

Summary of Public Comment

Framework Action: Red Grouper Annual Catch Limits and Annual Catch Targets

3 comments received.

- Support for reducing the red grouper annual catch limit as necessary.
- In the past five years red snapper have rebounded to the point of total domination. It's become hard to catch red grouper. A recent trip targeting grouper resulted in 1700 pounds of red snapper and 800 pounds of red grouper. This creates a problem because as a commercial red grouper fisherman, he is forced to lease red snapper (whose lease price continues to rise) and his trips are no longer as profitable. Reduce the red grouper allocating and allow for multi-use allocation to harvest red snapper now that there aren't red grouper.
- The red grouper stock is in decline. The red snapper stock is abundant. Red snapper are now found on most spots that use to be dominated by red grouper and it's difficult to weed through the red snapper to catch the red grouper. Meanwhile, leasing red snapper allocation gets more and more expensive. Make a percentage of grouper allocation multi-use and allow red snapper to be harvested with it.