

**Standing, Reef Fish, Mackerel, Shrimp, and  
Socioeconomic SSC Meeting Summary  
September 17-18, 2019**

*Stock Assessment Review: SEDAR 61 – Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper – Presentation of Model, Results, and Projections; Stock Status Determination, OFL and ABC Recommendation*

Stock Status and Projections

Based on SEDAR 61B, as of the end of 2017, Gulf red grouper is not overfished ( $SSB_{2017}/MSST$  [minimum stock size threshold] = 1.64;  $MSST = 0.5 \cdot B_{MSY}$ ) and is not undergoing overfishing ( $F_{Current (2015-2017)}/MFMT$  [maximum fishing mortality threshold] = 0.784;  $MFMT = F_{30\%SPR}$ ). However, this determination does not account for the 2018 red tide episodic mortality event, which was known to be a significant mortality event in the eastern Gulf.

**Motion: The SSC agrees with the SEDAR 61 assessment that overfishing is not occurring for Gulf red grouper as of 2017.**

*Motion carried without opposition.*

**Motion: The SSC agrees with the SEDAR 61 assessment that Gulf red grouper is not overfished as of 2017.**

*Motion carried without opposition.*

**Motion: The SSC moves that for Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper, the OFL is 5.35 million pounds gutted weight. The OFL is based on the average yield from projections in SEDAR 61 using the current sector allocations (76% Comm / 24% Rec) and assuming the impact of the 2018 red tide is approximately the same as the 2005 red tide on the red grouper stock.**

*Motion carried 15-6.*

**Motion: The SSC moves for Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper an ABC of 4.9 million pounds gutted weight.**

*Motion carried 15-5 with 1 absent and 1 abstention.*

*Update of Itarget Model and Projections for Gulf Lane Snapper including OFL and ABC Recommendations*

**Motion: The SEDAR 49 update for lane snapper is the best scientific information available. The OFL at 50% is 603,195 lbs and the ABC at 30% is 588,965 lbs.**

***Motion carried with 1 opposed.***

### *Update to Revisions of Status Determination Criteria Amendment*

#### Action 1 (Defining maximum sustainable yield proxies)

**Motion: That the preferred option for the MSY proxy for red drum be Option 4a.**

***Motion carried without opposition.***

#### Action 2 (Defining maximum fishing mortality threshold)

**Motion: For Action 2 the Committee recommends Alternative 2.**

**Alternative 2: For stock where an MSY proxy has not been defined, set the MFMT equal to the fishing mortality at the MSY proxy for each stock or stock complex as determined in Action 1.**

***Motion carried without opposition.***

#### Action 3 (Defining minimum stock size threshold)

**Motion: In Action 3, make Alternative 3 the preferred.**

**Alternative 3:  $MSST = 0.75 \times B_{MSY}$  proxy.**

***Motion carried 16-3.***

**Motion: In Action 3, make Alternative 5 preferred.**

**Alternative 5: For stocks assessed across the South Atlantic and Gulf Councils' jurisdictions (Goliath grouper, mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper, and black grouper), MSST for these species would use existing definitions of MSST defined by the South Atlantic Council.**

Table 2.2.1. South Atlantic Council MSST definitions for four snapper-grouper stocks and South Atlantic: Gulf allocations for three stocks.

Species	MSST
Mutton snapper	$0.75 * SSB_{30\% SPR}$
Yellowtail snapper	$0.75 * SSB_{30\% SPR}$
Black grouper	$0.75 * SSB_{30\% SPR}$
Goliath grouper	$(1-M) * B_{MSY}$

*Motion carried without opposition.*

#### Action 4 (Defining optimum yield)

**Motion:** In Action 4, any values in the range presented under Alternative 2 are acceptable.

**Alternative 2:** For reef fish stocks and red drum where OY is undefined, OY, implicitly accounting for relevant economic, social, or ecological factors, would be the yield from fishing at:

**Option 2a.** 50% of  $F_{MSY}$  proxy.

**Option 2b.** 75% of  $F_{MSY}$  proxy.

**Option 2c.** 90% of  $F_{MSY}$  proxy.

*Motion carried 17-2 with 1 absent and 1 abstention.*

#### *Scope of Work: Gray Snapper Operational Assessment*

**Motion:** Consider SEDAR 51 recommendations, and any new information, for reproduction.

*Motion carried without opposition.*

#### *Terms of Reference and Participants: SEDAR 70: Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack*

**Motion:** To approve the terms of reference for SEDAR 70: Gulf Greater Amberjack as modified.

*Motion carried without opposition.*

#### *Terms of Reference and Participants: SEDAR 72: Gulf of Mexico Gag*

**Motion:** To approve the terms of reference for SEDAR 70: Gulf Greater Amberjack as modified.

*Motion carried without opposition.*

### *Other Business*

#### Recreational Data

**Motion:** The SSC recommends an In-Person Workshop to address MRIP and FES data stream conversions and their calibration with State survey data collections as they relate to inclusion into future stock assessments.

*Motion carried without opposition.*