

Amendment 44 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region



Decision Document March 2017



Specify a single acceptable biological catch and annual catch limit for yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, allow adaptive management of sector ACLs, and modify sector allocations and accountability measures.

Note: Committee actions and new language for actions and alternatives is highlighted in **yellow**.

Actions in Snapper Grouper Amendment 44

Action 1. Specify a single acceptable biological catch (ABC) and annual catch limit (ACL) for yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

Action 2. Revise sector allocations and accountability measures for South Atlantic yellowtail snapper.

Background

In 2015, commercial landings met the sector annual catch limit (ACL) of 1,596,510 pounds whole weight (lbs ww) for yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic and commercial harvest was closed on October 31, 2015 for the remainder of the calendar year. In the same year, the recreational sector harvested 55% of the recreational sector ACL, resulting in approximately 550,000 lbs ww of the total ACL for yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic going unharvested.

Because there was a closure of harvest for the commercial yellowtail snapper sector in 2015 but several hundred thousand pounds of the total ACL was not landed, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (South Atlantic Council) is considering options in Amendment 44 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Snapper Grouper Amendment 44) that would allow for quota sharing between the commercial and recreational sectors or would reallocate a portion of the total ACL to the commercial sector. The South Atlantic Council is also considering actions that would specify a single acceptable biological catch (ABC) and single ACL for yellowtail snapper in the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic. These actions are intended to provide flexibility in managing the ACL for yellowtail snapper and to prevent or reduce the length of harvest closures in the commercial yellowtail snapper sector.

At the December 2016 South Atlantic Council meeting, the Joint Dolphin Wahoo/Snapper Grouper/Mackerel Cobia Committee (JDW/SG/MC Committee) as well as the South Atlantic Council discussed the actions in what was at the time joint amendment Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10/Snapper Grouper Amendment 44. The JDW/SG/MC Committee and the South Atlantic Council provided direction to staff to separate the two amendments and to further develop Snapper Grouper Amendment 44. The JDW/SG/MC Committee and the South Atlantic Council also passed motions to add an action to combine the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic ACLs for yellowtail snapper and approved the amendment for public hearings in January 2017. The following actions and alternatives have been revised or added based on guidance from the JDW/SG/MC Committee and South Atlantic Council as well as input from the Interdisciplinary Plan Team (IPT) and are being presented for discussion by the Snapper Grouper Committee (Committee) and the South Atlantic Council.

The IPT was unable to meet until after the briefing documents for the public hearings were due to be posted on the Council's website. As such, the actions and alternatives that were taken out for public hearings (**Actions 1 and 2**) were drafted based on the Council's input, but were not reviewed by the full IPT. Once the IPT was able to meet, it was suggested that **Action 1** be split into two separate actions specifying the ABC and ACL for yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico separately (**Action A** and **Action B**). Also, the IPT suggested splitting **Action 2** into two separate actions specifying how or if the ACL will be allocated between sectors (**Action C**) and how the accountability measures (AMs) should be changed (**Action D**). In addition to some added content, each suggested action (**Action A** through **D**) was designed to encompass all material in **Actions 1 and 2** that were sent out for public hearings.

It is important to note that the sequence of the actions is intentional. Given the addition of the yellowtail snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico into Snapper Grouper Amendment 44, the series of decisions that needs to be made in the earlier actions are very important in what is chosen in the actions that follow and whether or not they will be applicable. For example, the Committee and South Atlantic Council may want to consider the following questions:

- 1) Does the South Atlantic Council want to remove the jurisdictional allocation of the ABC for yellowtail snapper in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic? If not, does the South Atlantic Council want to re-examine the allocation of the ABC and make changes? (**Action A**)



- 2) If the South Atlantic Council does want to remove the jurisdictional allocation of the ABC for yellowtail snapper, then how should the ACL be structured in relation to the ABC? (**Action B**)



- 3) Either way, how does the South Atlantic Council want to manage the allocation of the ACL between sectors and does the South Atlantic Council want to allow adaptive management of the sector ACLs? (**Action C**)



- 4) Depending on the decisions made in the previous actions, what is going to be the AM? (**Action D**)

As mentioned, the action to combine the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic ACLs for yellowtail snapper was added during the December 2016 South Atlantic Council meeting to obtain public input. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) briefly discussed this action at their January/February 2017 meeting. During this discussion, the Gulf Council passed a motion to direct staff to develop an amendment that would specify a single ABC and ACL for yellowtail snapper in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic. The specific guidance from the Gulf Council was to not move forward through a joint amendment, but rather

through an amendment to the Gulf Council’s Reef Fish FMP. Ultimately, for this action to go forward, both Councils would have to amend their respective fishery management plans to include the same wording on the specifics of how this action would work and move forward under a similar timeline.

Landings of yellowtail snapper by region

Revised landings data for yellowtail snapper were made available in February 2017. These revisions were reflective of a correction to the commercial landings due to a discrepancy that occurred between the landings reported by the Commercial Landings Monitoring System and the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program that was caused by a coding error for commercial landings from a portion of the lower Florida Keys. This discrepancy was discussed during the JDW/SG/MC Committee that took place at the December 2016 South Atlantic Council Meeting. The most notable change in reported landings was an increase in commercial landings for the South Atlantic in 2014 and to a lesser extent in 2015.

Table 1, Figure 1, and Figure 2 show commercial and recreational landings of yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions from 2005 through 2015. In the South Atlantic Region, the current total ACL for yellowtail snapper is 3,037,500 lbs ww and is divided into a commercial ACL of 1,596,510 lbs ww (52.56% of the total ACL) and a recreational ACL of 1,440,990 lbs ww (47.44% of the total ACL). In the Gulf of Mexico Region, the current total ACL for yellowtail snapper is 901,125 lbs ww, which is treated as a stock ACL with no allocation between the commercial and recreational sectors.

Table 1. Commercial and recreational landings (lbs ww) of yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions from 2005 through 2015.

Year	Commercial			Recreational			Combined
	Gulf	South Atl.	Total	Gulf	South Atl.	Total	Total
2005	510,437	814,899	1,325,336	31,176	576,247	607,424	1,932,760
2006	542,237	694,958	1,237,195	21,477	560,320	581,797	1,818,992
2007	350,079	628,608	978,687	19,726	786,399	806,126	1,784,813
2008	460,569	910,323	1,370,892	6,056	746,313	752,369	2,123,261
2009	891,925	1,085,281	1,977,206	19,250	348,536	367,787	2,344,993
2010	569,275	1,126,231	1,695,506	8,783	434,259	443,041	2,138,547
2011	769,729	1,125,220	1,894,949	25,560	390,998	416,557	2,311,506
2012	630,984	1,439,586	2,070,570	5,087	493,409	498,495	2,569,065
2013	734,112	1,328,931	2,063,043	6,991	666,027	673,019	2,736,062
2014	467,941	1,575,956	2,043,897	21,536	933,760	955,296	2,999,193
2015	507,398	1,691,807	2,199,205	78,833	791,157	869,990	3,069,195
Average	584,971	1,129,255	1,714,226	22,225	611,584	633,809	2,348,035

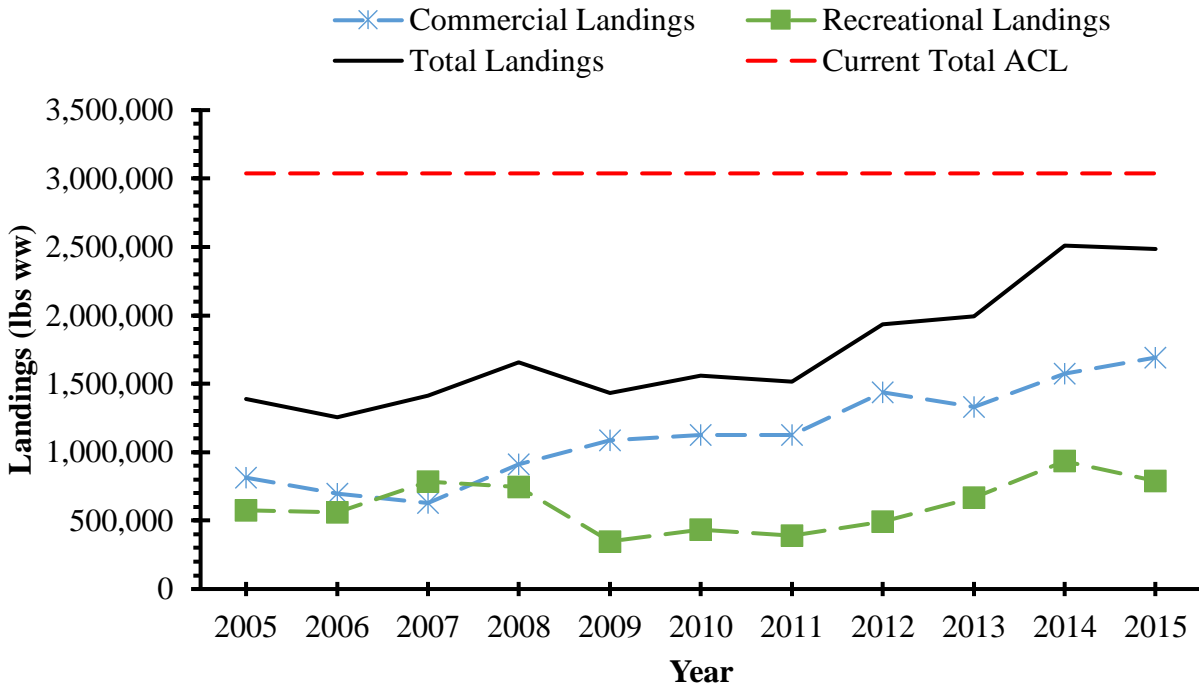


Figure 1. Landings (lbs ww) of yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic Region from 2005 through 2015 in relation to the current (2017) total ACL.

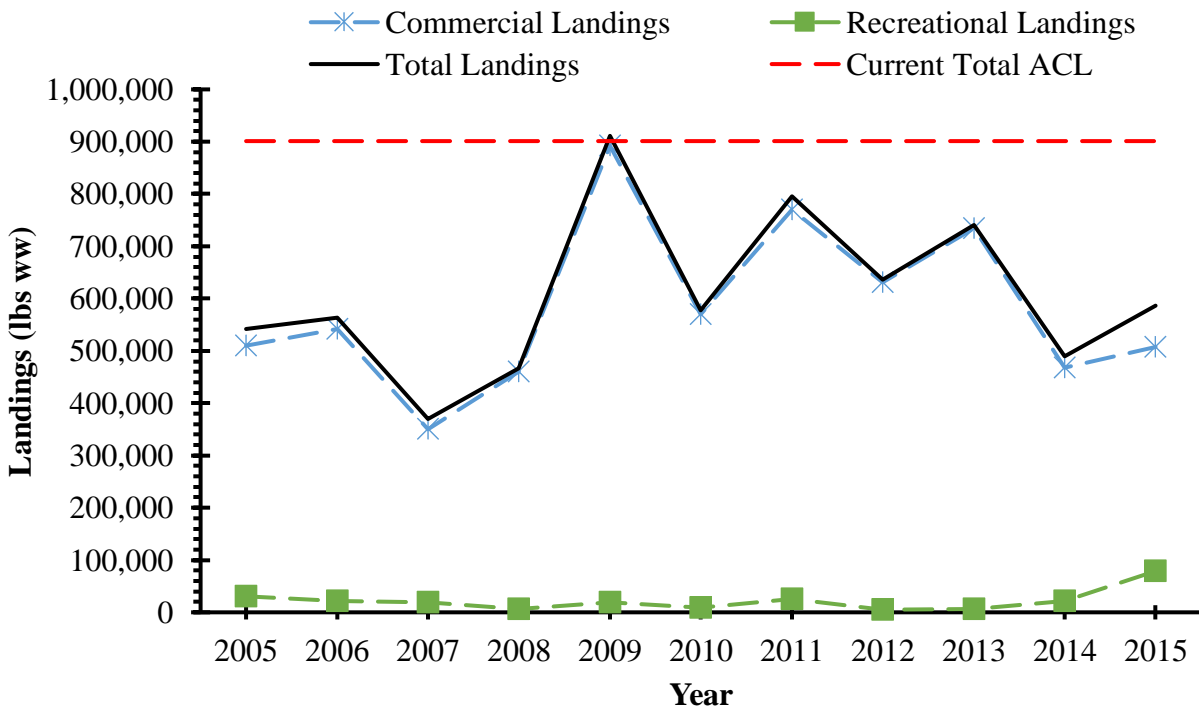


Figure 2. Landings (lbs ww) of yellowtail snapper in the Gulf of Mexico Region from 2005 through 2015 in relation to the current (2017) total ACL.

Actions and Alternatives

The following action and alternatives were used for public hearings in January 2017:

Action 1. Specify a single Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) and Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) for yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

Alternative 1 (No action).

The total ABC for yellowtail snapper is split between the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions, with 75% of the ABC allocated to the South Atlantic and 25% of the ABC allocated to the Gulf of Mexico.

South Atlantic: The current acceptable biological catch (ABC) for yellowtail snapper is 3,037,500 pounds whole weight (ww). The current total annual catch limit (ACL) (equal to ABC) is 3,037,500 lbs ww. The current commercial sector allocation for yellowtail snapper is 52.56% (1,596,510 lbs ww) of the total ACL and the current recreational sector allocation for yellowtail snapper is 47.44% (1,440,990 lbs ww) of the total ACL.

Gulf of Mexico: The current ABC for yellowtail snapper is 1,012,500 lbs ww. The current total ACL (11% less than ABC) is 901,125 lbs ww. There are no sector specific allocations for yellowtail snapper in the Gulf of Mexico.

South Atlantic Accountability Measures (AM)

The current commercial AM is an in-season closure if the commercial ACL is met or projected to be met. The commercial ACL is reduced by the amount of the commercial overage in the following fishing year only if the species is overfished and the total ACL is exceeded.

The current recreational AM is an in-season closure if the recreational ACL is met or projected to be met. A shortening of the recreational season may be triggered if the recreational ACL is exceeded, but only after recreational landings have been monitored for persistence in increased landings. The length of the recreational season is not reduced if the Regional Administrator determines the best available science shows it is not necessary. If a reduction is necessary, the recreational season may be shortened and the recreational ACL reduced in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage only if the species is overfished and the total ACL is exceeded.

Gulf of Mexico Accountability Measure (AM)

If the sum of the commercial and recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceeds the stock ACL, then during the following fishing year, if the sum of commercial and recreational landings reaches or is projected to reach the stock ACL, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal

Register to close the commercial and recreational sectors for the remainder of that fishing year.

Alternative 2. Manage yellowtail snapper as a single unit with an overall combined acceptable biological catch and combined total ACL, but manage the ACL under the South Atlantic sector allocations and accountability measures (AMs).

Alternative 3: Manage yellowtail snapper as a single unit with an overall combined acceptable biological catch and total ACL, but manage the total ACL under the Gulf of Mexico accountability measure.

Discussion: Yellowtail snapper is an important commercial and recreational species in Florida, particularly in South Florida and the Florida Keys. The effects on fishermen and coastal communities due to changes in the annual catch limit (ACL) and associated accountability measures (AM) for yellowtail snapper will be associated with any variations in the ability to catch and land yellowtail snapper, and the benefits of consistent regulations in the Florida Keys.

The top five communities with the highest levels of commercial landings of yellowtail snapper include the Florida communities of Key West, Miami, Marathon, Fort Lauderdale, and Key Largo. These areas could be most affected by changes in yellowtail snapper commercial landings, particularly in Keys communities in which commercial fishing is an important social and economic component. In general, an increase in access to the yellowtail snapper quota for commercial fishermen and reduced likelihood of triggering an accountability measure that would restrict access to yellowtail snapper landings will be beneficial to commercial fishermen and associated businesses.

The top Florida communities for recreational fishing also include communities in south Florida and the Florida Keys. Although some areas have high levels of recreational engagement, such as Fort Lauderdale and Miami, it is not likely that changes to yellowtail snapper management would have community-level effects. However, for some Keys communities with high numbers of private anglers and for-hire businesses (such as Islamorada, Key Largo, and Key West), changes that could affect recreational fishing opportunities for yellowtail may result in effects at the community level as well as effects on individuals and businesses. In general, changes to yellowtail management that affect the current or potential future fishing opportunities may have negative effects on private anglers and for-hire businesses. Additionally, recreational fishing in the Florida Keys is closely tied to tourism, and the ability to catch and land yellowtail snapper during the high tourist season (winter and spring) will be important to maintain social and economic benefits of yellowtail harvest for the Keys communities and fishermen.

Action 1 was sent out to public hearings in January 2017. As previously mentioned, the IPT was unable to meet until after the briefing documents for the public hearings were due to be posted on the South Atlantic Council's website. Once the IPT was able to meet, the IPT suggested splitting **Action 1** into distinct actions that examine the structure of the ABC and ACL separately (**Action A** and **Action B**).

IPT proposed action to specify the ABC:

Action A. Modify the jurisdictional allocation of the acceptable biological catch (ABC) for yellowtail snapper.

Alternative 1. (No Action). The total ABC for yellowtail snapper is split between the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions, with 75% of the total ABC allocated to the South Atlantic Region and 25% of the total ABC allocated to the Gulf of Mexico Region.

South Atlantic: The current acceptable biological catch (ABC) for yellowtail snapper is 3,037,500 pounds whole weight (ww).

Gulf of Mexico: The current ABC for yellowtail snapper is 1,012,500 lbs ww.

The jurisdictional allocation is based on the Florida Keys (Monroe County) jurisdictional boundary between the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Councils for yellowtail snapper and was established by using a 50% weighting towards average landings from 1993-2008 + a 50% weighting towards average landings from 2006-2008.

Alternative 2. Remove the jurisdictional allocation of the total ABC for yellowtail snapper and manage the fishery in both the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico as a single unit.

Sub-alternative 2a: Manage jointly.

Sub-alternative 2b: South Atlantic manages the fishery, the Gulf of Mexico delegates authority.

Sub-alternative 2c: Gulf of Mexico manages the fishery, South Atlantic delegates authority.

Alternative 3. Modify the jurisdictional allocation of the total ABC for yellowtail snapper.

Sub-alternative 3a. Use a 50% weighting towards average landings from 1993-2015 + a 50% weighting towards average landings from 2013-2015.

Sub-alternative 3b. Use a 50% weighting towards average landings from 1995-2015 + a 50% weighting towards average landings from 2013-2015.

Sub-alternative 3c. Use average landings from 2013-2015.

Table 2. Potential Jurisdictional ABC levels for **Action A.**

Alternative	South Atlantic ABC (lbs ww)	Gulf of Mexico ABC (lbs ww)	Total ABC (lbs ww)	Change in ABC for the South Atlantic (lbs ww)
Alternative 1 (No Action)	3,037,500	1,012,500	4,050,000	0
Alternative 2	N/A	N/A	4,050,000	N/A
Sub-alternative 3a	3,133,790	916,210	4,050,000	+96,290
Sub-alternative 3b	3,165,168	884,832	4,050,000	+127,668
Sub-alternative 3c	3,214,276	835,724	4,050,000	+176,776

Discussion: Specifying the ABC and the jurisdictional allocation (if any) is an important first step in deciding how to pursue Snapper Grouper Amendment 44 as well as the ensuing analysis that will be needed to support decision making and for the document. Currently, there is a single ABC for yellowtail snapper that is split between the jurisdictions of the South Atlantic Council and Gulf Council along the Florida Keys (Monroe County) jurisdictional boundary, with 75% of the total ABC allocated to the South Atlantic Region and 25% of the total ABC allocated to the Gulf of Mexico Region. This was established by using a 50% weighting towards average landings from 1993-2008 + a 50% weighting towards average landings from 2006-2008. This jurisdictional allocation method was set in the South Atlantic Council's Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Amendment in 2011. The resulting current ABC for yellowtail snapper is 3,037,500 lbs ww and 1,012,500 lbs ww in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions respectively (**Alternative 1**).

Alternative 2 would remove the jurisdictional allocation of the total ABC for yellowtail snapper and manage the fishery in both the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico as a single unit. In this scenario, since there is not an allocation of the ABC and the fishery would be managed as a single unit, the Councils should consider specifying how management decisions will be made for the yellowtail snapper fishery. In the sub-alternatives provided, the Councils may manage the fishery jointly (**Sub-alternative 2a**), the Gulf of Mexico Council may delegate authority to the South Atlantic Council to manage the fishery (**Sub-alternative 2b**), or the South Atlantic Council may delegate the authority to the Gulf of Mexico Council to manage the fishery (**Sub-alternative 2c**).

Should the South Atlantic Council prefer to keep the jurisdictional allocation of the ABC for yellowtail snapper, the baseline years used to set the allocation between the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic could also be reconsidered (**Alternative 3**). While not exhaustive of all potential possibilities, the three sub-alternatives provided in **Alternative 3** would provide the South Atlantic Region with additional yellowtail snapper ABC. The additional ABC that may be allocated to the South Atlantic Region under **Sub-alternatives 3a-3c** range from 96,290 lbs ww to 176,776 lb ww (**Table 2**). Conversely, these amounts would be subtracted from the yellowtail snapper ABC specified for the Gulf of Mexico Region. It is worth noting that revised MRIP estimates for recreational harvest are expected to be available in late 2017 or early 2018 that may substantially alter the estimated changes in jurisdictional ABC provided in **Table 2**.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

OPTION 1. APPROVE THE WORDING OF ACTION A IN SNAPPER GROUPE AMENDMENT 44.
OPTION 2. MODIFY THE WORDING OF ACTION A IN SNAPPER GROUPE AMENDMENT 44 AND APPROVE THE MODIFIED WORDING.
OPTION 3. OTHERS??

IPT proposed action to specify the ACL:

Action B. Specify a single annual catch limit (ACL) for yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

Alternative 1 (No action).

South Atlantic: The current total ACL is equal to the jurisdictional ABC. The current total annual catch limit (ACL) is 3,037,500 lbs ww.

Gulf of Mexico: The current total ACL is set at 89% of the jurisdictional ABC. The current total ACL is 901,125 lbs ww.

Alternative 2. Manage the yellowtail snapper fishery in both the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico under a single ACL that is equal to the sum of the total ACL in the South Atlantic and the total ACL in the Gulf of Mexico.

Alternative 3. Manage the yellowtail snapper fishery in both the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico under a single ACL that is equal to the sum of the ACL in the South Atlantic and the jurisdictional ABC in the Gulf of Mexico.

Table 3. Potential ACL levels for **Action B.**

Alternative	South Atlantic ACL (lbs ww)	Gulf of Mexico ACL (lbs ww)	Total ACL (lbs ww)
Alternative 1 (No Action)	3,037,500	901,125	N/A
Alternative 2	N/A	N/A	3,938,625
Alternative 3	N/A	N/A	4,050,000

Discussion: Should the jurisdictional allocation of the total ABC for yellowtail snapper be removed and the fishery managed in both the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico as a single unit (**Alternative 2 in Action A**), it will be necessary to specify how the new total ACL will be developed. In the South Atlantic region, the current total ACL is equal to the jurisdictional ABC (3,037,500 lbs ww), and in the Gulf of Mexico region, the current total ACL (901,125 lbs ww) is set at 89% of the jurisdictional ABC (1,012,500 lbs ww) (**Alternative 1**).

Under **Alternative 2**, the yellowtail snapper fishery would be managed in both the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico under a single ACL that is equal to the sum of the total ACL in the South Atlantic (3,037,500 lbs ww) and the total ACL in the Gulf of Mexico (901,125 lbs ww) which is 3,938,625 lbs ww (**Table 3**). **Alternative 3** is similar, in that the total ACL in the South Atlantic (3,037,500 lbs ww) would be used, however the jurisdictional ABC in the Gulf of Mexico (1,012,500 lbs ww) would be incorporated as well, which leads to a slightly higher total ACL of 4,050,000 lbs ww (**Table 3**).

It is important to note that **Action B** is being suggested to accommodate **Alternative 2** in **Action A**. Should this alternative not be chosen for further development, then **Action B** will not be necessary and can be removed from the amendment.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

OPTION 1. APPROVE THE WORDING OF ACTION B IN SNAPPER GROUPE AMENDMENT 44.

OPTION 2. MODIFY THE WORDING OF ACTION B IN SNAPPER GROUPE AMENDMENT 44 AND APPROVE THE MODIFIED WORDING.

OPTION 3. OTHERS??

The following action and alternatives were used for public hearings in January 2017:

Action 2. Revise sector allocations and accountability measures for South Atlantic yellowtail snapper.

Alternative 1 (No Action). The current recreational sector allocation for yellowtail snapper is 47.44% (1,440,990 lbs ww) of the total Annual Catch Limit (ACL). The current commercial sector allocation for yellowtail snapper is 52.56% (1,596,510 lbs ww) of the total ACL. Note: Total ACL=ABC=OY.

The current commercial accountability measure (AM) is an in-season closure if the commercial ACL is met or projected to be met. The commercial ACL is reduced by the amount of the commercial overage in the following fishing year only if the species is overfished and the total ACL is exceeded.

The current recreational AM is an in-season closure if the recreational ACL is met or projected to be met. A shortening of the recreational season may be triggered if the recreational ACL is exceeded, but only after recreational landings have been monitored for persistence in increased landings. The length of the recreational season is not reduced if the Regional Administrator determines the best available science shows it is not necessary. If a reduction is necessary, the recreational season may be shortened and the recreational ACL reduced in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage only if the species is overfished and the total ACL is exceeded.

Alternative 2. Maintain current sector ACLs, but revise AM to not close either sector until total ACL is met.

Alternative 3. Modify sector ACLs.

Sub-alternative 3a. Allocate 42% (1,275,750 lbs ww) of the total ACL to the recreational sector. Allocate 58% (1,761,750 lbs ww) of the total ACL to the commercial sector. (Based on average landings from 2005-2014)

Sub-alternative 3b. Allocate 40% (1,215,000 lbs ww) of the total ACL to the recreational sector. Allocate 60% (1,822,500 lbs ww) of the total ACL to the commercial sector. (Based on 2013 landings).

Sub-alternative 3c. Allocate 30% (911,250 lbs ww) of the total ACL to the recreational sector. Allocate 70% (2,126,250 lbs ww) of the total ACL to the commercial sector. (Based on 2012 landings)

Sub-alternative 3d. Allocate 28% (850,500 lbs ww) of the total ACL to the recreational sector. Allocate 72% (2,187,000 lbs ww) of the total ACL to the commercial sector. (Based on 2011 landings)

Alternative 4. Set aside a portion of the total ACL that can be used by either sector as a common pool allocation.

Sub-alternative 4a: 1% (30,375 lbs ww) of the total ACL becomes a common pool category. The remaining ACL (3,007,125 lbs ww) is split between the recreational sector (1,426,580 lbs ww) and the commercial sector (1,580,545 lbs ww) according to the current allocation.

Sub-alternative 4b: 2.5% (75,938 lbs ww) of the total ACL becomes a common pool category. The remaining ACL (2,961,562 lbs ww) is split between the recreational sector (1,404,965 lbs ww) and the commercial sector (1,556,597 lbs ww) according to the current allocation.

Sub-alternative 4c: 5% (151,875 lbs ww) of the total ACL becomes a common pool category. The remaining ACL (2,885,625 lbs ww) is split between the recreational sector (1,368,941 lbs ww) and the commercial sector (1,516,685 lbs ww) according to the current allocation.

Sub-alternative 4d: 10% (303,750 lbs ww) of the total ACL becomes a common pool category. The remaining ACL (2,733,750 lbs ww) is split between the recreational sector (1,296,891 lbs ww) and the commercial sector (1,436,859 lbs ww) according to the current allocation.

Alternative 5: Conditionally transfer a certain percentage (Sub-alternatives 5a-5d) of the ACL from a sector that is not landing its ACL to the other sector that is landing all or almost all of its ACL in the next fishing year, if the minimum landings threshold is not met for the donating sector (Sub-alternatives 5e-5g). If the receiving sector does not land at least 90% of its unadjusted ACL, this transfer will not occur. The highest landings from the donating sector based on available finalized data from the five years prior will be used as criteria to determine if allocation transfers will occur.

Conditional ACL Transfer (MUST CHOOSE ONE):

Sub-alternative 5a: Conditionally transfer 5% of the unadjusted ACL of one sector to the other sector.

Sub-alternative 5b: Conditionally transfer 10% of the unadjusted ACL of one sector to the other sector.

Sub-alternative 5c: Conditionally transfer 15% of the unadjusted ACL of one sector to the other sector.

Sub-alternative 5d: Conditionally transfer 20% of the unadjusted ACL of one sector to the other sector.

Donating sector's ACL Minimum Threshold (MUST CHOOSE ONE), if the donating sector's landings are:

Sub-alternative 5e: less than 50% of its unadjusted ACL.

Sub-alternative 5f: less than 65% of its unadjusted ACL.

Sub-alternative 5g: less than 75% of its unadjusted ACL.

Discussion: **Action 2** was used for public hearings in January 2017. As previously mentioned, the IPT was unable to meet until after the briefing documents for the public hearings were due to be posted on the Council's website. Once the IPT was able to meet, the IPT suggested splitting **Action 2** into two separate actions, with one action that would allow adaptive management of ACLs and specify sector allocations (**Action C**), and one action that would specify the AM (**Action D**).

IPT proposed actions to allow adaptive management of ACLs and specify sector allocations:

Action C. Revise sector allocations and accountability measures Allow adaptive management of annual catch limits (ACLs) and revise or establish sector allocations for South Atlantic yellowtail snapper.

Note: Due to the relatively complex nature of this action, each alternative is discussed individually. Generally speaking, the effects of **Action C** will be highly dependent upon decisions made in **Action A** (Modify the jurisdictional allocation of the acceptable biological catch (ABC) for yellowtail snapper) and **Action B** (Specify a single annual catch limit (ACL) for yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico), as these actions greatly impact how the ACL will be structured and potential distributions of the ACL by region and/or sector. For discussion purposes, it is assumed that the following alternatives (**Alternative 2** through **5**) apply only to the South Atlantic. Once guidance has been provided by the Council on how to proceed regarding the preferred wording of the alternatives in **Action A** and/or **Action B**, a more detail analysis will be provided that examines the potential effects of **Action C**.

Alternative 1. (No Action).

South Atlantic: The current commercial sector allocation for yellowtail snapper is 52.56% of the total ACL and the current recreational sector allocation for yellowtail snapper is 47.44% of the total ACL.

The sector allocations were determined using the following equation:

Allocation by sector = (0.5 * catch history) + (0.5 * current trend)

Where catch history is equal to the average landings 1986-2008 and current trend is equal to average landings 2006-2008.

Gulf of Mexico: There are no sector specific allocations of the total ACL for yellowtail snapper.

Discussion: In the South Atlantic Region, **Alternative 1 (No Action)** would retain the current commercial sector allocation at 52.56% (1,596,510 lbs ww) of the total ACL and the current recreational sector allocation at 47.44% (1,440,990 lbs ww) of the total ACL (3,037,500 lbs ww). In the Gulf of Mexico Region, there would be no sector specific allocations to the total regional ACL (901,125 lbs ww). Landings by region and sector and how they apply to ACLs are provided in the discussion below.

South Atlantic Region:

Table 4 provides a retrospective analysis of commercial and recreational yellowtail snapper landings in the South Atlantic in comparison to the current (2017) ACLs. Note that this pairs landings to the 2017 ACL and does not pair landings with the respective ACLs at the time (if applicable). The commercial sector harvested all or nearly all of its current sector ACL each year from 2012-2015 and commercial harvest of yellowtail snapper was closed on October 31, 2015 for the remainder of the calendar year. There was no closure in 2016, however the fishing year changed to begin August 1st instead of January 1st. This was done to ensure the fishery was open when the value of yellowtail snapper was highest for commercial fishermen and if a closure occurs it would occur when yellowtail snapper spawn. Also of note is the increase in recreational landings of yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic. The recreational sector in the South Atlantic region has not come close to landing its current sector ACL, however both sectors seem to be exhibiting an increasing trend in landings of yellowtail snapper in recent years (**Table 4**).

Table 4. South Atlantic yellowtail snapper landings (lbs ww) by sector and percentage (%) of current (2017) ACLs harvested each year from 2005-2015. The current commercial ACL is 1,596,510 lbs ww, the recreational ACL is 1,440,990 lbs ww, and the total ACL is (3,037,500 lbs ww).

Year	Commercial landings (lbs ww)	% of Current (2017) Commercial ACL Harvested	Recreational Landings (lbs ww)	% of Current (2017) Recreational ACL Harvested	Total Landings	% of Current (2017) Total ACL Harvested
2005	814,899	51%	576,247	40%	1,391,146	46%
2006	694,958	44%	560,320	39%	1,255,278	41%
2007	628,608	39%	786,399	55%	1,415,007	47%
2008	910,323	57%	746,313	52%	1,656,636	55%
2009	1,085,281	68%	348,536	24%	1,433,817	47%
2010	1,126,231	71%	434,259	30%	1,560,490	51%
2011	1,125,220	70%	390,998	27%	1,516,218	50%
2012	1,439,586	90%	493,409	34%	1,932,995	64%
2013	1,328,931	83%	666,027	46%	1,994,958	66%
2014	1,575,956	99%	933,760	65%	2,509,716	83%
2015	1,691,807	106%	791,157	55%	2,482,964	82%
Average	1,129,255	71%	611,584	42%	1,740,839	57%

Commercial data from ACL_FILES_02072017.xlsx

Recreational data comes from MRFSSassess_rec81_16wv5_05Jan17w14and15LAcreel

Gulf of Mexico Region:

Table 5 provides a retrospective analysis of commercial and recreational yellowtail snapper landings in the Gulf of Mexico in comparison to the current ACLs. Note that this pairs landings to the 2017 ACL and does not pair landings with the respective ACLs at the time (if applicable). Yellowtail snapper landings in the Gulf of Mexico tend to fluctuate from year to year, with no apparent trend. In most years, the total current ACL of 901,125 lbs ww was not met, however there were a few exceptional years of increased landings in the region, most notably 2009, 2011, and 2013 (**Table 5**) when landings were 82 to 101% of the 2017 ACL.

Table 5. Gulf of Mexico yellowtail snapper landings (lbs ww) by sector and percentage (%) of current (2017) total ACL harvested each year from 2005-2015. There is no specified commercial or recreational ACL in the region. The total ACL is (901,125 lbs ww).

Year	Commercial landings (lbs ww)	% of Current (2017) Commercial ACL Harvested	Recreational Landings (lbs ww)	% of Current (2017) Recreational ACL Harvested	Total Landings	% of Current (2017) Total ACL Harvested
2005	510,437	N/A	31,176	N/A	541,613	60%
2006	542,237	N/A	21,477	N/A	563,714	63%
2007	350,079	N/A	19,726	N/A	369,805	41%
2008	460,569	N/A	6,056	N/A	466,625	52%
2009	891,925	N/A	19,250	N/A	911,175	101%
2010	569,275	N/A	8,783	N/A	578,058	64%
2011	769,729	N/A	25,560	N/A	795,289	88%
2012	630,984	N/A	5,087	N/A	636,071	71%
2013	734,112	N/A	6,991	N/A	741,103	82%
2014	467,941	N/A	21,536	N/A	489,477	54%
2015	507,398	N/A	78,833	N/A	586,231	65%
Average	584,971	N/A	22,225	N/A	607,197	67%

Commercial data from ACL_FILES_02072017.xlsx

Recreational data comes from MRFSSassess_rec81_16wv5_05Jan17w14and15LAcreel

Alternative 2. Maintain current sector ACLs, but revise AM to not close either sector until the total ACL is met.

Discussion: Since **Alternative 2** focuses on the specification of the accountability measure, this alternative was moved to **Action D** that would potentially revise the accountability measures for the yellowtail snapper fishery.

Alternative 3. Remove sector allocations in the South Atlantic. The current recreational and commercial sector ACLs will be combined into one stock ACL.

Discussion: **Alternative 3** was added should one council decide to adopt the other council's management of the ACL for yellowtail snapper. If the South Atlantic Council chooses to manage yellowtail snapper in a manner similar to the Gulf of Mexico, **Alternative 3** in this action would be appropriate. This alternative was included to encompass **Alternative 3** of **Action 1** (manage the total ACL under the Gulf of Mexico accountability measure with no sector allocations). Should the Gulf of Mexico Council choose to "manage the ACL under the South Atlantic sector allocations" (**Alternative 2** of **Action 1**), they would do so in their Reef Fish FMP Amendment.

Alternative 4. Modify sector ACLs allocations.

Sub-alternative 4a. Allocate 42 36% of the total ACL to the recreational sector.

Allocate 58 64% of the total ACL to the commercial sector. (Based on average landings from 2005-2014)

Sub-alternative 4b. Allocate 40 33% of the total ACL to the recreational sector. Allocate 60 67% of the total ACL to the commercial sector. (Based on 2013 landings).

Sub-alternative 4c. Allocate 30 26% of the total ACL to the recreational sector.

Allocate 70 74% of the total ACL to the commercial sector. (Based on 2012 landings)

Sub-alternative 4d. Allocate 28 26% of the total ACL to the recreational sector. Allocate 72 74% of the total ACL to the commercial sector. (Based on 2011 landings)

Sub-alternative 4e. Modify the sector allocations of the ACL for yellowtail snapper to the catch history being equal to the average landings from 1986-2015 and the current trend being equal to average landings from 2013-2015.

Discussion: **Alternative 4** would reallocate the total ACL to provide a larger portion to the commercial sector. The amount of ACL that is reallocated would be dependent upon which sub-alternative is chosen (**Table 6**). For **Sub-alternatives 4a-4e**, the revised allocations were based on the percent of the total yellowtail snapper landings that were attributed to each sector under the baseline years provided. The specified allocations only incorporate South Atlantic landings data. The changes (which are highlighted) in **Alternative 4** were a result of updated landings for yellowtail snapper that were made available in February 2017. These revised landings included noticeably higher landings for the commercial sector than were previously reported. Hence, the increase in allocation to the commercial sector in each sub-alternative.

Table 6. Commercial and Recreational ACLs (lbs ww) for South Atlantic yellowtail snapper under **Sub-alternatives 4a-4e**. The current total ACL for yellowtail snapper is 3,037,500 lbs ww, commercial ACL is 1,596,510 lbs ww, and the recreational ACL is 1,440,990 lbs ww.

Sub-alternative (Average landings based on these years)	Commercial ACL (lbs ww) / Percentage (%) of Total ACL	Recreational ACL (lbs ww) / Percentage (%) of Total ACL	Difference in commercial ACL (lbs ww)	Difference in recreational ACL (lbs ww)
Sub-alternative 4a (2005-2014)	1,941,793 lbs ww/ 64%	1,095,707 lbs ww/ 36%	+ 345,283 lbs ww	- 345,283 lbs ww
Sub-alternative 4b (2013)	2,023,415 lbs ww/ 67%	1,014,085 lbs ww/ 33%	+ 426,905 lbs ww	- 426,905 lbs ww
Sub-alternative 4c (2012)	2,262,160 lbs ww/ 74%	775,340 lbs ww/ 26%	+ 665,650 lbs ww	- 665,650 lbs ww
Sub-alternative 4d (2011)	2,262,160 lbs ww/ 74%	775,340 lbs ww/ 26%	+ 665,650 lbs ww	- 665,650 lbs ww
Sub-alternative 4e (update years used in the allocation equation)	1,883,250 lbs ww/ 62%	1,154,250 lbs ww/ 38%	+ 286,250 lbs ww	- 286,250 lbs ww

There are potential positive effects for the commercial sector from **Alternative 4** should the total ACL decrease due to a change in the status of the yellowtail snapper stock or if landings in the commercial sector increase. Assuming resource availability is not appreciably changed due to a shift in allocation and recreational landings do not reach the specified recreational ACLs, realized negative effects for the recreational sector may not occur. However, it should be noted that recreational yellowtail snapper landings in the South Atlantic over the past five years have generally increased. Additionally, recreational landings in 2014 and 2015 were above the specified recreational ACLs in **Sub-alternatives 4c** and **4d**. Should landings reach this level again under either of these two scenarios, an in-season closure would occur in the recreational sector, creating notable negative effects for the sector.

Alternative 5. Set aside a portion of the total ACL that can be used by either sector as a common pool allocation.

Sub-alternative 5a: 1% (30,375 lbs ww) of the total ACL becomes a common pool category. The remaining ACL (3,007,125 lbs ww) is split between the recreational sector (1,426,580 lbs ww) and the commercial sector (1,580,545 lbs ww) according to the current allocation.

Sub-alternative 5b: 2.5% (75,938 lbs ww) of the total ACL becomes a common pool category. The remaining ACL (2,961,562 lbs ww) is split between the recreational sector (1,404,965 lbs ww) and the commercial sector (1,556,597 lbs ww) according to the current allocation.

Sub-alternative 4c: 5% (151,875 lbs ww) of the total ACL becomes a common pool category. The remaining ACL (2,885,625 lbs ww) is split between the recreational sector (1,368,941 lbs ww) and the commercial sector (1,516,685 lbs ww) according to the current allocation.

Sub-alternative 5d: 10% (303,750 lbs ww) of the total ACL becomes a common pool category. The remaining ACL (2,733,750 lbs ww) is split between the recreational sector (1,296,891 lbs ww) and the commercial sector (1,436,859 lbs ww) according to the current allocation.

Discussion: **Alternative 5** would set aside a portion of the total ACL that can be used by either sector if needed to help prevent an in-season closure of harvest in the fishery. Under this scenario, a certain percentage of the total ACL is set aside into a “common pool” category for use by either sector. The size of the common pool ACL increases progressively from **Sub-alternative 5a** to **5d**, with the total ACL decreasing accordingly. The ACLs for both sectors are then re-set based on the remaining total ACL. The outcome will be reduced sector ACLs for both the recreational and commercial sectors, but either sector may use the common pool ACL if they exceed their respective sector ACLs and the common pool category ACL has not been exhausted (**Table 7**). Should this alternative be pursued by the South Atlantic Council, a revision of the accountability measures (in **Action D**) will be necessary.

Table 7. Commercial and Recreational ACLs for South Atlantic yellowtail snapper under **Sub-alternatives 5a-5d**. The current total ACL for yellowtail snapper is 3,037,500 lbs ww, commercial ACL is 1,596,510 lbs ww, and the recreational ACL is 1,440,990 lbs ww.

Sub-alternative	Common pool ACL (lbs ww) / Percentage (%) of Total ACL	Remaining Total ACL (lbs ww)	Commercial ACL (lbs ww)	Recreational ACL (lbs ww)	Commercial ACL + common pool ACL (lbs ww)*	Recreational ACL + common pool ACL (lbs ww)*
Sub-alternative 5a	30,375/ 1%	3,007,125	1,580,545	1,426,580	1,610,920	1,456,955
Sub-alternative 5b	75,938 / 2.5%	2,961,562	1,556,597	1,404,965	1,632,535	1,480,903
Sub-alternative 5c	151,875/ 5%	2,885,625	1,516,685	1,368,941	1,668,560	1,520,816
Sub-alternative 5d	303,750/ 10%	2,733,750	1,436,859	1,296,891	1,740,609	1,600,641

*Assumes only one sector uses common pool ACL.

Previous version with suggested changes:

Alternative 6: At the beginning of the fishing year, e Conditionally transfer for the for the next fishing year a certain percentage (Sub-alternatives 6a-6d) of the ACL from a sector that is not landing its ACL to the other sector that is landing all or almost all at least 90% of its ACL in the next previous fishing year, if the landings of the donating sector are below the minimum landings threshold is not met for the donating sector (Sub-alternatives 6e-6g). If the receiving sector does not land at least 90% of its unadjusted ACL, this transfer will not occur. The highest landings from the donating sector, based on available finalized data from the five years prior, will be used as criteria to determine if landings are below the minimum landings threshold for a allocation conditional transfers will to occur. Note: Total ACL=ABC=OY.

Suggested modified version without changes tracked:

Alternative 6: Conditionally transfer for the next fishing year a certain percentage (Sub-alternatives 6a-6d) of the ACL from a sector that is not landing its ACL to the other sector that is landing at least 90% of its ACL, if the landings of the donating sector are below the minimum landings threshold (Sub-alternatives 6e-6g). The highest landings from the donating sector, based on available finalized data from the five years prior, will be used as criteria to determine if landings are below the minimum landings threshold for a conditional transfer to occur.

Conditional ACL Transfer (MUST CHOOSE ONE):

Sub-alternative 6a. Conditionally transfer 5% of the unadjusted ACL of one sector to the other sector.

Sub-alternative 6b. Conditionally transfer 10% of the unadjusted ACL of one sector to the other sector.

Sub-alternative 6c. Conditionally transfer 15% of the unadjusted ACL of one sector to the other sector.

Sub-alternative 6d. Conditionally transfer 20% of the unadjusted ACL of one sector to the other sector.

Donating sector's ACL Minimum Threshold (MUST CHOOSE ONE), if the donating sector's landings are:

Sub-alternative 6e. less than 50% of its unadjusted ACL.

Sub-alternative 6f. less than 65% of its unadjusted ACL.

Sub-alternative 6g. less than 75% of its unadjusted ACL.

Discussion: This alternative allows the conditional transfer of ACL from one sector to the other with limitations on the amount of ACL that can be transferred from the donating sector (**Sub-alternatives 6a-6d**). Additionally, stipulations are in place that do not allow the transfer to take place unless the donating sector is under-harvesting its ACL by at least a given amount (**Sub-alternatives 6e-6g**) every year over the previous five years of available data. Also, the receiving sector must be harvesting at least 90% of its unadjusted ACL.

IPT comments:

- **Alternatives 4 and 5** may be cumbersome to implement in a timely manner due to time lags in the landings data.
- The IPT expressed some concern over modifying the sector allocations (**Alternative 4**). Issues raised included litigation risks, the controversial nature of such reallocations, including potential closures of the recreational fishery, and potential difficulty in the analysis of the alternatives.
- Consider the timing of revised MRIP data/recreational landings that are expected to be available in late 2017 or early 2018. This new information is expected to show highly increased estimates of recreational landings.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

OPTION 1. APPROVE THE WORDING OF ACTION C IN SNAPPER GROUPER AMENDMENT 44.
OPTION 2. MODIFY THE WORDING OF ACTION C IN SNAPPER GROUPER AMENDMENT 44 AND APPROVE THE MODIFIED WORDING.
OPTION 3. OTHERS??

Action D. Revise the accountability measures for yellowtail snapper.

Note: Due to the relatively complex nature of this action, each alternative is discussed individually.

Alternative 1 (No action).

South Atlantic Accountability Measures (AM)

The current commercial AM is an in-season closure if the commercial ACL is met or projected to be met. The commercial ACL is reduced by the amount of the commercial overage in the following fishing year only if the species is overfished and the total ACL is exceeded.

The current recreational AM is an in-season closure if the recreational ACL is met or projected to be met. A shortening of the recreational season may be triggered if the recreational ACL is exceeded, but only after recreational landings have been monitored for persistence in increased landings. The length of the recreational season is not reduced if the Regional Administrator determines the best available science shows it is not necessary. If a reduction is necessary, the recreational season may be shortened and the recreational ACL reduced in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage only if the species is overfished and the total ACL is exceeded.

Gulf of Mexico Accountability Measure (AM)

If the sum of the commercial and recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director (SRD), exceeds the stock ACL, then during the following fishing year, if the sum of commercial and recreational landings reaches or is projected to reach the stock ACL, the Assistant Administrator (AA) will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial and recreational sectors for the remainder of that fishing year.

Alternative 2. Implement the Gulf of Mexico AM in the South Atlantic region.

Discussion: This alternative was added should one council decide to adopt the other council's accountability measure for yellowtail snapper. If the South Atlantic Council chooses to adopt an accountability measure that is the same as that of the Gulf of Mexico Council, **Alternative 2** in this action would be appropriate. This alternative was included to encompass **Alternative 3** of **Action 1** ("manage the total ACL under the Gulf of Mexico accountability measure"). Should the Gulf of Mexico Council choose to "manage the ACL under the South Atlantic sector allocations and accountability measures" (**Alternative 2** of **Action 1**), they would need to do so in their Reef Fish FMP.

Alternative 3. Neither sector will face an in-season closure until the total ACL is met. Both sectors will close when the total ACL is met.

Discussion: **Alternative 3** was moved to **Action D** from **Action C**, as it focuses on the accountability measure rather than sector allocations or modifications of ACLs. In this scenario, harvest would not close for either sector even when one sector harvests more than its sector ACL as long as the other sector is under-harvesting its sector ACL by an equal or greater amount. The fishery would close for both sectors if the total ACL was met, regardless of which sector landed more fish.

Alternative 4. Neither the commercial or recreational sector will face an in-season closure unless the total ACL is met or projected to be met. Both sectors will close when the total ACL is met or projected to be met. However, if the landings of one or both sectors are estimated by the SRD to have exceeded the sector ACL then:

Sub-alternative 4a. The AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year, to reduce the length of the fishing season for the commercial sector that year by the amount estimated to prevent that sector's ACL from being exceeded.

Sub-alternative 4b. The AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year, to reduce the length of the fishing season for the recreational sector that year by the amount estimated to prevent that sector's ACL from being exceeded.

Sub-alternative 4c. Implement a trip limit for the commercial sector the following fishing year, if applicable, by the amount estimated to prevent that sector's ACL from being exceeded.

Sub-alternative 4d. Implement a bag limit reduction for the recreational sector the following fishing year, if applicable, by the amount estimated to prevent that sector's ACL from being exceeded.

Discussion: **Alternative 4** would alter the accountability measure to allow a sector to exceed its sector ACL for one year without facing a harvest closure (assuming the total ACL is not met). Neither sector would close until the total ACL is met. In the following fishing year, an accountability measure would be triggered (**Sub-alternatives 4a-4d**) that is intended to keep that sector from exceeding its sector allocation. The inspiration for including this accountability measure came from the Caribbean Council's AM for Reef Fish. The exact language from the Caribbean Council is as follows:

“Reef fish. If landings are estimated by the SRD to have exceeded the applicable species or species group sector ACL specified in this paragraph and the applicable total ACL as specified in paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of this section, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year, to reduce the length of the fishing season for the applicable species or species groups for that sector that year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the applicable species or species group sector ACL.”

Note that in the draft language provided, the sector specific accountability measure would be triggered if a sector exceeded its sector ACL. In the Caribbean Council's AM language, the sector specific accountability measure would be triggered if a sector exceeded its sector ACL and the total ACL is exceeded. Additionally, it is not specified whether the AMs will be dependent upon the status of the stock (overfishing and/or overfished). The Committee and South Atlantic Council may want to consider these aspects as well should this alternative remain in the Amendment.

Alternative 5. The commercial AM will include an in-season closure if the commercial ACL and the available common pool ACL is met or projected to be met. The commercial ACL is reduced by the amount of the commercial overage in the following fishing year only if the species is overfished and the total ACL is exceeded.

The recreational AM will include an in-season closure if the recreational ACL and the available common pool ACL is met or projected to be met. A shortening of the recreational season may be triggered if the recreational ACL and the available common pool ACL is exceeded, but only after recreational landings have been monitored for persistence in increased landings. The length of the recreational season is not reduced if the Regional Administrator determines the best available science shows it is not necessary. If a reduction is necessary, the recreational season may be shortened and the recreational ACL reduced in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage only if the species is overfished and the total ACL is exceeded.

Discussion: This alternative is being included to accompany **Alternative 5** in **Action C** (common pool allocation).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

OPTION 1. APPROVE THE WORDING OF ACTION D IN SNAPPER GROUPER AMENDMENT 44.

OPTION 2. MODIFY THE WORDING OF ACTION D IN SNAPPER GROUPER AMENDMENT 44 AND APPROVE THE MODIFIED WORDING.

OPTION 3. OTHERS??

Purpose and Need

Purpose for Action

The *purpose* of this amendment is to modify ~~sector allocations~~ jurisdictional allocations, and update the sector annual catch limits and ~~specify an ABC and ACL, and modify~~ accountability measures, in order to prevent overfishing and minimize the risk of in-season closures for ~~dolphin and~~ yellowtail snapper.

Need for Action

The *need* for the amendment is to increase the likelihood of achieving ~~better achieve~~ optimum yield for ~~dolphin and~~ yellowtail snapper while minimizing, to the extent possible, adverse social and economic effects due to ~~in-season~~ closures.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

OPTION 1. APPROVE THE PURPOSE AND NEED

OPTION 2. MODIFY THE PURPOSE AND NEED AND APPROVE THE MODIFIED WORDING

OPTION 3. OTHERS??

COMMITTEE ACTION: Approve changes to the actions and alternatives in SG Amendment 44

OPTION 1. APPROVE AMENDMENT 44 TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SNAPPER GROUPER FISHERY OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AS MODIFIED FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW AT THE JUNE 2016 COUNCIL MEETING.

OPTION 2. DO NOT APPROVE CHANGES TO SG 44.

OPTION 3. OTHERS??