



Tab B, No. 10(a)

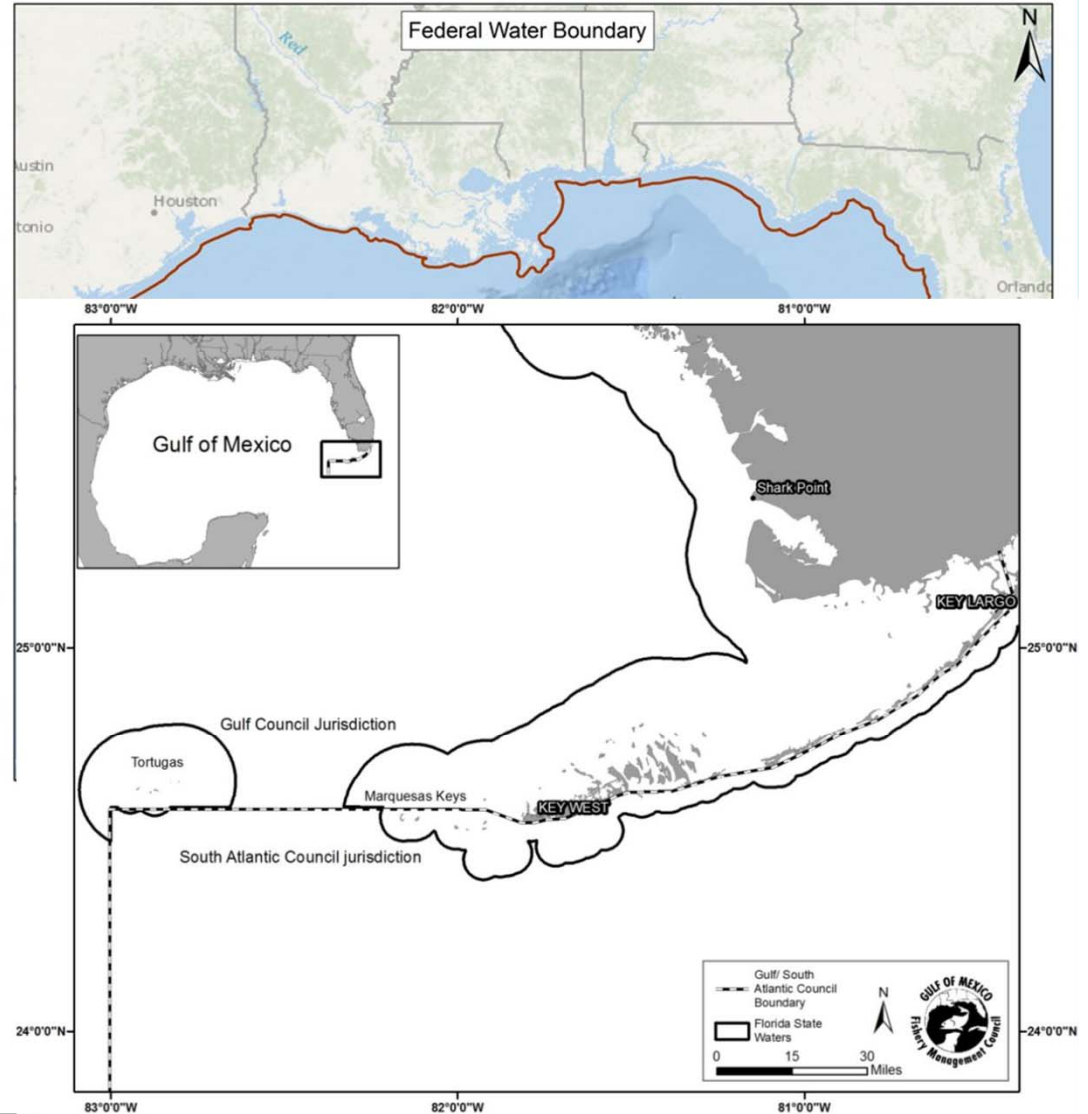
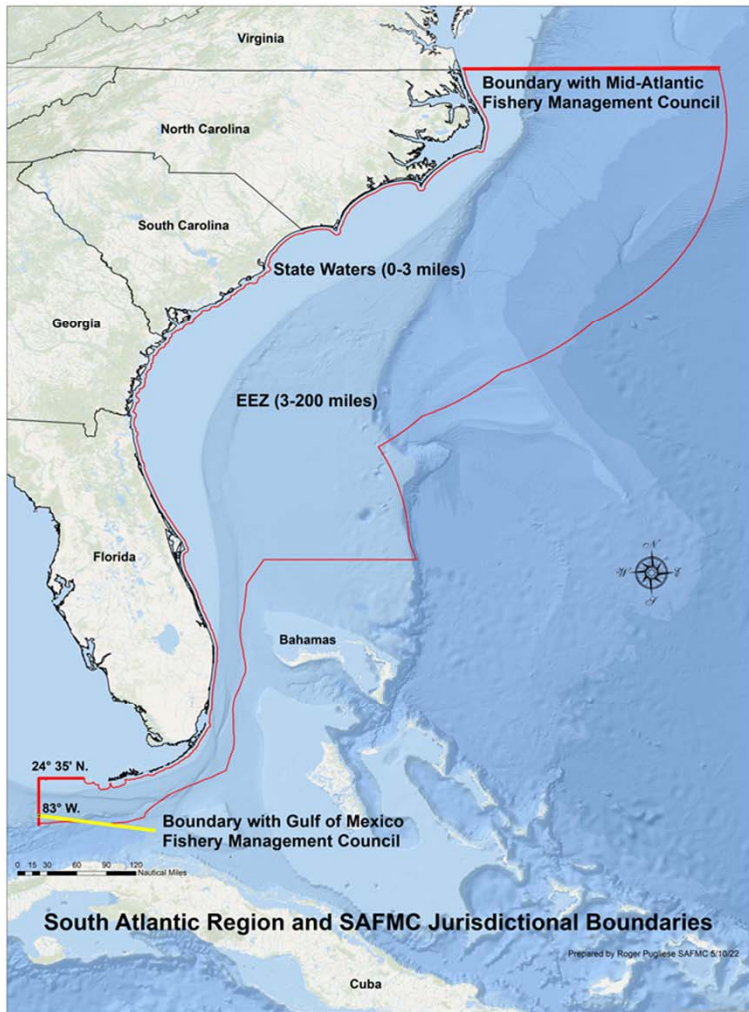


Snapper Grouper Amendment 44 / Reef Fish Amendment 55:
**Catch Level Adjustments and Allocations for
Southeastern U.S. Yellowtail Snapper**

June 2023 Gulf Council Meeting



Background



Background

- Majority of yellowtail stock is allocated to the SA based on historical landings
 - In Gulf, yellowtail landings primarily from the commercial sector, but rec landings are increasing. Majority of discards are from the rec sector.

Gulf Yellowtail Snapper Commercial and Recreational Landings				SA Yellowtail Snapper Commercial and Recreational Landings			
Fishing Year	Rec. Landings (lb ww)	Comm. Landings (lb ww)	Total Landings (lb ww)	Fishing Year	Rec. Landings (lb ww)	Comm. Landings (lb ww)	Total Landings (lb ww)
2012	5,163	630,984	636,147	2012	1,129,915	1,439,586	2,569,501
2013	9,343	734,112	743,455	2013	1,695,188	1,328,974	3,024,162
2014	27,715	466,968	494,683	2014	2,122,485	1,544,038	3,666,523
2015	64,743	504,193	568,936	2015 ^a	1,495,150	1,652,438 ^a	3,147,588
2016	13,401	209,283	222,684	2016 [*]	1,184,513	1,393,495	2,578,008
2016/2017 [*]	249,512	682,875	932,387	2016/2017 ^b	1,491,509	2,336,970 ^b	3,828,479
2017/2018	206,785	589,868	796,653	2017/2018 ^c	1,481,290	1,703,541 ^c	3,184,830
2018/2019	104,527	527,112	631,638	2018/2019 ^d	1,405,783	1,662,102 ^d	3,067,885
2019/2020	12,348	287,940	300,289	2019/2020	1,330,659	1,435,167	2,766,566
2020/2021	79,765	212,630	292,395	2020/2021	1,131,075	1,204,637	2,335,712

Yellowtail Snapper Management

Fishing Season

- Open year-round
- August 1 – July 31

Possession Limit

- Commercial: none
- Recreational: 10 fish per person/day within 10 snapper aggregate limit

Minimum Size Limit

- Recreational and commercial: 12 inches TL



Yellowtail Snapper Management

Gulf Council Jurisdiction

- Apportioned 25% of the ABC
- Managed with stock ACL, no sector allocations in the Gulf
- 11% buffer between Gulf ABC and Gulf ACL
- Post-Season Accountability Measure: If the ACL is exceeded, then in the following year, the season will be closed when the ACL is expected to be met

South Atlantic Council Jurisdiction

- Apportioned 75% of the ABC
- 52.56% Commercial / 47.44% Recreational
- Commercial Accountability Measures
 - In-Season: When the ACL is reached, the sale of yellowtail snapper is prohibited
 - Post-Season: If yellowtail snapper is *Overfished* and the total ACL is exceeded, the following year's ACL is reduced by the amount of the overage
- Recreational Accountability Measure
 - In-Season: Season will close if landings reach or are projected to reach the ACL
 - Post-Season: If the total ACL is exceeded, then during the following fishing year recreational landings will be monitored for increased landings, and if necessary, the length of the season will be reduced along with the ACL by the amount of the recreational ACL overage, if the species is overfished...

Why Are We Here?

Stock Assessment - SEDAR 64: 2020

- Terminal data year: 2017
- Interim Analysis finalized in 2022 using data through 2020
- Updated recreational catch data (MRIP-FES)
 - Adjusts historical landings estimates
 - Recreational landings are generally higher than previously thought
 - Impacts catch limits and allocation between Councils
- Stock Status: Not overfished and not undergoing overfishing



Current Allocations and Catch Limits

- Stock ABC: 4.05 million lb ww
 - Current OFL and ABC Based on SEDAR 27A (2012)
 - Catch limits set in MRFSS
- The ABC is split 75% to the South Atlantic and 25% to the Gulf of Mexico.
 - Based on 50% of average landings from 1993-2008 + 50% of average landings from 2006-2008.
 - Data from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey
- **South Atlantic ABC = 3,037,500 lb ww**
- **Gulf of Mexico ABC = 1,012,500 lb ww**



Why Are We Here?

Scientific and Statistical Committees Recommendations:

- The OFL, ABC, and all subsequent catch level recommendations are based on the 2022 SEDAR 64 interim analysis (IA)
- Resulting catch limits from the IA begin higher than current MRFSS catch limits, but use the MRIP-FES data units
- Decreasing yield stream allows for fishing to the stock's equilibrium

SSB_{MSY}

Year	OFL from SEDAR 64 Interim Analysis	ABC (mp ww) from SEDAR 64 Interim Analysis
2023	3.922	3.887
2024	3.774	3.749
2025	3.684	3.665
2026	3.625	3.610
2027+	3.584	3.572



Amendment Actions

Action 1: Modify the yellowtail snapper stock OFL, ABC and jurisdictional allocation of the stock ABC between the South Atlantic and Gulf Councils' Jurisdictions

Action 2: Revise the total ACL and annual OY for yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic and revise the total ACL for yellowtail snapper in the Gulf

Action 3: Revise the South Atlantic yellowtail snapper sector allocations and sector ACLs



Actions Applicable to the Gulf

- **Action 1:** Modify the yellowtail snapper OFL and ABC and jurisdictional allocation between the South Atlantic and Gulf Councils
- **Action 2, Sub-action 2b:** Revise the Gulf ABC buffer to set the Gulf ACL for yellowtail snapper



Action 1: Modify the stock OFL, ABC and Jurisdictional Allocation Between the South Atlantic and Gulf

- Current allocation: 75% South Atlantic, 25% Gulf
 - Based on **MRFSS**, using 50% of average landings from 1993-2008 + 50% of average landings from 2006-2008. **Not viable alternative**
- Using updated MRIP-FES landings:
 - Retain the same allocation percentage and distribute the updated ABC based on this allocation
 - Use the current formula (above) to determine the stock ABC; results in an allocation of 81% to SA and 19% to the Gulf
 - Use landings estimates from 2012 – 2021 fishing years to determine the stock ABC, results in an allocation of 84% to the SA and 16% to the Gulf
- *Note: Monroe County = South Atlantic*



Action 1: Modify the Stock OFL, ABC and Council Jurisdictional Allocation for Yellowtail Snapper

- Alternative 1 (No Action).** Retain the **current** yellowtail snapper OFL and stock ABC, and allocation of the stock ABC for yellowtail snapper between the South Atlantic and Gulf Councils' jurisdictions. **The current jurisdictional allocation between the South Atlantic and the Gulf is 75% and 25% of the stock ABC, respectively, and is in MRFSS data units.** This jurisdictional allocation is based 50% on the average landings from 1993-2008, plus 50% on the average landings from 2006-2008.
- NOTE: Not a viable alternative because not consistent with SSC recommendation of best scientific information available**

Year	OFL (lb ww)	ABC (lb ww)	Gulf Stock ABC (lb ww)	South Atlantic Stock ABC (lb ww)
Alternative 1 (No Action) GOM 25%/SA 75% - Current Stock ABC				
2023/2024	4,510,000	4,050,000	1,012,500	3,037,500
2024/2025	4,510,000	4,050,000	1,012,500	3,037,500
2025/2026	4,510,000	4,050,000	1,012,500	3,037,500
2026/2027	4,510,000	4,050,000	1,012,500	3,037,500
2027/2028	4,510,000	4,050,000	1,012,500	3,037,500

Action 1: Modify the Stock OFL, ABC and Council Jurisdictional Allocation for Yellowtail Snapper

- Alternative 2.** Update the yellowtail snapper OFL and stock ABC based on the IA and the SSC's recommendations. Retain the current jurisdictional allocation of yellowtail snapper (75% SA / 25% Gulf) and use the **updated stock ABC** between the South Atlantic and Gulf Councils' jurisdictions to update the allocation. The updated stock ABC is in MRIP-FES units.
- NOTE:** For all alternatives, recreational landings from Monroe County, Florida, are attributed to the South Atlantic. Commercial landings are attributed to the location of reporting from state trip tickets.

Year	OFL (lb ww)	ABC (lb ww)	Gulf Stock ABC (lb ww)	South Atlantic Stock ABC (lb ww)
Alternative 2 GOM 25%/SA 75% - Updated Stock ABC				
2023/2024	3,922,000	3,887,000	971,750	2,915,250
2024/2025	3,774,000	3,749,000	937,250	2,811,750
2025/2026	3,684,000	3,665,000	916,250	2,748,750
2026/2027	3,625,000	3,610,000	902,500	2,707,500
2027/2028	3,584,000	3,572,000	893,000	2,679,000

Council

Action 1: Modify the Stock OFL, ABC and Council Jurisdictional Allocation for Yellowtail Snapper

- Alternative 3.** Update the yellowtail snapper OFL and stock ABC based on the IA and the SSC's recommendations. Applying MRIP-FES to the current formula (50% on the average landings from 1993-2008, plus 50% on the average landings from 2006-2008), yields a jurisdictional allocation of 81% of the **updated stock ABC** to the SA and 19% Gulf.

Year	OFL (lb ww)	ABC (lb ww)	Gulf Stock ABC (lb ww)	South Atlantic Stock ABC (lb ww)
Alternative 3 GOM 19%/SA 81% -Updated Stock ABC				
2023/2024	3,922,000	3,887,000	738,530	3,148,470
2024/2025	3,774,000	3,749,000	712,310	3,036,690
2025/2026	3,684,000	3,665,000	696,350	2,968,650
2026/2027	3,625,000	3,610,000	685,900	2,924,100
2027/2028	3,584,000	3,572,000	678,680	2,893,320

Action 1: Modify the Stock OFL, ABC and Council Jurisdictional Allocation for Yellowtail Snapper

- Alternative 4.** Update the yellowtail snapper OFL and stock ABC based on the IA and the SSC's recommendations. Applying MRIP-FES to the 2012 – 2021 fishing years, the average landings from that period yield a jurisdictional allocation of 84% of the **updated stock ABC** to the South Atlantic and 16% to the Gulf.

Year	OFL (lb ww)	ABC (lb ww)	Gulf Stock ABC (lb ww)	South Atlantic Stock ABC (lb ww)
Draft Alternative 4 GOM 16%/SA 84% - Updated Stock ABC				
2023/2024	3,922,000	3,887,000	621,920	3,265,080
2024/2025	3,774,000	3,749,000	599,840	3,149,160
2025/2026	3,684,000	3,665,000	586,400	3,078,600
2026/2027	3,625,000	3,610,000	577,600	3,032,400
2027/2028	3,584,000	3,572,000	571,520	3,000,480

Action 1: Modify the Stock OFL, ABC and Council Jurisdictional Allocation for Yellowtail Snapper

Year	OFL (lb ww)	ABC (lb ww)	Gulf Stock ABC (lb ww)	South Atlantic Stock ABC (lb ww)
Alternative 1 (No Action) GOM 25%/SA 75% - Current Stock ABC				
2023/2024	4,510,000	4,050,000	1,012,500	3,037,500
2024/2025	4,510,000	4,050,000	1,012,500	3,037,500
2025/2026	4,510,000	4,050,000	1,012,500	3,037,500
2026/2027	4,510,000	4,050,000	1,012,500	3,037,500
2027/2028	4,510,000	4,050,000	1,012,500	3,037,500
Alternative 2 GOM 25%/SA 75% - Updated Stock ABC				
2023/2024	3,922,000	3,887,000	971,750	2,915,250
2024/2025	3,774,000	3,749,000	937,250	2,811,750
2025/2026	3,684,000	3,665,000	916,250	2,748,750
2026/2027	3,625,000	3,610,000	902,500	2,707,500
2027/2028	3,584,000	3,572,000	893,000	2,679,000
Alternative 3 GOM 19%/SA 81% - Updated Stock ABC				
2023/2024	3,922,000	3,887,000	738,530	3,148,470
2024/2025	3,774,000	3,749,000	712,310	3,036,690
2025/2026	3,684,000	3,665,000	696,350	2,968,650
2026/2027	3,625,000	3,610,000	685,900	2,924,100
2027/2028	3,584,000	3,572,000	678,680	2,893,320
Draft Alternative 4 GOM 16%/SA 84% - Updated Stock ABC				
2023/2024	3,922,000	3,887,000	621,920	3,265,080
2024/2025	3,774,000	3,749,000	599,840	3,149,160
2025/2026	3,684,000	3,665,000	586,400	3,078,600
2026/2027	3,625,000	3,610,000	577,600	3,032,400
2027/2028	3,584,000	3,572,000	571,520	3,000,480

Action 1: Modify the Stock OFL, ABC and Council Jurisdictional Allocation for Yellowtail Snapper

- SA Snapper Grouper AP Recommendations (April 2023):
 - Recommended the SA Council take a precautionary approach
 - Consider Gulf fishermen (commercial specifically noted by some AP members)
 - Make sure the season stays open year round (both sectors)
 - Some members suggested a hybrid option between Alternatives 2 and 4:
 - Gulf: between 16%-25%
 - South Atlantic: between 75%-84%
- Gulf Reef Fish AP Recommendations (Jan. and Oct. 2022):
 - Does not want to give more fish to the Atlantic
 - Gulf fishermen like how the fishery is now and don't want any closures
 - Since yellowtail snapper is a Florida species, can SRFS data be applied in future analyses?



Action 2: Modify Yellowtail Snapper ABC Buffer to Set Gulf ACL

Action 2, Sub-action 2b: Revise the buffer between the Gulf ABC and Gulf ACL for yellowtail snapper

NOTE: ACL totals for alternatives under Action 2 will be dependent on the jurisdictional allocation from Action 1

- Yellowtail snapper not overfished, not undergoing overfishing
- Current buffer between ABC and ACL = 11%
- Using 2017/18 – 2020/21 fishing years, buffer = 8%
- Eliminate the buffer?



Action 2: Modify Yellowtail Snapper ABC Buffer to Set Gulf ACL

- **Alternative 1 (No Action).** Retain the current 11% buffer between the Gulf's apportionment of the ABC and ACL. Use this buffer to update the Gulf's ACL based on the Gulf Council's jurisdictional allocation selected in Action 1. The **11% buffer** is calculated using the Gulf ACL/ACT Control Rule and MRFSS landings data from 2008 – 2011.



Action 2: Modify Yellowtail Snapper ABC Buffer to Set Gulf ACL

- **Alternative 2.** Modify the buffer between the Gulf's apportionment of the total ABC and ACL using the Gulf's ACL/ACT Control Rule and MRIP-FES, based on the jurisdictional allocation from Action 1. The **8% buffer** is calculated using MRIP-FES landings from 2017/2018 – 2020/2021.



Action 2: Modify Yellowtail Snapper ABC Buffer to Set Gulf ACL

- **Alternative 3. Eliminate the buffer** between the Gulf's apportionment of the total ABC and ACL. The Gulf's ACL would be equal to the updated Gulf's jurisdictional allocation of the stock ABC in MRIP-FES.



Summary

- Action 2 alternatives are all dependent on the jurisdictional allocation chosen in Action 1.
 - Current Stock ABC: 75% SA / 25% Gulf (MRFSS)
 - Updated Stock ABC: 75% SA / 25% Gulf (MRIP-FES)
 - Updated stock ABC: 81% SA / 19% Gulf (MRIP-FES)
 - Updated stock ABC: 84% SA / 16% Gulf (MRIP-FES)
- Retain current Gulf ABC and ACL buffer of 11% (MRFSS 2008-11)
- Modify Gulf ABC and ACL buffer to 8% (MRIP-FES 2017/18 – 2020-21)
- Eliminate the buffer between the ABC and ACL (MRIP-FES)
- Seasonal closures are possible with decreasing yield stream, decreasing Gulf jurisdictional allocation and modifying the buffer



Action 2: Modify Yellowtail Snapper ABC Buffer to Set Gulf ACL

Action 1, Alternative 2: Gulf 25% / SA 75%					
Action 2	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028+
Alternative 1 (11% ACL buffer)	No closure	No closure	No closure	No closure	No closure
Alternative 2 (8% ACL buffer)	No closure	No closure	No closure	No closure	No closure
Alternative 3 (No buffer)	No closure	No closure	No closure	No closure	No closure
Action 1, Alternative 3: Gulf 19% / SA 81%					
Action 2	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028+
Alternative 1 (11% ACL buffer)	Possible closure: Jul 25	Possible closure: Jul 17	Possible closure: Jul 12	Possible closure: Jul 8	Possible closure: Jul 6
Alternative 2 (8% ACL buffer)	No closure	Possible closure: Jul 25	Possible closure: Jul 19	Possible closure: Jul 16	Possible closure: Jul 13
Alternative 3 (No buffer)	No closure	No closure	No closure	No closure	No closure
Action 1, Alternative 4: Gulf 16% / SA 84%					
Action 2	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028+
Alternative 1 (11% ACL buffer)	Possible closure: Jun 19	Possible closure: Jun 12	Possible closure: Jun 8	Possible closure: Jun 5	Possible closure: Jun 3
Alternative 2 (8% ACL buffer)	Possible closure: Jun 25	Possible closure: Jun 18	Possible closure: Jun 14	Possible closure: Jun 11	Possible closure: Jun 9
Alternative 3 (No Buffer)	Possible closure: Jul 12	Possible closure: Jul 4	Possible closure: Jun 30	Possible closure: Jun 27	Possible closure: Jun 25

South Atlantic Actions:

- **Modify the yellowtail snapper stock OFL, ABC and jurisdictional allocation**
- **Modify the South Atlantic ACL and annual OY to reflect the new OFL, ABC and jurisdictional allocation**
- **Revise the South Atlantic sector allocations and sector ACLs**



Next Steps

- Council input on current alternatives needed. South Atlantic will discuss this amendment at their meeting June 12 - 16
- SA proposed tentative timeline:

June 2023	Both Councils will review decision document/preliminary draft amendment and provide guidance on actions and options.
September/ October 2023	Both Councils review actions and alternatives and draft amendment, select preferreds, and approve for public hearings
November 2023	Conduct public hearings
December 2023	SAFMC consider final approval of final draft amendment
January 2024	GMFMC consider final approval of final draft amendment