




**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southeast Regional Office  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5505  
(727) 824-5305; FAX (727) 824-5308  
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

AUG 5 - 2009

F/SER25:JCM

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bonnie Ponwith, Ph.D.  
Director, Southeast Fisheries Science Center

FROM: Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.   
Regional Administrator

SUBJECT: Data Analyses Request for Amendment 17A to the Fishery  
Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South  
Atlantic Region

This memorandum requests data analyses for an action being considered in Amendment 17A. I request the task be completed by the September 2009 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council meeting.

Amendment 17A includes actions to end overfishing and establish a rebuilding plan for red snapper. The amendment specifies a number of rebuilding strategies based on constant fishing mortality projections at  $F_{40\%SPR}$ ,  $85\%F_{40\%SPR}$ ,  $75\%F_{40\%SPR}$ , and  $65\%F_{40\%SPR}$  provided by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center on March 9, 2009.

On July 10, 2009, I requested: (1) New constant fishing mortality projections similar to those provided on March 9, 2009, which incorporates high recruitment that appears to have occurred in 2005 or 2006; (2) an additional constant fishing mortality projection that would rebuild the stock in 35 years, which is the maximum allowable rebuilding time; and (3) a suite of projections using  $F_{30\%SPR}$  as this is the status quo proxy for  $F_{MSY}$  that needs to be analyzed in Amendment 17A.

I request four additional projections. These projections would reduce  $F=F_{MSY}$  in 2010 to  $F=75\%F_{MSY}$  in 2011, then hold catch constant through the remainder of the rebuilding period. In these projections,  $F_{30\%SPR}$  and  $F_{40\%SPR}$  would be used as the proxies for  $F_{MSY}$ . Two of the projections using the  $F_{MSY}$  proxies would assume the recruitment level from the March 9, 2009, document and the two other projections using the  $F_{MSY}$  proxies would incorporate the high recruitment that appears to have occurred in 2005 or 2006.

cc: Dr. Erik Williams  
Dr. Tom Jamir

