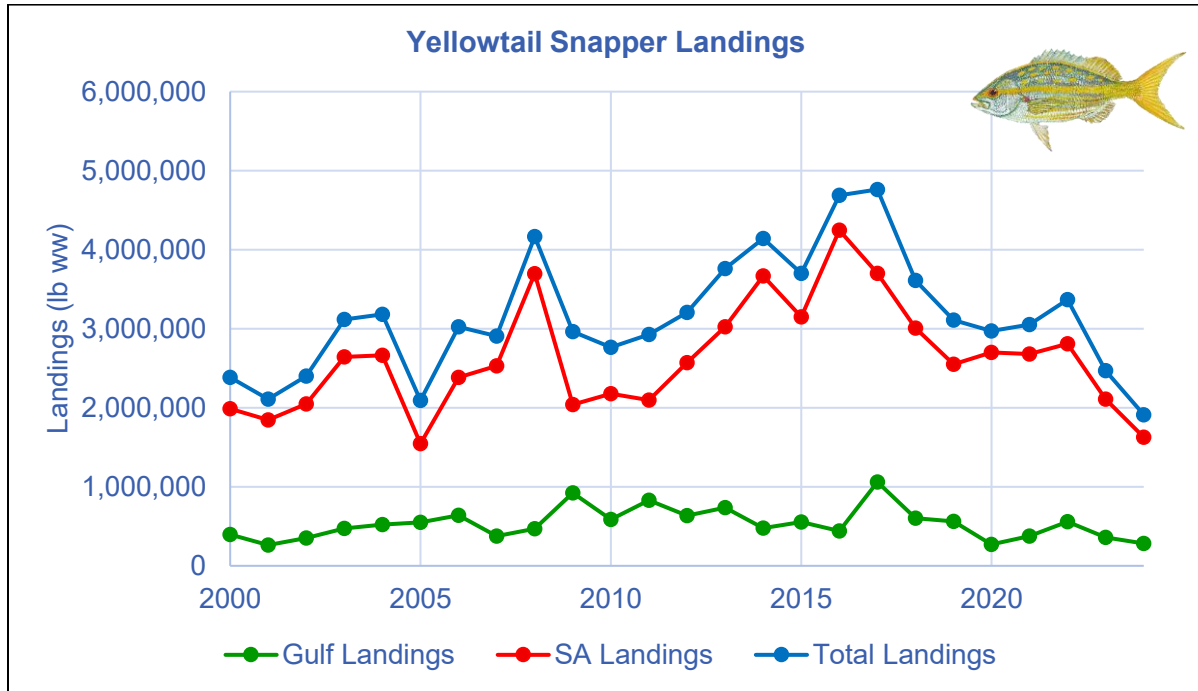


Figure 2 Total, Gulf, and South Atlantic landings for yellowtail snapper from 2000–2024.

Purpose and Need Statements

The *purpose* of these fishery management plan amendments is to revise the southeastern U.S. mutton snapper and yellowtail snapper stock overfishing limit, and stock acceptable biological catch, based on the results of the SEDAR 79 and SEDAR 96 stock assessments, respectively. The amendments would also revise the jurisdictional apportionment between the South Atlantic and Gulf Councils, the regional annual catch limits, and the South Atlantic sector allocations.

The *need* for these fishery management plan amendments is to update existing catch limits, jurisdictional apportionments of the ABCs, and South Atlantic sector allocations for southeastern U.S. mutton snapper and yellowtail snapper to be consistent with the best scientific information available, and achieve optimum yield while minimizing, to the extent practicable, adverse social and economic effects.

Committee Action

- APPROVE THE PURPOSE AND NEED

DRAFT MOTION: APPROVE THE PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT FOR SNAPPER GROUPER AMENDMENT 44.

Monroe County Data Specifics

Why are we talking about this?

- Each assessment (for both species) now includes Florida State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS) landings. MRIP and SRFS differ in how landings in southwest Florida (i.e., Area D in the Western Keys [Figure 3]) are attributed.

Currently:

- Under MRIP, this area is combined with Area E (Figure 3) and these landings have historically been attributed to the South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction.
- Under the SRFS program, Areas D and E are split to provide additional geographic resolution and the landings in Area D are ~~not~~ attributed to the Gulf.
- SRHS Headboat landings in Area D have historically been attributed to the Gulf.
- Charter for-hire landings in Area D are typically combined with Area E and attributed to the South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction.

What the IPT felt was appropriate for this amendment:

- Time period: 1986 – most recent complete year available
- Geographic coverage specific to area D (Figure 3):
 - Shore mode (MRIP-FES): Assigned to SA Council
 - Offshore private (SRFS): Assigned to Gulf Council
 - Charter for-hire (MRIP): Assigned to SA Council
 - Headboat (Southeast Headboat Survey): Gulf Council

NOTE: While the SSC’s OFL and ABC recommendations will remain unchanged, the regional ABCs and ACLs (Actions 1 and 2) and South Atlantic sector ACLs (Actions 3 and 4) that are calculated from landings data will change slightly once recalculated with area D allocated as above.

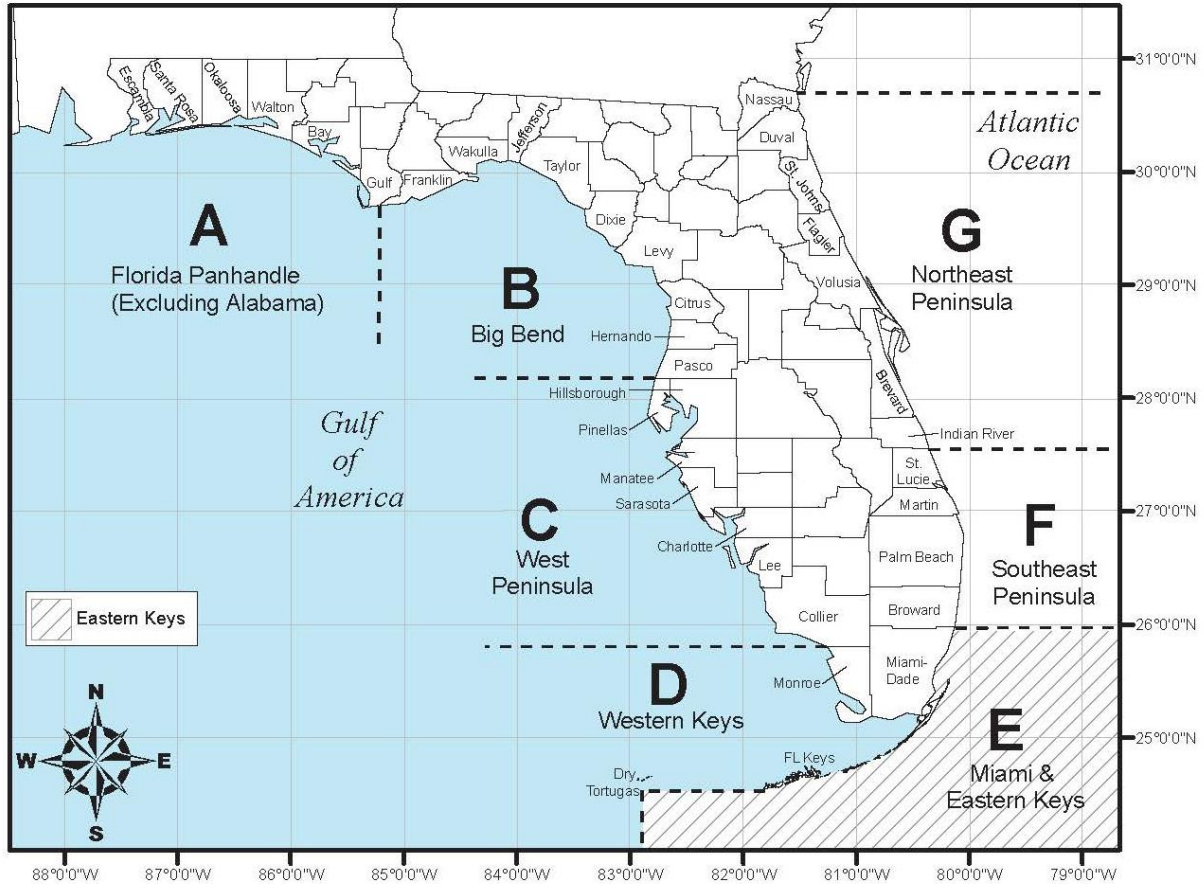


Figure 3. Map of survey areas used by Florida’s SRFS program used to survey the offshore private recreational component of mutton snapper and yellowtail snapper catch and effort.

October Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Feedback

The SG AP reviewed the amendment at their October 2025 meeting, the main consensus was “if it’s not broken, don’t fix it”. The AP wants to ensure there is not a closure for either species.

November Gulf Council Feedback

The Gulf Council reviewed the draft amendment at their [November Meeting](#) and did not have any edits. One Committee member noted that fishermen in the Gulf have seen a northward (moving up the Gulf coast of Florida) expansion of both species. The Committee stressed that they want to avoid quota closures for these stocks because they are healthy.

Proposed Action and Alternatives

Action 1. Modification of Southeastern U.S. Mutton Snapper Overfishing Limit (OFL), Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), Jurisdictional Apportionment and Regional Annual Catch Limits (ACLs)



Purpose of Action: This action will update the **stock OFL, stock ABC, jurisdictional apportionment, and regional ACLs** for southeastern U.S. **mutton snapper**, based on the results of the SSC’s review of the 2024 SEDAR 79 (2024). The stock ABC and each region’s respective ABC will include Florida’s SRFS and MRIP FES recreational landings estimates.

Alternative	Gulf Percentage	SA Percentage	Formula/Explanation
Alternative 1 (No Action)	18%	82%	True No Action - retain the percentages and ABCs based on MRFSS units for both species
Alternative 2	18%	82%	Apply the current percentages onto the updated ABC based off of SEDAR 79. SA and Gulf ACLs=Regional ABC
Alternative 3	Modify the jurisdictional apportionment based off the previously used formula (bowtie) with the following updated date ranges:		
Alternative 3a	9%	91%	Update based on 50% average landings from 2004-2023 and 50% average landings from 2021-2023 (most recent 19 yrs) SA and Gulf ACLs=Regional ABC
Alternative 3b	8%	92%	Update based on 50% average landings from 2014-2023 and 50% of the average landings from 2021-2023 (most recent 9 yrs) SA and Gulf ACLs=Regional ABC

Table 5. The stock OFL and ABC and regional ABCs and ACLs for each for **mutton snapper**.

Alternative	Year	OFL (lbs ww)	ABC (lbs ww)	Gulf ABC/ACL (lbs ww)	South Atlantic ABC/ACL (lbs ww)
Alternative 1 (No Action)	2025+	850,077	798,300	143,694	654,606
Alternative 2	2026	3,363,706	2,725,359	490,565	2,234,794
	2027	3,313,030	2,752,377	495,428	2,256,949
	2028	3,270,355	2,772,615	499,071	2,273,544
Alternative 3a	2026	3,363,706	2,725,359	245,282	2,480,077
	2027	3,313,030	2,752,377	247,714	2,504,663
	2028	3,270,355	2,772,615	249,535	2,523,080
Alternative 3b	2026	3,363,706	2,725,359	218,029	2,507,330
	2027	3,313,030	2,752,377	220,190	2,532,187
	2028	3,270,355	2,772,615	221,809	2,550,806

Discussion

- Comment on the proposed range of alternatives.

Action 2. Modification of Southeastern U.S. Yellowtail Snapper Overfishing Limit (OFL), Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), Jurisdictional Apportionment and Regional Annual Catch Limits (ACLs)



Purpose of Action: This action will update the **stock OFL**, **stock ABC**, **jurisdictional apportionment**, and **regional ACLs** for southeastern U.S. **yellowtail snapper**, based on the results of the SSC’s review of the 2024 SEDAR 79 (2024). The stock ABC and each region’s respective ABC will include Florida’s SRFS and MRIP FES recreational landings estimates.

Alternative	Gulf Percentage	SA Percentage	Formula/Explanation
Alternative 1 (No Action)	25%	75%	True No Action - retain the percentages and ABCs based on MRFSS units for both species
Alternative 2	25%	75%	Apply the current percentages onto the updated ABC based off of SEDAR 79. SA ACL=SA ABC
	Alternative 2a (GULF ONLY)		Gulf will retain the 11% buffer between the Gulf ABC and the Gulf ACL.
	Alternative 2b (GULF ONLY)		Gulf ACL = Gulf ABC
Alternative 3	Alternative 3a (GULF ONLY)		Gulf will retain 11% buffer between Gulf ABC and Gulf ABC
	Alternative 3b (GULF ONLY)		Gulf ACL = Gulf ABC
	Alternative 3c		
	16%	84%	Update based on 50% average landings from 2004-2023 and 50% average landings from 2021-2023 (most recent 19 yrs) SA ACL=SA ABC
	Alternative 3d		
15%	85%	Update based on 50% average landings from 2014-2023 and 50% of the average landings from 2021-2023 (most recent 9 yrs) SA ACL=SA ABC	

Table 6. The stock OFL and ABC and regional ABCs and ACLs for each for **yellowtail snapper**.

Alternative	Year	OFL (lbs ww)	ABC (lbs ww)	Gulf ABC (lbs ww)	Gulf ACL (with 11% buffer) (lbs ww) Alts 2a-b and 3a-b	South Atlantic Apportionment and ABC/ACL (lbs ww)
Alternative 1 (No Action)	2025+	4,510,000	4,050,000	1,012,000	901,125	3,037,500
Alternative 2	2026	4,495,187	3,925,031	981,258	873,320	2,943,773
	2027	4,364,600	3,913,426	978,357	870,738	2,935,070
	2028+	4,307,856	3,918,634	979,659	871,897	2,938,976
Alternative 3c	2026	4,495,187	3,925,031	628,005	558,924	3,297,026
	2027	4,364,600	3,913,426	626,148	557,272	3,287,278
	2028+	4,307,856	3,918,634	626,981	558,013	3,291,653
Alternative 3d	2026	4,495,187	3,925,031	588,755	497,291	3,336,276
	2027	4,364,600	3,913,426	587,014	522,442	3,326,412
	2028+	4,307,856	3,918,634	587,795	523,138	3,330,839

Discussion

- **Alternatives 2a-b and 3a-b** are Gulf specific. Currently the Gulf has an 11% buffer between the Gulf ABC and ACL. They have stated that they would not like to retain this buffer therefore there need to be sub-alternatives that remove it.
- The South Atlantic does not currently have a buffer between the ABC and ACL and therefore sub-alternatives are not needed if the Council does not feel a management buffer is necessary.

Action 3: Modification of Southeastern U.S. Mutton Snapper Sector Allocations in the South Atlantic



Purpose of Action: This action will update the South Atlantic allocations and sector ACLs for mutton snapper.

Alternative	Commercial Percentage	Recreational Percentage	Formula/Explanation
Alternative 1 (No Action)	17.02%	82.98%	True No Action - retain the existing allocation percentages and catch levels based on the current ABC
Alternative 2	17.02%	82.98%	The current allocation percentages would be applied to the UPDATED South Atlantic ACL. This is a viable alternative
Alternative 3-?	Allocation Decision Tool 12/9/2025 Link UTD		

Table 7. South Atlantic mutton snapper sector ACLs based on different jurisdictional apportionment alternatives from **Action 1**.

	Action 1 Alternative: Jurisdictional ABC/ACL	South Atlantic Apportionment and ABC/ACL	South Atlantic Commercial ACL (17.02%) lb ww	South Atlantic Recreational ACL (82.98%) lb ww
2026+	Jur. Apor. Alternative 2	2,234,794 (82%)	380,362 (Action 3, Alt. 2)	1,854,425 (Action 3, Alt. 2)
2026+	Jur. Apor. Alternative 3a	2,480,077 (91%)	422,109 (Action 3, Alt. 2)	2,057,968 (Action 3, Alt. 2)
2026+	Jur. Apor. Alternative 3b	2,507,330 (92%)	426,748 (Action 3, Alt. 2)	2,080,582 (Action 3, Alt. 2)

Action 4: Modification of Southeastern U.S. Yellowtail Snapper Sector Allocations in the South Atlantic



Purpose of Action: This action will update the South Atlantic allocations and sector ACLs for yellowtail snapper.

Alternative	Commercial Percentage	Recreational Percentage	Formula/Explanation
Alternative 1 (No Action)	52.56%	47.44%	True No Action - retain the existing allocation percentages and catch levels based on the current ABC
Alternative 2	52.56%	47.44%	The current allocation percentages would be applied to the UPDATED South Atlantic ACL. This is a viable alternative.
Alternative 3-?	Allocation Decision Tool 12/9/2025 Link UTD		

Table 8. South Atlantic yellowtail snapper sector ACLs based on different jurisdictional apportionment alternatives from **Action 4 2**.

	Action 2 Alternative: Jurisdictional ABC/ACL	South Atlantic Apportionment and ABC/ACL	South Atlantic Commercial ACL (52.56%) lb ww	South Atlantic Recreational ACL (47.44%) lb ww
2026+	Jur. Apor. Alternative 2	2,943,773 (75%)	1,547,247 (Action 4, Alt. 2)	1,396,526 (Action 4, Alt. 2)
2026+	Jur. Apor. Alternative 3a	3,297,026 (84%)	1,732,917 (Action 4, Alt. 2)	1,564,109 (Action 4, Alt. 2)
2026+	Jur. Apor. Alternative 3b	3,336,276 (85%)	1,753,547 (Action 4, Alt. 2)	1,582,729 (Action 4, Alt. 2)

Committee Action

- REVIEW AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE SET OF ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTIONS 1 AND 2 (JURISDICTIONAL APPORTIONMENT)
- USE THE ALLOCATION DECISION TOOL TO DEVELOP ADDITIONAL ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTIONS 3 AND 4.

What's Next

- The IPT will analyze alternatives and develop season projections.
- Depending on when the analysis can be completed, the Gulf may review the public hearing draft in January, select preferreds, and approve for public hearings.
- The SA Council will review the preliminary analysis in March, have the ability to select preferreds and approve for public hearings.
- If they have not done so yet, in April the Gulf Council will review the selected preferreds and if in agreement, will be able to approve for public hearings. If they have, then they will review the South Atlantic's March feedback and plan for public hearings.
- Hearings will be tentatively conducted in May of 2026.

Appendix

Appendix I. Current Accountability Measures

Mutton Snapper

Commercial (50 CFR 622.193(o)(1))

(i). If commercial landings for mutton snapper, as estimated by the SRD, reach or are projected to reach the applicable commercial ACL specified in [paragraph \(o\)\(1\)\(iii\)](#) of this section, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such a notification, all sale or purchase of mutton snapper is prohibited and harvest or possession of mutton snapper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is limited to the bag and possession limits. These bag and possession limits apply in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, *i.e.*, in state or Federal waters.

(ii) If commercial landings for mutton snapper, as estimated by the SRD, exceed the applicable commercial ACL specified in [paragraph \(o\)\(1\)\(iii\)](#) of this section, and the applicable combined commercial and recreational ACL specified in [paragraph \(o\)\(3\)](#) of this section is exceeded during the same fishing year, and the species is overfished based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the commercial ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the commercial ACL overage in the prior fishing year.

Recreational (50 CFR 622.193(o)(2))

(i). If recreational landings for mutton snapper, as estimated by the SRD, reach or are projected to reach the applicable recreational ACL specified in [paragraph \(o\)\(2\)\(iii\)](#) of this section, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year regardless if the stock is overfished, unless NMFS determines that no closure is necessary based on the best scientific information available. On and after the effective date of such a notification, the bag and possession limits for mutton snapper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ are zero.

(ii) If recreational landings for mutton snapper, as estimated by the SRD, exceed the applicable recreational ACL specified in [paragraph \(o\)\(2\)\(iii\)](#) of this section, then during the following fishing year recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings, and if necessary, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the length of the recreational fishing season and the recreational ACL by the amount of the recreational ACL overage, if the species is overfished based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, and if

the applicable combined commercial and recreational ACL specified in [paragraph \(o\)\(3\)](#) of this section is exceeded during the same fishing year. NMFS will use the best scientific information available to determine if reducing the length of the recreational fishing season and recreational ACL is necessary. When the recreational sector is closed as a result of NMFS reducing the length of the recreational fishing season and ACL, the bag and possession limits for mutton snapper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ are zero.

Yellowtail Snapper

Commercial (50 CFR 622.193(n)(1))

(i). If commercial landings for yellowtail snapper, as estimated by the SRD, reach or are projected to reach the commercial ACL of 1,596,510 lb (724,165 kg), round weight, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such a notification, all sale or purchase of yellowtail snapper is prohibited and harvest or possession of yellowtail snapper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is limited to the bag and possession limits. These bag and possession limits apply in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, *i.e.*, in state or Federal waters.

(ii) If commercial landings for yellowtail snapper, as estimated by the SRD, exceed the commercial ACL, and the combined commercial and recreational ACL of 3,037,500 lb (1,377,787 kg), round weight, is exceeded during the same fishing year, and yellowtail snapper are overfished based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the commercial ACL for that following fishing year by the amount of the commercial ACL overage in the prior fishing year.

Recreational (50 CFR 622.193(n)(2))

(i). If recreational landings for yellowtail snapper, as estimated by the SRD, reach or are projected to reach the recreational ACL of 1,440,990 lb (653,622 kg), round weight, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year regardless if the stock is overfished, unless NMFS determines that no closure is necessary based on the best scientific information available. On and after the effective date of such a notification, the bag and possession limits for yellowtail snapper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ are zero.

(ii) If recreational landings for yellowtail snapper, as estimated by the SRD, exceed the recreational ACL, then during the following fishing year recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings, and if necessary, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the length of the recreational

fishing season and the recreational ACL by the amount of the recreational ACL overage, if the species is overfished based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, and if the combined commercial and recreational ACL of 3,037,500 lb (1,377,787 kg), round weight, is exceeded during the same fishing year. The AA will use the best scientific information available to determine if reducing the length of the recreational fishing season and recreational ACL is necessary. When the recreational sector is closed as a result of NMFS reducing the length of the recreational fishing season and ACL, the bag and possession limits for yellowtail snapper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ are zero.