



**Snapper
Grouper
Advisory Panel
October 2025**

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THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SG AM 44/RF AM 55
Mutton and yellowtail snapper



BACKGROUND

Currently:



MUTTON SNAPPER

- **82%** of **stock ABC** apportioned to the South Atlantic (SA) and **18%** to the Gulf.
- Current SA ABC is based on **MRFSS** recreational estimates and is **654,257 lbs ww**.
- SA sector allocations are **17.02% commercial** (111,354 lbs ww) and **82.98% recreational** (127,115 fish).
- **Bag limit:** 5 fish/person/day within the 10-snapper aggregate.
- **Trip limit:** Jan 1 – Mar 30: 500 lbs
Apr 1 – Jun 30: 5/p/d
Jul 1 – Dec 30: 500 lbs
- **Size limit:** 18” TL for both sectors.

For both species, the stock is considered a single unit across the Gulf and South Atlantic



YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER

- **75%** of **stock ABC** apportioned to the South Atlantic (SA) and **25%** to the Gulf.
- Current SA ABC is based on **MRFSS** recreational estimates and is **3,037,500 lbs ww**.
- SA sector allocations are **52.56% commercial** (1,596,510 lbs ww) and **47.44% recreational** (1,440,990 lbs ww).
- **Bag limit:** 10 fish/person/day within the 10-snapper aggregate.
- **Trip limit:** none.
- **Size limit:** 12” TL for both sectors.
- **Fishing Season:** Aug 1 – Jul 31.

ASSESSMENT REVIEW: MUTTON SNAPPER



- Assessed in 2024 through **SEDAR 79**
- Assessment indicated that the stock is **not overfished** or **experiencing overfishing**
- The assessment included recreational estimates from both the **MRIP FES** and State of **Florida's State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS)**.
- The joint SSC meeting held in February 2025 recommended the following catch levels:



	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

ASSESSMENT REVIEW: YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER



- Assessed in 2025 through **SEDAR 96**
- Assessment indicated that the stock is **not overfished** or **experiencing overfishing**
- The assessment included recreational estimates from both the **MRIP FES** and State of **Florida's State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS)**.
- The joint SSC meeting held in February 2025 recommended the following catch levels:



	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

Action 1: Modification of Southeastern U.S. mutton snapper, Overfishing Limit (OFL), Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), Jurisdictional Apportionment and Regional Annual Catch Limits (ACLs)



Alt 1 (No Action). Maintain the current stock OFL and ABC, with the jurisdictional split of 82% SA and 18% Gulf.

Alt 2. Update the stock OFL and ABC, keep the current jurisdictional split percentages, applying them to the updated stock ABC, and $ACL=ABC$.

Alt 3. Update the stock OFL and ABC, update the jurisdictional split based on current formula but update the date range, and set $ACL=ABC$.

PICK ONE →

Alt 3a. Update the jurisdictional split based on 50% average landings from **2004-2023** and 50% average landings from **2021-2023**.



9%



91%

Based on most recent 19 yrs

Alt 3b. Update the jurisdictional apportionment based on 50% average landings from **2014-2023** and 50% of the average landings from **2021-2023**.



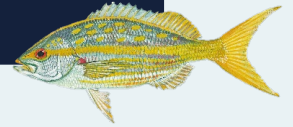
8%



92%

Based on most recent 9 yrs

Action 2: Modification of Southeastern U.S. Yellowtail Snapper, Overfishing Limit (OFL), Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), Jurisdictional Apportionment and Regional Annual Catch Limits (ACLs)



Alt 1 (No Action). Maintain the current stock OFL and ABC with the jurisdictional split of 75% SA and 25% Gulf.

Alt 2. Update the stock OFL and ABC, keep the current jurisdictional split percentages, applying them to the updated stock ABC, and SA ACL = SA ABC.



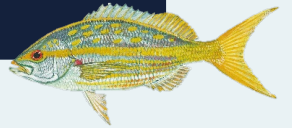
**SUB-ALTS
PERTAIN TO GULF
ONLY**



Alt 2a. Retain the 11% buffer between the Gulf ABC and Gulf ACL.

Alt 2b. Set the Gulf ACL equal to the Gulf ABC.

Action 2: Modification of Southeastern U.S. Yellowtail Snapper, Overfishing Limit (OFL), Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), Jurisdictional Apportionment and Regional Annual Catch Limits (ACLs)



Alt 3. Update the stock OFL and ABC, update the jurisdictional split based on current formula but update the date range, and set SA ACL=SA ABC.



THESE SUB-ALTS PERTAIN TO GULF ONLY



Alt 3a. Retain the 11% buffer between the Gulf ABC and Gulf ACL.

Alt 3b. Set the Gulf ACL equal to the Gulf ABC.

THESE SUB-ALTS PERTAIN TO BOTH COUNCILS

PICK ONE



Alt 3c. Update the jurisdictional apportionment based on 50% average landings from **2004-2023** and 50% average landings from **2021-2023**.



16%



84%

Based on most recent 19 yrs

Alt 3d. Update the jurisdictional apportionment based on 50% average landings from **2014-2023** and 50% average landings from **2021-2023**.



15%



85%

Based on most recent 9 yrs

Action 3: Modify the South Atlantic mutton snapper sector allocations and sector annual catch limits



Alt 1 (No Action). Apply the current allocation percentages of **17.02%** to the **commercial** sector and **82.98%** to the **recreational** sector to the SA ABC determined in **Action 1** and update each sector's ACL accordingly.

Alt 2. ???

Alt 3. ???

NOTE: At the December 2025 meeting, the Council will explore additional alternatives using their Allocation Decision Tool.

CURRENT ALLOCATIONS: are based on the following formula:

$(50\% \text{ of average landings from } 1986\text{-}2008) \times (50\% \text{ of average landings from } 2006\text{-}2008)$

Action 4: Modify the South Atlantic yellowtail snapper sector allocations and sector annual catch limits



Alt 1 (No Action). Apply the current allocation percentages of **52.56%** to the **commercial** sector and **47.44%** to the **recreational** sector to the SA ABC determined in **Action 1** and update each sector's ACL accordingly.

Alt 2. ???

Alt 3. ???

NOTE: At the December 2025 meeting, the Council will explore additional alternatives using their Allocation Decision Tool.

CURRENT ALLOCATIONS: are based on the following formula:

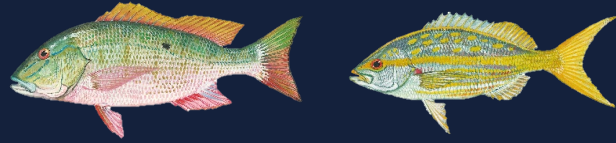
(50% of average landings from 1986-2008) x (50% of average landings from 2006-2008)

QUESTIONS FOR THE AP

- Has there been changes in the fisheries for either species that the Council should know about when considering the jurisdictional apportionment between Councils?
- Are there any concerns from the AP about setting the SA ACL equal to the SA ABC?
- Have there been changes to the South Atlantic commercial fishery for either species? Recreational? If so, please describe as these changes could help inform the Allocation Decision Tool



Next Steps



✓ 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 will review action and proposed alternatives
November 2025	Gulf Council will review draft document
December 2025	South Atlantic Council will review draft document
January 2026	Gulf Council will review public hearing draft with preliminary analysis, select preferreds, and approve for public hearings
March 2026	South Atlantic Council will review public hearing draft with preliminary analysis, confirm preferreds, and approve for public hearings
June 2026	Both Councils review public hearing comments and consider final action
Summer 2026	Amendment submission

YOU
ARE
HERE

REVIEW
AGAIN
HERE