



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Amendment 44

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

Public Hearings

Specify a single Acceptable Biological Catch and Annual Catch Limit for yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico as well as modify sector allocations and accountability measures for yellowtail snapper.

Prepared by John Hadley

January 2017



....To Conserve and Manage

Background

- Yellowtail snapper are considered a single stock extending across South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Council management jurisdictions.
- Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) is split between the Councils:
 - 75% of the ABC to South Atlantic
 - 25% of the ABC to Gulf of Mexico
- The stock is neither overfished nor experiencing overfishing.



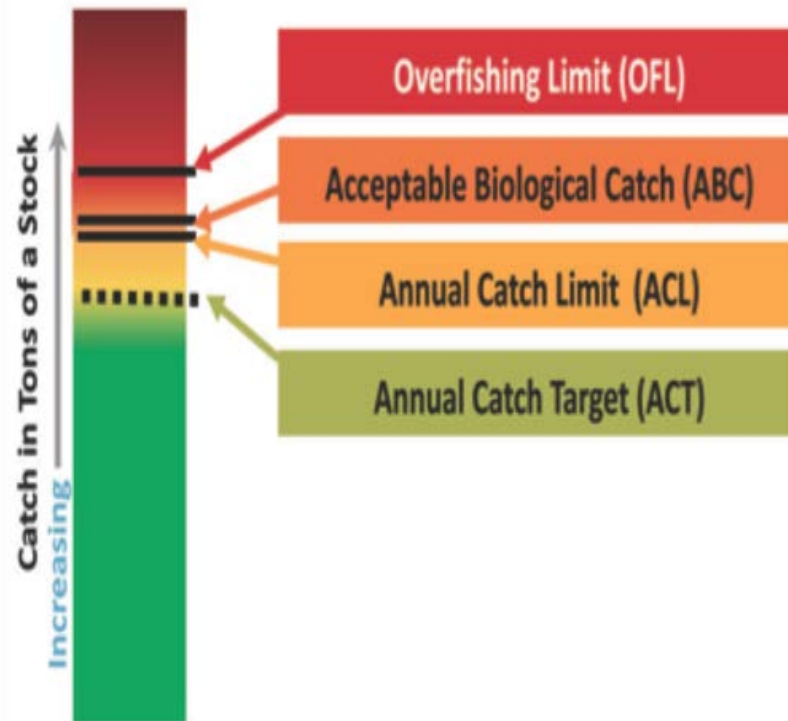
What is an ABC, ACL, and AM?

- **ABC= Acceptable Biological Catch**
 - The ABC is defined as the level of a stock or stock complex's annual catch that accounts for the scientific uncertainty in the estimate of the Overfishing Limit and any other scientific uncertainty.
- **ACL= Annual Catch Limit**
 - An ACL is the level of annual catch of a stock that, if met or exceeded, triggers some corrective action.
- **AM= Accountability Measure**
 - An AM is a corrective action or management control, established by the Council, to prevent ACLs from being exceeded and to correct overages of ACLs if they occur.

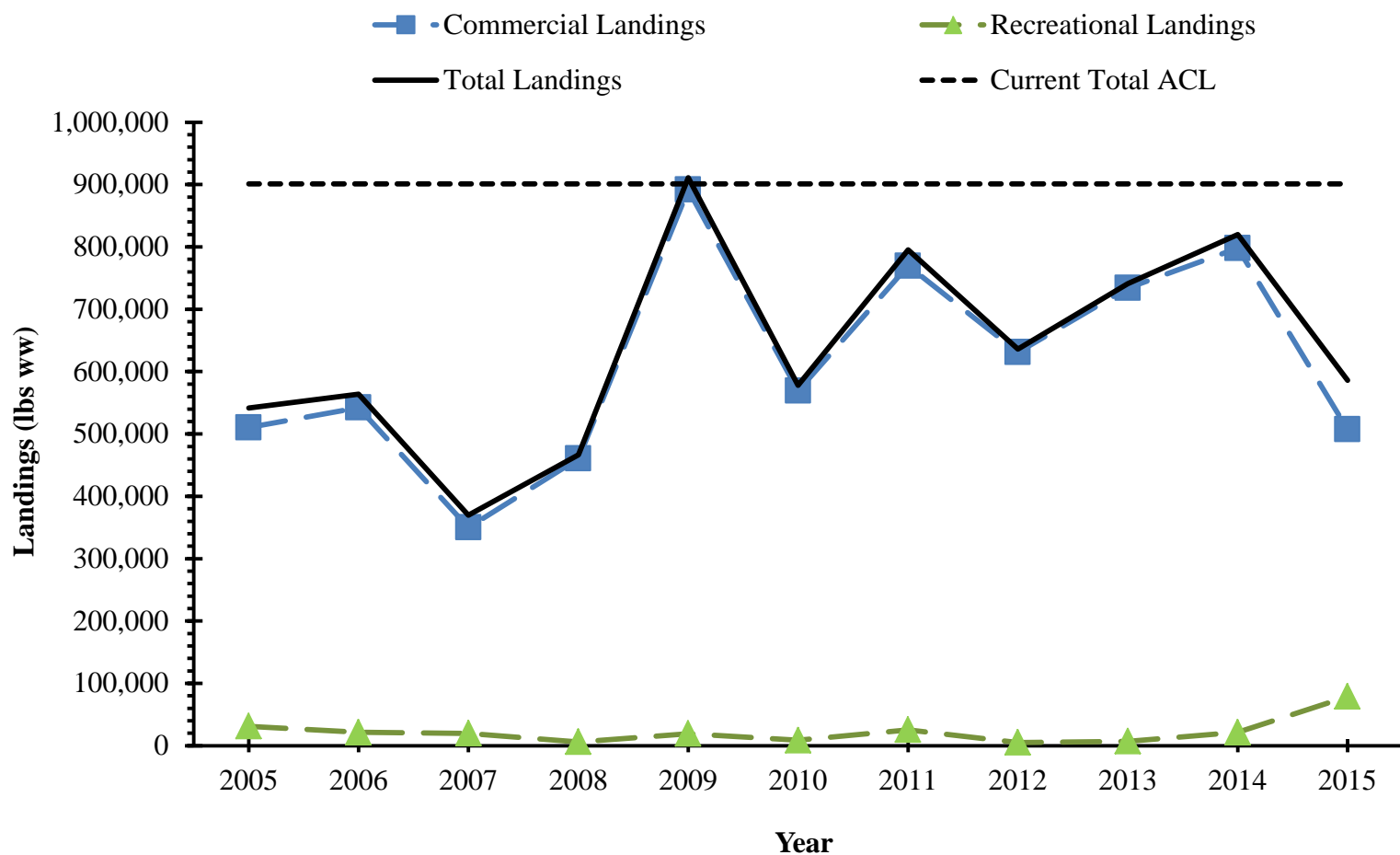


Reference Points

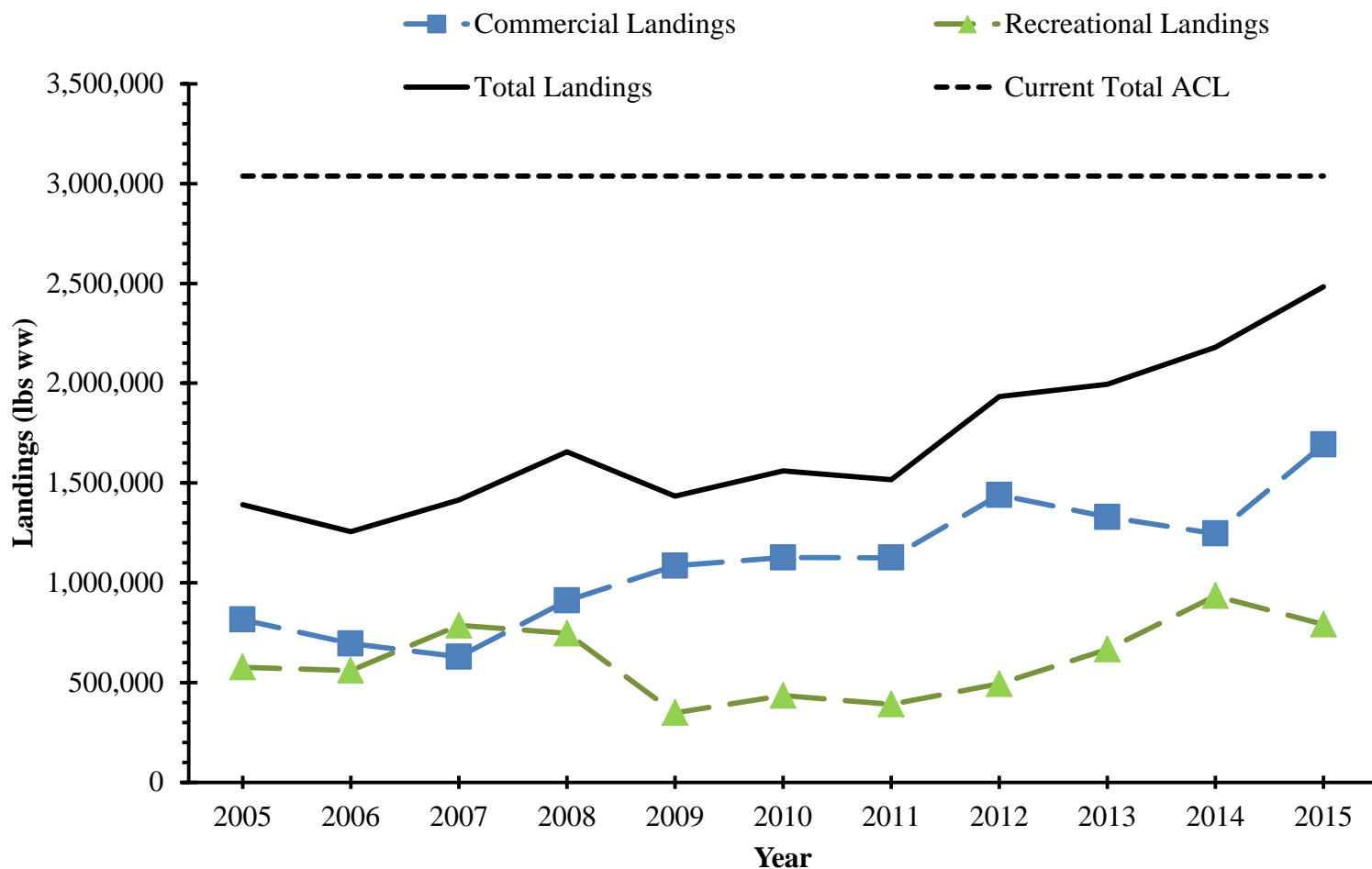
$$\text{OFL} \geq \text{ABC} \geq \text{ACL} \geq \text{ACT}$$



What are the Yellowtail Snapper Landings Trends in the Gulf of Mexico?

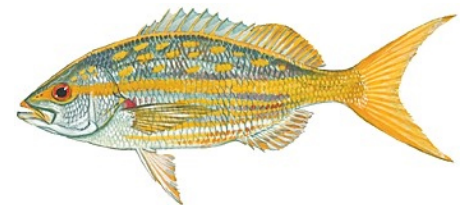


What are the Yellowtail Snapper Landings Trends in the South Atlantic?



Background Continued

- In 2015, commercial landings exceeded the sector annual catch limit (ACL) and commercial harvest was closed on October 31, 2015.
- In the same year, the recreational sector did not harvest 45% of the recreational sector ACL, resulting in approximately 550,000 lbs ww of the total ACL went unharvested.



Why is the Council Taking Action?

- In response to the commercial closure in the South Atlantic coinciding with uncaught quota, the South Atlantic Council is considering taking action.
- Options to allow flexibility in managing the ACL for yellowtail snapper and to prevent or reduce the length of harvest closures in the commercial yellowtail snapper fishery.



What Would Amendment 44 Do?

1. Consolidate the yellowtail snapper acceptable biological catch (ABC) and annual catch limits (ACLs) for the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic. (**Action 1**)
2. Allow quota sharing between the commercial and recreational sectors or reallocate a larger portion of the total ACL to the commercial sector based on observed landings in the yellowtail snapper fishery. (**Action 2**)



Overview of Proposed Actions and Alternatives



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.

Alternative 1 (No Action)

South Atlantic

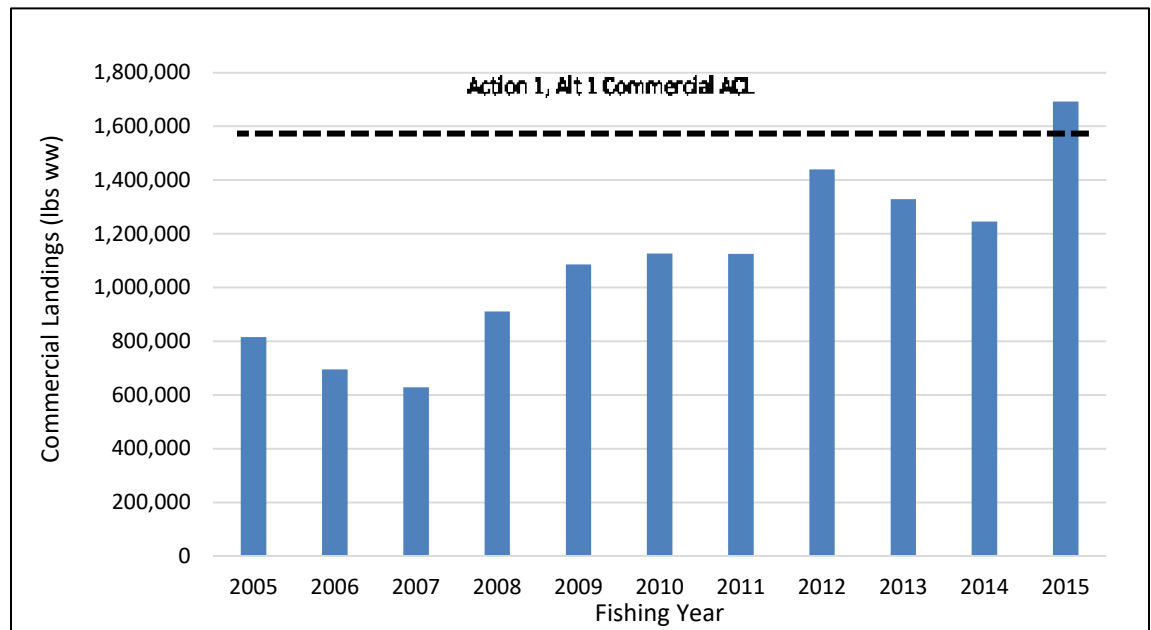
- ABC= 3,037,500 lbs ww
- ACL= ABC
- Commercial allocation = 52.56% (1,596,510 lbs ww) of the total ACL
- Recreational allocation = 47.44% (1,440,990 lbs ww) of the total ACL
- Separate sector accountability measures

Gulf of Mexico

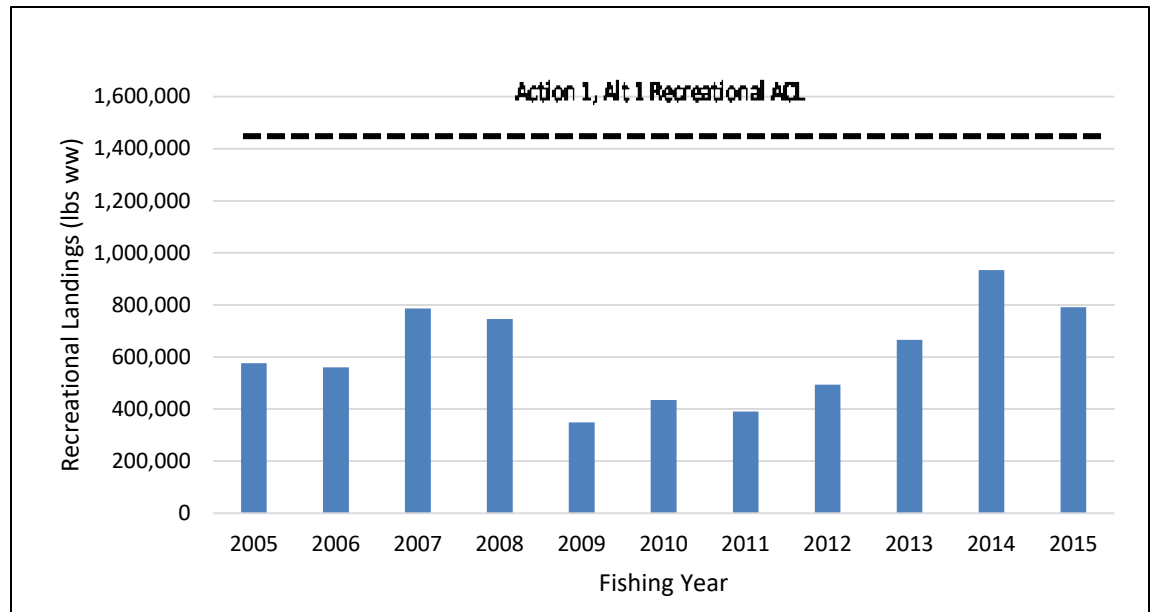
- ABC= 1,012,500 lbs ww
- ACL = 89% of ABC (901,125 lbs ww)
- No sector allocations
- Single accountability measure that covers both sectors



- Current Commercial Sector ACL in the South Atlantic:



- Current Recreational Sector ACL in the South Atlantic:



How does the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Councils Determine the Division of the ABC?

- Based on the Florida Keys (Monroe County) jurisdictional boundary between the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic regions for yellowtail snapper.

South Atlantic = 75% of ABC and **Gulf of Mexico** = 25% of ABC

- This was established by using 50% of average landings from 1993-2008 + 50% of average landings from 2006-2008.



How does the South Atlantic Council Determine the Sector Allocations?

- The South Atlantic Council set the yellowtail snapper sector allocations using the following method:

Sector allocation = (0.5 * catch history) + (0.5 * current trend)

- The *catch history* = average landings 1986-2008 and the *current trend* = average landings 2006-2008.



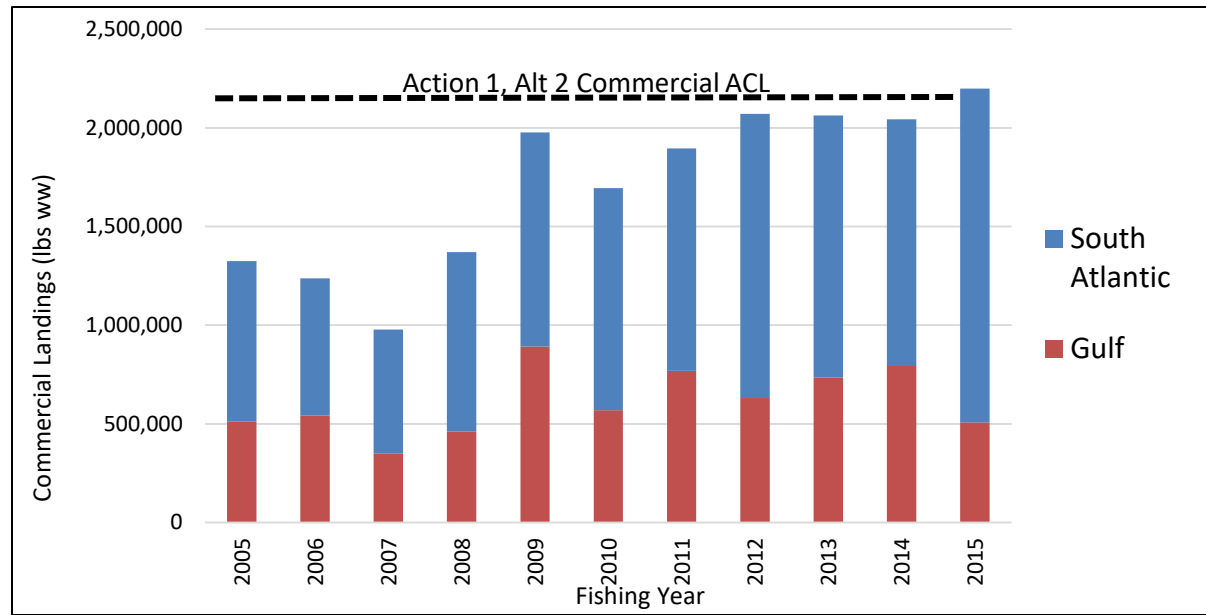
ACTION 1. Specify a single acceptable biological catch (ABC) and annual catch limit (ACL) for yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

Alternative 2

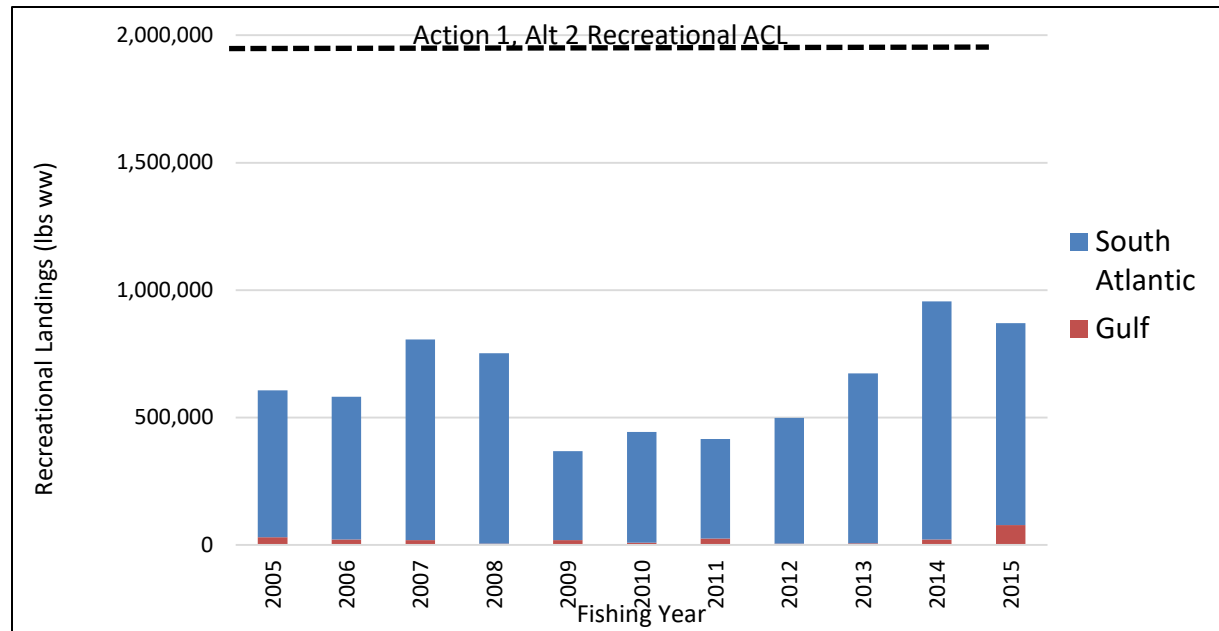
- Manage yellowtail snapper under a single combined ABC and ACL for the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions but manage the ACL under the South Atlantic sector allocations and accountability measures.
 - Separate sector allocations
 - Separate sector accountability measures



- Potential Commercial Sector ACL:



- Potential Recreational Sector ACL:



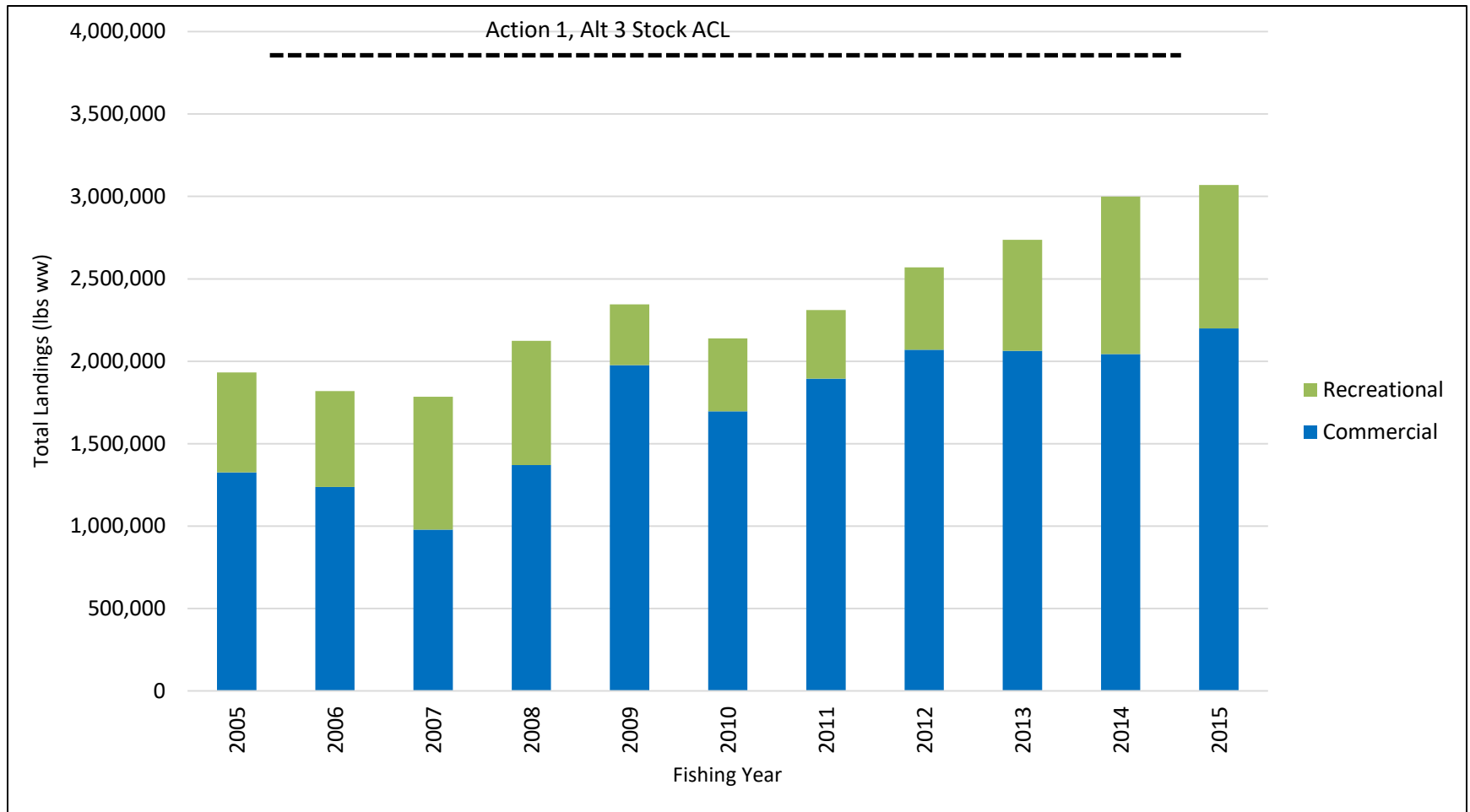
ACTION 1. Specify a single acceptable biological catch (ABC) and annual catch limit (ACL) for yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

Alternative 3

- Manage yellowtail snapper under a single combined ABC and ACL for the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions but manage the ACL under the Gulf of Mexico accountability measure.
 - No sector allocations
 - Single accountability measure that applies to both sectors



Combined Commercial and Recreational Sector Landings under the Potential ACL



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

Alternative 1 (No Action)

- Commercial allocation = 52.56% (1,596,510 lbs ww) of the total ACL.
- Recreational allocation = 47.44% (1,440,990 lbs ww) of the total ACL.
- Separate sector accountability measures.



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

Alternative 2 (Close when Total ACL is met)

- **Maintain current sector ACLs, but revise accountability measure to not close harvest for either sector until the total ACL is met.**
 - Harvest would not close when one sector meets or exceeds its ACL as long as the other sector is under-harvesting its 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.
 - Similar to current Gulf accountability measure.



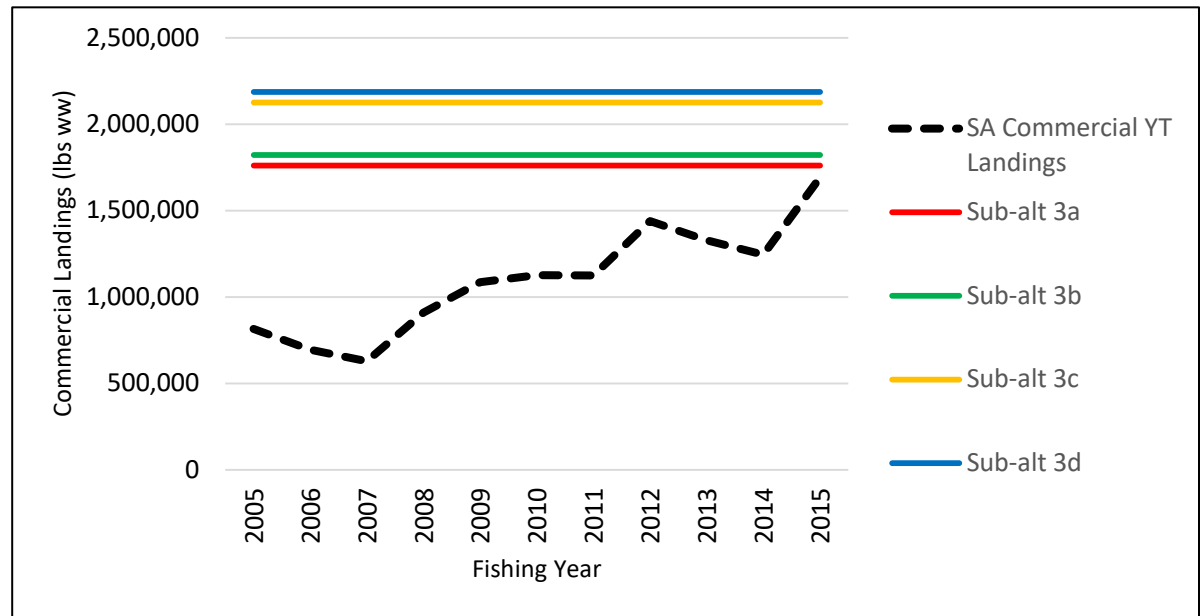
ACTION 2. Revise sector allocations and accountability measures for South Atlantic yellowtail snapper.

Alternative 3 (Modify sector allocations)

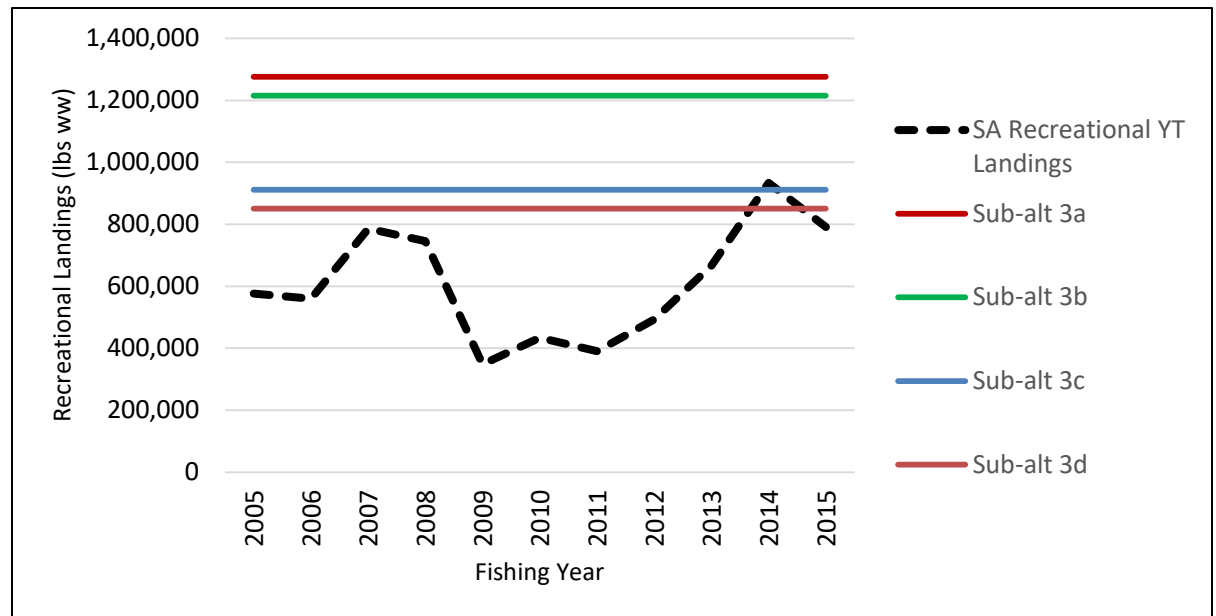
- **Modify sector ACLs.**
 - Allocates a larger portion of the total ACL to the commercial sector.
 - Sub-alternatives for the commercial ACL
 - 58% of the total ACL (1,761,750 lbs ww)
 - *166,240 additional lbs (Sub-Alternative 3a)*
 - 60% of the total ACL (1,822,500 lbs ww)
 - *226,990 additional lbs (Sub-Alternative 3b)*
 - 70% of the total ACL (2,126,250 lbs ww)
 - *530,740 additional lbs (Sub-Alternative 3c)*
 - 72% of the total ACL (2,187,000 lbs ww)
 - *591,490 additional lbs (Sub-Alternative 3d)*



- Potential Commercial Sector ACL:



- Potential Recreational Sector ACL:



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

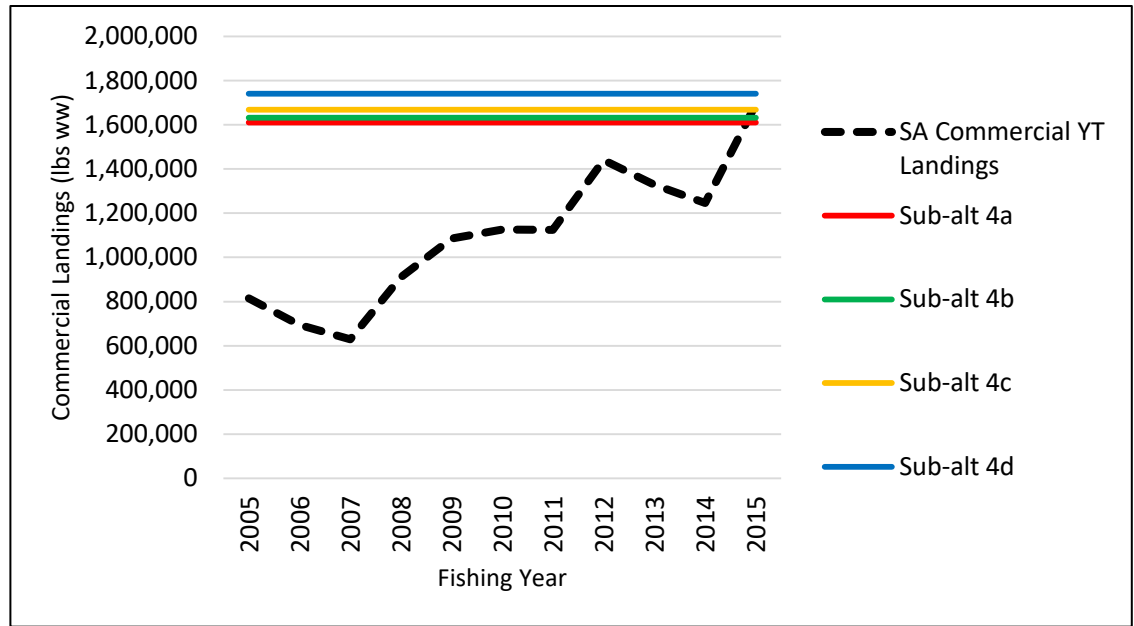
Alternative 4 (Common pool allocation)

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

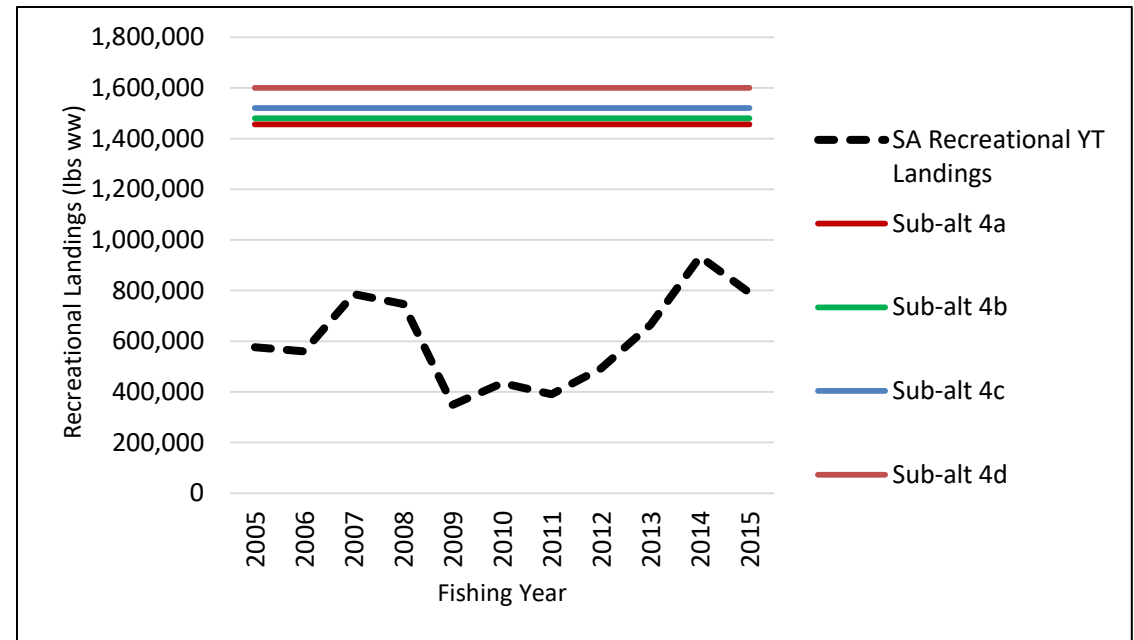
	Common pool ACL (lbs ww) / Percentage (%) of Total ACL	Remaining Total ACL (lbs ww)	Commercial ACL (lbs ww)	Recreational ACL (lbs ww)	Commercial ACL + common pool ACL (lbs ww)	Recreational ACL + common pool ACL (lbs ww)
Sub-alternative 4a	30,375/ 1%	3,007,125	1,580,545	1,426,580	1,610,920	1,456,955
Sub-alternative 4b	75,938 / 2.5%	2,961,562	1,556,597	1,404,965	1,632,535	1,480,903
Sub-alternative 4c	151,875/ 5%	2,885,625	1,516,685	1,368,941	1,668,560	1,520,816
Sub-alternative 4d	303,750/ 10%	2,733,750	1,436,859	1,296,891	1,740,609	1,600,641



- Potential Commercial Sector ACL:



- Potential Recreational Sector ACL:



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

Alternative 5 (Conditional Transfer)

- **Conditionally transfer a certain percentage of the ACL from a sector that is not landing its ACL (donating sector) to the other sector that is landing all or almost all of its ACL (receiving sector).**
 - Transfer options include 5%, 10%, 15%, and 20% of donating sector's unadjusted ACL (*Sub-alternatives 5a-5d*).
 - Receiving sector must land at least 90% of its ACL.
 - Minimum threshold for whether the transfer occurs is based upon the donating sector's landings.
 - <50%, <65%, <75% of sector ACL (*Sub-alternatives 5e-5g*)
 - If threshold is exceeded in the most recent 5 years of available data, then transfer will not occur.



Potential Timing

- Public hearings – January/February 2017
- The Council will review public hearing comments & make needed changes – March 2017
- The Council may take final action to approve for Secretarial review – June 2017



How Do I Comment?

- The Council requests that written comments be submitted using the online public comment form for each amendment available from the Public Hearings and Scoping Meetings page at <http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/public-hearing-and-scoping-meeting-schedule/>.
- Comments submitted using the online comment form are immediately posted to the Council's website and available for all Council members and the public to view.
- Written comments must be received by 5:00 PM on **February 10, 2017**.
- Comments by mail: Send comments to Gregg Waugh, Executive Director, SAFMC, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405.
- Comments by fax: 843/769-4520.
- View presentations and access the public hearing and scoping documents from the Public Hearing and Scoping Meeting page at the link above or contact the Council office at 843/571-4366 (toll free 866/SAFMC-10).
- For questions contact: John Hadley (john.hadley@safmc.net)



Amendment 44 Public Hearings

<p>January 12, 2017 – Scoping Webinar for Vision Blueprint Amendments only</p>	<p>January 17, 2017 – Question & Answer Webinar (Amendments 43 & 44)</p>
<p>January 18, 2017 – Listening Station (Am 44) Harvey Government Center 1200 Truman Ave.; 2nd floor Key West, FL 33040 Phone: 305-295-4385</p>	<p>January 19, 2017 – Listening Station (Am 44) Hyatt Place Marathon 1996 Overseas Hwy Marathon, FL 33050 Phone: 305-743-1234</p>
<p>January 23, 2017 Lexington Hotel & Conference Center 1515 Prudential Drive Jacksonville, FL 32207 Phone: 904-396-5100</p>	<p>January 24, 2017 Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront 1550 North Atlantic Avenue Cocoa Beach, FL 32931 Phone: 321-799-0003</p>
<p>January 25, 2017 Flagler Place 201 SW Flagler Avenue Stuart, FL 34994 Phone: 772-985-3863</p>	<p>January 26, 2017 Hilton Key Largo 97000 Overseas Highway Key Largo, FL 33037 Phone: 305-852-5553</p>
<p>January 30, 2017 Murrells Inlet Community Center 4450 Murrells Inlet Road Murrells Inlet, SC 29576 Phone: 843-651-4152</p>	<p>January 31, 2017 Crowne Plaza 4831 Tanger Outlet Boulevard Charleston, SC 29418 Phone: 843-744-4422</p>
<p>February 1, 2017 Richmond Hill City Center 520 Cedar Street Richmond Hill, GA 31324 Phone: 912-445-0043</p>	<p>February 6, 2017 Hilton Wilmington Riverside 301 N. Water Street Wilmington, NC 28401 Phone: 910-763-5900</p>
<p>February 7, 2017 Hatteras Community Center 57689 NC Highway 12 Hatteras, NC 27943 Phone: 252-986-2161/252-986-2109</p>	<p>February 8, 2017 Doubletree by Hilton Atlantic Beach Oceanfront 2717 W. Fort Macon Road Atlantic Beach, NC 28512 Phone: 252-240-1155</p>



Questions?

