



Framework Action:

Greater Amberjack Commercial Trip Limits

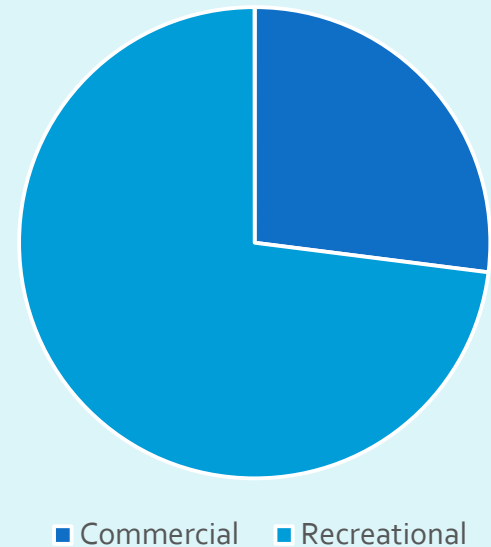


Background

Greater Amberjack has been considered overfished and experiencing overfishing since 2000.

Three subsequent assessments have determined that despite efforts, the stock remains overfished and experiencing overfishing.

Greater Amberjack Allocation



Background

Most recently, a Framework Action was implemented in 2018 to:

- Modify the rebuilding timeline to rebuild by 2027
- Reduce ABC and sector specific ACL's and ACT's

Table 1.1.1. Greater amberjack commercial ACL and ACT established in 2017 (GMFMC 2017) based on the SEDAR 33 update assessment (2016) in lbs ww.

Fishing year	ACL (lbs ww)	ACT (lbs ww)
2018	319,140	277,651
2019	402,030	349,766
2020+	484,380	421,411

Source: GMFMC 2017 “lbs” = pounds; “ww” = whole weight

Background

- Greater amberjack is not typically targeted on commercial trips and is caught while targeting other reef fish species.
- A majority of trips with greater amberjack land less than 500 pounds.

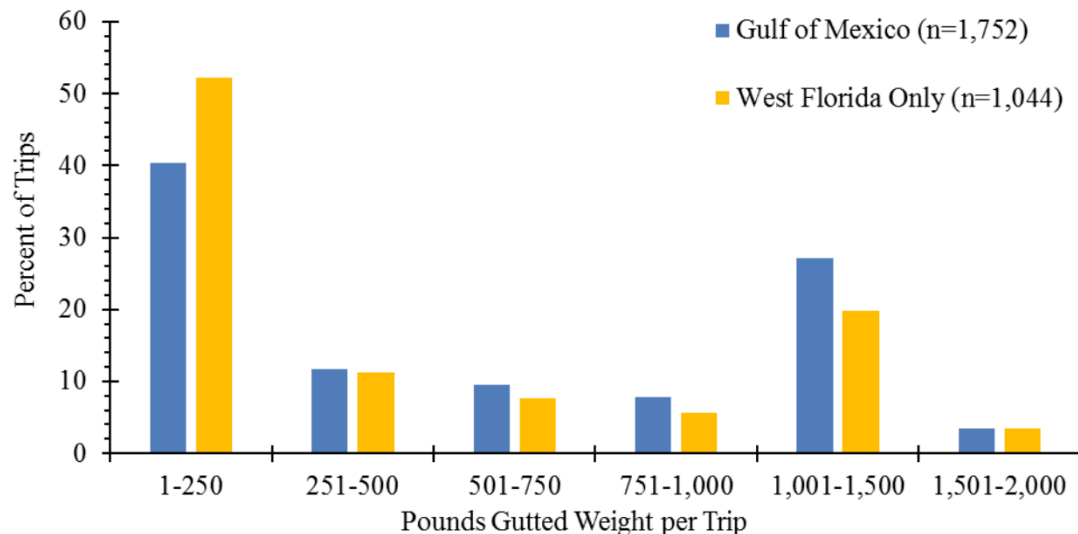
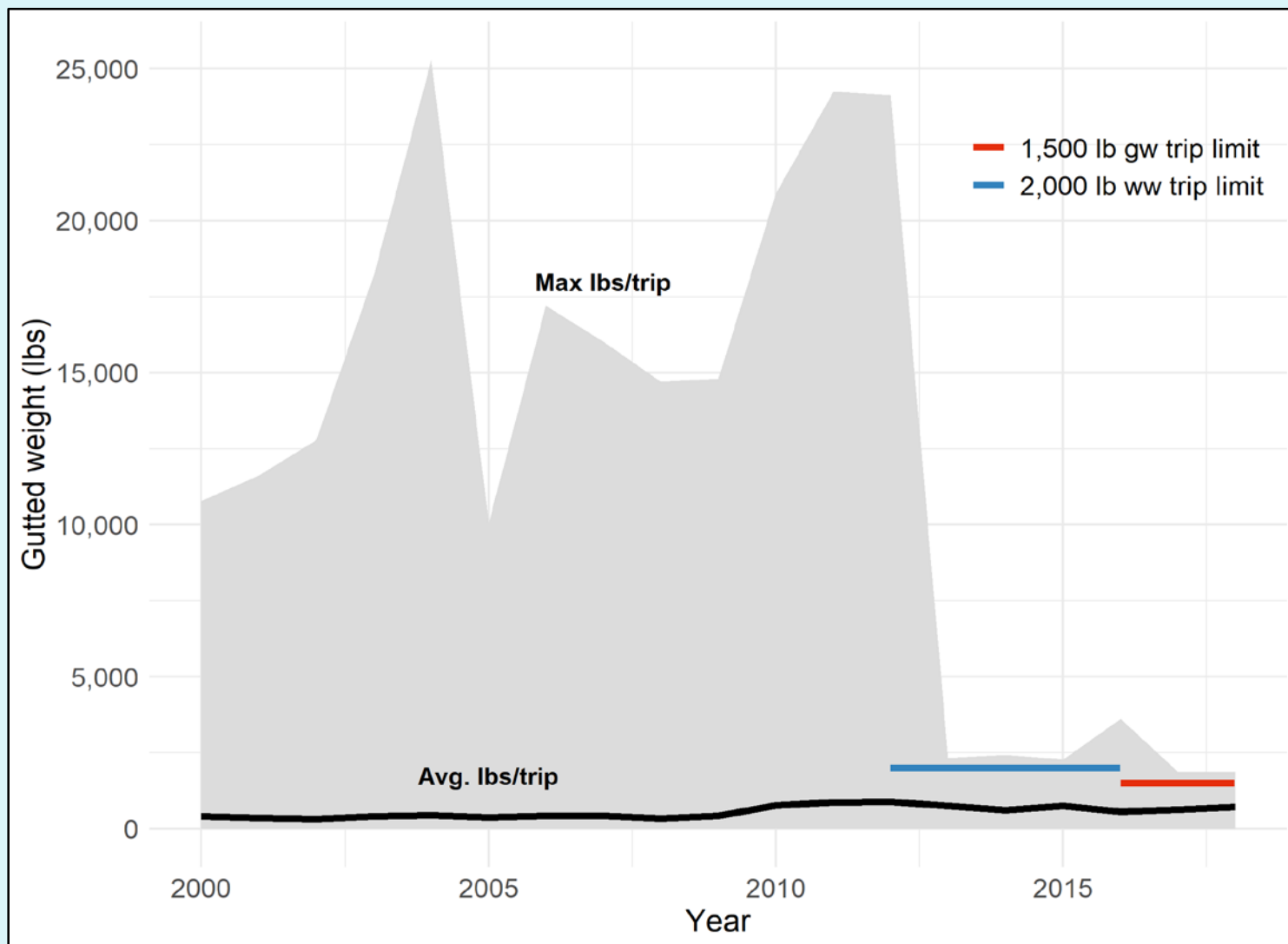


Figure 2.1.1. Percent frequency of observed commercial greater amberjack harvest (lbs gw) per trip from 2016 through 2018 for west Florida and across the entire Gulf of Mexico. Source: Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) logbook data as of February 27, 2019 (n = 1,752 trips). Logbook data for 2018 are not complete.



Background



Why are we here?

Commercial fishermen have said that they would prefer to have a longer fishing season for greater amberjack.

- This may reduce discards if incidentally caught amberjack can be retained



The Council is considering modifying the rate of harvest to extend the commercial fishing season.



Action 1:

Modify the Commercial Trip Limit

- Prior to 2013 there was no trip limit for greater amberjack.
- In 2013, the council created a 2,000 pound trip limit to slow the rate of harvest and attempt to extend the commercial fishing season.
- In 2016, the current commercial trip limit is 1,500 pounds gutted weight (1,560 pounds whole weight) was implemented in an additional effort to extend the season.

The Council is considering further reducing the commercial trip limit to extend the commercial fishing season.

Action 1: Modify the Commercial Trip Limit

Alternative 1: No action

Alternative 2: Reduce the trip limit to 1,000 lbs gw (1,040 lbs ww)

Alternative 3: Reduce the trip limit to 750 lbs gw (780 lbs ww)

Preferred Alternative 4: Reduce the trip limit to 500 lbs gw (520 lbs ww)

Alternative 5: Reduce the trip limit to 250 lbs gw (260 lbs ww)

Alternative 6: Reduce the trip limit to 250 lbs gw (260 lbs ww) when 75% of the ACT is projected to be met

Action 1:

Modify the Commercial Trip Limit

Table 2.1.2. Gulf greater amberjack commercial sector estimated closure dates for **Alternatives 1-6** and predicted dates for harvesting 75% of the ACT for each proposed commercial trip limit (**Alternative 6**). “Number of days open” is the total number of days open for Gulf greater amberjack commercial harvest for the fishing year, accounting for the March 1 – May 31 closure.

Trip limit (lbs gw)	Predicted date of 75% ACT harvest	Estimated closure date	Number of days open
Alternative 1: 1,500	-	June 27	85
Alternative 2: 1,000	-	July 21	109
Alternative 3: 750	-	August 19	138
Preferred Alternative 4: 500	-	October 23	203
Alternative 5: 250	-	None (72% ACT)	273
Alternative 6: 1,500 until 75% ACT harvested then 250	June 7	September 2	152
Alternative 6: 1,000 until 75% ACT harvested then 250	June 20	September 20	170
Alternative 6: 750 until 75% ACT harvested then 250	July 7	October 18	198
Alternative 6: 500 until 75% ACT harvested then 250	August 21	None (99% of ACT)	273

Send Us Your Comments

- Submit comments online:

<https://tinyurl.com/AJCommercialTripLimit>

- Email us:

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