

Summary of Public Comment

Framework Action to Modify the Greater Amberjack Fixed Closed Season and Commercial Trip Limit

Comments summarized through October 17, 2023

105 Public Hearing video views

7 comments were received

Action 1: Recreational Season

- Support for a new alternative that would open the recreational greater amberjack season from October 1 – November 30. This allows for overlap with gag season.
- Constantly modifying the recreational season is very frustrating.

Action 2: Commercial Trip Limit

- Support for Alternative 3: a 7-fish trip limit. This will maximize the season length and ease of compliance while the stock rebuilds.
- Reductions to the commercial season and trip limit for greater amberjack will adversely impact reef fish fishermen without quota.

General amberjack comment:

- There is no local decline in amberjack.
- The 5-per person jacks complex limit is negatively impacting the greater amberjack population. Fishermen and game wardens both struggle to identify the difference. Closing lesser amberjack for a few years to see what happens with the greater amberjack won't hurt.
- The jacks complex should not be included in management measures designed to protect greater amberjack.
 - Do not restrict access to a species with no biological reason for reduced harvest and little evidence of its impact on greater amberjack.
 - Almaco jack is distinctly different from greater amberjack and there is no reason for misidentification.
- This framework does not address the recreational dead discards that are one of the greatest challenges we face with the greater amberjack stock rebuilding.

General comment:

- The Council seems to be managing towards having one species open at a time, which may increase discards and cause effort shifting.