



Reef Fish Amendment 54:

# Greater Amberjack Rebuilding Plan

# GAJ Stock Assessments

| Assessment      | Completion Date | Terminal Year of Data |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Turner et al.   | 2000            | 1998                  |
| SEDAR 9         | 2006            | 2004                  |
| SEDAR 9 Update  | 2011            | 2008                  |
| SEDAR 33        | 2014            | 2012                  |
| SEDAR 33 Update | 2017            | 2015                  |
| SEDAR 70        | Nov 2020        | 2018                  |

On April 7, 2021, NMFS advised Council that greater amberjack is now subject to overfishing and continues to be overfished.



# SEDAR 70 Status Results

- Based on RF44 definition of MSST, stock remains overfished.
- Based on MFMT, stock is undergoing overfishing.
- Over assessment time period of 1950-2018, stock has experienced overfishing since 1977 and continues to experience overfishing through terminal year (2018) of SEDAR 70.
- Stock has been in a consistent overfished state since 1988.
- Projections based on 2027 rebuilding date.



# Current Catch Levels

A 2017 Framework Action adopted SSC recommended OFLs and ABCs and set 2018-2020+ ACLs based on SEDAR 33 Update (2016). Established 13% buffer for commercial ACT and 17% buffer for recreational ACT.

|              |           | Recreational |           | Commercial |         |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|------------|---------|
| Year         | ABC       | ACL          | ACT       | ACL        | ACT     |
| <b>2018</b>  | 1,182,000 | 862,860      | 716,173   | 319,140    | 277,651 |
| <b>2019</b>  | 1,489,000 | 1,086,970    | 902,185   | 402,030    | 349,766 |
| <b>2020+</b> | 1,794,000 | 1,309,620    | 1,086,985 | 484,380    | 421,411 |

Values in pounds whole weight.



# Sector Allocation

- Amendment 30A – 73%:27% Rec:Comm
- Based on 1981-2004 historical landings.
- Landings by sector available for 1981-2019.
- Commercial “Jacks” landings aggregated <1992.
- Greater amberjack added to Reef Fish FMU through Amendment 1 (1990).



# Amendment 54

- Incorporate SEDAR 70 results into management to end overfishing and rebuild the stock
- Review sector allocations based on change from MRIP-CHTS to MRIP-FES
- Modify catch levels
- Council to determine alternatives for allocations to set catch levels



# Action 1: Sector Allocation, OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs

## *Potential Alternatives –*

### Historical Landings:

- **Alternative 1:** (No Action) 1981-2004 in CHTS
- **Alternative 2:** 1981-2004 in FES
- **Alternative 3:** 1981-2019 in FES (longest time series)
- **Alternative 4:** 1992-2019 in FES (commercial data by species)

### Maintain Current Sector Allocation:

- **Alternative 5:** Convert CHTS to FES and maintain 73% rec : 27% comm.



# Action 1: Potential Alternatives

| <b>Alt.</b> | <b>Method/<br/>Time Series</b>  | <b>Avg Landings<br/>Rec : Comm<br/>(mp ww)</b> | <b>Rec : Comm<br/>Allocation</b> |
|-------------|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 1           | 1981-2004 (CHTS)                | 2.85 : 1.04                                    | 73% : 27%                        |
| 2           | 1981-2004 (FES)                 | 5.44 : 1.04                                    | 84.0% : 16.0%                    |
| 3           | 1981-2019 (FES)                 | 4.26 : 0.83                                    | 83.6% : 16.4%                    |
| 4           | 1992-2019 (FES)                 | 3.24 : 0.75                                    | 81.0% : 19.0%                    |
| 5           | FES & maintain Alt 1 allocation |  | 73% : 27%                        |

Catch levels to be determined by SEFSC based on sector allocations for proposed alternatives.





# OFL and ABC

| Year        | Current*<br>(GMFMC 2017a) |       | SSC recommendation<br>(Jan 2021) |       |
|-------------|---------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|
|             | OFL                       | ABC   | OFL**                            | ABC** |
| <b>2020</b> | 2.167                     | 1.794 |                                  |       |
| <b>2021</b> | 2.438                     | 1.794 |                                  |       |
| <b>2022</b> | 2.666                     | 1.794 | 1.637                            | 1.255 |
| <b>2023</b> | 2.666                     | 1.794 | 2.223                            | 1.767 |
| <b>2024</b> | 2.666                     | 1.794 | 2.781                            | 2.270 |

Values in millions of pounds whole weight.

\*Current OFL and ABC based on 73% recreational and 27% commercial allocation. Recreational units in CHTS; SSC recommendation based on FES and are greater than projection results from SEDAR 70.

\*\*SSC recommendations may change after allocations are determined



# Potential Action 2: Modify ACT

**Alternative 1:** 13% buffer for commercial ACT and 17% buffer for recreational ACT based on ACL/ACT Control Rule.

**Alternative 2:** Apply the ACL/ACT Control Rule to revise the buffer between the ACL and ACT for each sector.



# Next Steps

- OFL and ABC are conditional upon the sector allocations
- Committee Guidance is requested about allocation scenarios of interest
  - Council staff will ask SEFSC to prepare updated projections based on the allocations requested here
  - Could be based on a time series or other method(s)
  - Results will be presented to SSC and OFL and ABC recommendations conditioned on each allocation option will be provided
- Committee will review draft options at a future meeting



# Questions?

