

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, March 2026

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.

Coordinating [SAFE Report](#) Sections

Mutton Snapper (7.1)

Fishery Population Trends: Section 7.1.4

Sector Trends: Section 7.1.5

Economic Trends: Section 7.1.6

Social Trends: Section 7.1.7

Yellowtail Snapper (7.4)

Fishery Population Trends: Section 7.1.4
Sector Trends: Section 7.1.5
Economic Trends: Section 7.1.6
Social Trends: Section 7.1.7

At Your Last Meeting (December 2025)

- During the [December 2025](#) meeting, the SG Committee reviewed a decision document. The Council did the following:
 - Approved the Purpose and Need statement
 - Discussed South Atlantic sector allocations (Actions 3 and 4)
 - The Allocation Decision Tool was explored for mutton snapper, but its complexity proved challenging.
 - The Committee discussed a range of alternatives and directed staff to build the following alternatives:
 - **Alternative 2:** Apply the current allocation percentages to the updated South Atlantic ACL (Actions 1 and 2).
 - **Alternative 3:** Update the allocation percentages using the current formula and apply those to the updated South Atlantic ACL (Actions 1 and 2).
Current Formula (both species): $(0.5 \times \text{average landings from 1986-2008}) + (0.5 \times \text{average landings from 2006-2008})$
 - **Alternative 4:** Update the current allocation formula using average landings from 2014-2023 and 2021-2023, respectively.
 - **Alternative 5:** Use a distribution method of allocation developed in SG AM 53 based on the most recent 3 years of average landings for both sectors.
 - **Alternative 6:** Use a distribution method of allocation developed in SG AM 53 based on the most recent 5 years of average landings for both sectors.

Objectives for this Meeting (March 2026)

- Review updated timeline
- Review data attributions between the regions for Monroe County
- Review actions and alternatives, specifically the South Atlantic sector allocations and modify if necessary

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 reviewed action and proposed alternatives
✓November 2025	Gulf Council reviewed draft document
✓December 2025	South Atlantic Council reviewed draft document
March 2026	South Atlantic Council will receive an amendment update including updated catch levels and timeline
April 2026	Gulf Council will receive an amendment update including updated catch levels and timeline
June 2026	South Atlantic and Gulf Council will review public hearing draft with preliminary analysis, select preferreds, and approve for public hearings
Late-summer 2026	Public hearings conducted
August 2026	Gulf Council reviews public hearing comments and considers final action
September 2026	South Atlantic Council reviews public hearing comments and considers final action
Fall 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.

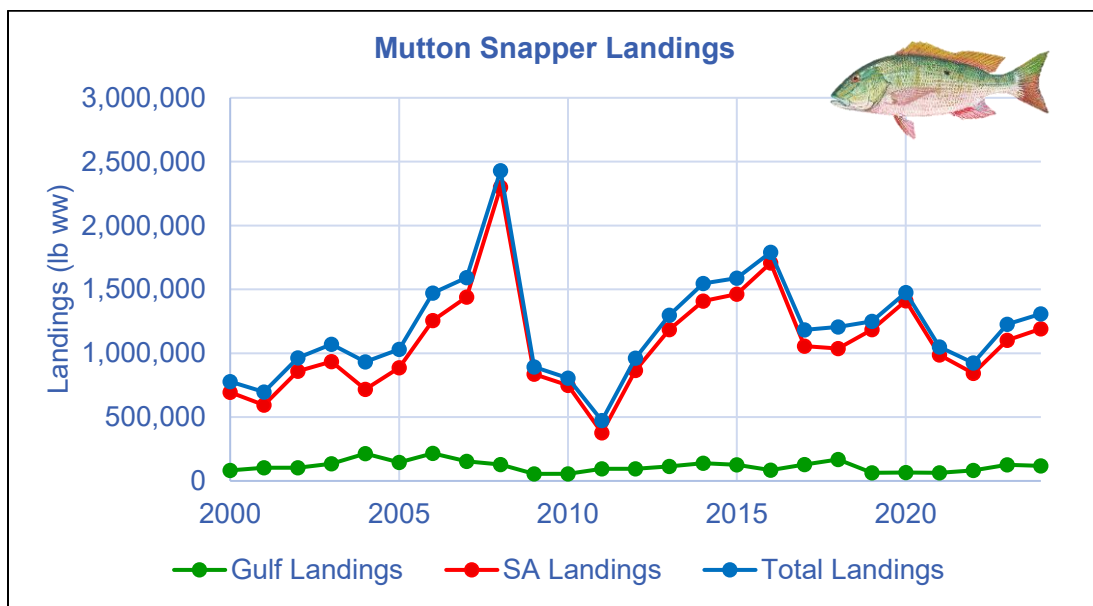


Figure 1. Total, Gulf, and South Atlantic landings for mutton snapper from 2000–2024.

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.

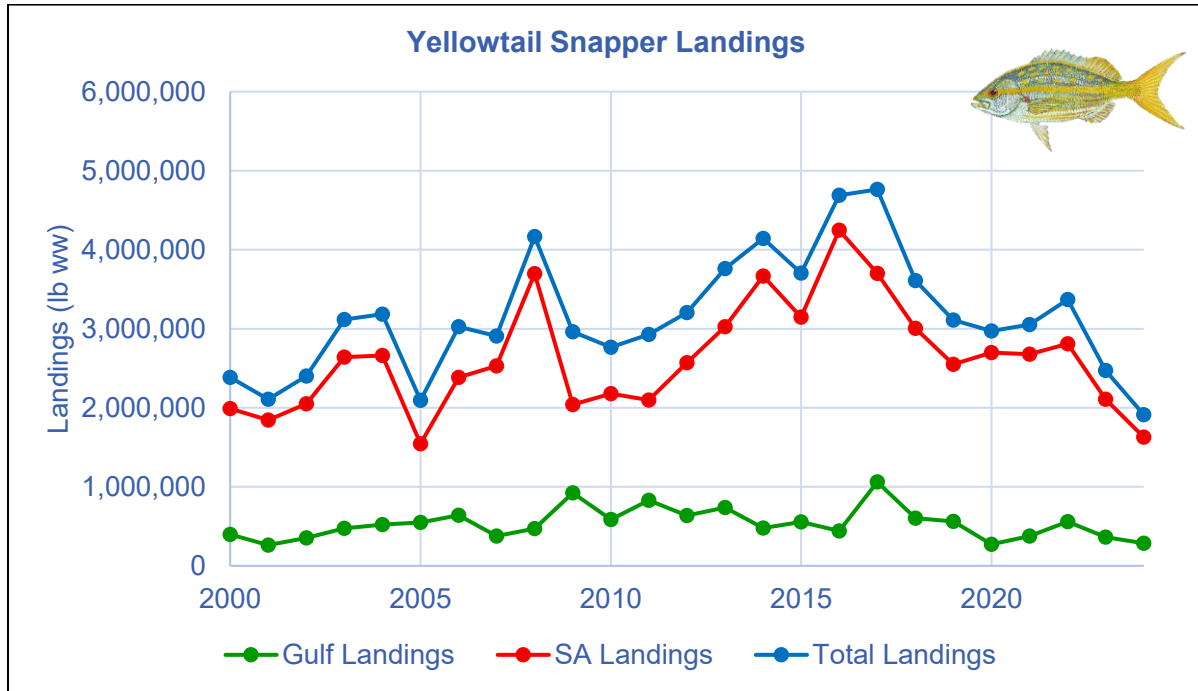


Figure 2 Total, Gulf, and South Atlantic landings for yellowtail snapper from 2000–2024.

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.

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL IN DECEMBER 2025

Monroe County Attributions

- At the December 2025 meeting the IPT proposed attributing the data in area D (Figure 3) the following way:
 - Shore mode (MRIP-FES): Assigned to SA Council
 - Offshore private (SRFS): Assigned to Gulf Council
 - Charter for-hire (MRIP-FES): Assigned to SA Council
 - Headboat (Southeast Headboat Survey): Gulf Council
- After that meeting, FWC and NMFS reviewed this breakdown and proposed the following changes:
 - Shore mode: no change, continue to use MRIP-FES and attribute to the SA Council.
 - Offshore private: Split the area based on the ratio (of areas D and E) of catch from SRFS.
 - Charter: Same as above, however for monitoring purposes a 5-year (2020-2024 or 2021-2024 if COVID year is excluded) average ratio will be used for monitoring and will be reassessed at the next assessment.
 - Headboat: Split the area between the regions based on SRFS.
- SRFS Ratio Methods:
 - Determine a ratio of private recreational landings between Region D and Region E.
 - Apply this ratio to the federal data collection programs (MRIP Federal charter for-hire and MRIP Shore), specific to the Florida Keys, to determine jurisdictional landings (Region D and E) for each mode.
 - This could be done for the most recent yellowtail snapper and mutton snapper assessment and could be done in the future for all species assessed with SRFS.

- For all SRFS species as the assessment terms of reference (TORs) are reviewed, the way the data will be split should be included in the TORs.
- *Justification:* SRFS is designed to be capable of apportioning landings between the Gulf and the South Atlantic in the Florida Keys. Given that private recreational landings typically account for a vast majority of all recreational landings, applying a SRFS ratio to the federal data in the Florida Keys would result in more accurate and defensible stock assessments in the future and resulting management decisions. SRFS data is important for all stocks that overlap between the Gulf of America and the South Atlantic, but particularly important for stocks centered around South Florida.

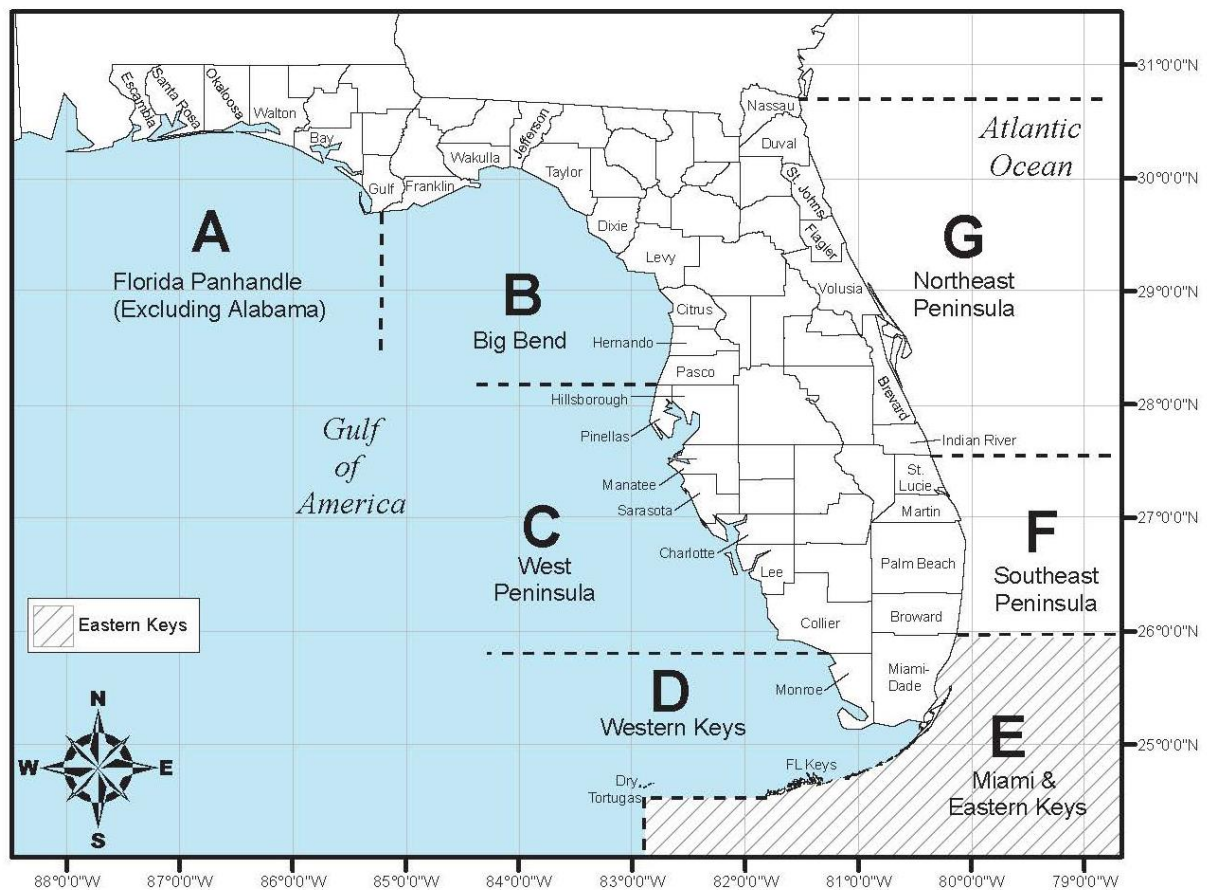


Figure 3. Map of survey areas used by Florida’s SRFS program used to survey the offshore private recreational component of mutton snapper and yellowtail snapper catch and effort.

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

Discussion

- Comment on the proposed range of alternatives.

Committee Action

- REVIEW THE 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	XX%	XX%	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	XX%	XX%	Update based on 50% of average landings from 2004-2023 and 50% of average landings from 2021-2023 (most recent 19 yrs) SA ACL=SA ABC
	Alternative 3a GULF ONLY	Gulf will retain the 11% buffer between the Gulf ABC and the Gulf ACL.	
	Alternative 3b GULF ONLY	Gulf ACL = Gulf ABC	
Alternative 4	XX%	XX%	Update based on 50% of average landings from 2014-2023 and 50% of average landings from 2021-2023 (most recent 9 yrs) SA ACL=SA ABC
	Alternative 4a GULF ONLY	Gulf will retain the 11% buffer between the Gulf ABC and the Gulf ACL.	
	Alternative 4b GULF ONLY	Gulf ACL = Gulf ABC	

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 needs 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. Discussions at the December 2025 meeting, the Council expressed interest in retaining no buffer between the SA ABC and ACL.

Committee Action

- REVIEW THE RANGE OF SOUTH ATLANTIC ALTERNATIVES.

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	%	%	Update the current allocation formula: (0.5 x average landings from 2004-2023) + (0.5 x average landings from 2021-2023)
Alternative 4	%	%	Update the current allocation formula: (0.5 x average landings from 2014-2023) + (0.5 x average landings from 2021-2023)
Alternative 5	%	%	Use a distribution method of allocation developed in SG AM 53 based on the most recent 3 years of average landings for both sectors.
Alternative 6	%	%	Use a distribution method of allocation developed in SG AM 53 based on the most recent 5 years of average landings for both sectors.

Discussion

- The commercial ACL is expressed in lbs ww whereas the recreational ACL is expressed in numbers of fish. A full explanation of the methods used to convert the recreational ACL to numbers of fish can be found in [SG Amendment 41, Appendix J](#). In summary, the following methods and weight conversion were used:
 - Calculate the total ACL
 - Apply the allocation percentages to the total ACL to get sector ACLs in lbs ww
 - Convert the **commercial ACL** into numbers of fish using the average weight of a commercially caught mutton snapper weight: **7.68 lbs**.
 - Calculate the **recreational ACL** in numbers of fish by subtracting the commercial allocation in numbers from the total ACL in numbers.
- To update this method, [SEDAR 79](#) provides average weights by region from the TIP (Table 3.10.4, PDF page 142):
 - Tortugas: 9.555 lbs
 - Keys: 6.635 lbs
 - SE FL: 4.759 lbs
 - NE FL: 9.371 lbs
 - North of FL: 11.761 lbs

- **Average of all SA regions: 8.4162 lbs**
- **Alternatives 5 and 6** follow the methods developed for gag grouper in SG Amendment 53, referred to as the Split Reduction Method. Since the catch levels for mutton snapper would be increasing (Table 1) instead of decreasing, the method would distribute the *increase* in year 1 proportional to each sector's landings in the set year range and then split the poundage *increase* each year thereafter.
- The [SAFE REPORT](#) details sector trends for mutton snapper in section 7.1.5.

Committee Action

- DOES THE COMMITTEE WANT TO CONTINUE TO TRACK THE COMMERCIAL ACL IN LBS WW AND THE RECREATIONAL ACL IN NUMBERS OF FISH?
- IF THE CURRENT ACL UNITS ARE PREFERRED, CONSIDER UPDATES THE CONVERSION METHOD.

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	%	%	Update the current allocation formula: (0.5 x average landings from 2004-2023) + (0.5 x average landings from 2021-2023)
Alternative 4	%	%	Update the current allocation formula: (0.5 x average landings from 2014-2023) + (0.5 x average landings from 2021-2023)
Alternative 5	%	%	Use a distribution method of allocation developed in SG AM 53 based on the most recent 3 years of average landings for both sectors.
Alternative 6	%	%	Use a distribution method of allocation developed in SG AM 53 based on the most recent 5 years of average landings for both sectors.

Discussion

- **Alternatives 5 and 6** follow the methods developed for gag grouper in SG Amendment 53, referred to as the Split Reduction Method. Since the catch levels for yellowtail snapper would both increase and decrease throughout the time period (Table 3); hence, the *increase* in year 1 would be proportional to each sector's landings in the set year range and the poundage would *change* each year thereafter.
- The [SAFE REPORT](#) details sector trends for mutton snapper in section 7.4.5.

Committee Action

- REVIEW THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES.

What's Next

- The IPT will conduct a preliminary analysis.
- The Gulf Council will receive an update at their April meeting.
- At their respective June meetings, the South Atlantic and Gulf Council will review preliminary analyses, a public hearing draft, and consider approving the amendments for public hearings. The South Atlantic will select preferred alternatives before the Gulf.

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.