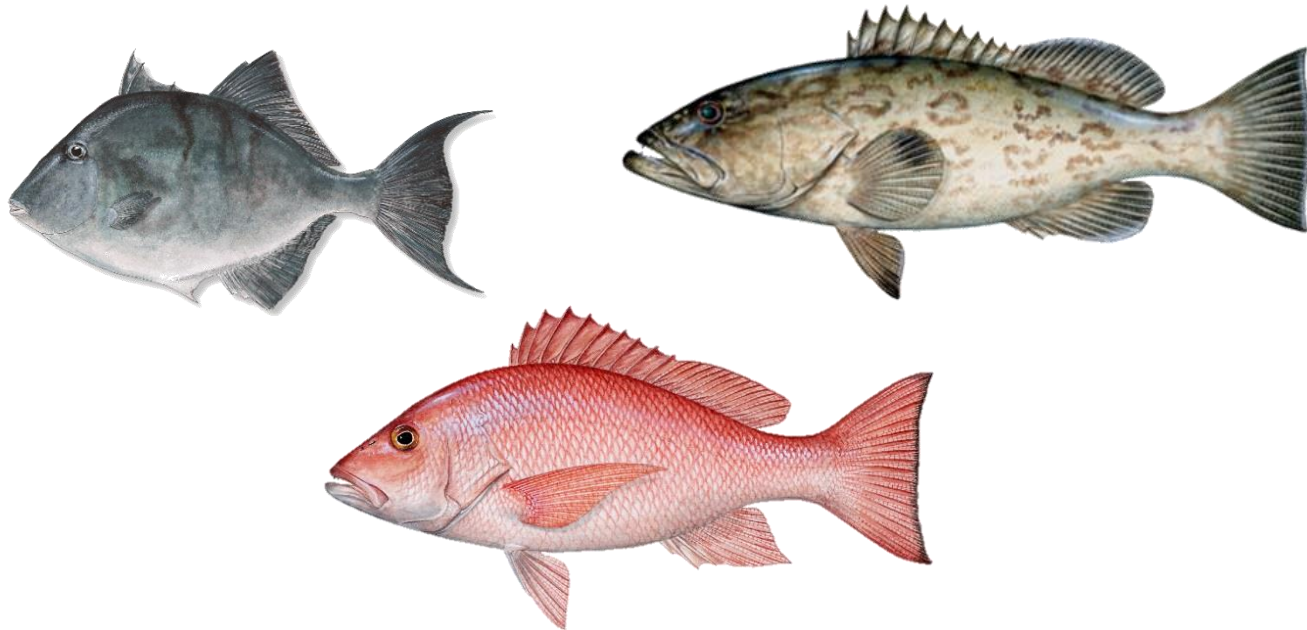


# SSC Summary Report – August 2019 Meeting



**Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council**  
August 12-15, 2019 Meeting  
New Orleans, LA



# Summary SSC Report

- **NOAA Fisheries Final BSIA Framework**
  - Complements NS2. Improves coordination and communication
  - Includes Regional BSIA framework recommendation
  - Regions are being given 3 years to develop their own BSIA frameworks
- **NS1 Technical Guidance (estimation of *F* and *B* Proxies)**
  - Develop technical guidance on NS1 guideline topics to support decision-making
  - Technical Guidance Workgroup subdivided into 3 subgroups:
    - Subgroup 1: Reference points
    - Subgroup 2: Carry-over and Phase-in (*includes Ryan Rindone*)
    - Subgroup 3: Data limited stocks (*includes John Froeschke*)
  - Products will roll out individually; phase-in first



# Summary SSC Report

- **Presentations on setting MSY proxies and SDC**

- 1) Coping with Information Gaps in Stock Productivity for Rebuilding and Achieving MSY for Grouper–Snapper Fisheries
- 2) Establishing Stock Status Determination Criteria for Fisheries with High Discards and Uncertain Recruitment
- 3) A Perspective on Steepness, Reference Points, and Stock Assessment

## Take-Home Messages:

- A “best proxy” for MSY is likely non-existent; every situation is unique
- Analyses by SEFSC ( $SPR_{MSY}$  global approach) helped identify upper and lower bounds for Red Snapper SPR proxy (23% and 38%)
- Key reference points are fixed when steepness and other life history parameters are fixed in stock assessments



# Summary SSC Report

- **Discussion of Alternative ABC Control Rule**
  - Recommendation: reconvene the ABC Control Rule Working Group to evaluate the existing rule and propose improvements
- **Review MRIP and State Survey Data Collection and Calibration Efforts**
  - Need a way to account for differences between MRIP and state surveys so we can produce a gulf wide catch estimate for stock assessments
  - Florida GRFS-MRIP workshop planned for Sept. Workshops with other states to follow
  - NMFS just released a white paper with recommendations on how to proceed for the time being. Being discussed at upcoming SEDAR Steering Committee meeting



# Summary SSC Report

- **Discussion of SEDAR 62: Gray Triggerfish Progress**
  - During the Data Workshop some bias in ages of dorsal spines and otoliths was identified
  - Analytical team has since switched the model to a length-based approach
  - SEFSC indicated that it still plans to maintain the planned schedule for the assessment but there could be a short delay
- **Scopes of Work: Gray Snapper and Hogfish Operational Assessments**
  - SOW's have been submitted to SEDAR
  - Need to think about the trade off of more complete assessments vs. thru put for Operational Assessments

# Summary SSC Report

- **Explosive Removal of Structures: Fisheries Impact Assessment**

- SSC received a presentation by Dr. Benny Gallaway (LGL Ecological Research Associates, Inc.) on ongoing research on the effects of explosive blasting to remove offshore oil rigs on reef fish mortality (mostly off LA)
- Preliminary results: as much as 5% of the total Red Snapper abundance and 45% of the total Greater Amberjack abundance are found on these rigs

## Take-Home Messages:

- 1) Localized impact of the removal of these structures on fisheries;
- 2) Results suggest that estimates of GAJ stock size have problems.



# Summary SSC Report

- **Almaco Jack Life History and Landings**
  - SAFMC and Florida FWC implemented 20” minimum size limit for commercial Almaco Jack in the Atlantic
  - Gulf Council requested the SSC to review data and provide feedback on the implementation of similar regulations for the Gulf
  - SSC pointed out data-poor nature of this species: SEDAR 49
  - Insufficient data to provide management recommendations at this time
- **Other Business:**
  - SSC asked SEFSC to analyze the assessment outputs of yield stream projections that result in a spike in yield in the first year(s) of the projection

