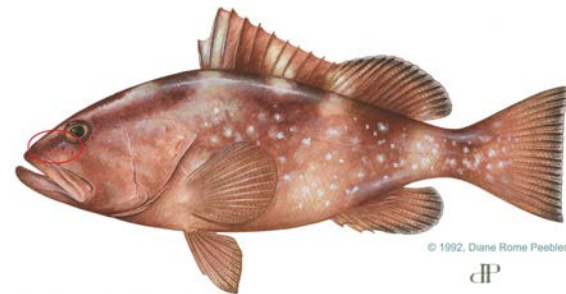
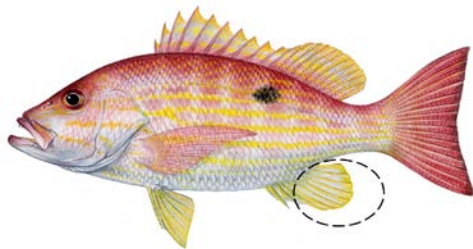


SSC Summary Report



RED GROUPER (*Epinephelus morio*)

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
January 27-30, 2020 Meeting
New Orleans, LA

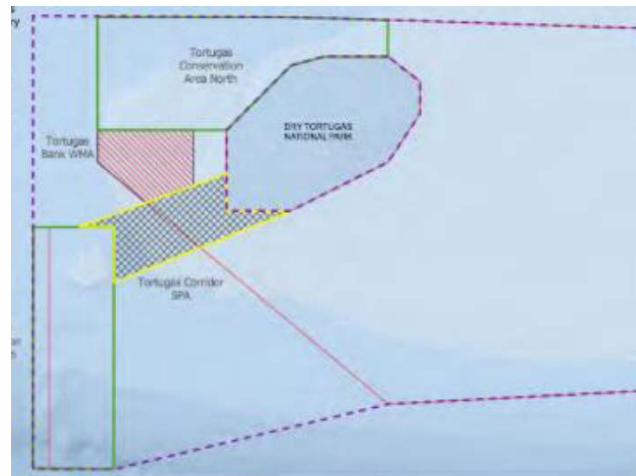
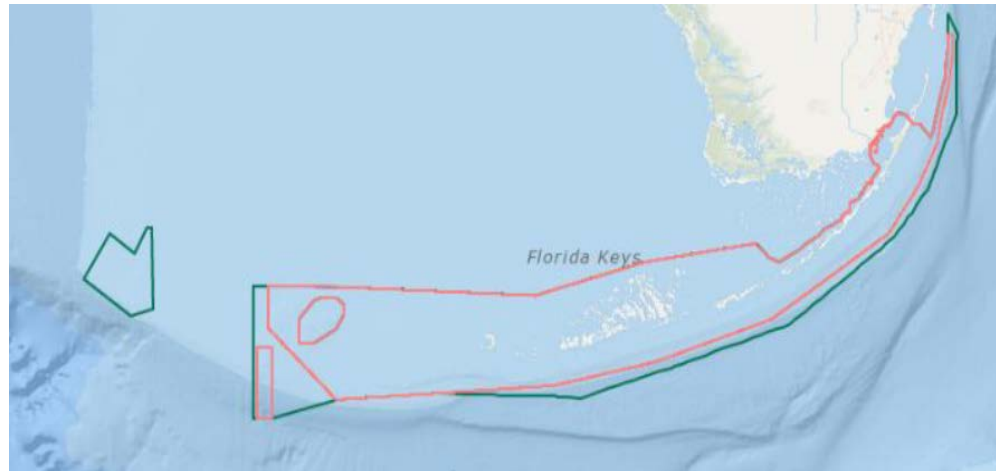


Standing, Coral, Reef Fish, & Socio-Economic SSCs

AGENDA TOPICS:

- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Restoration Blueprint
- Updated Lane Snapper OFL & ABC Estimates w/ FES Data
- Red Grouper Allocation Changes Due to FES Data Inclusion
- Standardized Economic Reports for Reef Fish & Mackerel

Coral Committee



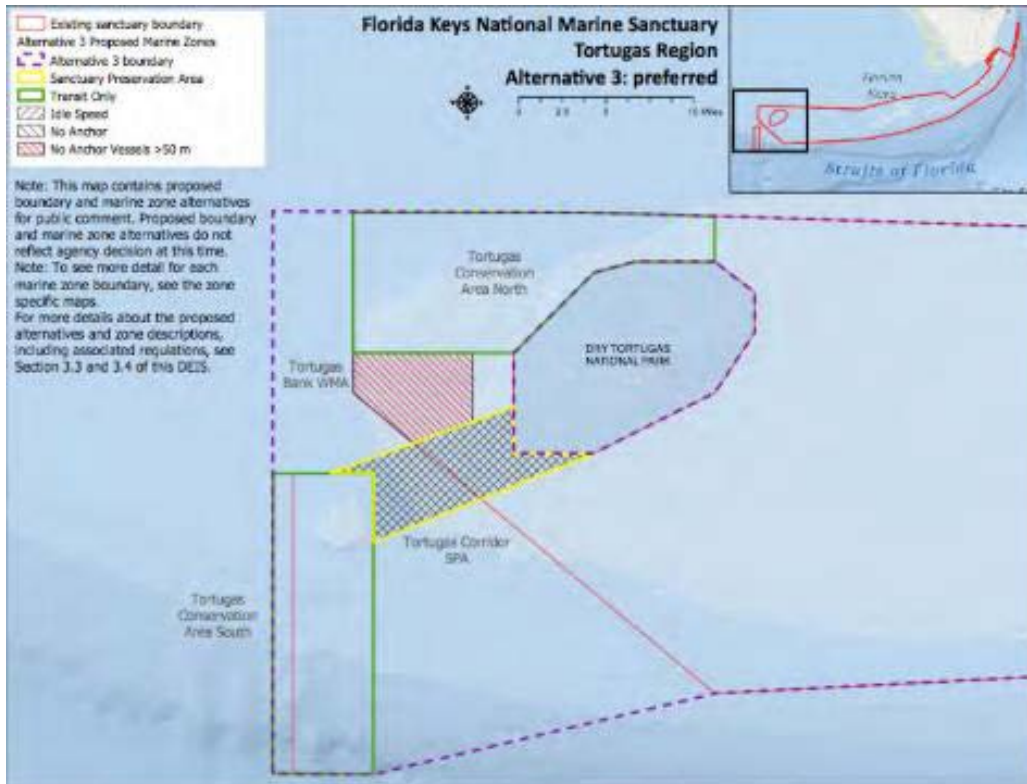
Coral Committee – Pulley Ridge



Motion: The SSC recommends that the Gulf Council support a Sanctuary boundary expansion that includes Pulley Ridge with the associated regulations, including no anchoring, because it would afford increased protection to mesophotic corals and associated communities.

Motion carried 13 – 8 with three abstentions.

Coral Committee – Tortugas



No Motion by the SSC relative to the Tortugas Corridor.

Concerns expressed about lack of analysis, up-to-date data, open ocean idle speed zones, and unclear rationale.

Reef Fish Committee – Lane Snapper

Motion: The SSC finds that the updated Gulf of Mexico Lane Snapper assessment using the iTarget model with FES-calibrated MRIP data is the best scientific information available.

Motion carried 17 – 2 with three abstentions.

Motion: The SSC finds that the updated Gulf of Mexico Lane Snapper assessment using the iTarget model with FES-calibrated MRIP data is useful for management advice. The OFL using the 50th percentile of the PDF is 1.09 mp ww, and the ABC using the 30th percentile of the PDF is 1.07 mp ww.

Motion carried 17 – 2 with two abstentions.



FES Effects w/ current Red Grouper Allocations

The SSC in October 2019 approved the SEDAR 61 Red Grouper Assessment as BSIA w/ no overfishing occurring and the population not overfished.

Stock biomass is lower than historical trend and has been impacted by intense red tide events in 2005 and 2018

The OFL and ABC using FES data but with the current 76:24 com:rec Allocation was estimated to be 5.3 and 4.9 MP, respectively.



FES Effects on Red Grouper Allocations

Motion: Given the SEDAR 61 red grouper stock assessment, which was accepted by the SSC as the best scientific information available and utilized the FES recreational landings estimates, the time series of 1986-2005, 1986-2009, 1986-2018 yield scientifically valid estimates of OFL and ABC as found in the following table:

A $P^=0.3$ (30% probability of overfishing) was selected by the SSC following SEDAR 61.*

Motion carried 20 – 0 with one abstention.



FES Effects on Red Grouper Allocations

Landings Time Series	Comm %	Rec %	Million pounds gutted weight	
			OFL (P*=0.5)	ABC (P*=0.3)
1986-2005	59.3	40.7	4.66	4.26
1986-2009	60.5	39.5	4.70	4.30
1986-2018	59.7	40.3	4.67	4.28



Economic Reports

New Annual Reports

