

Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC Report



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting

June 8-12, 2015

Key West, FL

SSC Review of Alternative Red Snapper MSY Proxies

- The Council is considering whether to develop a plan amendment to revise the MSY and F_{MSY} proxy for red snapper
- SEFSC developed an analysis of possible F_{MSY} proxies for red snapper from 40% SPR to 20% SPR and possibly lower

The SSC reviewed the analysis to determine:

1. If it is sufficient for the Council to decide whether to change the current proxy of $F_{26\% SPR}$, or if further analysis is needed
2. The SSC may also comment on the pros and cons of the alternative proxies as biological reference points.



SSC Review of Alternative Red Snapper MSY Proxies

Motion: The SSC recommends, based on the latest analysis provided by the SEFSC, that there is insufficient biological evidence for a better MSY proxy than what is currently used by the Council (the yield corresponding to 26% SPR) for Gulf red snapper.



SSC Review of the effect of recalibrated recreational removals and recreational selectivity on estimates of OFL, ABC, and MSY for Gulf Red Snapper

Motion: The SSC reviewed the changing allocation scenarios between the commercial and recreational sectors of the Gulf red snapper fisheries and concluded that if the Council changes the allocation between the two sectors, this would prompt the need to reevaluate the OFL and ABC projections.

Motion carried unanimously



SSC Review of Recent Trends in Gag CPUE indices

Gag indices of abundance were updated:

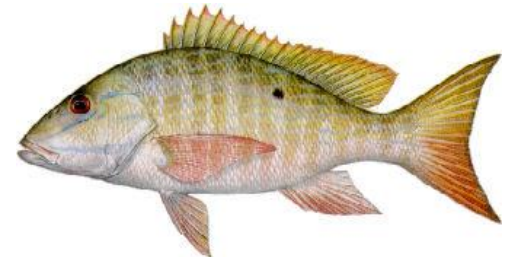
- Fishery-dependent rec. updated to 2013
- Fishery-independent updated to 2014

Motion: The SSC recommends that, given the recent declines in fishery dependent and fishery independent indices of abundance for gag, that the Council use caution when setting ACL and ACT for 2015-2017



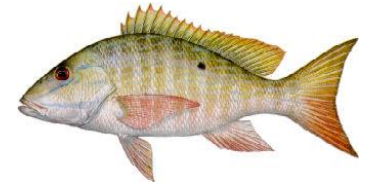
Mutton Snapper OFL and ABC

- Stock not overfished, not undergoing overfishing
- Application of ABC control rule $\rightarrow P^* = 30\%$
- The SSC recommends using 5-year projections at:
 - $P^* = 50\%$ for OFL and
 - $P^* = 30\%$ for ABC



Mutton Snapper OFL and ABC

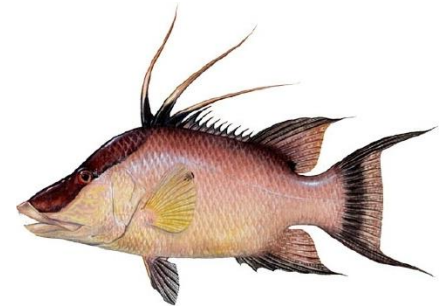
Motion: The SSC concurs with the OFL and ABC yield streams projected for Mutton Snapper as adopted by the SAFMC SSC for the years 2016-2020



OFL RECOMMENDATION				
Year	Landed LBS	Discard LBS	Landed Number	Discard Number
2016	713,492	54,005	148,995	29,298
2017	751,711	55,962	164,150	29,660
2018	793,823	56,994	173,656	30,071
2019	835,318	58,170	180,716	30,430
2020	850,077	58,857	184,868	30,780
ABC RECOMMENDATION				
Year	Landed LBS	Discard LBS	Landed Number	Discard Number
2016	692,000	52,800	145,400	28,600
2017	717,200	53,700	157,500	28,400
2018	746,800	53,900	164,500	28,300
2019	774,400	54,400	169,300	28,300
2020	798,300	54,500	172,700	28,300

Hogfish OFL and ABC

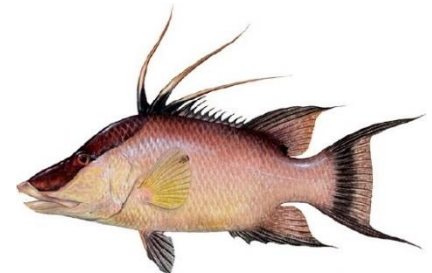
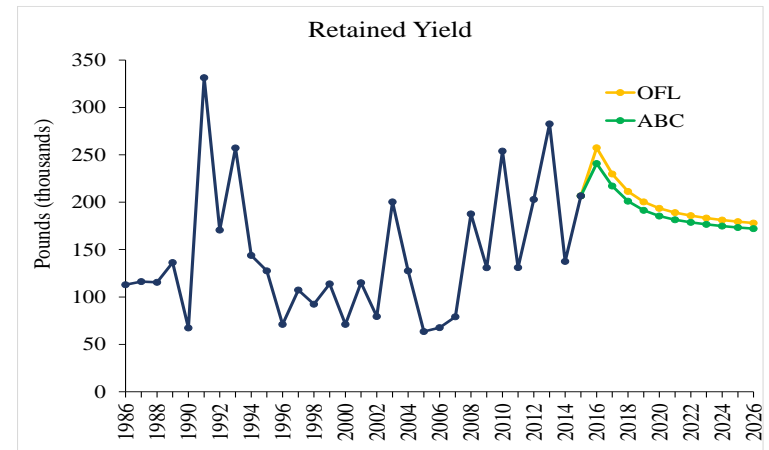
- Stock not overfished, not undergoing overfishing
- Application of ABC control rule $\rightarrow P^* = 40\%$
- The SSC recommends using 3-year projections at:
 - $P^* = 50\%$ for OFL and
 - $P^* = 40\%$ for ABC



Hogfish OFL and ABC

West Florida Shelf Hogfish Stock Projected OFL (pounds are in whole weight)				
YEAR	Yield (pounds)	Yield (numbers)	Discards (pounds)	Discards (numbers)
2016	257,140	95,407	288	89
2017	229,432	84,073	276	84
2018	211,044	77,691	266	82

West Florida Shelf Hogfish Stock Projected ABC (pounds are in whole weight)				
YEAR	Yield (pounds)	Yield (numbers)	Discards (pounds)	Discards (numbers)
2016	240,081	89,252	288	89
2017	216,808	79,429	278	85
2018	200,783	73,810	269	83



Hogfish OFL and ABC

Other important points re. hogfish:

- The South Atlantic/Florida Keys stock extends into the Gulf region and is therefore of concern to the Gulf Council
- This stock is overfished and in need of a rebuilding plan that extends into the Gulf Council's jurisdiction.
- The Gulf SSC approved the South Atlantic SSC's OFL and ABC recommendations

