

Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel Vermilion Snapper 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 vermilion snapper. 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 vermilion snapper 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 55) and to inform future management.

Questions for Advisory Panel:

The AP is asked to provide the following information about vermilion snapper based on their expertise, as appropriate:

1) Catch levels over the past 5 years:

- For the commercial sector, how has price and demand for Vermilion snapper changed?
- How has demand for charter/headboat trips targeting Vermilion snapper changed?
- Recreational landings have declined sharply from 2007 through 2011. 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 describe the change over the past five years?
- Have there been effort shifts to/from vermilion snapper?

2) Management measures:

- Is the 12-inch minimum size limit for the commercial and recreational sectors appropriate?
- Are there new measures that the Council should consider?
- Are there other existing measures that should be changed?
- Would allowing powerheads in the EEZ off SC impact vermilion snapper?

3) Environmental/ecological

- Have you perceived any unique effects of environmental conditions on vermilion snapper?
- What are your observations concerning the timing and length of the vermilion snapper spawning season in your area?
- Do you perceive that abundance of vermilion snapper 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 vermilion snapper higher on artificial reefs or natural reefs?

4) Other

- Do you have suggestions for research priorities for vermilion snapper?
- What else is important for the Council to know about vermilion snapper?
- Are the current monitoring efforts (trap index and catch estimates) sufficiently monitoring the stock?