

Appendix A. Considered But Eliminated Alternatives

This section describes alternatives that the South Atlantic Council (Council) considered in developing this document, but decided not to pursue. A summary of why the measures were eliminated from further consideration follows.

1. Set ACL below the ABC

The South Atlantic Council is not considering setting ACL below the ABC because: (1) setting ACL=ABC=OY was the preferred alternative in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment and Amendment 24; (2) monitoring efforts have improved significantly within the past year, which has reduced the likelihood that the commercial vermilion snapper ACL would be exceeded and overfishing would occur; (3) the South Atlantic Council has approved an amendment that, if implemented, would require dealers to report landings electronically once a week; and (4) recreational landings have remained well below the recreational vermilion snapper ACL since it was implemented through Amendment 17B to the Snapper Grouper FMP (Amendment 17B). Therefore, the South Atlantic Council determined it is not reasonable to include additional alternatives that incorporate a buffer between the ABC and ACL.

2. Alternative dates for the recreational vermilion snapper closure

At their December 2012 meeting, the South Atlantic Council approved a motion to move the action addressing the recreational closure from Regulatory Amendment 14 to Regulatory Amendment 18. The South Atlantic Council also approved a motion to remove alternatives from this action that would retain a recreational closed season but modify the closure dates. The South Atlantic Council did not consider alternatives that modified the dates for a recreational closure to be reasonable and moved them to the considered but rejected Appendix A of Regulatory Amendment 14. After these motions were made and approved by the South Atlantic Council, Action 4 was left with two alternatives (no action and remove the closure). The rationale for moving the alternatives to Appendix A is that the original recreational season closure was implemented to help end overfishing. The 2012 stock assessment update indicates the vermilion snapper stock is no longer undergoing overfishing. Furthermore, since the recreational closure was put into place through Amendment 16; ACLs and AMs have been implemented to ensure overfishing does not occur. Recreational landings have been far below the recreational ACL since it was put into place, and Action 1 in Amendment 18 would increase the recreational ACL. Therefore, the South Atlantic Council determined there was no need to analyze an option that would explore further modification of the recreational closure.