

## **Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Black Sea Bass Fishery Performance Report Questionnaire November 2017**

The Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel (AP) is being asked to provide information to develop a fishery performance report (FPR) for black sea bass. The purpose of the FPR is to assemble information from AP members' experience and observations on the water and in the marketplace to complement scientific and landings data. The FPR for black sea bass will be provided to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Socio-Economic Panel (SEP) to complement material being used in the standard assessment (SEDAR 56) and to inform future management.

### **Questions for Advisory Panel:**

The AP is asked to provide the following information about black sea bass based on their expertise, as appropriate:

#### 1) Catch levels over the past 5 years:

- For the commercial sector, how has price and demand for black sea bass changed?
- How Has demand for charter/headboat trips targeting black sea bass changed?
- Recreational landings appear to have declined in recent years. What has caused the decline?
- When/where are the fish available, and has this changed?
- Has the size of the fish changed? If so, could you briefly describe the trend over the past 5 years?
- Have there been effort shifts to/from black sea bass? If so, please describe.
- Why have commercial black sea bass landings from Florida decreased so much since 2011?

#### 2) Management measures:

- Is the 11-inch minimum size limit for the commercial sector appropriate?
- Is the 13-inch minimum size limit for the recreational sector appropriate?
- Are there new measures that the Council should consider?
- How should the ACLs for each sector be modified?
- Should the pot mesh size change or is a different mesh size being used voluntarily?
- How has the pot area restriction impacted catches and effort?
- Are there other existing measures that should be changed?
- Would allowing powerheads in the EEX off SC impact black sea bass?

#### 3) Environmental/ecological

- Have you perceived any unique effects of environmental conditions on black sea bass? If so, please describe.

TAB 07\_A02c\_SG\_BlackSeaBassFPRQuestions\_forSGAP

- What are your observations concerning the timing and length of the black sea bass spawning season in your area?
- Do you perceive that abundance of black sea bass has changed over the past five years? If so, how has it changed?
- What do you see now in terms of recruitment? Where are the small fish?
- Are catch rates of black sea bass higher on artificial reefs or natural reefs?

4) Other

- Do you have suggestions for research priorities for black sea bass?
- What else is important for the Council to know about black sea bass?
- Are there concerns in the commercial sector about bait availability?
- Are the current monitoring efforts (trap index and catch estimates) sufficiently monitoring the stock?