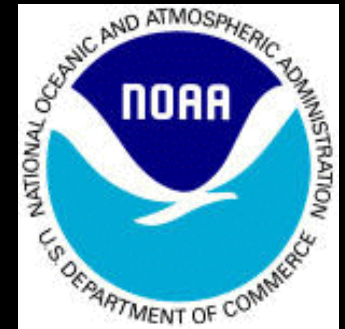




Tab B, No 4(a-1)

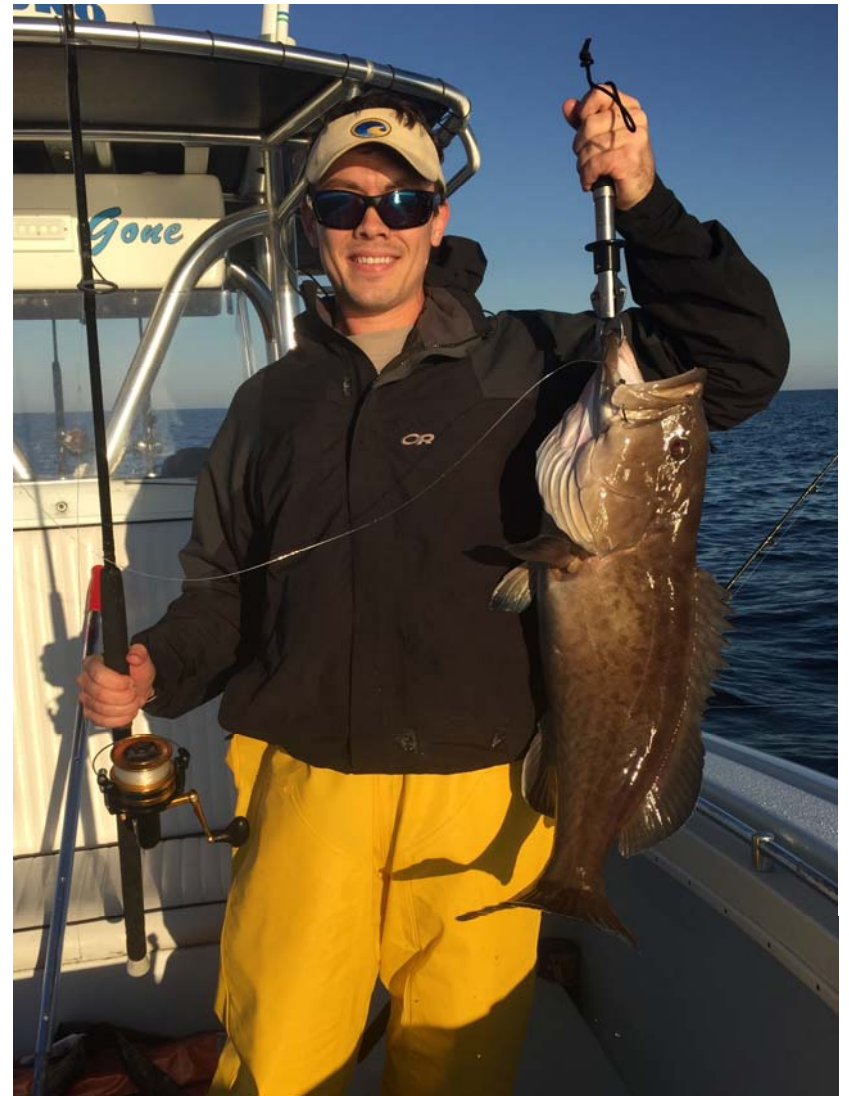


Framework Action to Adjust Red Grouper Allowable Harvest



Stock Status of Red Grouper

- Red grouper stock is neither overfished or experiencing overfishing based on SEDAR 42 (2015)
- SSC recommendations included:
 - Yield stream projections for 2016-2020
 - A constant catch yield stream projection



Commercial and Recreational Landings

Year	Commercial Landings	Recreational Landings	Total Landings	Recreational ACL	Recreational ACT	Closure Date
2015	4,797,967	1,781,130	6,579,097	1,900,000	1,730,000	10/8/2015
2014	5,601,905	1,600,475	7,202,380	1,900,000	1,730,000	10/4/2014
2013	4,599,001	2,377,111	6,976,112	1,900,000	---	none
2012	5,219,133	1,752,930	6,972,063	1,900,000	---	none
2011	4,783,668	643,745	5,427,413	1,510,000	---	none
2010	2,910,970	635,680	3,546,650	1,850,000	---	none

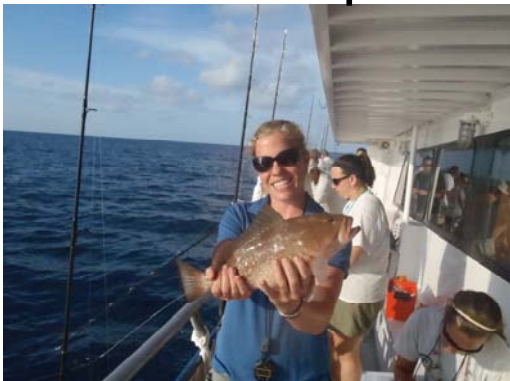
Current Recreational Management

- Minimum size limit 20 inches total length
- Recreational sector managed with 2 red grouper within 4 grouper aggregate bag limit
- Recreational ACT is 92% of the ACL based on landings from 2012-2015
- Accountability Measures
 - recreational landings are estimated to reach the ACL the AA will close the fishery for remainder of the year
 - If the ACL is exceeded in the following year the season length will be estimated based on the ACT



Recent History of Recreational Management

- March 2012 – Bag limit was increased to 4 red grouper
- July 2013 – Eliminated the February 1 – March 31 closed season on shallow-water grouper (shoreward of 20 fathoms)
- May 5 – December 31, 2014 – Bag limit temporarily reduced to 3 red grouper under the bag limit step down
- January 2015 – Bag limit restored to 4 red grouper
- May 2015 – Reduced bag limit to 2 fish and removed the bag limit step down accountability measures



Current Commercial Management

- Commercial sector managed with IFQ
 - A vessel is permitted to exceed its allowable quota (i.e., allocation) for the last trip of the year up to 10%
 - Many vessels do not use this provision
 - Multi-use allocation provision for red grouper and gag requires a buffer between the ACL & ACT
 - A 5% buffer established in Amendment 30B (GMFMC 2008) is retained throughout the proposed alternatives



Modifications to Red Grouper Catch Limits

- Allocation is 76% commercial:24% recreational
 - 5% buffer for commercial sector
 - 8% buffer for recreational sector
- The current catch limits are as follows (in pounds gutted weight):
 - OFL = 8.10 mp and ABC = 7.93 mp

Commercial ACL	Commercial ACT (quota)	Recreational ACL	Recreational ACT
6,030,000	5,720,000	1,900,000	1,730,000

Purpose and Need

Purpose – modify allowable harvest for red grouper based upon the SSC's review and recommendations of the recent stock assessment.

Need – adjust the allowable harvest based upon the best available science and manage red grouper at a level that achieves OY and prevents overfishing



Modifications to Red Grouper Catch Limits

Alternative 1: No Action.

Alternative 2: Use the declining OFL and ABC recommended by the SSC from 2016 through 2020. Establish annual sector ACLs equal to the annual ABCs based on allocation. Establish ACTs for each sector using the 5% and 8% buffers.

Year	OFL	ABC	Commercial ACL	Commercial ACT	Recreational ACL	Recreational ACT
2016	20,400,000	20,100,000	15,280,000	14,520,000	4,820,000	4,430,000
2017	15,730,000	15,480,000	11,760,000	11,170,000	3,720,000	3,420,000
2018	12,550,000	12,340,000	9,380,000	8,910,000	2,960,000	2,720,000
2019	11,120,000	10,930,000	8,310,000	7,890,000	2,620,000	2,410,000
2020	10,980,000	10,770,000	8,190,000	7,780,000	2,580,000	2,370,000

- Values are in pounds gutted weight

Modifications to Red Grouper Catch Limits

Alternative 3: Use the constant catch OFL and ABC recommended by the SSC. Establish sector ACLs equal to the ABC based on current allocation. Establish ACTs for each sector using the 5% and 8% buffers.

Mean OFL	Mean ABC	Commercial ACL	Commercial ACT	Recreational ACL	Recreational ACT
14,160,000	13,920,000	10,580,000	10,050,000	3,340,000	3,070,000

- Values are in pounds gutted weight



Modifications to Red Grouper Catch Limits

Alternative 4: Use the constant catch OFL and ABC recommended by the SSC but set the ACL and ACT below the constant catch OFL and ABC. Base the ACL and ACT on the minimum ABC of 10.77 mp gw from the declining yield stream. Use the current allocations on the minimum ABC to establish ACLs. Establish ACTs for each sector using the 5% and 8% buffers.

Mean OFL	Mean ABC	Commercial ACL	Commercial ACT	Recreational ACL	Recreational ACT
14,160,000	13,920,000	8,190,000*	7,780,000	2,580,000*	2,370,000

*Note: This alternative would create the equivalent of a stock ACL

- Values are in pounds gutted weight



Recreational red grouper proposed ACLs and + differences from Alternative 1

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Alternative 1					
ACL	1,900,000	1,900,000	1,900,000	1,900,000	1,900,000
Alternative 2					
ACL	4,820,000	3,720,000	2,960,000	2,620,000	2,580,000
Difference	2,920,000	1,820,000	1,060,000	720,000	680,000
Alternative 3					
ACL	3,340,000	3,340,000	3,340,000	3,340,000	3,340,000
Difference	1,440,000	1,440,000	1,440,000	1,440,000	1,440,000
Alternative 4					
ACL	2,580,000	2,580,000	2,580,000	2,580,000	2,580,000
Difference	680,000	680,000	680,000	680,000	680,000

Commercial red grouper proposed ACLs and + differences from Alternative 1

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Alternative 1					
ACL	6,030,000	6,030,000	6,030,000	6,030,000	6,030,000
Alternative 2					
ACL	15,280,000	11,760,000	9,380,000	8,310,000	8,190,000
Difference	9,250,000	5,730,000	3,350,000	2,280,000	2,160,000
Alternative 3					
ACL	10,580,000	10,580,000	10,580,000	10,580,000	10,580,000
Difference	4,550,000	4,550,000	4,550,000	4,550,000	4,550,000
Alternative 4					
ACL	8,190,000	8,190,000	8,190,000	8,190,000	8,190,000
Difference	2,160,000	2,160,000	2,160,000	2,160,000	2,160,000

Additional Information

Recreational:

- Each alternative (besides no action) is estimated to allow for a year-round season with a 2-fish per person bag limit.
- The potential changes may not be in effect in time to allow for a continuous season in 2016.

Commercial:

- If a mid-year increase of red grouper quota occurs NMFS would only distribute red grouper allocation (not multi-use shares) in 2016 to ensure the gag ACL is not exceeded.



Questions?

