

Amendment 55 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region

Re-organization of complexes, Rebuilding Schedule,
Catch Level Adjustments, and Allocations for South
Atlantic Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper

Decision Document
June 2023



Background

The South Atlantic stock of scamp was assessed through the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) 68 research track assessment in September 2021 (SEDAR 68 [2021]). In 2020, the first stage of the SEDAR 68 data process was a Stock ID Workshop (SEDAR 68 Stock ID Workshop [2020]), which concluded that scamp are very difficult to distinguish from yellowmouth grouper and thus, much of the assessment data likely represent both species in unknown proportions. The SEDAR 68 Stock ID Workshop (2020) recommended that the stock assessment be conducted on both scamp and yellowmouth grouper jointly, with the two species treated as a single complex (hereafter referred to as scamp and yellowmouth grouper complex). In December 2022, the SEDAR 68 operational assessment was conducted with data through 2021 and considered scamp and yellowmouth as a single stock due to identification issues between the two species (SEDAR 68 [2022]). **SEDAR 68 (2022) indicated that the scamp and yellowmouth grouper stock is overfished, but that overfishing is not occurring.** The assessment noted that stock status was driven mainly by poor recruitment, with a pattern of low recruitment in the most recent

10- to-15-year period. This pattern of low recruitment raised the question of a regime shift, which would necessitate re-evaluation of biological reference points for this stock. However, the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) decided that there was not enough evidence to determine a regime shift has occurred, primarily referencing criteria developed by Klaer et al. (2015). Since then, the Council has requested further SSC discussion on regime shifts and how these could affect management of the snapper grouper fishery.

SEDAR 68 (2021) used a maximum sustainable yield (MSY) proxy with fishing mortality (F) at 30% spawning potential ratio (SPR); however, SEDAR 68 (2022) found MSY to be poorly defined and recommended using an MSY proxy of F40%SPR. In February 2023, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) requested projections using F30%SPR, as this is the status quo for scamp. In March 2023, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) sent the Council a letter recommending the Council consider using the F40%SPR proxy, noting that retaining F30%SPR would not be consistent with best scientific information available (BSIA) and would contribute to greater than a 50% chance of overfishing.

In January 2023, the Council's SSC determined SEDAR 68 (2022) was consistent with BSIA and the stock assessment was an adequate basis for determining stock status and supporting fishing level recommendations. The Council reviewed the results of SEDAR 68 (2022) at their March 2023 meeting and provided guidance to begin work on a plan amendment. At their April 2023 meeting, the SSC reviewed the results of the SEDAR 68 (2022) and provided catch level recommendations.

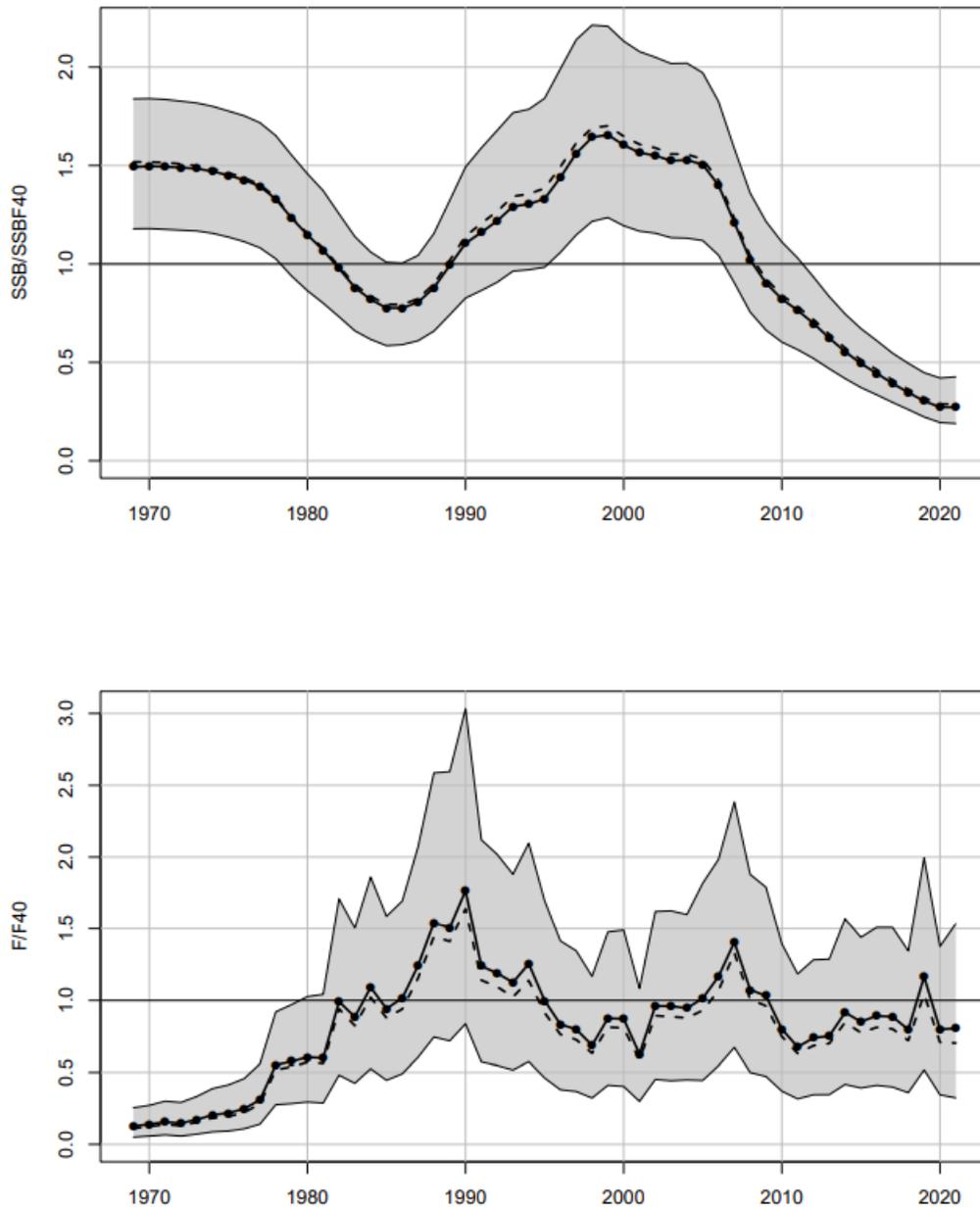


Figure 1. Top panel: spawning biomass relative to $SSB_{F40\%}$. Bottom panel: F relative to $F_{40\%}$. Solid line indicates estimates from the SEDAR 68 (2022) base run; dashed lines represent median values of the MCBE analysis; gray error bands indicate the 5th and 95th percentiles of the MCBE.

Objectives for this meeting

- Review background for scamp, and the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper Complex
- Discuss the SSC’s feedback on the ABC/OFL levels and advice for the rebuilding plan
- Review actions needed to address the assessment and SSC recommendations and provide feedback on options and any additional actions.
- Approve for scoping

Tentative Amendment Timing

June 2023	Review decision document and approve for scoping
Summer 2023	Conduct scoping
September 2023	Review scoping comments and select preferred total ACL alternative for the scamp/yellowmouth complex
October 2023	SG AP review
December 2023	Review preliminary analysis and approve for public hearings
Winter 2024	Hold public hearings
March 2024	Review public hearing comments and modify document as needed
April 2024	SG AP review
June 2024	Review and approve all actions
September 2024	Review draft rationale, approve for formal review

Acceptable Biological Catch

ABC recommendation (Table 2) was based on Scenario 7 ([SEDAR 68 Follow-Up Analysis Presentation, April SSC, Table 6](#)), which is 75%F40%SPR using the **recent lower recruitment** (Table 1). Landings and discards were combined since discards were a minor component.

The SSC chose to provide catch levels starting in 2025 because, as of their April 2023 meeting the Council had yet to be notified that the stock was overfished therefore the SSC assumed that any new management would not take effect until that year.

Table 1. The SSC’s recommended Status Determination Criteria (deterministic values).

Criteria	Deterministic
Overfished evaluation (SSB/MSST)	0.36
Overfishing evaluation (F/F _{MSY proxy})	0.91
MFMT (F _{MSY proxy})	0.28
SSB _{MSY} (metric tons)	1503.87
MSST (metric tons)	801.6
MSY (1000 lbs.)	372.28
Y at 75% F _{MSY} (1000 lbs.)	344.83
ABC Control Rule Adjustment	20%
P-Star	30%
SSC recommended P _{Rebuild}	70%
M	0.155
Generation Time	~ 10 years

Table 2. OFL and ABC recommendations from the SSC (April 2023) in response to SEDAR 68 (2022). ABC equals $F=75\%F_{40\%}$ with recent average (low) recruitment. Total removals include landings plus dead discards.

OFL RECOMMENDATIONS		
Year	Total Removals (lbs ww)	
2025	88,000	
2026	109,000	
2027	157,000	
2028	210,000	
2029	252,000	
ABC RECOMMENDATIONS		
Year	Total Removals (lbs ww)	Total Removals (numbers)
2025	71,000	12,000
2026	76,000	12,000
2027	79,000	13,000
2028	82,000	13,000
2029	84,000	14,000

Draft Purpose and Need Statements

The *purpose* of this fishery management plan amendment is to remove yellowmouth grouper from the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper Complex and establish a new South Atlantic Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex. For the new complex, establish a rebuilding plan, and specify catch levels, sector allocations, and accountability measures based on the results of the SEDAR 68 (2022) stock assessment.

The *need* for this fishery management plan amendment is to rebuild the South Atlantic Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex, and achieve optimum yield while minimizing, to the extent practicable, adverse social and economic effects.

Committee Action:

- SUGGEST MODIFICATIONS AS APPROPRIATE

Proposed Actions

1. Reorganize the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper Complex and establish a new South Atlantic Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex

Purpose of Action:

SEDAR 68 (2021 and 2022) assessed South Atlantic scamp and yellowmouth grouper together due to misidentification issues between the species. The SSC provided catch levels, based on the assessment, for South Atlantic scamp and yellowmouth grouper combined; therefore, yellowmouth grouper must be removed from the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper Complex (OSASWG) to establish a new South Atlantic Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex. In addition, the catch levels for the OSASWG Complex must be adjusted accordingly.

Table 3. Draft options for Action 1, removing yellowmouth grouper from the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper Complex.

	Complex/Stock Name	Species
Option 1 (No Action)	scamp	scamp ONLY
	Other SA Shallow Water Grouper Complex	graysby, coney, red hind, rock hind, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper
Option 2	Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex	scamp and yellowmouth grouper
	Other SA Shallow Water Grouper Complex	graysby, coney, red hind, rock hind, yellowfin grouper

Discussion:

Table 4. Current total ACL, commercial allocation, commercial ACL, and commercial ACL usage for scamp and the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper Complex.

Species/Complex	Total ACL (lbs ww)	Commercial Allocation	Commercial ACL (lbs ww)	Average % of Commercial ACL used from 2012-2022
Scamp	335,744	65.34%	219,375	44.9%
Other Shallow Water Grouper	104,190	53.31%	55,542	30.0%

Table 5. Current total ACL, recreational allocation, recreational ACL, and recreational ACL usage for scamp and the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper Complex.

Species/Complex	Total ACL (lbs ww)	Recreational Allocation	Recreational ACL (lbs ww)	Average % of Recreational ACL used from 2012-2022
Scamp	335,744	34.66%	116,369	30.9%
Other Shallow Water Grouper	104,190	46.69%	48,648	34.8%

Table 6. Current management measures for scamp and the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper Complex.

Species/Complex	Spawning Season Closure	Min Size limit	Bag Limit	Trip Limit
Scamp	Jan 1 - Apr 30	20 in TL	3 fish/person aggregate bag limit	none
Other Shallow Water Grouper	Jan 1 - Apr 31	20 in TL for Yellowfin and Yellowmouth Grouper Only	3 fish/person aggregate bag limit	none

Committee Action:

- PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON ACTION AND OPTIONS

2. Define equilibrium optimum yield, maximum sustainable yield, minimum stock size threshold, and maximum fishing mortality threshold for the South Atlantic Scamp and Yellowmouth Complex

Purpose of Action:

Because the South Atlantic Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex is being established through this amendment, an MSY or MSY proxy must be defined in addition to other status determination criteria.

Table 7. Draft options for Action 2a-d, defining stock determination criteria for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex

Option	Equilibrium OY	MSY	MSST	MFMT
Sub-Action 2a (OY)				
Option 1 (No Action)	none	-	-	-
Option 2	Equilibrium OY = ??	-	-	-
Sub-Action 2b (MSY)				
Option 1 (No Action)	-	none	-	-
Option 2	-	MSY = $F_{40\%SPR}$	-	-
Option 3	-	MSY = $F_{30\%SPR}$	-	-
Sub-Action 2c (MSST)				
Option 1 (No Action)	-	-	none	-
Option 2	-	-	SSB _{MSY} ((1-M) or 0.5, whichever is greater)	-
Option 3	-	-	75% of SSB _{MSY}	-
Sub-Action 2d (MFMT)				
Option 1 (No Action)	-	-	-	none
Option 2	-	-	-	$F_{30\%}$
Option 3	-	-	-	$F_{40\%}$

Discussion:

- Discuss the need for an equilibrium OY for the new Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex

Committee Action:

- PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON ACTION AND OPTIONS

3. Establish a rebuilding plan for the South Atlantic Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex

Purpose of Action

The results of the SEDAR 68 (2022) stock assessment indicate that the South Atlantic stock of scamp and yellowmouth grouper is overfished but not experiencing overfishing. A rebuilding plan must be established to rebuild the stock.

Note: The Council has not yet received a letter from NMFS regarding the overfished determination for Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper.

Table 8. Draft options for Action 3, establishing a rebuilding plan for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex.

Option	Rebuilding Timeframe
Option 1 (No Action)	none
Option 2	$T_{\min} = ??$ years (< 10 years)
Option 3	$T_{\max} = 10$ years
Option 4	Additional timeframe of rebuilding?

Discussion:

- Rebuilding projections were based on the **long-term average recruitment**.
 - Rebuilding within 10 years ($T_{\max} = 10$) is possible but this is based on long-term average recruitment, which is higher than recent recruitment and involves the assumption that recruitment will recover to previous levels.
 - The SSC noted that T_{\max} cannot be determined because all long-term scenarios had equal merit. If T_{\min} is greater than 10 years, forecasts can't provide T_{\max} with any scientific confidence.
- Rebuilding Probability:
 - MSA requires a rebuilding probability of 50% or above.
 - ABC values provided through [scenario 7](#) result in a 0% chance of rebuilding.

Committee Action:

- CONSIDER GUIDANCE NEEDED FROM SEFSC TO DETERMINE T_{\min} AND T_{\max} – SPECIFIC YEARS
- PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON ACTION AND OPTIONS

4. Establish the acceptable biological catch, total annual catch limit, and annual optimum yield for the South Atlantic Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex and revise the total annual catch limit, annual optimum yield, and sector annual catch limits for the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper Complex

Purpose of Action

Catch levels are being established for the new South Atlantic Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex to respond to the most recent stock assessment, SEDAR 68 (2022). The Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper Complex ACL needs to be modified to remove the portion allotted for yellowmouth grouper (removed from this complex in Action 1).

Sub-Action 4a. Establish the acceptable biological catch, total annual catch limit, and annual optimum yield for the South Atlantic Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex

Table 9. Draft options for Sub-Action 4a, establishing the total ACL for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex.

Option	Proposed Scamp/Yellowmouth Complex ACL (lbs ww)
Option 1 (No Action)	none
Option 2	ACL=OY=ABC
Option 3	ACL=OY=90% of ABC

Sub-Action 4b. Revise the total annual catch limit, annual optimum yield, and sector annual catch limits for the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper Complex

Table 10. The summary of options under Sub-Action 4b, revising the ACL, OY, and sector allocations for the Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper.

Option	ABC lbs ww	Total ACL and OY	Commercial Allocation	Rec Allocation	Commercial ACL	Recreational ACL
Option 1 (No Action)	104,190	104,190	53.30%	46.70%	55,542	48,648
Option 2 (with yellowmouth removed)	104,190	100,151			53,380	46,771

Discussion:

Table 11. Commercial and recreational landings of South Atlantic **scamp** from 2012-2022. ACLs and landings include recreational estimates based on the CHTS. Source: [NMFS Southeast ACL Monitoring](#), accessed March 14, 2023.

Year*	ACL (ww)	Estimated Landings (ww)	ACL Usage %
COMMERCIAL			
2012	341,636	177,701	52.0%
2013	333,100	156,093	46.9%
2014	333,100	184,034	55.2%
2015	219,375	143,413	65.4%
2016	219,375	124,078	56.6%
2017	219,375	122,796	56.0%
2018	219,375	106,014	48.3%
2019	219,375	83,527	38.1%
2020	219,375	66,388	30.3%
2021	219,375	54,922	25.0%
2022**	219,375	44,015	20.1%
RECREATIONAL			
2012	150,936	78,446	52.0%
2013	176,688	45,813	25.9%
2014	176,688	70,157	39.7%
2015	116,369	18,639	16.0%
2016	116,369	30,961	26.6%
2017	116,369	96,196	82.7%
2018	116,369	14,055	12.0%
2019	116,369	23,767	20.0%
2020	116,369	21,755	19.0%
2021	116,369	17,508	15.0%
2022**	116,369	7,070**	6.0%**

*2022 landings are preliminary.

**Does not include landings estimates from wave 6.

Table 12. Commercial and recreational landings of the **Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper Complex** from 2012-2022. ACLs and landings include recreational estimates based on the CHTS.

Source: [NMFS Southeast ACL Monitoring](#), accessed March 14, 2023.

Year*	ACL (ww)	Estimated Landings (ww)	ACL Usage %
COMMERCIAL			
2012	49,488	18,068	36.5%
2013	49,776	18,986	38.1%
2014	49,776	17,919	36.0%
2015	55,542	13,401	24.1%
2016	55,542	11,232	20.2%
2017	55,542	13,078	23.5%
2018	55,542	13,481	24.3%
2019	55,542	18,147	32.7%
2020	55,542	16,831	30.3%
2021	55,542	18,038	32.5%
2022**	55,542	17,580	31.7%
RECREATIONAL			
2012	48,329	19,552	40.5%
2013	46,656	26,959	57.8%
2014	46,656	11,940	25.6%
2015	48,648	20,571	42.3%
2016	48,648	28,229	58.0%
2017	48,648	6,540	13.4%
2018	48,648	17,550	36.0%
2019	48,648	10,427	21.0%
2020	48,648	13,366	27.0%
2021	48,648	12,763	26.0%
2022	48,648	9,436**	19.0%**

*2022 landings are preliminary.

**Does not include landings estimates from wave 6.

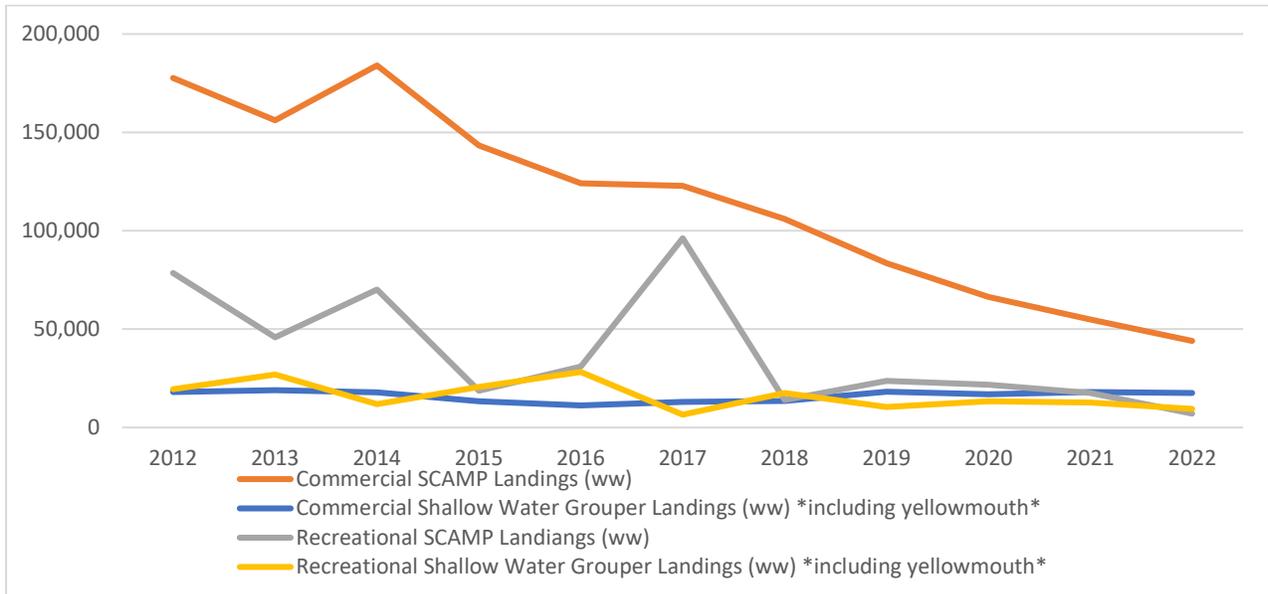


Figure 2. Commercial (orange) and recreational (gray) landings of South Atlantic scamp and commercial (blue) and recreational (yellow) landings of the other South Atlantic shallow water grouper complex from 2012-2022. Landings are in CHTS units

Source: [NMFS Southeast ACL Monitoring](#), accessed March 14 2023

OTHER SASWG COMPLEX ABC BREAKDOWN (LBS WW)

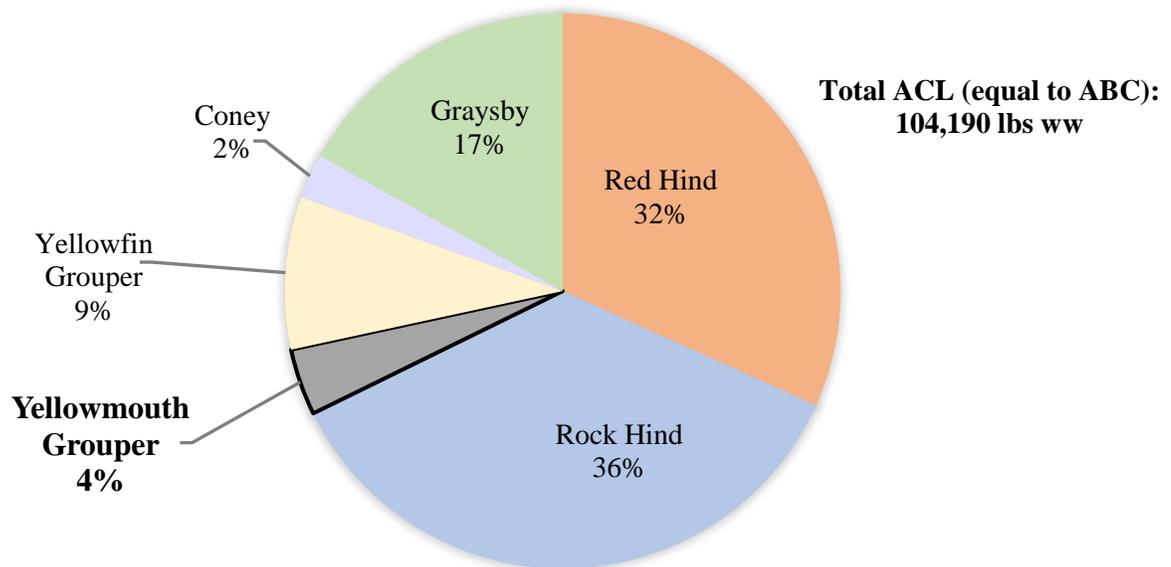


Figure 3. The ABC/ACL breakdown of the other South Atlantic shallow water grouper complex. Percentages are portions of the total ACL and do not reflect landings.

By-products of Action 1:

- Modified Other SASWG complex ACL is still a **CHTS-based ACL**
- Other SASWG Complex ACL can be adjusted through the Unassessed Species Amendment following an unassessed stocks workgroup. Scamp will no longer have an individual ACL and AM.
 - **Unassessed Species Timeline:** The workplan indicated that the ABC CR Amendment needs to be completed, the SSC will tentatively discuss the Unassessed Stocks Amendment in September 2023, the Council will tentatively see a decision document for this amendment in December 2023 (based on Council Workplan, March 2023).
- While the SSC recommended the Council modify the South Atlantic Other Shallow Water Grouper Complex ACL to include recreational estimates from the MRIP FES during the Unassessed Stocks Amendment, the SEFSC has noted that Council does have catch levels for these species that include MRIP FES values. The Council should consider this guidance and determine which amendment would be most appropriate for this update.
 - The SSC gave ABC values inclusive of recreational MRIP FES for the species in the OSASWG Complex at their August 2019 meeting but have since advised against using methods such as 3rd highest landings range, noting that these values are outdated.
 - The SSC has a working group to advise the Council on updated ABC values for unassessed species.

Committee Action:

- DISCUSS TIMELINE OF THE UNASSESSED STOCK AMENDMENT AND WHEN THE OSASWG ACL WILL BE UPDATED
- PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON ACTION AND OPTIONS

5. Establish the South Atlantic Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex sector allocations and sector annual catch limits

Purpose of Action

Allocations need to be established for the South Atlantic Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex in response to catch levels provided by the SSC from the most recent SEDAR 68 (2022) stock assessment.

Table 13. The summary of options under Action 5, establishing allocations and sector annual catch limits.

Option	Other SA Shallow Water Grouper allocations	Scamp allocations	Proposed Scamp/Yellowmouth Complex allocations	Explanation
Option 1 (No Action)	53.30% commercial 46.70% recreational	65.34% commercial 34.66% recreational	-	OSASWG: Comp ACL Formula (allocation=(0.5*1986-2008)+(0.5*2006-2008)) Scamp: Comp ACL Formula (allocation=(0.5*1986-2008)+(0.5*2006-2008))
Option 2	-	-	XX% commercial XX% recreational	
Option 3	-	-	XX% commercial XX% recreational	

Discussion:

- The ABC and total ACL need to be discussed before sector ACLs can be calculated.
- Is there a specific allocation method or year range the Council would like to see moving forward? Retain scamp allocations for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Complex?

6. Establish commercial accountability measures for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex

Purpose of Action

Accountability measures need to be established for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex to contribute to the rebuilding plan by ensuring that commercial catch levels are not exceeded and to correct for overages if they occur. The commercial AMs for the Other Shallow Water Grouper Complex will remain unchanged with the exception of removing yellowmouth grouper.

Table 14. Draft options for Action 6, establishing commercial accountability measures for the South Atlantic Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex.

	In-Season AM		Post-Season AM	
	Triggers	AM	Triggers	AM
Option 1 (No Action)	No commercial AM for the South Atlantic Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex, retain current AMs for scamp (individually) and yellowmouth grouper (within the OSASWG Complex)			
Option 2	Commercial landings meet/expected to meet sector ACL	Current commercial season closes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial landings exceed/expected to exceed the commercial ACL Total ACL exceeded Stock is overfished <p>*All triggers must be present for AM to occur</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial ACL is reduced for the following year by the amount of the overage

Discussion:

- Are there any additional AM options the Council would like to consider?

Committee Action:

- PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON ACTION AND OPTIONS

7. Establish recreational accountability measures for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper complex

Purpose of Action

Accountability measures need to be established for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex to contribute to the rebuilding plan by ensuring that recreational catch levels are not exceeded and to correct for overages if they occur. The recreational AMs for the Other Shallow Water Grouper Complex will remain unchanged with the exception of removing yellowmouth grouper.

Table 15. Draft options for Action 7, establishing recreational accountability measures for the Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex.

	In-Season AM		Post-Season AM	
	Triggers	AM	Triggers	AM
Option 1 (No Action)	No recreational AM for the South Atlantic Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper Complex, retain current AMs for scamp (individually) and yellowmouth grouper (within the OSASWG Complex)			
Option 2	The season will open annually May 1, NMFS will annually announce the season end date			
Option 3	NONE		Recreational landings exceed recreational ACL *Not tied to stock status or total ACL	Recreational season for the following year is reduced by the amount necessary to prevent the recreational ACL from being exceeded
Option 4	Recreational landings meet/expected to meet sector ACL	Current recreational season closes	Recreational landings exceed recreational ACL *Not tied to stock status or total ACL	Recreational season for the following year is reduced by the amount necessary to prevent the recreational ACL from being exceeded

Discussion:

- Are there any additional AM options the Council would like to consider?

Committee Action:

- PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON ACTION AND OPTIONS

Literature Cited

Klaer, N. L., O’Boyle, R. N., Deroba, J. J., Wayte, S. E., Little, L. R., Alade, L. A., & Rago, P. J.(2015). How much evidence is required for acceptance of productivity regime shifts in fish stock assessments: Are we letting managers off the hook? *Fisheries Research*, 168, 49–55. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2015.03.021>.

Appendix

Appendix I. Current Catch Levels and Regulations

Table A-1. Current regulations for scamp and the shallow water grouper complex.

Regulation	Scamp	Current Shallow Water Grouper Complex					
		Coney	Graysby	Red Hind	Rock Hind	Yellowfin grouper	Yellowmouth grouper
aggregate bag limit	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
bag limit	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
trip limit	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
size limit	20 in TL	NA	NA	NA	NA	20 in TL	20 in TL
Spawning Season Closure	Jan 1 – Apr 30	January 1 – April 30					

Table A-2. The species-specific portions of the shallow water grouper complex ACL.

Shallow Water Grouper Complex	ABC lbs ww	ACL lbs ww	Commercial ACL lbs ww (53.30%)	Recreational ACL lbs ww (46.70%)
Red Hind	33,084	33,084	24,350	8,734
Rock Hind	37,493	37,493	22,833	14,660
Yellowmouth Grouper	4,039	4,039	44	3,995
Yellowfin Grouper	9,258	9,258	4,879	4,379
Coney	2,718	2,718	665	2,053
Graysby	17,598	17,598	2,771	14,827
COMPLEX TOTAL	104,190	104,190	55,542	48,648

Appendix II. Current Accountability Measures

Commercial

Scamp:

- (i) If commercial landings for scamp, as estimated by the SRD, reach or are projected to reach the commercial ACL of 219,375 lb (99,507 kg), round weight, the AA 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 scamp is prohibited and harvest or possession of scamp in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is limited to the bag and possession limits. These bag and possession limits apply 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.
- (ii) If commercial landings for scamp, as estimated by the SRD, exceed the commercial ACL, and the combined commercial and recreational ACL of 335,744 lb (152,291 kg), round weight, is exceeded, and scamp are overfished based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the commercial ACL for that following fishing year by the amount of the commercial ACL overage in the prior fishing year.

Other South Atlantic Shallow Water Grouper:

- (i) If commercial landings for other SASWG combined, as estimated by the SRD, reach or are projected to reach the commercial ACL of 55,542 lb (25,193 kg), round weight, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for this complex for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such a notification, all sale or purchase of red hind, rock hind, yellowmouth grouper, yellowfin grouper, coney, and graysby is prohibited, and harvest or possession of any of these species in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is limited to the bag and possession limits. These bag and possession limits apply 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.
- (ii) If commercial landings for other SASWG combined, as estimated by the SRD, exceed the commercial ACL, and the combined commercial and recreational ACL of 104,190 lb (47,260 kg), round weight, is exceeded, and at least one of the species in other SASWG combined is overfished based on the most recent status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the commercial ACL for that following fishing year by the amount of the commercial ACL overage in the prior fishing year

Recreational

Scamp:

- (i) If recreational landings for scamp, as estimated by the SRD, reach or are projected to reach the recreational ACL of 116,369 lb (52,784 kg), round weight, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year regardless if the stock is overfished, unless NMFS determines that no closure is necessary based on the best scientific information available. On and after the effective date of such a notification, the bag and possession limits for scamp in or from the South Atlantic EEZ are zero.
- (ii) If recreational landings for scamp, as estimated by the SRD, 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 AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the length of the recreational fishing season and the recreational ACL by the amount of the recreational ACL overage, if scamp are overfished based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, and if the combined commercial and recreational ACL of 335,744 lb (152,291 kg), round weight, is exceeded during the same fishing year. NMFS will use the best scientific information available to determine if reducing the length of the recreational fishing season and recreational ACL is necessary. When the recreational sector is closed as a result of NMFS reducing the length of the recreational fishing season and ACL, the bag and possession limits for scamp in or from the South Atlantic EEZ are zero.

Other SASWG:

- (i) If recreational landings for other SASWG combined, as estimated by the SRD, reach or are projected to reach the recreational ACL of 48,648 lb (22,066 kg), round weight, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year regardless if any stock in other SASWG combined is overfished, unless NMFS determines that no closure is necessary based on the best scientific information available. On and after the effective date of such a notification, the bag and possession limits for any species in the other SASWG combined in or from the South Atlantic EEZ are zero.
- (ii) If recreational landings for other SASWG combined, as estimated by the SRD, 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 AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the length of the recreational fishing season and the recreational ACL by the amount of the recreational ACL overage, if at least one of the species in other SASWG combined is overfished based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, and if the combined commercial and recreational ACL of 104,190 lb (47,260 kg) is exceeded during the same fishing year. NMFS will use the best scientific information available to determine if reducing the length of the recreational fishing season and recreational ACL is necessary. When the recreational sector is

closed as a result of NMFS reducing the length of the recreational fishing season and ACL, the bag and possession limits for any species in the other SASWG combined in or from the South Atlantic EEZ are zero.