



Reef Fish Advisory Panel:

Greater Amberjack Recreational Fixed Closed Season and Commercial Trip Limit



Why Are We Here?

- SEDAR 70 (2020):
 - Greater amberjack is currently overfished and experiencing overfishing
 - The stock has been continuously overfished and experiencing overfishing since 1980
- In 2023, Amendment 54 reduced catch limits by ~80%.

This amendment is being developed to extend the seasons for both sectors to the extent possible under reduced catch limits.

What's Being Considered?

Action 1:

Modify the Recreational
Fixed Closed Season

Action 2:

Modify the Commercial
Trip Limit



Action 1: Recreational Fixed Closed Season

Fishing Year: August 1 – July 31

Fishing Season:

Open: August 1 – October 31*

Closed: November 1 – April 30

Open: May 1 – May 31

Closed: June 1 – July 31

* Subject to in-season quota closure if the ACL is projected to be met

Action 1: Recreational Fixed Closed Season

Greater amberjack catch limits in pounds whole weight

OFL	ABC	Total ACL	Rec ACL	Rec ACT
2,033,000	505,000	505,000	404,000	335,320

The Council is considering modifying the recreational season to extend the season and maximize benefits to the recreational sector under the reduced catch limits.



Action 1: Recreational Fixed Closed Season

- **Alternative 1:** No Action.
- **Preferred Alternative 2:** Modify the recreational fixed closed season to be open September 1 – October 31.
- **Alternative 3:** Modify the recreational fixed closed season to be open September 1 – 30 and May 1 - 31.
 - Closed months in red with X; open months green with O

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Alt 1	O	O	O	X	X	X	X	X	X	O	X	X
Preferred Alt 2	X	O	O	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Alt 3	X	O	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	O	X	X

Action 1: Recreational Fixed Closed Season

Projected closure dates based on the current 335,320 pound ACT

Alternative	Open Period	ACT Met Date
1	August 1-October 31, May 1-31	21-Aug
2	September 1-October 31	26-Oct
3	September 1-30, May 1-31	18-May



Action 2: Commercial Trip Limit

Fishing Year: January 1 – December 31

Fishing Season:

Open: January 1 – February 28*

Closed: March 1 – May 31

Open: June 1 – December 31*



Action 2: Commercial Trip Limit

Current Trip Limit:

1000 pounds gutted weight

Step down to 250 pounds when 75% of the
ACT has been landed



Action 2: Commercial Trip Limit

Greater amberjack catch limits in pounds whole weight

OFL	ABC	Total ACL	Com ACL	Com ACT
2,033,000	505,000	505,000	101,000	93,930

The Council is considering modifying the commercial trip limit to extend the season and maximize benefits to the commercial sector under the reduced catch limits.

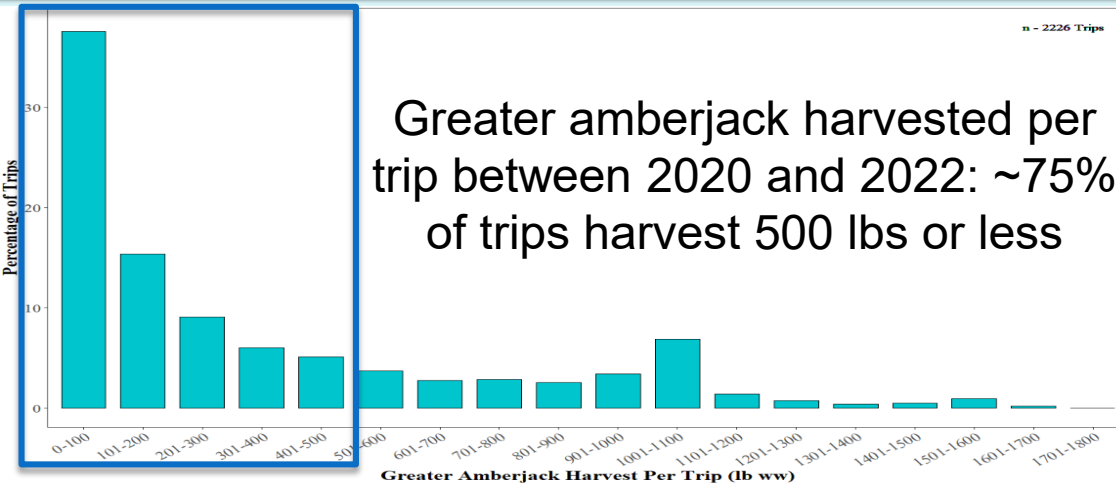


Action 2: Commercial Trip Limit

- **Alternative 1:** No Action.
- **Alternative 2:** Establish a commercial trip limit of 8 fish (~257 lbs gw / 267 lbs ww).
- **Preferred Alternative 3:** Establish a commercial trip limit of 7 fish (~ 210 lbs gw / 218 lbs ww).
- **Alternative 4:** Establish a commercial trip limit of 5 fish (~ 150 lbs gw / 155 lbs ww).



Action 2: Commercial Trip Limit



Commercial season projection analysis based on an ACT of 93,930 and an average weight of 32.1 pounds gw per fish

Commercial Trip Limit Alternatives	Projected Closure Date	Days Open	Predicted Change in Annual Landings (%)	Proportion of Trips Landing the Trip Limit or less (%)
Alt. 1: No Action	June 3 (Step down – February 4)	61	0.0	93.7
Alt. 2: 8 fish ~257 lbs gw (267 lbs ww)	August 31	150	-53.6	59.3
Preferred: Alt 3: 7 fish ~225 lbs gw (234 lbs ww)	September 20	170	-57.6	56.6
Alt 4: 5 fish ~161 lbs gw (167 lbs ww)	December 14	255	-66.5	49.6

Greater amberjack framework action



Questions?

Recommendations to the
Council?

