



**Amendment 55**  
**Scamp and**  
**Yellowmouth Grouper**

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

**Public Hearings**  
**August 2024**



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# HOUSEKEEPING FOR THIS HEARING



The purpose of this hearing is to gather the public's input on the Council's proposed actions for this amendments. Public input will help shape the Council's final decisions on the amendments



**FIRST**, I will review the amendment in its entirety



**NEXT**, I will pause to answer any clarifying questions pertaining to this amendment



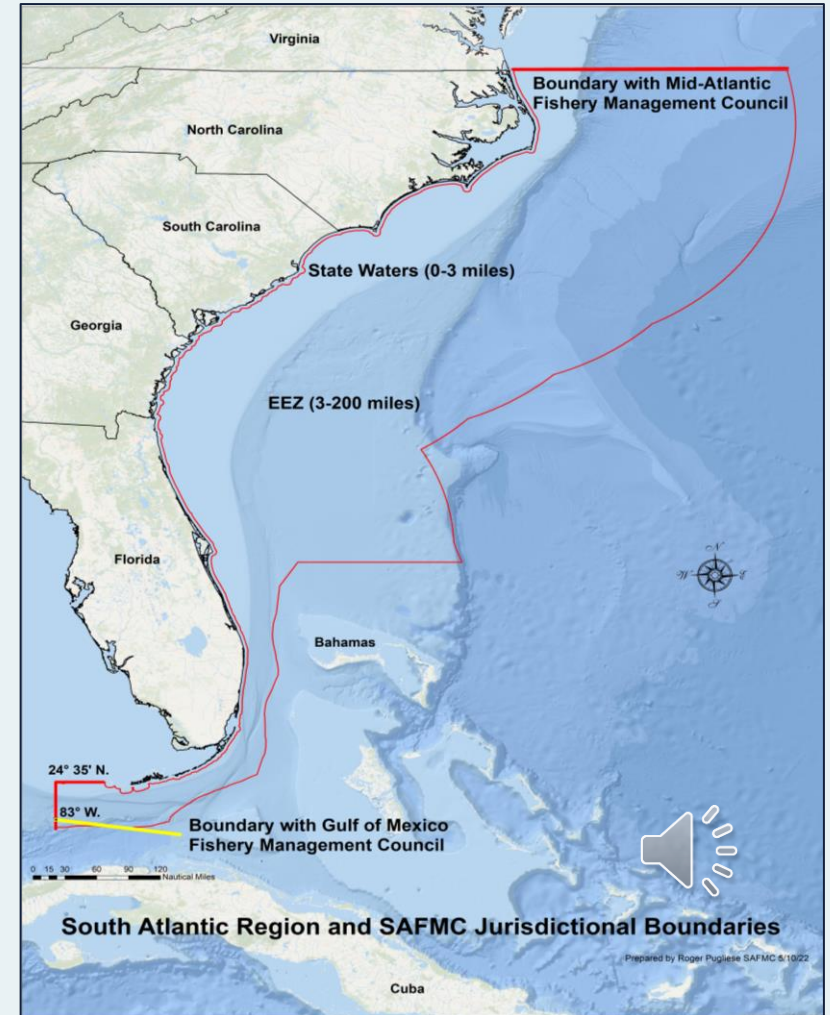
**FINALLY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, A COUNCIL MEMBER** take public comment



# ABOUT THE COUNCIL



- 1 of 8 regional fishery management Councils
- Jurisdiction:
  - Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) ranges from 3-200 miles
  - South Atlantic Region: NC, SC, GA, East Coast of FL
- Council Makeup:
  - Include recreational and commercial fishermen, state marine agency reps, and federal partners
  - 17 members, 13 voting, 4 non-voting
  - Representatives from each state in the region.
- The Council provides recommendations to NOAA Fisheries



# ACRONYMS

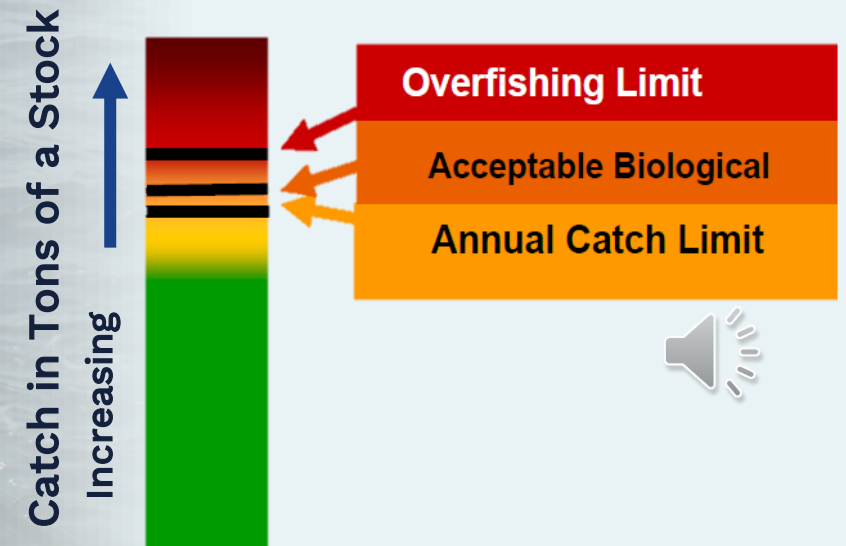
**OFL** – overfishing limit

**ABC** – acceptable biological catch

**ACL** – annual catch limit

**OY** – Optimum Yield

**AMs** – accountability measure





# BACKGROUND

- Amendment 55 is in response to the **SEDAR 68 assessment**
  - Catch levels for scamp and yellowmouth **combined**
- The assessment indicated that the stock is **overfished** but **NOT experiencing overfishing**
- The actions in the amendment fall into 4 main goals:
  - 1. Create the new Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex (Actions 1-3)**
  - 2. Establish catch levels for this complex (Actions 4, 5)**
  - 3. Modify management measures and AMs for scamp and yellowmouth grouper (Actions 6-10)**
  - 4. Modify the existing Other Shallow Water Grouper complex to remove yellowmouth grouper (Action 11)**



# SOUTH ATLANTIC SHALLOW WATER GROUPER

Have  
Individual  
ACLs and  
AMs



gag



scamp



red grouper



Black grouper



Red hind



Rock hind



graysby



coney



Yellowmouth  
grouper



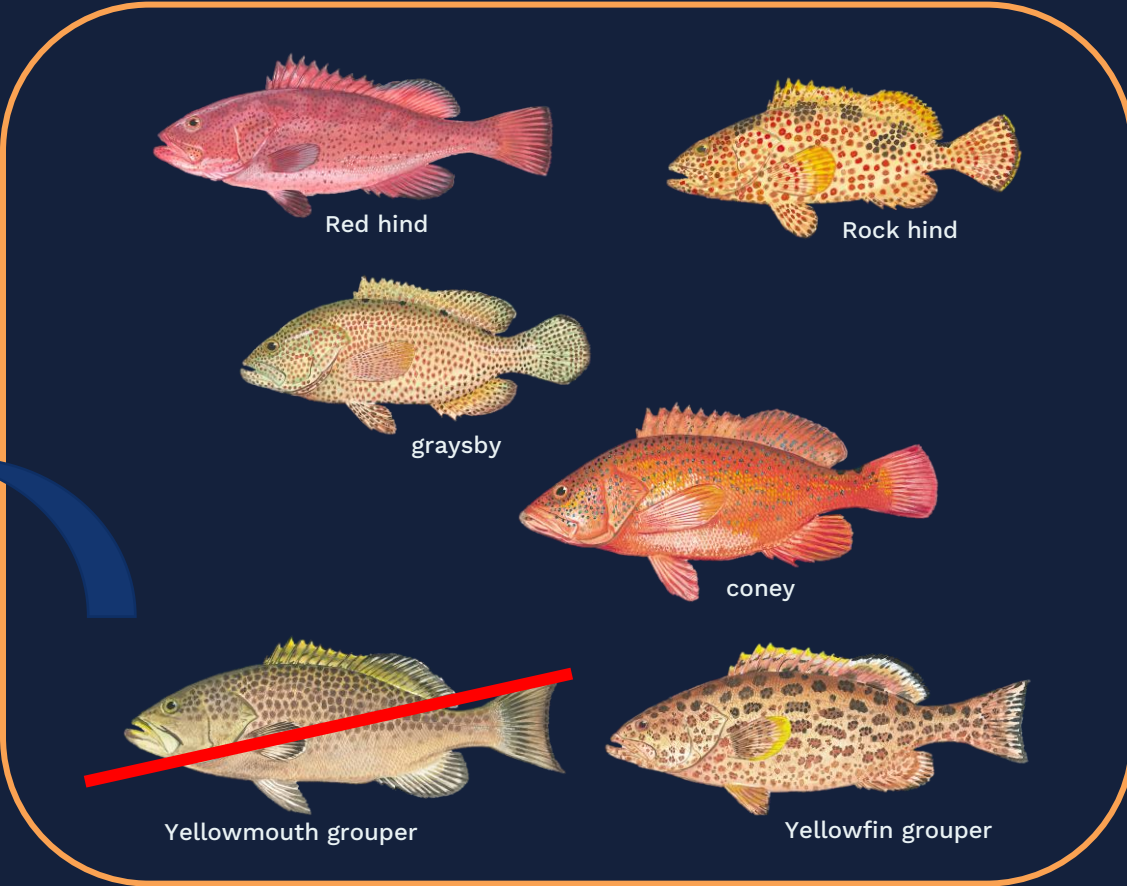
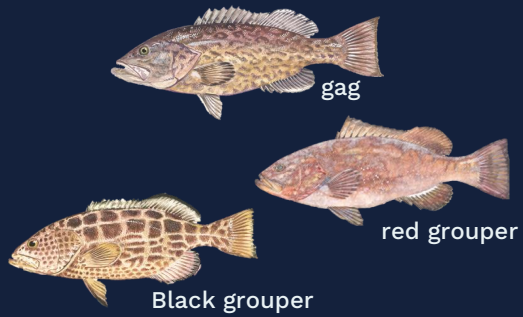
Yellowfin grouper

Complex  
ACL and  
AMs

**SPAWNING SEASON CLOSURE**



# OTHER SHALLOW WATER GROUPERS



# GOAL 1: Create the new Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex (Actions 1-3)



**Action 1.** Reorganize the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper complex and establish a new Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex

	Complex/Stock Name	Species
<b>Alternative 1 (No Action)</b>	scamp	scamp ONLY
	Other SA Shallow Water Grouper complex	graysby, coney, red hind, rock hind, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper
<b>Preferred Alternative 2</b>	Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex  (ACL established in Action 4)	scamp and yellowmouth grouper
	Other SA Shallow Water Grouper complex  (OSASWG ACL modified, ABC and sector allocation percentages retained in Action 11)	graysby, coney, red hind, rock hind, yellowfin grouper





# GOAL 1: Create the new Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex (Actions 1-3)



## Action 2. Establish the maximum sustainable yield, maximum fishing mortality threshold, minimum stock size threshold, and optimum yield for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex

**MSY:** MSY is defined as the largest long-term average catch that can be taken from a stock under current conditions. MSY is a static value in pounds.

**MFMT:** MFMT is defined as the level of fishing mortality above which overfishing is occurring. MFMT is a rate of fishing mortality.

**MSST:** MSST is defined as the spawning stock biomass level at which a stock is declared overfished.

**OY:** OY is the long-term average yield desired from a stock or fishery. OY is reduced from MSY for the fishery based on relevant economic, social, and ecological factors.

	Alternative	MSY (1,000 lbs)	MFMT	MSST (metric tons)	OY (1,000 lbs)
Sub-action 2a	Alternative 1 (No Action)	none	-	-	-
	Alternative 2 (MSY = MSY proxy at $F_{30\%SPR}$ )	416.20	-	-	-
	<b>Preferred Alternative 3 (MSY = MSY proxy at <math>F_{40\%SPR}</math>)</b>	<b>372.28</b>	-	-	-
Sub-action 2b	Alternative 1 (No Action)	-	none	-	-
	Alternative 2 (MFMT = MSY proxy at $F_{30\%SPR}$ )	-	0.52	-	-
	<b>Preferred Alternative 3 (MFMT = MSY proxy at <math>F_{40\%SPR}</math>)</b>	-	<b>0.28</b>	-	-
Sub-action 2c	Alternative 1 (No Action)	-	-	none	-
	Alternative 2 ( $SSB_{MSY} (1-M)$ or 0.5)	-	-	601.12	-
	<b>Preferred Alternative 3 (75% of <math>SSB_{F40\%}</math>)</b>	-	-	<b>801.60</b>	-
Sub-action 2d	Alternative 1 (No Action)	-	-	-	none
	Alternative 2 (OY = 75% of MSY)	-	-	-	279.21
	Alternative 3 (OY = 90% of MSY)	-	-	-	335.05
	<b>Preferred Alternative 4 (OY = 95% of MSY)</b>	-	-	-	<b>353.67</b>

# GOAL 1: Create the new Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex (Actions 1-3)



## Action 3. Establish a rebuilding timeframe for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex

Alternative	Rebuilding Timeframe	End of rebuilding timeframe
Alternative 1 (No Action)	No timeframe for rebuilding	n/a
Alternative 2	Tmin - 5 years	2030
<b>Preferred Alternative 3</b>	Tmax - 10 years	2035



# GOAL 2: Establish catch levels for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex (Actions 4 and 5)



**Action 4.** Establish the acceptable biological catch and total annual catch limit for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex

ABC RECOMMENDATIONS		
Year	Landings (lbs ww)	Dead Discards (lbs ww)
2025	67,450	3,550
2026	72,200	3,800
2027	75,050	3,950
2028	77,900	4,100
2029	79,800	4,200

Alternative	ACL (pounds whole weight)				
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Alternative 1 (No Action, no ABC)	n/a				
<b>Preferred Alternative 2 (ACL = ABC)</b>	67,450	72,200	75,050	77,900	79,800
Alternative 3 (95% of ABC)	64,078	68,590	71,298	74,005	75,810
Alternative 4 (90% of ABC)	60,705	64,980	67,545	70,110	71,820



# GOAL 2: Establish catch levels for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex (Actions 4 and 5)



## Action 5. Establish sector allocations and sector annual catch limits for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex

COMMERCIAL ALLOCATIONS			
	Alternative 1 (No Action)	Preferred Alternative 2 Split Reduction (2018- 2022)	Alternative 3 Split Reduction (2013- 2022)
Total ACL (Year) (ACL=ABC)	Commercial % (lbs ww)	Commercial %, (lbs ww)	Commercial %, (lbs ww)
67,450 (2025)	NO ALLOCATIONS	64.90 (43,772)	63.40 (42,763)
72,200 (2026)	NO ALLOCATIONS	63.92 (46,147)	62.51 (45,132)
75,050 (2027)	NO ALLOCATIONS	63.39 (47,572)	62.04 (46,561)
77,900 (2028)	NO ALLOCATIONS	62.90 (48,997)	61.60 (47,986)
79,800 (2029)	NO ALLOCATIONS	62.59 (49,947)	61.32 (48,933)

RECREATIONAL ALLOCATIONS			
	Alternative 1 (No Action)	Preferred Alternative 2 Split Reduction (2018-2022)	Alternative 3 Split Reduction (2013- 2022)
Total ACL (Year) (ACL=ABC)	Recreational % (lbs ww)	Recreational %, (lbs ww)	Recreational %, (lbs ww)
67,450 (2025)	NO ALLOCATIONS	35.10 (23,678)	36.60 (24,687)
72,200 (2026)	NO ALLOCATIONS	36.08 (26,053)	37.49 (27,068)
75,050 (2027)	NO ALLOCATIONS	36.61 (27,478)	37.96 (28,489)
77,900 (2028)	NO ALLOCATIONS	37.10 (28,903)	38.40 (29,914)
79,800 (2029)	NO ALLOCATIONS	37.41 (29,853)	38.68 (30,867)

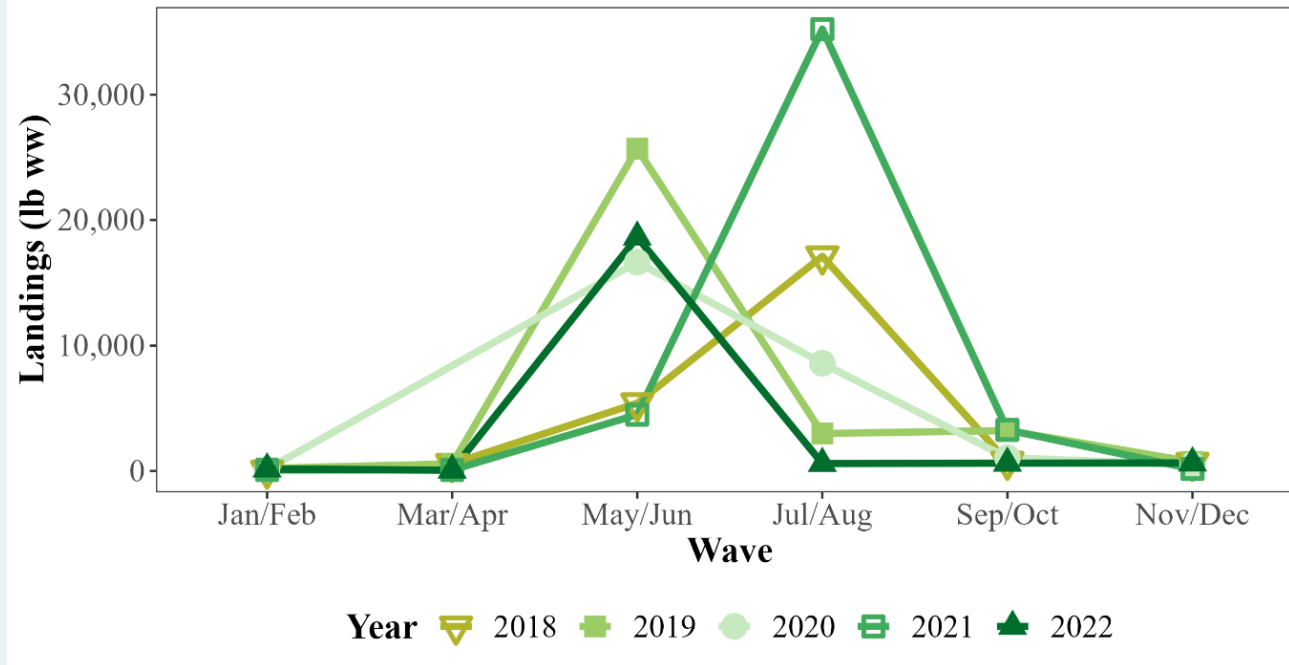
# GOAL 3: Modify management measures and accountability measures for scamp and yellowmouth grouper (Actions 6-10)



## Action 6. Reduce the recreational fishing season for scamp and yellowmouth grouper

Alternatives	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Preferred Alternative 1	Diagonal lines	Diagonal lines	Diagonal lines	Diagonal lines	Solid green	Solid green	Solid green	Solid green	Solid green	Solid green	Solid green	Solid green
Alternative 2	Diagonal lines	Diagonal lines	Diagonal lines	Diagonal lines	Solid green	Solid green	Solid green	Solid green	Diagonal lines	Diagonal lines	Diagonal lines	Diagonal lines
Alternative 3	Diagonal lines	Diagonal lines	Diagonal lines	Diagonal lines	Solid green	Solid green	Solid green	Solid green	Solid green	Diagonal lines	Diagonal lines	Diagonal lines

**Figure 1.** Observed recreational landing by wave, including MRIP-FES recreational landings from shore and private boat fishing modes, FHS landings for charter vessels, and SRHS landings for headboat vessels (Source: MRIP-FES Recreational data – August 2023).



# GOAL 3: Modify management measures and accountability measures for scamp and yellowmouth grouper (Actions 6-10)



## Action 7. Modify the recreational retention limit for scamp and yellowmouth grouper

### Sub-Action 7a. Modify the recreational bag limit

Alternative	Bag limit	Recreational Component	Vessel limit
Alternative 1 (No Action)	3 scamp or 3 YM within the grouper aggregate	private, for-hire	none
Alternative 2	2 fish (either scamp or YM grouper) within the grouper aggregate	private, for-hire	none
<b>Preferred Alternative 3</b>	1 fish (either scamp or YM grouper) within the grouper aggregate	private, for-hire	none

### Sub-Action 7a. Establish a recreational vessel limit

Alternative	Bag limit	Recreational Component	Vessel limit
<b>Preferred Alternative 1 (No Action)</b>	3 fish within the grouper aggregate	private, for-hire	none
Alternative 2a	Dependent on Sub-Action 7a	private	2 fish (either scamp or YM grouper) <b>PER DAY</b>
Alternative 2b	Dependent on Sub-Action 7a	private	4 fish (either scamp or YM grouper) <b>PER DAY</b>
Alternative 3a	Dependent on Sub-Action 7a	for-hire	2 fish (either scamp or YM grouper) <b>PER TRIP</b>
Alternative 3b	Dependent on Sub-Action 7a	for-hire	4 fish (either scamp or YM grouper) <b>PER TRIP</b>

# **GOAL 3:** Modify management measures and accountability measures for scamp and yellowmouth grouper (Actions 6-10)



## **Action 7.** Modify the recreational retention limit for scamp and yellowmouth grouper

### **Season Projections:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Recreational ACL</b>	<b>ACL % Overage/Underage</b>	<b>Projected Closure?</b>
<b>2025</b>	23,678	-6%	No
<b>2026</b>	26,053	-14%	No
<b>2027</b>	27,478	-19%	No
<b>2028</b>	28,903	-23%	No
<b>2029</b>	29,853	-25%	No



# GOAL 3: Modify management measures and accountability measures for scamp and yellowmouth grouper (Actions 6-10)



## Action 8. Establish an aggregate commercial trip limit for scamp and yellowmouth grouper

Alternative	Trip Limit (lbs gw)
Alternative 1 (No Action)	none
Alternative 2	200 lbs gw
<b>Preferred Alternative 3</b>	<b>300 lbs gw</b>
Alternative 4	400 lbs gw
Alternative 5	500 lbs gw

Alternative	% Reduction associated with each alternative
Alternative 1 (No Action)	0.00%
Alternative 2	-16.52%
<b>Preferred Alternative 3</b>	<b>-7.96%</b>
Alternative 4	-4.35%
Alternative 5	-2.46%

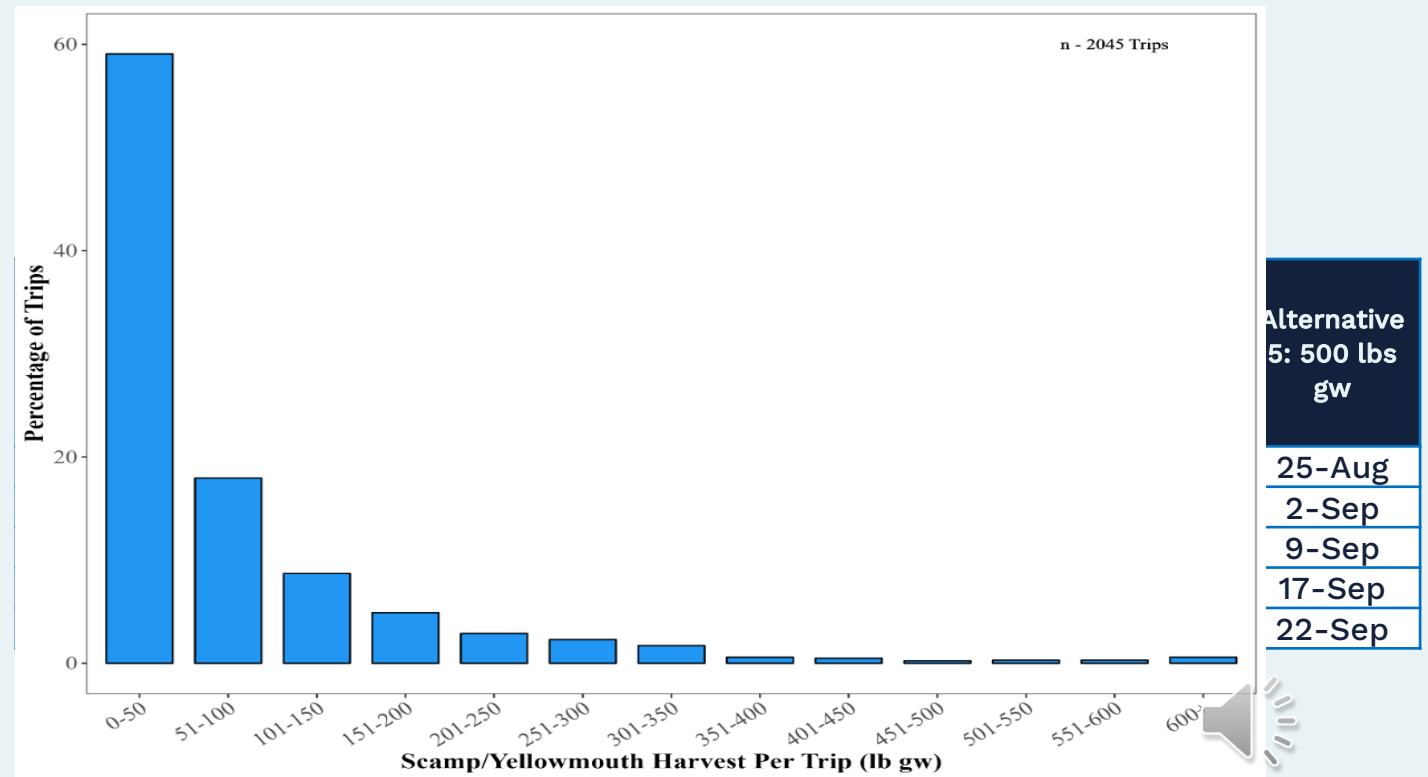


Figure 2. Distribution of scamp and yellowmouth grouper commercial trip harvest between 2020 and 2022, all years combined, in 50 lbs ww bins.



# GOAL 3: Modify management measures and accountability measures for scamp and yellowmouth grouper (Actions 6-10)



## Action 9. Establish commercial accountability measures for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex

Alternative	In-Season AM		Post-Season AM	
	Triggers	AM	Triggers	AM
Alternative 1 (No Action)	No commercial AM for the South Atlantic Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex, retain current AMs for scamp (individually) and yellowmouth grouper (within the OSASWG Complex)			
Alternative 2	Commercial landings reach or are expected to reach the sector ACL	Current commercial season closes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial landings exceed the commercial ACL</li> <li>Total ACL exceeded</li> <li>Stock is overfished</li> </ul> *All triggers must be present for AM to occur	Commercial ACL is reduced for the following year by the amount of the overage
<b>Preferred Alternative 3</b>	Commercial landings reach or are expected to reach the sector ACL	Current commercial season closes	Commercial landings exceed the commercial ACL *Not tied to stock status and total ACL	Commercial ACL is reduced for the following year by the amount of the overage



# GOAL 3: Modify management measures and accountability measures for scamp and yellowmouth grouper (Actions 6-10)



## Action 10. Establish recreational accountability measures for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex

Alternative	In-Season AM		Post-Season AM	
	Triggers	AM	Triggers	AM
Alternative 1 (No Action)	No recreational AM for the South Atlantic Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex, retain current AMs for scamp (individually) and yellowmouth grouper (within the OSASWG Complex)			
Alternative 2	Recreational landings reach or are expected to reach the sector ACL	Current recreational season closes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreational landings exceed the recreational ACL                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total ACL is exceeded                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stock is overfished</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> *All triggers must be present for AM to occur	Recreational season for the following year is reduced by the amount necessary to prevent the recreational ACL from being exceeded
Alternative 3	Recreational landings reach or are expected to reach the sector ACL	Current recreational season closes	Recreational landings exceed the recreational ACL *Not tied to stock status and total ACL	Recreational season for the following year is reduced by the amount necessary to prevent the recreational ACL from being exceeded
Alternative 4	Recreational landings reach or are expected to reach the sector ACL	Current recreational season closes	Recreational landings exceed the recreational ACL *Not tied to stock status and total ACL	Recreational ACL is reduced for the following year by the amount of the overage
<b>Preferred Alternative 5</b>	NONE		<b>Recreational landings exceed the recreational ACL</b> *Not tied to stock status and total ACL	<b>Recreational season for the following year is reduced by the amount necessary to prevent the recreational ACL from being exceeded</b>

# GOAL 4: Modify the existing Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper Complex to Remove Yellowmouth Grouper (Actions 11)



**Action 11.** Revise the total annual catch limit and sector annual catch limits for the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper complex



Alternative	ABC (lbs ww)	Total ACL (lbs ww)	Commercial ACL (lbs ww)	Recreational ACL (lbs ww)
Alternative 1 (No Action)	104,190	104,190	55,542	48,648
<b>Preferred Alternative 2</b>	104,190	100,151	53,380	46,771



# Some Questions to Think About



## Recreational fishermen ...

- Do you agree with the Council's preferred alternative to keep the season for scamp and yellowmouth grouper the same and rely on other management measure such as a bag limit to constrain recreational harvest?
- Is there anything else regarding the recreational scamp and yellowmouth grouper season the Council should know?
- Do you agree with the Council's decision to implement a 1 fish aggregate bag limit and not establish a vessel limit?
- With regards to the aggregate bag limit, would no longer having to identify between the species be beneficial for recreational anglers?
- Is there anything else the Council should know about the scamp and yellowmouth grouper recreational bag limit?

## Commercial fishermen ...

- Would a 300 lbs trip limit be profitable enough given the costs associated with taking a trip?

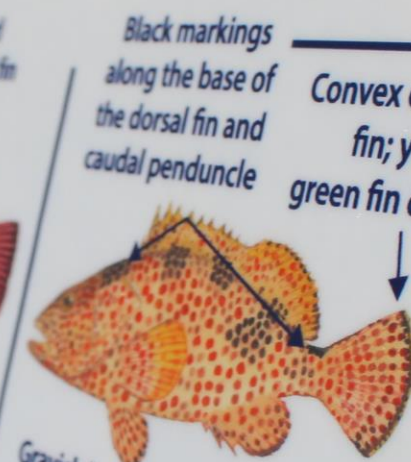




Grumpy



Red Hind



Rock Hind

Red to tan body with red yellow spots; spots stop at fin margins

Red with dark margins  
Square, flat caudal fin

Black markings along the base of the dorsal fin and caudal peduncle

Convex caudal fin; yellow green fin color

Grayish brown body with red spots that get larger on belly

# Reel

31

30

29

28

27



# Release

Scan  
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Scan th  
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Best Fish  
Practices

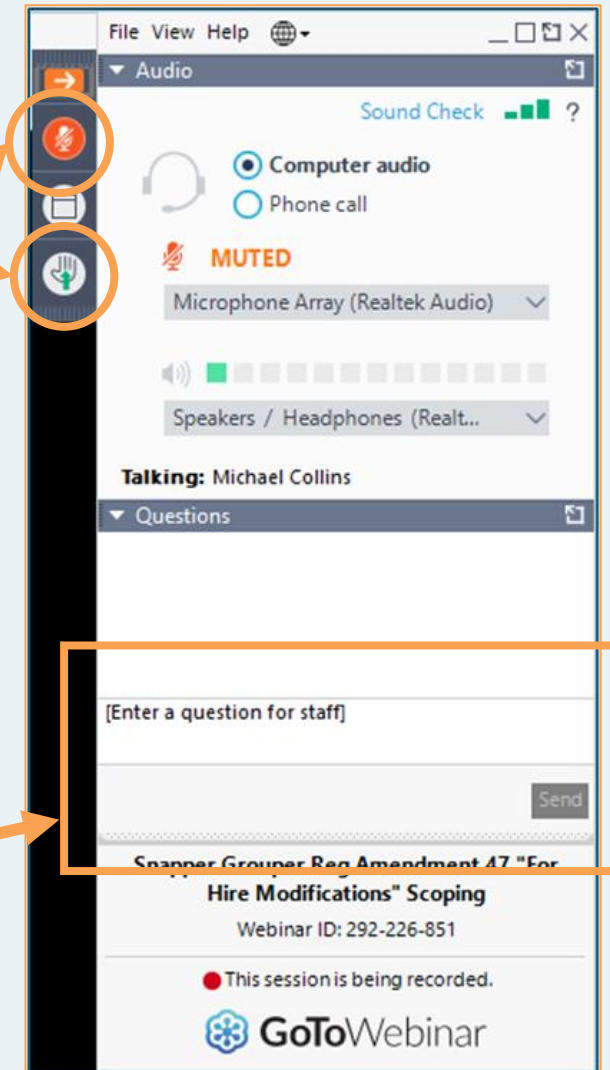
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# WEBINAR CONTROLS

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After we give you the ability to unmute, you can unmute (or mute) your microphone by clicking the microphone icon. **Red** is muted, **green** is unmuted. **Please remain muted when not speaking**

You can also type a question into the text box



# CLARIFYING QUESTIONS

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# PUBLIC COMMENT

