

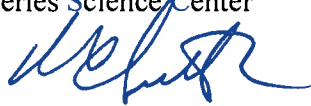


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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FEB 13 2009

F/SER29:AS

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

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

SUBJECT: Data Request

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) is developing a public hearing draft for Amendment 17 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Amendment 17). This amendment will implement a rebuilding plan for red snapper and establish management measures to end red snapper overfishing. In December 2008, the Southeast Fisheries Science Center provided updated rebuilding projections for red snapper based on recommendations and advice from the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee. I am requesting the following additional projections and information for consideration during development of Amendment 17:

1. Provide the time frame for rebuilding in the absence of fishing mortality (T_{min});
2. provide the time frame for rebuilding in the absence of fishing mortality plus one mean generation time (T_{max});
3. provide projections of spawning stock biomass (SSB), recruitment, landings, and discards from 2007 to T_{max} for the following constant fishing mortality rates ($F_{current}$, $F_{40\%}$, $65\%F_{40\%}$, $75\%F_{40\%}$, and $85\%F_{40\%}$); and
4. provide similar projections as data request #3 above; however, assume no directed harvest and discards correspond to the yield associated with $F_{current}$, $F_{40\%}$, $65\%F_{40\%}$, $75\%F_{40\%}$, and $85\%F_{40\%}$.

All of the above projections should be based on the same maximum fishing mortality threshold ($MFMT = F_{40\%} = 0.104$) and steepness ($h = 0.95$) estimates used for the December 2008 projections. Also, I request you examine available landings data for 2007 and 2008 to determine what level of F should be used for 2007-2009 and incorporate this modification in the above projections, if possible. For each projection, also provide the probability of stock recovery. Finally, reductions in fishing mortality for these projections should begin in 2010 rather than 2009.

I request these projections be provided to me on or before April 3, 2009, if possible. I also request individuals on your staff work with staff at the Southeast Regional Office to develop a monitoring plan for red snapper for inclusion in Amendment 17. If you have any questions please contact Andy Strelcheck on my staff at (727) 824-5374.

cc: F/SER2 – Phil Steele
F/SER25 – John McGovern
SAFMC – John Carmichael, Rick DeVictor

