



## Update on Snapper Grouper Amendments

April 2025

### *Joint Commercial Logbook Amendment*

**Purpose of Amendment:** To allow submittal of electronic commercial logbooks.

**Action Summary:** This amendment is being developed jointly with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. The amendment modifies the FMPs for South Atlantic Snapper Grouper, Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo, Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Coastal Migratory Pelagics, and Gulf Reef Fish

to require commercial logbooks be submitted via electronic reporting forms instead of the currently used paper-based forms.

**Development level:** Under review. Amendment submitted on February 27, 2024.

### *Amendment 55 (Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper)*

**Purpose of Amendment:** Respond to the latest stock assessment (SEDAR 68).

**Action Summary:** Establish a scamp/yellowmouth grouper complex, remove yellowmouth grouper from the shallow water grouper (SWG) complex, establish catch levels and sector allocations for the new complex, adjust catch levels and sector allocations for the SWG complex.

**Development Level:** Under review. Amendment submitted on December 9, 2024.

### *Amendment 48 (Wreckfish ITQ Program Modernization)*

**Purpose of Amendment:** The Council finished its second review of the Wreckfish ITQ program in September of 2019. As part of the review there were several recommendations made to modernize the program, which will be addressed in this amendment.

**Action Summary:** moving away from a paper coupon-based program to an electronic program; fishing season; cost recovery; wreckfish permit requirement; allocation issues; offloading sites and times; and monitoring requirements.

**Development Level:** Under review. Amendment submitted to NMFS on December 19, 2024.

### *Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 36 (Gag and Black Grouper; On-Demand Gear)*

**Purpose of Amendment:** Revise recreational vessel limits for gag and black grouper and specify requirements for on-demand black sea bass pots while transiting through closed areas

**Action Summary:** Revise the recreational vessel limits for gag and black grouper to be an aggregate bag limit including both species. Revise transit requirements for on-demand black sea bass pots.

**Development Level:** Council approved. Preparing for submission.

### *Amendment 46 (Private Recreational Permit and Education Requirement)*

**Purpose of the Amendment:** Address deficiencies in recreational data through the creation of a permit requirement for private recreational vessels or anglers. Additionally, considers establishing a required education component to encourage best fishing practices that help reduce discard mortality in the snapper grouper fishery.

**Action Summary:** This amendment considers establishing a permit and education requirement for anglers or vessels to participate in the private recreational component of the snapper grouper fishery.

**Development Level:** Scoping has been conducted and the amendment is being developed. Approval for public hearings is expected at the June 2025 meeting.

### *Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 56 (Black Sea Bass)*

**Purpose of Amendment:** Respond to most recent stock assessment (SEDAR 76).

**Action Summary:** Revise catch levels and status determination criteria, consider revision of sector allocations, other black sea bass management measures.

**Development Level:** Post-scoping; draft amendment under development.

### *Abbreviated Framework 4 (Golden Tilefish)*

**Purpose of Amendment:** Respond to the latest stock assessment (SEDAR 89) by updating catch levels.

**Action Summary:** Revise ABC and ACLs.

**Development Level:** Pre-scoping

### *Snapper Grouper Amendment 44/ Reef Fish Amendment 55 (Yellowtail Snapper)*

**Purpose of Amendment:** Respond to the latest stock assessment (SEDAR 64). Yellowtail snapper are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

**Action Summary:** adopt recommended ABC, adjust jurisdictional allocation between the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Councils, adjust ACLs, and sector allocations (SA only).

**Development Level:** Post-scoping. Development paused.

### *Evaluation for the Need of Continued Management for the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Unit*

**Purpose of the Amendment:** Determine whether species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit are in need of conservation and management.

**Action Summary:** Consider whether snapper groupers should continue to be included in, be removed from, or be designated as ecosystem component species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit

#### **Key Events:**

- March 2025: Reviewed stock assessment and annual catch limit information for all species. Direction to fully evaluate the need for conservation and management for the following species: Atlantic Spadefish, Bar Jack, Sand Tilefish, Misty Grouper, Blackfin Snapper, Queen Snapper, Cubera Snapper, Banded Rudderfish, Jolthead Porgy, Knobbed

Porgy, Saucereye Porgy, Scup, Whitebone Porgy, White Grunt, Sailor's Choice, Tomtate, and Margate.

*Comprehensive Recreational For-Hire Limited Entry Amendment*

**Purpose of Amendment:** To establish limited entry for the for-hire components of the snapper grouper, coastal migratory pelagics, and dolphin wahoo fisheries.

**Action Summary:** TBD

**Development Level:** Pre-scoping.

*Comprehensive For-Hire Reporting Improvement Amendment*

**Purpose of Amendment:** To improve compliance with for-hire reporting requirements

**Action Summary:** TBD

**Development Level:** Scoping.