



Black Sea Bass

Snapper Grouper
Advisory Panel

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THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 37

October 2025



WHAT HAPPENED THROUGH APRIL 2025?



- SEDAR 76 and SEDAR 76 Update were developed as stock assessments of black sea bass
 - SEDAR 76 was reviewed by the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)
- Multiple exchanges and iterations of the assessment between the SSC and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center between 2023 and 2025
 - Runs of the model with different assumed conditions, particularly for stock status, future catch, and potential rebuilding
- Amendment 56 was initiated in June 2023, in response to SEDAR 76; scoping was conducted in January-February 2025

WHAT HAPPENED SINCE APRIL 2025?



- SSC reviewed and recommended acceptable biological catch (ABC) levels based on the SEDAR 76 Update in June 2025
 - With their recommendation, the SSC noted several concerns about assumptions that affect projections of future catch and potential rebuilding
- The Council felt that the concerns raised by the SSC and the drastic decreases in future catch projections were significant and required further review before the assessment is used in management



WHAT HAPPENED SINCE APRIL 2025?

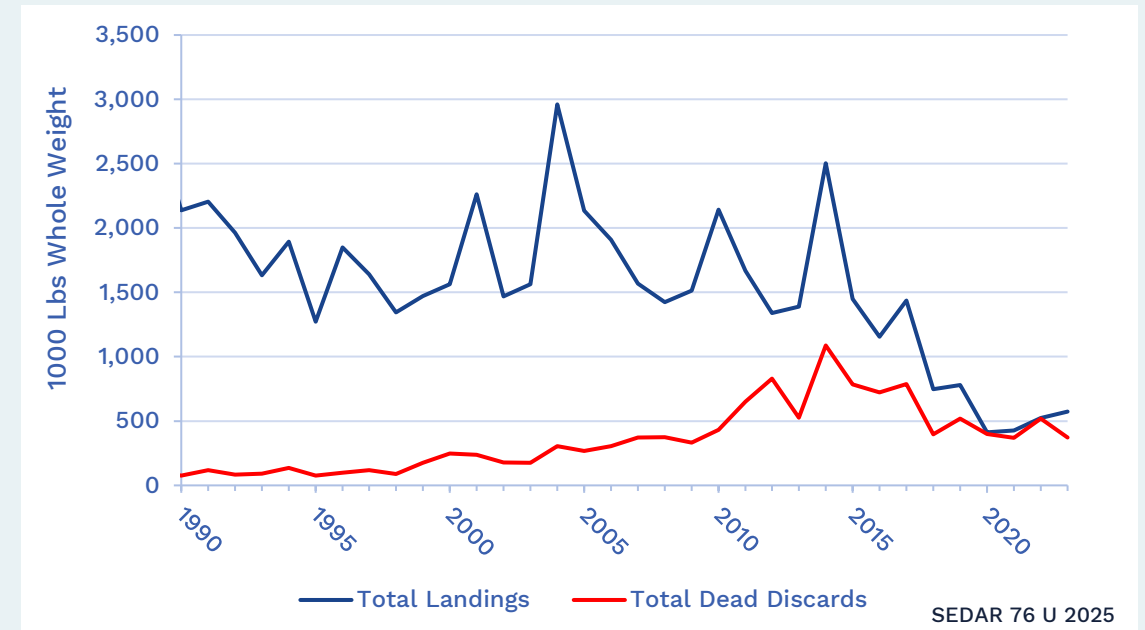
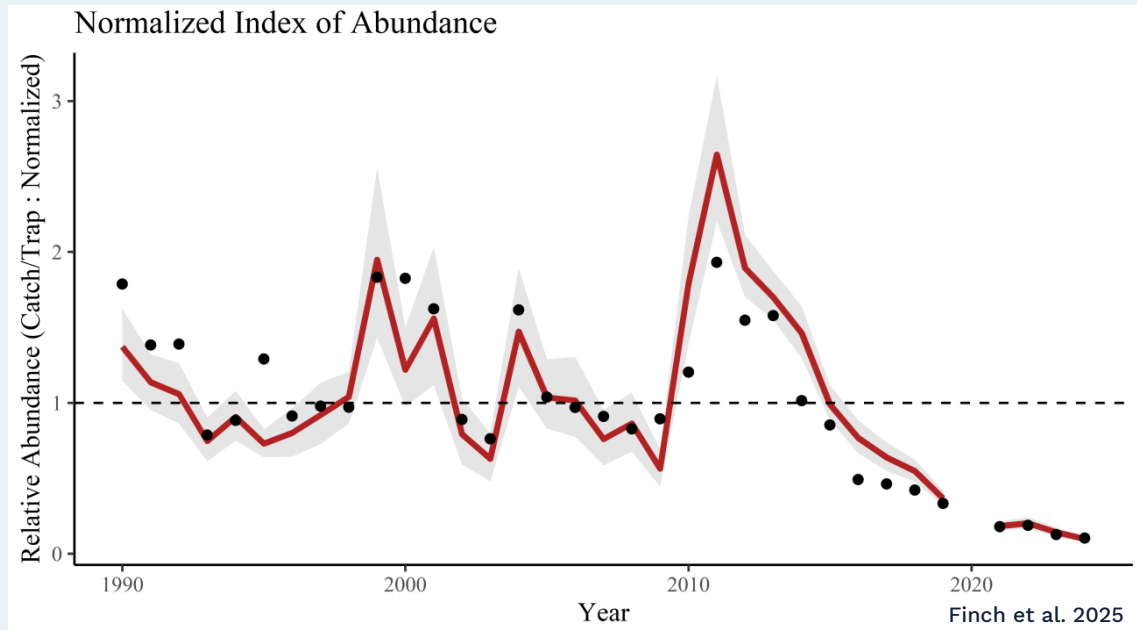


- The Council also expressed concern about developing a long-term rebuilding plan using data from the Marine Recreational Information Program's (MRIP) Fishing Effort Survey (FES), which is currently under review
 - Results of the review and potentially significant changes to MRIP FES catch estimates are expected to be available for management use in 2026

WHAT HAPPENED SINCE APRIL 2025?



- However, the Council recognizes the significant declines in black sea bass experienced in the region, reflected by fishery-independent index, catch levels, SEDAR 76 Update population estimates, and stakeholder input



WHAT HAPPENED SINCE APRIL 2025?



June 2025

- Council paused work on Am 56, pending further review and incorporation of updated recreational data
- Council initiated Regulatory Amendment 37
 - Short-term action intended to reduce fishing-related mortality and improve recruitment while longer-term actions are developed through Am 56
 - Intended to be implemented in 2026

September 2025 – Council reviewed a draft amendment and approved the amendment to be released for public hearings





MOVING FORWARD

- Webinar hearings on November 3rd and 12th
- December 2025 – Council is scheduled to consider Reg Am 37 for final approval (**OCTOBER 2025 MEETING IS AP'S LAST OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE COMMENT**)
- 2026 – Reg Am 37 implementation & SEFSC and SSC will conduct additional review of the SEDAR 76 Update and incorporate updated recreational data
- Work on Am 56 will resume, considering long-term management changes, e.g. rebuilding plan, sector allocation changes, changes to nearshore pot closure, etc.

TIMELINE QUESTIONS?

