

Amendment 15A specified rebuilding strategies for snowy grouper and black sea bass that hold TAC constant while the stock rebuilds (Table 1). As these TACs would approximate the yield at Foy in 2009, they would meet the requirements of the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and specify a target below an overfishing level (OFL) based on the yield at Fmsy.

Table 1. 2007 landings (all sectors), yield at Fmsy, yield at Foy, Total Allowable Catch (TAC), amendment implementing regulation. All values in pounds whole weight.

Species	2007	OFL (Yield at Fmsy)	ACT (Yield at Foy)	Current TAC	Amendment	Meet MSRA?	AM
Golden Tilefish	337,255	336,425	326,554	336,425	Amend 13C	Yes	Commercial (quota)
Snowy Grouper	156,014	116,845	102,960	102,960	Amend 15a	Yes	Commercial (quota)
Speckled Hind	3,315	unknown					
Warsaw Grouper	20,662	unknown					
Black grouper ¹	166,042	208,552 ³	187,960		Amend 16	Yes	Commercial (gag quota)
Black sea bass	1,161,662	912,713	847,000	847,000	Amend 15a	Yes	Commercial
Gag	1,272,482	1,065,540	818,920	818,920	Amend 16	Yes	Commercial
Red grouper ¹	1,129,231	783,214 ³	704,893		Amend 16	Yes	Commercial (gag quota)
Vermilion snapper ²	1,952,403	789,602	629,459	629,459	Amend 16	Yes	Commercial
Red snapper ²	446,659						
1. Amendment 16 would close red grouper and black grouper during Jan-Apr (comm/rec) and close commercial fishery when gag quota is met. It would also reduce the bag limit.							
2. These values will change based on new assessment for vermilion snapper and addendum to assessment for red snapper.							
3. Based on average 2003-2007 landings from June 2008 SSC meeting. Yield at Foy is estimated to be 90% of yield at Fmsy.							

Amendment 16 would specify TACs for gag and vermilion snapper based on the yield at Foy (Table 1). Therefore, the TACs specified for gag and vermilion snapper in Amendment 16 are consistent with the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act and specify a target catch below the OFL to reduce the chances overfishing will occur.

Further, Amendment 16 would close the commercial and recreational fisheries red grouper and black grouper during January – April, close red grouper and black grouper when the gag quota is met, and reduce the bag limit for red grouper and black grouper. Therefore the requirements of the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act would be satisfied for red grouper and gag. Tables 2 and 3 show the reductions in harvest black grouper and red grouper associated with seasonal closures. In addition, a 6.5% reduction in harvest could be expected by reducing gag and black grouper combined to 1 fish per person per day. A 1.6% reduction in harvest could be expected from reducing the grouper aggregate

from 5 fish to 3 fish per person per day. The bag limit reductions include the effect of eliminating captain and crew as well as a 25% release mortality rate.

Table 2. Average landings (2003-2007) and expected landings through actions proposed in Amendment 16 for black grouper. Does not include effect of reduced bag limit or effectiveness of seasonal closure. Values are whole weight. Assumes gag quota would be met in November.

Month	HB	Comm	MRFSS	Total	Closure
1	2,451	19,748	2,308	24,506	0
2	2,034	20,417	2,308	24,758	0
3	1,769	3,569	221	5,559	0
4	1,198	8,400	221	9,819	0
5	1,421	22,042	54	23,517	23,517
6	1,921	16,817	54	18,792	18,792
7	1,294	13,467	3,071	17,831	17,831
8	910	11,563	3,071	15,544	15,544
9	565	13,148	1,275	14,988	14,988
10	597	9,698	1,275	11,570	11,570
11	640	8,557	7,052	16,249	16,249
12	941	10,122	7,052	18,115	17,174
			total	201,248	135,665
				reduction	0.325882

Table 3. Average landings (2003-2007) and expected landings through actions proposed in Amendment 16 for red grouper. Does not include effect of reduced bag limit or effectiveness of seasonal closure. Values are whole weight. Assumes gag quota would be met in November.

Month	HB	Comm	MRFSS	Total	Closure
1	4,191	20,699	4,625	29,515	0
2	3,945	21,151	4,625	29,721	0
3	6,277	19,518	14,147	39,942	0
4	3,869	30,545	14,147	48,561	0
5	4,525	47,324	67,081	118,929	118,929
6	5,418	49,886	67,081	122,385	122,385
7	5,756	44,185	38,447	88,388	88,388
8	4,926	49,854	38,447	93,227	93,227
9	2,754	33,958	24,016	60,728	60,728
10	2,947	30,239	24,016	57,202	57,202
11	3,128	27,146	19,253	49,528	49,528
12	3,084	22,697	19,253	45,034	41,950
				783,161	632,338
				reduction	0.192583