

Management

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

GOAL: Adopt management strategies that rebuild and maintain fishery resources, adapt to regional differences in the fishery, and consider the social and economic needs of fishing communities.		
Objective 1. Develop management measures that consider sub-regional differences and issues within the fishery.	Strategy 1.1 Consider development of different types of quota-based management systems.	
		Action 1.1.a Explore design and development of species specific quota-based management. Action 1.1.b Consider state by-state commercial quotas for vermilion snapper. Consider state by-state recreational quotas for black sea bass (R, FH). Action 1.1.c Consider sub-regional management for deepwater species to include but not limited to snowy grouper, blueline tilefish and golden tilefish. Action 1.1.d Consider design and development of a voluntary sector share management system. Action 1.1.e Consider design and development of a state-by-state quota-based management system for the recreational sector. Action 1.1.f Consider design and development of community-based quota management for the commercial and for-hire sectors. Action 1.1.g Consider design and development of an individual quota management system.
	Strategy 1.2 Identify the design elements needed for development of different types of quota-based management systems.	
		Action 1.2.a Consider quota transfer by subregion as a system design element. Action 1.2.b Consider using average landings over a certain time period as a system design element. Action 1.2.c Develop criteria for species to consider under a quota-based management system. Action 1.2.d Consider allowing the sub-region (however defined) to set landings limits and openings/closures. Action 1.2.e Manage sub-regions by effort. Action 1.2.f Use biogeographic boundaries instead of state boundaries. Action 1.2.g Set boundaries based on the fishery (i.e., species or categories).
	Strategy 1.3 Consider use of alternative sub-regional management strategies that are not quota-based.	
		Action 1.3.a Use staggered spawning season closures to address latitudinal differences in spawning

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			activity.
		Action 1.3.b	Set regulations based on designated sub-regions (areas/zones), not on quota allocations.
		Action 1.3.c	Set state-by-state regulations for the recreational sector.
		Action 1.3.d	Apply sub-regional management strategies seasonally based on fish availability.
Objective 2. Develop innovative management measures that allow consistent access to the fishery for all sectors.	Strategy 2.1 Support development of management approaches that address retention of snapper grouper species.		
		Action 2.1.a.	Use the step-down approach when a species is approaching the ACL. (Commercial –trip limits; Recreational/For-Hire – bag limits)
		Action 2.1.b.	Consider smaller trip limits and bag limits for certain species.
		Action 2.1.c.	Re-evaluate the grouper aggregate and manage based on area.
		Action 2.1.d.	Institute commercial trip limits and recreational bag limits for those snapper grouper species that do not have limits.
		Action 2.1.e.	Use a bag limit step down as a post-season accountability measure for the recreational sector.
		Action 2.1.f.	Consider number of days allowed to fish vs. bag limits for the recreational sector.
	Strategy 2.2 Support development of management approaches that address the amount of effort in the snapper grouper fishery.		
		Action 2.2.a	Require a recreational stamp/license for the snapper grouper fishery.
		Action 2.2.b	Implement a limited number of days for fishing for deepwater species. (R, FH)
		Action 2.2.c	Reduce effort/permits in the commercial sector.
		Action 2.2.d	Evaluate the use of days-at-sea for the commercial sector.
		Action 2.2.e	Evaluate the level of overcapitalization in the fishery (carrying capacity); <i>What are actual profits? How much resource is available? What is the gap?</i>
	Strategy 2.3 Support development of management approaches that account for the seasonality of the snapper grouper fishery.		
		Action 2.3.a	Establish a recreational season for harvest of deepwater species by region.
		Action 2.3.b	Establish a “time-out” period of no fishing for the recreational fishery.
		Action 2.3.c	Use depth to set zones for recreational harvest of snapper grouper species.
		Action 2.3.d	Expand the use of split seasons for the commercial fishery.
		Action 2.3.e	Establish seasons for co-occurring species

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			and stagger the seasons (use depth as a criteria – mid-shelf and deepwater).
		Action 2.3.f	Establish alternating 2-week windows for fishing (by sub-region)
		Action 2.3.g	Adjust the seasonal spawning closure for shallow water grouper and consider; shortening by 1-month; allow fishing but reduce bag limit; or a rolling closure throughout the region.
		Action 2.3.h	Shift the recreational red snapper season outside of their known spawning season.
		Strategy 2.4	Support development of management approaches that consider flexibility in setting Annual Catch Limits.
		Action 2.4.a	Shift sector allocations in—season.
		Action 2.4.b	Use adaptive management for almaco jack and rudderfish to slowly increase the ACL.
		Action 2.4.c	Use multi-year ACLs that use blocks of years to manage the ACL for a species.
		Action 2.4.d	Develop multi-year catch specifications for the commercial and recreational sector.
		Action 2.4.e	Ensure more data-poor species use the ORCs process.
		Strategy 2.5	Consider development of management approaches based on quota-management.
		Action 2.5.a	Evaluate the use and design of individual quota programs for the commercial and for-hire sectors.
		Action 2.5.b	Evaluate the use and design of sector share programs/cooperatives.
		Action 2.5.c	Evaluate the use and design of community-based quota management programs.
		Strategy 2.6	Consider development of alternative management approaches to expand access to the fishery.
	Action 2.6.a	Investigate expansion of fisheries for under-utilized species.	
	Action 2.6.b	Evaluate applicability and develop policies for aquaculture of snapper grouper species in the region.	
	Action 2.6.c	Evaluate the use of harvest tags for specific snapper grouper species.	
Objective 3. Ensure that management decisions help maximize social and economic opportunity for all sectors.	Strategy 3.1	Support development of management approaches that assist fishery-dependent businesses to operate efficiently and profitably.	
		Action 3.1.a	Consider market availability when making management decisions.
		Action 3.1.b	Consider predictability in for-hire business planning when making management decisions.
		Action 3.1.c	Consider non-traditional stakeholders/businesses when making management decisions (chefs, eco-tourism operators, bait/tackle shops, marinas)

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<p>Objective 4. Develop management measures that reduce and mitigate discards.</p>	<p>Strategy 4.1</p>	<p>Consider management approaches where fishery closures are based on Annual Catch Limits, seasons, and spawning in order to minimize bycatch of snapper grouper species.</p>
		<p>Action 4.1.a Consider closures based on “trigger species.”</p> <p>Action 4.1.b Use spawning Special Management Zones.</p> <p>Action 4.1.c Use time-area closures (either by region or a specific area).</p> <p>Action 4.1.d Consider a spawning closure for all snapper grouper species with a low ACL.</p> <p>Action 4.1.e Set a fishing season at the beginning of the fishing year with known open and close dates.</p> <p>Action 4.1.f Set a recreational fishing season for co-occurring species.</p> <p>Action 4.1.g Set a commercial season for vermilion, gray triggerfish, and red porgy with open and close dates.</p> <p>Action 4.1.h Set a season for deepwater species and shallow water species by area.</p> <p>Action 4.1.i Commercial season ends when any ACL is met on any snapper grouper species.</p>
	<p>Strategy 4.2</p>	<p>Consider management approaches that address the impact of depth on bycatch of snapper grouper species.</p>
		<p>Action 4.2.a Require full retention of deepwater species.</p> <p>Action 4.2.b Establish a season for deepwater species.</p> <p>Action 4.2.c Require Vessel Monitoring Systems for all sectors to obtain data on depth to monitor catch composition and location.</p> <p>Action 4.2.d Use zone-based management that is set by depth.</p> <p>Action 4.2.e Consider time/area closure for all snapper grouper species (whole region or area specific)</p>
	<p>Strategy 4.3</p>	<p>Reconsider management strategies that use size limits to reduce bycatch.</p>
		<p>Action 4.3.a Re-evaluate and change size limits on a species by species basis.</p> <p>Action 4.3.b Consider no-size limits for snapper grouper species.</p> <p>Action 4.3.c Use differential size limits by area.</p>
	<p>Strategy 4.4</p>	<p>Develop management approaches that consider retention limits to help reduce bycatch of snapper grouper species.</p>
		<p>Action 4.4.a Consider an aggregate daily bag limit for the recreational sector with no size limit.</p> <p>Action 4.4.b Consider aggregate trip limits for the commercial sector (# of boxes with no size limit)</p> <p>Action 4.4.c Implement a charter boat limit instead of a per person limit on charter trips.</p>

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		Action 4.4.d	Consider in-season bag limit reduction to avoid closures.
	Strategy 4.5 Consider development of management approaches that use quota-management to help reduce bycatch of snapper grouper species.		
		Action 4.5.a	Evaluate the use and design of individual quota programs for the commercial and for-hire sectors.
	Strategy 4.6 Develop management approaches that support “Best Fishing Practices” to help avoid bycatch and reduce discard mortality.		
		Action 4.6.a	Promote research opportunities to investigate gear and technology to reduce bycatch.
		Action 4.6.b	Support cooperative research investigating hook type and use.
		Action 4.6.c	Consider gear requirement using “weak gear” or degrading hooks.
		Action 4.6.d	Create an incentive program for avoiding bycatch.
		Action 4.6.e	Support development of a gear competition for fisherman to investigate gear modifications that help reduce bycatch.
		Action 4.6.f	Consider development of a Bycatch Avoidance Network to communicate bycatch “hot spots” among fishermen.
		Action 4.6.g	Evaluate descending devices that are appropriate for reducing discard mortality in snapper grouper species.
		Action 4.6.h	Require use of descending devices for all sectors.
	Strategy 4.7 Support development of management approaches that consider the use of Annual Catch Limits buffers.		
		Action 4.7.a	Allow a bycatch set-aside limit per commercial trip.
		Action 4.7.b	Consider a bycatch allowance of up to 5% for species with a low ACL (C, FH)
	Action 4.7.c	Consider multi-year catch specifications (averaged for accountability measures).	
Objective 5. Support management measures that incorporate ecosystem and habitat considerations for the snapper grouper fishery.	Strategy 5.1 Support the enhancement of habitat for the snapper grouper fishery.		
		Action 5.1.a	Create new habitat using artificial reefs.
		Action 5.1.b	Evaluate the use of artificial reefs as a mechanism to improve fishery production.
		Action 5.1.c	Consider artificial reefs with limited or no fishing allowed.
	Strategy 5.2 Evaluate biological, economic, and social impacts when developing ecosystem and habitat management approaches.		
		Action 5.2.a	Consider the impacts of human population migration on habitats.
Strategy 5.3 Consider management approaches that support			

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	monitoring and enforcement of managed areas established to protect and conserve ecosystems and habitat.	
	Action 5.3.a	Evaluate the use of Vessel Monitoring Systems or other innovative technology (surveillance buoys, drones, etc.) to monitor fishing activity.
	Action 5.3.b	Consider implementation of VMS in all sectors.
	Action 5.3.c	Enforce harsher penalties for violations inside managed areas.
	Strategy 5.4	Use spatial management approaches to protect and conserve ecosystems and habitats for the snapper grouper fishery.
	Action 5.4.a	Develop managed areas (MPAs, spawning SMZs) that allow no harvest of snapper grouper species.
	Action 5.4.b	Close existing managed areas (MPAs, SMZs) to harvest of snapper grouper species and transit.
		Create additional restrictions on existing managed areas (MPAs, etc.).
	Action 5.4.c	Evaluate areas that may be suitable for spawning Special Management Zones (SMZs).
	Action 5.4.d	Establish clear goals for creation of Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs).
	Action 5.4.e	Create no-anchor zones to protect fragile habitat.
	Objective 6. Develop management measures that support optimal sector allocations for the snapper grouper fishery.	Strategy 6.1
Action 6.1.a		Consider separate allocation for charter/headboat sectors.
Action 6.1.b		Evaluate existing sectors and current harvest to help determine allocation strategies.
Strategy 6.2		Identify social and economic considerations for establishing allocations.
Action 6.2.a		Truncate the recreational allocation time series from 2007 onwards due to the economy.
Action 6.2.b		Manage by economic levels (primary, secondary, tertiary) in the fishery (1-harvesters, 2-dealers, 3-support industries)
Action 6.2.c		Incorporate fairness and economics as part of the allocation equation.
Strategy 6.3		Identify different management strategies for determining how sectors will receive allocation.
Action 6.3.a		Evaluate use of a mutual allocation pool (allocation is shared between sectors) for possible use for certain species.
Action 6.3.b		After evaluation of existing sectors and current harvest consider options to:

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		i. set multiple ACLs/allocation ii. set only 1 ACL/allocation	
	Action 6.3.c	Consider setting ACLS/allocations for multiple years.	
	Action 6.3.d	Consider individual quotas based on individual allocations or harvest levels (C, FH).	
	Action 6.3.e	Consider revising allocations on a species-by-species basis.	
	Action 6.3.f	Consider longer timeframe for developing allocations.	
	Action 6.3.g	Consider allocations for gear type in the commercial black sea bass fishery.	
	Strategy 6.4		Identify different management strategies for determining allocation shifts within the fishery.
		Action 6.4.a	Consider sub-allocation shifts (for example, golden tilefish sectors).
		Action 6.4.b	Establish allocation shifts for species not reaching Optimal Yield (gag, vermilion, etc.).
		Action 6.4.c	Establish framework for in-season allocation shifts.
		Action 6.4.d	Consider shifting allocation to commercial sector if recreational sector is not projected to meet their ACL.
		Action 6.4.e	Consider establishing allocations by permit (each permit holder gets an allocation that fluctuates based on the ACL).
	Strategy 6.5		Determine alternative methods for establishing and managing allocations.
		Action 6.5.a	Examine reallocation for species with low ACLs.
		Action 6.5.b	Consider reallocation for commercially important species.
		Action 6.5.c	Specify the allocation focus for each sector (Commercial-offshore; Recreational-nearshore).
		Action 6.5.d	Examine recreational harvest for species that are not reaching their recreational ACL.
		Action 6.5.e	Consider other methods for establishing sub-allocations (IFQs, EFPs, sectors, etc.).
		Action 6.5.f	Before reallocation, consider increasing bag limits or other management measures first for the recreational sector.
		Action 6.5.g	Increase the bag limit if the recreational sector does not reach their ACL.