SSC Report
June Council meeting
Snapper Grouper Committee
June 14, 2017

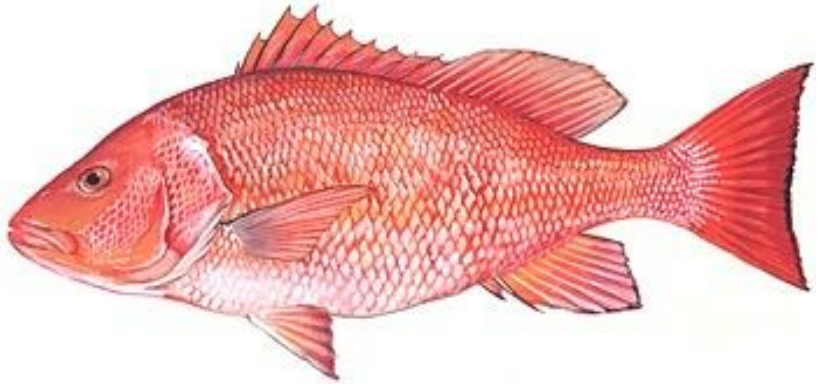
SSC meeting
April 25-27, 2017

Amendment 43

Red Snapper

Corrected Assessment
ABC Recommendations
Reporting
Descending devices

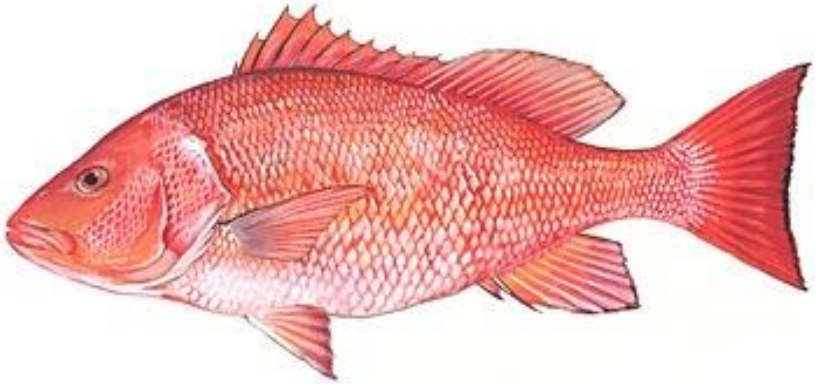
Red Snapper



Corrected assessment

- Headboat discard index was corrected.
- NMFS: Assessment still BSIA, but landings and discards too uncertain to track any projected ABC.
- Current projected yields still BSIA,
  but not useful for management and monitoring.

Red Snapper

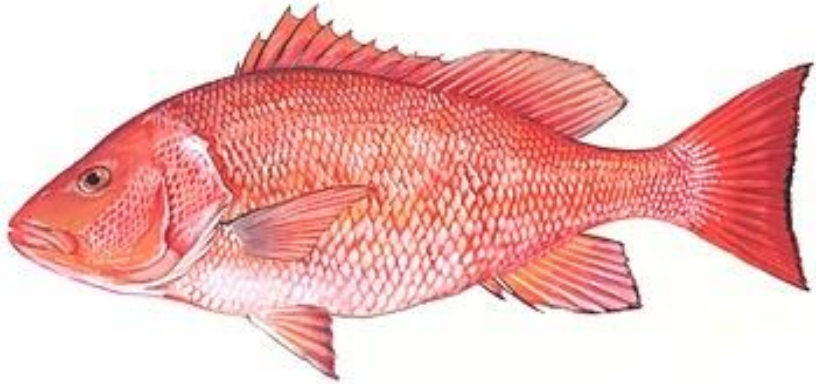


ABC

- SSC unable to provide ABC for Red Snapper.

- Continuing upward trend in
  fishery independent index =>
  high probability reflecting population size increase.

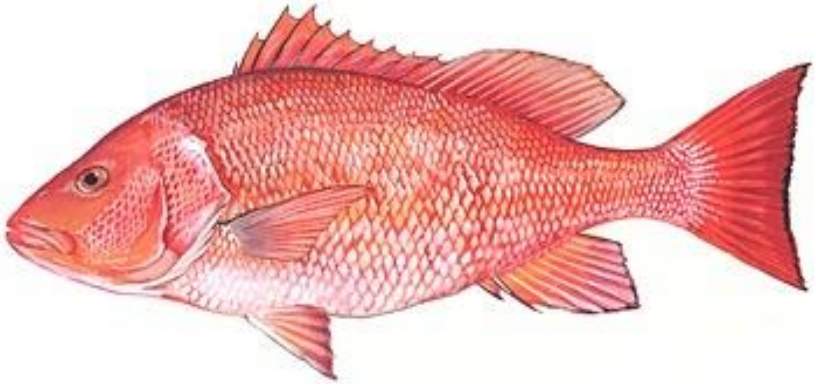
Red Snapper



Recommendation:

- Develop novel index-based approach.
- Will require external peer review.
- Supports attempts to apply DLM Tool Kit
  and newer DL methods.
- If short season is allowed: permit requirement =>
  Data collection by anglers
  Caution: unknown scientific and statistical issues.
- Develop sampling design for short season (ages).
- Prioritize development method for
  measuring fish in video survey.

Red Snapper

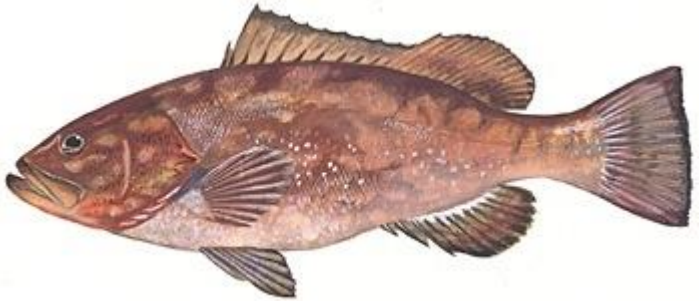


Reporting

- Success depends on compliance and enforcement.
- Timing of reporting is critical. Shorter = better.
- Develop verification methods (landings AND discards).
- Consideration to target species when subsampling fishers

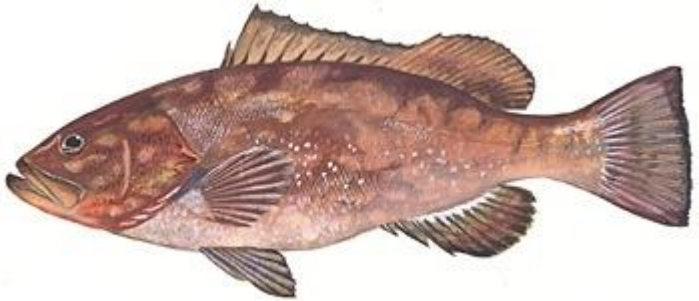
Descending devices

- SSC strongly supports use of descending devices
- Compliance is key, consider incentives.
- Instruction and outreach => Citizen Science project.



Red Grouper Assessment

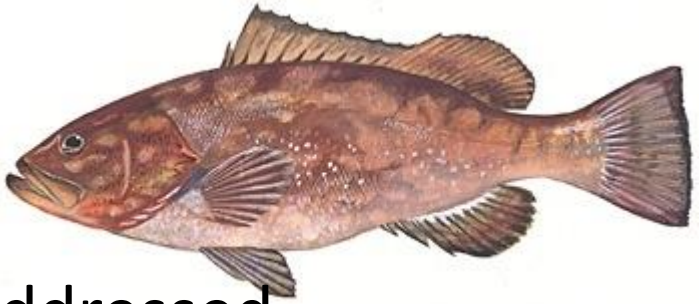
Red Grouper



Review

- ToRs addressed
- Assessment represents BSIA.
- Assessment robust and provides adequate basis for stock status and fishing level recommendations.

Red Grouper



Review:

- Uncertainties were appropriately addressed.
- M, h, and others well characterized in MCB.
- Landings characterized in MCB, but used CV is smaller than actual CV =>

  overly narrow range of uncertainty.
- RG in the SA may not be independent from Gulf.
- Episodic recruitment unknown & source of uncertainty:

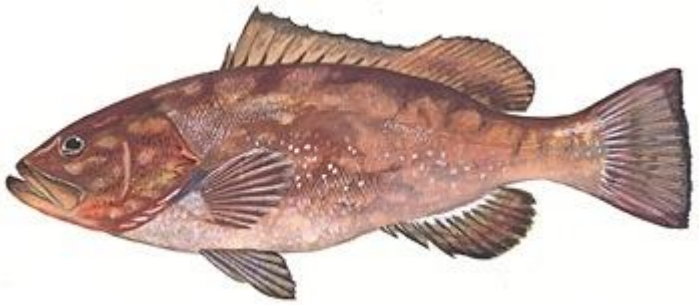
  Removing highest recruitment:

  little effect on stock status.

  Multiple recruitment scenarios presented to

  address recruitment uncertainty in projections.

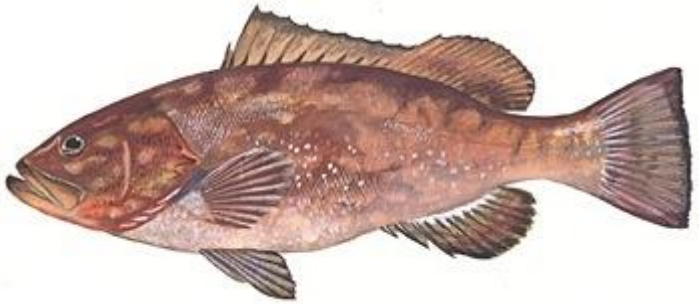
Red Grouper



Rebuilding

- Rebuilding not progressed as projected.
- Lower than expected recruitment.
- S19 projections => optimistic, unrealized recruitment.
- Uncertainty in connectivity between GOM and SA, and episodic recruitment may lead to incorrect status conclusions.

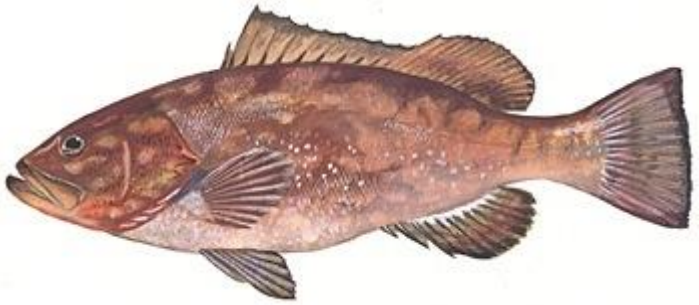
Red Grouper



Fishing level recommendations

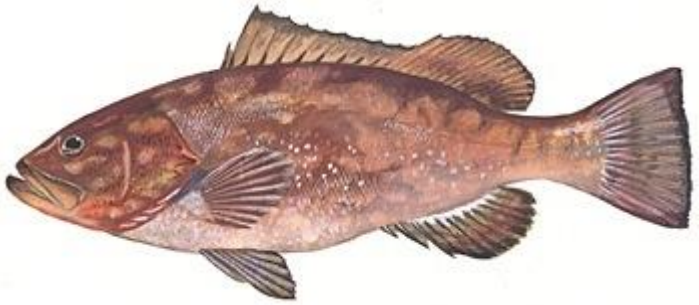
- ABC control rule: P* = 27.5% and $P_{Rebuild}$ = 72.5%.
- Rebuilding not possible within timeline (2020), even with F=0.
- Under low recruitment and F=0, rebuilding not possible until 2030.
- Management in 2019: At F=75% F_{MSY} and $P_{Rebuild}$ = 50%: stock rebuilt by 2032 (average recruitment)
- $P_{Rebuild}$ = 72.5% : stock rebuilt by 2037 (average recruitment by 2019).

Red Grouper



- Update or Standard assessment within 3-5 years
  (based on availability of new information)
- Monitor discards, age-1 indices, size and age structure
  => Indicators of recruitment.
- Increased landings (now below ACLs) =>
  Indicator for possible higher abundance
- Fishery Performance Reports helpful.
- Protect SSB until higher recruitment is realized.

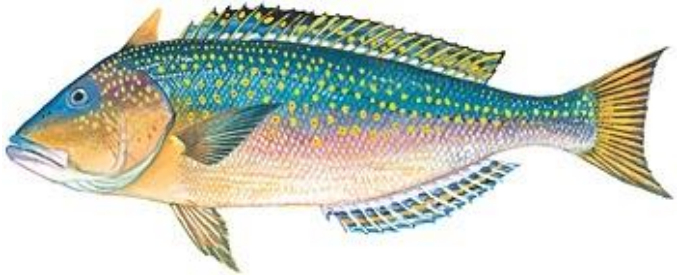
Red Grouper



Research Recommendations:

- Stock structure and early life history => recruitment
- Connectivity GOM and SA stocks.
- Compare age structure northern and southern areas in SA.
- Changes in sex ratio and size and age at maturity and transition.
- Investigate other methods to estimate M.
- Explore episodic recruitment events.

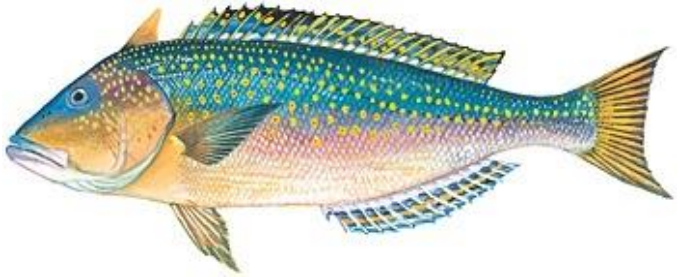
Golden Tilefish ABC



Updated projections and risk

- P* projections very similar.
- By definition: P*=0.3 less risk than higher P*.
- Assessment indicated stock close to overfished.
- No compelling new information available.

Golden Tilefish ABC



Recommendations:

- Change previously provided recommendation unwarranted.
- Use ABC CR rather than suite of ABCs.
  Recommendations should be based on yield projections with appropriate P*,
  not selecting output from various P* runs.
- Strong support for Standard Assessment ASAP!
  Incorporate: Changes in selectivity.
  Differences in modeling techniques.
  Possible recruitment changes.

ABC Control Rule

ABC Control rule

- CR adjustments implemented in comprehensive amendment.
- Add section with conditions under which ABC recommendation can be remanded back to the SSC by the Council.

Modify CR

- Support overall proposed format.
- All quantitatively assessed stocks in Category 1.
- All qualitatively assessed stocks in Category 2.
- All stocks with only catch data in Category 3.
- Data Workshop can recommend Category.

ABC Control Rule

Risk tolerance

- Council specify range of risk of overfishing for CR.
- Incorporate biology.
- PSA: if used, evaluation by SSC when reviewing TOR.

Multi year ABC

- Support multi-year ABC projections =>
  reduced management.
- Caution using simple annual ABC average.
- Monitoring conducted annually to evaluate
  ABC effectiveness

ABC Control Rule

Phase-in

- Consider both biological and socio-economic factors.
- Stock must be above MSST for phase-in.

Rebuilding stocks

- Clarify CR concerning setting OFL/ABC for rebuilding stocks.

ABC Control Rule

Carry-over

- More appropriate for stocks with lower M,
  not for those with higher M.
- Do not consider within a rebuilding plan.
- Appropriate in fisheries close to ACLs,
  not if well below ACLs.

CR deviations

- Add text clarifying that SSC can deviate, provided strong justification (NS1).

Fishery Performance Reports

- Very useful and important for interpreting landings trends and assessments results.

- Helpful that it separates individual opinion from AP observations!

- Document current conditions => historic record => helps with shifting baselines.