

Pre-scoping Options Paper for the Generic Allocations and Accountability Measures (AMs) Amendment

Background

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (South Atlantic Council) directed its staff to begin development of an amendment to revisit allocations between commercial and recreational sectors of the snapper grouper and dolphin wahoo fisheries. Concerns had arisen that some allocations, mostly based on historical landings, were not all derived using the same criteria and may not adequately represent how the South Atlantic Council wishes the fisheries to look in the future.

Some of the current sector allocations predate the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act 2007). With the mandate for annual catch limits (ACLs) for each fishery, the South Atlantic Council established allocations only for those species that didn't already have them in place. The criteria used for some of the earlier allocations did not use the same methods later adopted by the South Atlantic Council.

The majority of the allocations adopted at the same time of the ACL implementation were based on historical landings using a formula that gave equal weightings to long term landings and shorter term trends in landings. The long term trend typically ran from 1986 through 2008. The short term trend used was the most recent three years available which were 2006 through 2008.

Allocation (and ACLs) were implemented in 2012 for those species that did not have them prior to the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Landings trends cannot be used to determine allocations for those species that either exceeded their ACL or had the season closed early because of reaching their ACL once the ACLs went into place. However, there are three more years, 2009 through 2011, that could be used in the formula to determine allocations. While adjusting the years to determine allocations may be sufficient in the short term, only using landings through 2011 will become less adequate for adjusting allocations in the future.

The majority of individual species managed by the South Atlantic Council are in the snapper grouper complex. Currently, the South Atlantic Council is going through a visioning exercise in which the South Atlantic Council is trying to determine what they want the snapper grouper fishery to look like in the future. The outcome of this exercise can be used as a framework to assist the South Atlantic Council in how they go about making sector allocation decisions.

Additionally, the South Atlantic Council has begun to revise the criteria required for invoking its accountability measures. Adjustments have already been made for some, but not all non-snapper grouper complex species. This amendment can consider applying the same criteria to the remaining species as well as golden crab.

Adjusting both the allocations and accountability measure criteria can help bring consistency across species, where appropriate. To these ends, the rest of this document, laid out similar to

the Comprehensive ACL Amendment, seeks to provide a starting point for the South Atlantic Council to begin its discussion on allocation and accountability measure adjustments.

PROPOSED ALLOCATION & AM ACTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

Action 1. Revise accountability measures (AMs).

Alternative 1 (No Action).

Black grouper, mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper, unassessed snapper grouper species

Commercial: If commercial landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the commercial ACL, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such a notification, all sale or purchase is prohibited and harvest or possession of this species in or from the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone (EEZ) is limited to the bag and possession limit. This bag and possession limit applies in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, *i.e.*, in state or Federal waters. If commercial landings exceed the ACL, and scamp are overfished, based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year to reduce the ACL for that following year by the amount of the overage in the prior fishing year.

Recreational: If recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the recreational ACL, then during the following fishing year, recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings and, if necessary, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, to reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to ensure recreational landings do not exceed the recreational ACL in the following fishing year. However, the length of the recreational season will also not be reduced during the following fishing year if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction in the length of the following fishing season is unnecessary.

Black sea bass

Commercial: If commercial landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the quota specified in § 622.190(a)(5), the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. If commercial landings exceed the quota specified in § 622.190(a)(5), the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year to reduce the ACL for that following year by the amount of the overage in the prior fishing year, unless the Science and Research Director determines that no overage is necessary based on the best scientific information available.

Recreational: If recreational landings for black sea bass, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, are projected to reach the recreational ACL, then the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year. If the annual landings exceed the ACL in a given year, the following year's landings would be monitored in-season for persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator will publish a notice to reduce the length of the fishing season as necessary. If the ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the ACL in the following season by the amount of the overage if the species is overfished.

New recreational accountability proposed in Regulatory Amendment 14 and approved by South Atlantic Council: *NMFS will project the length of the recreational fishing season based on when NMFS projects the recreational ACL specified in this paragraph is expected to be met and announce the recreational fishing season end date in the Federal Register prior to the start of the recreational fishing year on April 1. On and after the effective date of the recreational closure notification, the bag and possession limit for black sea bass in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is zero. This bag and possession limit applies in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, i.e. in state or Federal waters.*

Greater amberjack, Red porgy

Commercial: If commercial landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the ACL, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. If commercial landings exceed the ACL, and greater amberjack are overfished, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year to reduce the ACL for that following year by the amount of the overage in the prior fishing year.

Recreational: If recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the recreational ACL, then during the following fishing year, recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings and, if necessary, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, to reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to ensure recreational landings do not exceed the recreational ACL in the following fishing year. However, the length of the recreational season will also not be reduced during the following fishing year if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction in the length of the following fishing season is unnecessary.

Gag

Commercial: If commercial landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the quota specified in § 622.190(a)(7), the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for gag for the remainder of the fishing year.

Recreational: If recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the recreational ACL, and gag are overfished, the Assistant

Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such notification, the bag and possession limit in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is zero. This bag and possession limit also applies in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, *i.e.*, in state or Federal waters. Without regard to overfished status, if recreational landings exceed the ACL, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year, to reduce the ACL for that fishing year by the amount of the overage. Recreational landings will be evaluated relative to the ACL based on a moving multi-year average of three most recent years of landings.

Golden tilefish,

Commercial:

(i) Hook-and-line component. If commercial landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the commercial ACL (commercial quota) specified in § 622.190(a)(2)(ii), the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the hook-and-line component of the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year.

(ii) Longline component. If commercial landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the commercial ACL (commercial quota) specified in § 622.190(a)(2)(iii), the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the longline component of the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. After the commercial ACL for the longline component is reached or projected to be reached, golden tilefish may not be fished for or possessed by a vessel with a golden tilefish longline endorsement.

Recreational: If recreational landings for golden tilefish, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the recreational ACL of 3,019 fish, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year. If recreational landings for golden tilefish, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the recreational ACL, then during the following fishing year, recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings and, if necessary, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, to reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to ensure recreational landings do not exceed the recreational ACL in the following fishing year.

Red Grouper

Commercial: If commercial landings for red grouper, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the applicable ACL in paragraph (d)(1)(iii) of this section, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such a notification, all sale or purchase of red grouper is prohibited and harvest or possession of this species in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is limited to the bag and possession limit. This bag and possession limit applies in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a

valid Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, i.e., in state or Federal waters. If commercial landings exceed the ACL, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year to reduce the ACL for that following year by the amount of the overage in the prior fishing year.

Recreational: If recreational landings for red grouper, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, are projected to reach the applicable ACL in paragraph (d)(2)(iii) of this section, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such a notification, the bag and possession limit is zero. This bag and possession limit applies in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, i.e. in state or Federal waters. If recreational landings for red grouper, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the applicable ACL, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, to reduce the recreational ACL the following fishing year by the amount of the overage in the prior fishing.

Red snapper

Commercial: In-season closure.

Recreational: In-season closure.

Snowy grouper

Commercial: If commercial landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the quota specified in § 622.190(a)(1), the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for snowy grouper for the remainder of the fishing year.

Recreational: If recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the recreational ACL of 523 fish, the Assistant Administrator 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 following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to ensure recreational landings do not exceed the recreational ACL in the following fishing year. When NMFS reduces the length of the following recreational fishing season, the following closure provisions apply: the bag and possession limit for snowy grouper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is zero. This bag and possession limit also applies in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, i.e., in state or Federal waters. Recreational landings will be evaluated relative to the ACL based on a moving multi-year average of landings, as described in the FMP.

Vermilion snapper

Commercial: If commercial landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the applicable commercial ACL (commercial quota) specified in §

622.190(a)(4)(i) or (ii), the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for that portion of the fishing year applicable to the respective quota.

Recreational: If recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the applicable recreational ACL specified in paragraph (f)(2)(iv) of this section and vermilion snapper are overfished, based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for vermilion snapper for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such notification, the bag and possession limit of vermilion snapper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is zero. This bag and possession limit also applies in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, *i.e.*, in state or Federal waters. Without regard to overfished status, if vermilion snapper recreational landings exceed the applicable recreational ACL, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year, to reduce the ACL for that fishing year by the amount of the overage. Recreational landings will be evaluated relative to the ACL based on a moving multi-year average of landings, as described in the FMP.

New recreational accountability proposed in Regulatory Amendment 14 and approved by South Atlantic Council: *If recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the applicable recreational ACL specified in paragraph (f)(2)(iv) of this section the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for vermilion snapper for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such notification, the bag and possession limit for vermilion snapper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is zero. This bag and possession limit also applies in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, i.e., in state or Federal waters. If the combined vermilion snapper commercial and recreational landings exceed the combined vermilion snapper ACLs specified in paragraphs (f)(1) and (f)(2)(iv) of this section, and vermilion snapper are overfished, based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year to reduce the recreational ACL for that following year by the amount of the recreational overage in the prior fishing year.*

Wreckfish

Commercial: The individual transferable quota program for wreckfish in the South Atlantic serves as the accountability measures for commercial wreckfish. The commercial ACL for wreckfish is equal to the commercial quota specified in § 622.190(b).

Recreational: If recreational landings for wreckfish, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the recreational ACL of 11,750 lb (5,330 kg), round weight, then during the following fishing year, recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings and, if necessary, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of

the Federal Register, to reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to ensure recreational landings do not exceed the recreational ACL in the following fishing year. However, the length of the recreational season will also not be reduced during the following fishing year if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction in the length of the following fishing season is unnecessary.

Golden crab

Commercial: If commercial landings for golden crab, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, reach or are projected to reach the ACL of 2 million lb (907,185 kg), round weight, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the golden crab fishery for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such a notification, all harvest, possession, sale or purchase of golden crab in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is prohibited. If commercial landings exceed the ACL, and golden crab are overfished, based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, the Assistant Administrator will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year to reduce the ACL for that following year by the amount of the overage in the prior fishing year.

Alternative 2. If commercial landings as estimated by the Science and Research Director reach or are projected to reach the commercial ACL, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such a notification, all sale or purchase is prohibited and harvest or possession of this species in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is limited to the bag and possession limit. This bag and possession limit applies in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper, dolphin wahoo, or golden crab has been issued as appropriate, without regard to where such species were harvested, i.e., in state or Federal waters. Additionally,

Sub-alternative 2a. If the commercial ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the commercial overage, only if the species is overfished.

Sub-alternative 2b. If the commercial ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the commercial overage, only if the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) is exceeded.

Sub-alternative 2c. If the commercial ACL is exceeded, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the commercial ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the commercial overage, only if the species is overfished and the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) is exceeded.

Alternative 3. If recreational landings, as estimated by the Science and Research Director, exceed the recreational ACL, then during the following fishing year, recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings.

Sub-alternative 3a. If necessary, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of fishing season and the recreational ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage, only if the species is overfished. The length of

the recreational season and recreational ACL will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction is unnecessary.

Sub-alternative 3b. If necessary, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of fishing season and the recreational ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage, only if the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) is exceeded. The length of the recreational season and recreational ACL will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction is unnecessary.

Sub-alternative 3c. If necessary, the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to reduce the length of fishing season and the recreational ACL in the following fishing year by the amount of the recreational overage, only if the species is overfished and the total ACL (commercial ACL and recreational ACL) is exceeded. The length of the recreational season and recreational ACL will not be reduced if the Regional Administrator determines, using the best scientific information available, that a reduction is unnecessary.

Alternative 4. Some other criteria?

SPECIES ALLOCATIONS

Black Grouper

Action 2. Revise the sector allocations for black grouper

Alternative 1. (No Action). The allocations for black grouper are commercial sector = 36.88% and recreational sector = 63.12%. The sector allocations for black grouper were set in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011) using 50% of average landings from 1991-2008 + 50% of average landings from 2006-2008. (The long term time series for black grouper began at 1991, not 1986 as for other species because prior to 1991, there were species identification issues that were later resolved.)

Alternative 2. Utilize the current allocation formula where allocation by sector = $(0.5 * \text{catch history}) + (0.5 * \text{current trend})$ but modify the time series for catch history and current trend.

Sub-alternative 2a. Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011. 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place.

Sub-alternative 2b. Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012. 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Sub-alternative 2c. Catch history = average landings 1986-2008, current trend = average landings 2006-2012. 2008 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Alternative 3. Modify the sector ACLs based on criteria established in the South Atlantic Council visioning process for snapper grouper species.

Alternative 4. Some other criteria?

Black Sea Bass

Action 3. Revise the sector allocations for black sea bass

Alternative 1. (No Action). The allocations for black sea bass are commercial sector = 43% and recreational sector = 57%. The sector allocations for black sea bass were set in the Snapper Grouper Amendment 13C (SAFMC 2006) based on historic landings by sector based on the years 1999 - 2003.

Alternative 2. Utilize the current allocation formula where allocation by sector = $(0.5 * \text{catch history}) + (0.5 * \text{current trend})$ but modify the time series for catch history and current trend.

Sub-alternative 2a. Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011. 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place.

Sub-alternative 2b. Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012. 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Sub-alternative 2c. Catch history = average landings 1986-2008, current trend = average landings 2006-2012. 2008 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Alternative 3. Modify the sector ACLs based on criteria established in the South Atlantic Council visioning process for snapper grouper species.

Alternative 4. Some other criteria?

Gag

Action 4. Revise the sector allocations for gag

Alternative 1. (No Action). The allocations for gag are commercial sector = 51% and recreational sector = 49%. The sector allocations for gag were set in the Snapper Grouper Amendment 16 (SAFMC 2009) based on historic landings by sector based on the years 1999 - 2003.

Alternative 2. Utilize the current allocation formula where allocation by sector = $(0.5 * \text{catch history}) + (0.5 * \text{current trend})$ but modify the time series for catch history and current trend.

Sub-alternative 2a. Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011. 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place.

Sub-alternative 2b. Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012. 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Sub-alternative 2c. Catch history = average landings 1986-2008, current trend = average landings 2006-2012. 2008 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Alternative 3. Modify the sector ACLs based on criteria established in the South Atlantic Council visioning process for snapper grouper species.

Alternative 4. Some other criteria?

Golden Tilefish

Action 5. Revise the sector allocations for golden tilefish

Alternative 1. (No Action). The allocations for golden tilefish are commercial sector = 97% and recreational sector = 3%. The sector allocations for golden tilefish were set in the Snapper Grouper Amendment 17B (SAFMC 2010) using the sector allocation rule where 50% of sector allocations are based on a longer term landings series (1986 – 2008) and 50% of the sector allocations are based on a shorter time series (2006-2008).

Alternative 2. Utilize the current allocation formula where allocation by sector = $(0.5 * \text{catch history}) + (0.5 * \text{current trend})$ but modify the time series for catch history and current trend.

Sub-alternative 2a. Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011. 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place.

Sub-alternative 2b. Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012. 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Sub-alternative 2c. Catch history = average landings 1986-2008, current trend = average landings 2006-2012. 2008 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Alternative 3. Modify the sector ACLs based on criteria established in the South Atlantic Council visioning process for snapper grouper species.

Alternative 4. Some other criteria?

Greater Amberjack

Action 6. Revise the sector allocations for greater amberjack

Alternative 1. (No Action). The allocations for greater amberjack are commercial sector = 40.66% and recreational sector = 59.34%. The sector allocations for greater amberjack were set in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011) using 50% of average landings from 1986-2008 + 50% of average landings from 2006-2008.

Alternative 2. Utilize the current allocation formula where allocation by sector = $(0.5 * \text{catch history}) + (0.5 * \text{current trend})$ but modify the time series for catch history and current trend.

Sub-alternative 2a. Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011. 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place.

Sub-alternative 2b. Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012. 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Sub-alternative 2c. Catch history = average landings 1986-2008, current trend = average landings 2006-2012. 2008 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Alternative 3. Modify the sector ACLs based on criteria established in the South Atlantic Council visioning process for snapper grouper species.

Alternative 4. Some other criteria?

Mutton Snapper

Action 7. Revise the sector allocations for mutton snapper

Alternative 1. (No Action). The allocations for mutton snapper are commercial sector = 17.02% and recreational sector = 82.98%. The sector allocations for mutton snapper were set in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011) using 50% of average landings from 1986-2008 + 50% of average landings from 2006-2008.

Alternative 2. Utilize the current allocation formula where allocation by sector = $(0.5 * \text{catch history}) + (0.5 * \text{current trend})$ but modify the time series for catch history and current trend.

Sub-alternative 2a. Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011. 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place.

Sub-alternative 2b. Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012. 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Sub-alternative 2c. Catch history = average landings 1986-2008, current trend = average landings 2006-2012. 2008 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Alternative 3. Modify the sector ACLs based on criteria established in the South Atlantic Council visioning process for snapper grouper species.

Alternative 4. Some other criteria?

Red Grouper

Action 8. Revise the sector allocations for red grouper

Alternative 1. (No Action). The allocations for red grouper are commercial sector = 44% and recreational sector = 56%. The sector allocations for red grouper were set in the Snapper Grouper Amendment 24 (SAFMC 2012) based on historic landings by sector based on the years 1986 - 2008.

Alternative 2. Utilize the current allocation formula where allocation by sector = $(0.5 * \text{catch history}) + (0.5 * \text{current trend})$ but modify the time series for catch history and current trend.

Sub-alternative 2a. Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011. 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place.

Sub-alternative 2b. Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012. 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Sub-alternative 2c. Catch history = average landings 1986-2008, current trend = average landings 2006-2012. 2008 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Alternative 3. Modify the sector ACLs based on criteria established in the South Atlantic Council visioning process for snapper grouper species.

Alternative 4. Some other criteria?

Red Porgy

Action 9. Revise the sector allocations for red porgy

Alternative 1. (No Action). The allocations for red porgy are commercial sector = 50% and recreational sector = 50%. The sector allocations for gag were set in the Snapper Grouper Amendment 15B (SAFMC 2009).

Alternative 2. Utilize the current allocation formula where allocation by sector = $(0.5 * \text{catch history}) + (0.5 * \text{current trend})$ but modify the time series for catch history and current trend.

Sub-alternative 2a. Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011. 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place.

Sub-alternative 2b. Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012. 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Sub-alternative 2c. Catch history = average landings 1986-2008, current trend = average landings 2006-2012. 2008 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Alternative 3. Modify the sector ACLs based on criteria established in the South Atlantic Council visioning process for snapper grouper species.

Alternative 4. Some other criteria?

Red Snapper

Action 10. Revise the sector allocations for red snapper

Alternative 1. (No Action). The allocations for red snapper are commercial sector = 28.07% and recreational sector = 71.93%. The sector allocations for red snapper were set in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011) using 50% of average landings from 1986-2008 + 50% of average landings from 2006-2008.

Alternative 2. Utilize the current allocation formula where allocation by sector = (0.5 * catch history) + (0.5 * current trend) but modify the time series for catch history and current trend.

Sub-alternative 2a. Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011. 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place.

Sub-alternative 2b. Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012. 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Sub-alternative 2c. Catch history = average landings 1986-2008, current trend = average landings 2006-2012. 2008 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Alternative 3. Modify the sector ACLs based on criteria established in the South Atlantic Council visioning process for snapper grouper species.

Alternative 4. Some other criteria?

Snowy Grouper

Action 11. Revise the sector allocations for snowy grouper

Alternative 1. (No Action). The allocations for snowy grouper are commercial sector = 95% and recreational sector = 5%. The sector allocations for snowy grouper were set in the Snapper Grouper Amendment 15B (SAFMC 2009) based on historic landings by sector based on the years 1986 - 2005.

Alternative 2. Utilize the current allocation formula where allocation by sector = (0.5 * catch history) + (0.5 * current trend) but modify the time series for catch history and current trend.

Sub-alternative 2a. Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011. 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place.

Sub-alternative 2b. Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012. 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Sub-alternative 2c. Catch history = average landings 1986-2008, current trend = average landings 2006-2012. 2008 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Alternative 3. Modify the sector ACLs based on criteria established in the South Atlantic Council visioning process for snapper grouper species.

Alternative 4. Some other criteria?

Vermilion Snapper

Action 12. Revise the sector allocations for vermilion snapper

Alternative 1. (No Action). The allocations for vermilion snapper are commercial sector = 68% and recreational sector = 32%. The sector allocations for gag were set in the Snapper Grouper Amendment 16 (SAFMC 2009) based on historic landings by sector based on the years 1986 - 2005.

Alternative 2. Utilize the current allocation formula where allocation by sector = $(0.5 * \text{catch history}) + (0.5 * \text{current trend})$ but modify the time series for catch history and current trend.

Sub-alternative 2a. Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011. 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place.

Sub-alternative 2b. Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012. 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Sub-alternative 2c. Catch history = average landings 1986-2008, current trend = average landings 2006-2012. 2008 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Alternative 3. Modify the sector ACLs based on criteria established in the South Atlantic Council visioning process for snapper grouper species.

Alternative 4. Some other criteria?

Wreckfish

Action 13. Revise the sector allocations for wreckfish

Alternative 1. (No Action). The allocations for wreckfish are commercial sector = 95% and recreational sector = 5%. The sector allocations for wreckfish were set in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011).

Alternative 2. Utilize the current allocation formula where allocation by sector = $(0.5 * \text{catch history}) + (0.5 * \text{current trend})$ but modify the time series for catch history and current trend.

Sub-alternative 2a. Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011. 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place.

Sub-alternative 2b. Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012. 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Sub-alternative 2c. Catch history = average landings 1986-2008, current trend = average landings 2006-2012. 2008 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Alternative 3. Modify the sector ACLs based on criteria established in the South Atlantic Council visioning process for snapper grouper species.

Alternative 4. Some other criteria?

Yellowtail Snapper

Action 14. Revise the sector allocations for yellowtail snapper

Alternative 1. (No Action). The allocations for yellowtail snapper are commercial sector = 52.56% and recreational sector = 47.44%. The sector allocations for yellowtail snapper were set in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011) using 50% of average landings from 1986-2008 + 50% of average landings from 2006-2008.

Alternative 2. Utilize the current allocation formula where allocation by sector = $(0.5 * \text{catch history}) + (0.5 * \text{current trend})$ but modify the time series for catch history and current trend.

Sub-alternative 2a. Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011. 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place.

Sub-alternative 2b. Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012. 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Sub-alternative 2c. Catch history = average landings 1986-2008, current trend = average landings 2006-2012. 2008 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Alternative 3. Modify the sector ACLs based on criteria established in the South Atlantic Council visioning process for snapper grouper species.

Alternative 4. Some other criteria?

Blueline Tilefish

Action 15. Revise the sector allocations for blueline tilefish

Alternative 1. (No Action). The allocations for blueline tilefish are commercial sector = 50.07% and recreational sector = 49.93%. The sector allocations for blueline tilefish were set in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011) and updated in Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 13 (2013).

Alternative 2. Utilize the current allocation formula where allocation by sector = $(0.5 * \text{catch history}) + (0.5 * \text{current trend})$ but modify the time series for catch history and current trend.

Sub-alternative 2a. Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011. 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place.

Sub-alternative 2b. Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012. 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Sub-alternative 2c. Catch history = average landings 1986-2008, current trend = average landings 2006-2012. 2008 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Alternative 3. Modify the sector ACLs based on criteria established in the South Atlantic Council visioning process for snapper grouper species.

Alternative 4. Some other criteria?

Unassessed Snapper Grouper Species

Action 16. Reset sector allocations for unassessed snapper grouper species that were set in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011) and updated in Regulatory Amendment 13 (SAFMC 2013).

Alternative 1 (No Action). Allocations were specified for species between two sectors, commercial and recreational, using the following equation:

Allocation by sector = (0.5 * catch history) + (0.5 * current trend) whereby, catch history = average landings 1986-2008, current trend = average landings 2006-2008).

Table 1. Commercial and recreational allocations for unassessed snapper grouper species as updated in Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 13 (2013).

Stock Complex	Commercial Allocation	Recreational Allocation
DEEPWATER		
Yellowedge grouper	90.77%	9.23%
Silk Snapper	73.95%	26.05%
Misty grouper	83.42%	16.58%
Sand tilefish	22.17%	77.83%
Queen snapper	92.50%	7.50%
Black snapper	95.92%	4.08%
Blackfin snapper	29.91%	70.09%
JACKS		
Almaco jack	48.70%	51.30%
Banded rudderfish	26.01%	73.99%
Lesser amberjack	46.07%	53.93%
SNAPPERS		
Gray snapper	24.23%	75.77%
Lane snapper	14.75%	85.25%
Cubera snapper	19.57%	80.43%
Dog snapper	8.31%	91.69%
Mahogany snapper	6.49%	93.51%
GRUNTS		
White grunt	31.59%	68.41%
Sailors choice	0.00%	100.00%
Tomtate	0.00%	100.00%

Stock Complex	Commercial Allocation	Recreational Allocation
Margate	18.88%	81.12%
SHALLOW WATER GROUPERS		
Red hind	73.60%	26.40%
Rock hind	60.90%	39.10%
Yellowmouth grouper	1.10%	98.90%
Yellowfin grouper	52.70%	47.30%
Coney	24.45%	75.55%
Graysby	15.74%	84.26%
PORGIES		
Jolthead porgy	4.15%	95.85%
Knobbed porgy	51.18%	48.82%
Saucereye porgy	0.01%	99.99%
Scup	0.00%	100.00%
Whitebone porgy	1.05%	98.95%
INDIVIDUAL STOCKS		
Atlantic spadefish	18.53%	81.47%
Blue runner	15.77%	84.23%
Bar jack	21.25%	78.75%
Gray triggerfish	43.56%	56.44%
Scamp	65.34%	34.66%
Hogfish	36.69%	63.31%

Alternative 2. Utilize the current allocation formula where allocation by sector = (0.5 * catch history) + (0.5 * current trend) but modify the time series for catch history and current trend.

Sub-alternative 2a. Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011. 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place.

Sub-alternative 2b. Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012. 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Sub-alternative 2c. Catch history = average landings 1986-2008, current trend = average landings 2006-2012. 2008 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Alternative 3. Modify the sector ACLs based on criteria established in the South Atlantic Council visioning process for snapper grouper species.

Alternative 4. Some other criteria?

Wahoo

Action 17. Revise the sector allocations for wahoo.

Alternative 1. (No Action). The allocations for wahoo are commercial sector = 3.93% and recreational sector = 96.07%. The sector allocations for wahoo were set in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011) and updated in Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 using the sector allocation rule where 50% of sector allocations are based on a longer term landings series (1999 – 2008) and 50% of the sector allocations are based on a shorter time series (2006-2008).

Alternative 2. Modify the time series by which allocations were specified for the two sectors.
Allocation by sector = (0.5 * catch history) + (0.5 * current trend)

Sub-alternative 2a. Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011). 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place.

Sub-alternative 2b. Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012). 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Sub-alternative 2c. Catch history = average landings 1986-2008, current trend = average landings 2006-2012). 2008 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Alternative 3. Modify the sector ACLs based on criteria established in the South Atlantic Council visioning process for snapper grouper species.

Alternative 4. Some other criteria?

Dolphin

Action 18. Revise the sector allocations for dolphin.

Alternative 1. No Action. The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 92.46%. The commercial sector allocation for dolphin is 7.54%. The sector allocations for dolphin were set in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment (SAFMC 2011) and updated in Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 using the sector allocation rule where 50% of sector allocations are based on a longer term landings series (1999 – 2008) and 50% of the sector allocations are based on a shorter time series (2006-2008).

Alternative 2. Establish the sector allocations for dolphin that were in place prior to the Comprehensive ACL Amendment making the “soft cap” allocations the sector allocations. The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 87%, and commercial sector allocation is 13%.

Alternative 3. Set the commercial allocation at its highest percentage of the total catch over the past 5 years (2008-2012). The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 86%, and commercial sector allocation is 14%.

Alternative 4. Set the commercial allocation at the average of the percentages of the total catch over the past 5 years (2008-2012). The recreational sector allocation for dolphin is 90%, and commercial sector allocation is 10%.

Alternative 5. Modify the time series by which allocations were specified for the two sectors.
Allocation by sector = (0.5 * catch history) + (0.5 * current trend)

Sub-alternative 2a. Catch history = average landings 1986-2011, current trend = average landings 2009-2011). 2011 is the last year before ACLs went into place.

Sub-alternative 2b. Catch history = average landings 1986-2012, current trend = average landings 2010-2012). 2012 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Sub-alternative 2c. Catch history = average landings 1986-2008, current trend = average landings 2006-2012). 2008 is the most recent year of complete landings availability.

Alternative 6. Some other criteria?