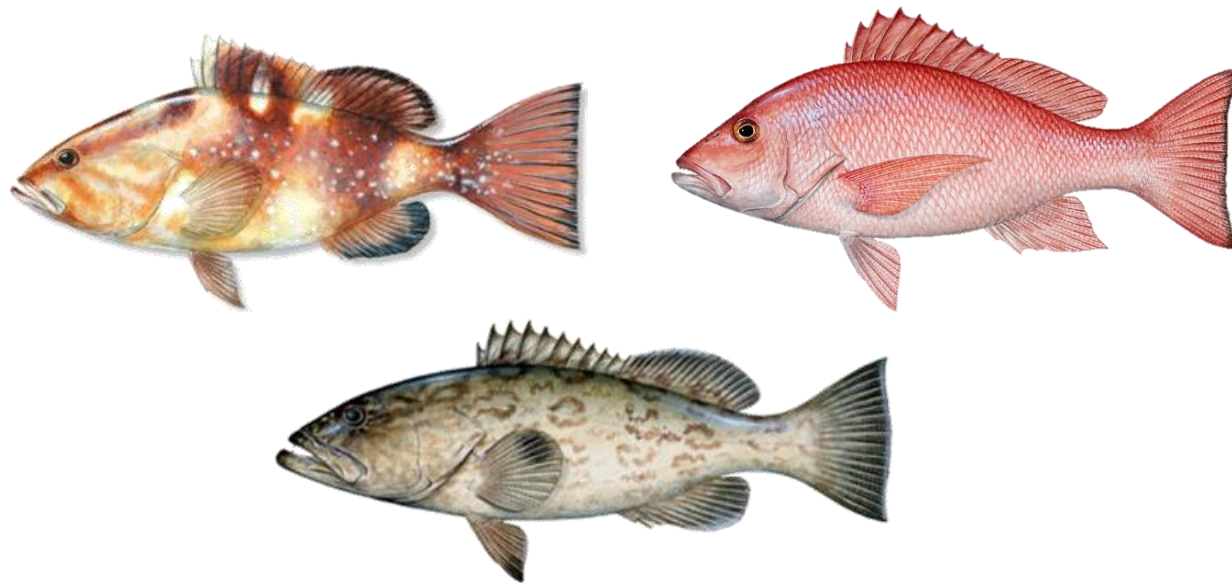


SSC Summary Report – October 2018 Meeting



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

October 22-25, 2018 Meeting

Mobile, AL

Summary SSC Comments

Updates on several topics:

- The Great Red Snapper Count
- Best Scientific Information Available
- SSC Best Practices and Procedures
- Red Grouper Interim Analysis
- Council's Monitoring and Research Priorities (2020-2025)
- “Something’s Fishy” Red Grouper Questionnaire



Best Scientific Information Available

- BSIA appears in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and in the National Standard Guidelines (NS2)
- NMFS draft BSIA framework being finalized

Main guidance to SSC:

- When judging BSIA, do so with reference to the specific management advice it is providing to the Council (especially when in the form of a motion)
 - E.g., Stock Status Determination vs. Projections for catch advice
- Courts very deferential (highly technical inquiry). However, NMFS cannot ignore superior or contrary data without explicit rationale
- SSC scientific advisors for management purposes



SSC Best Practices and Procedures

- SSC discussion to outline clear communication strategies between the SSC and the Council

Recommendations:

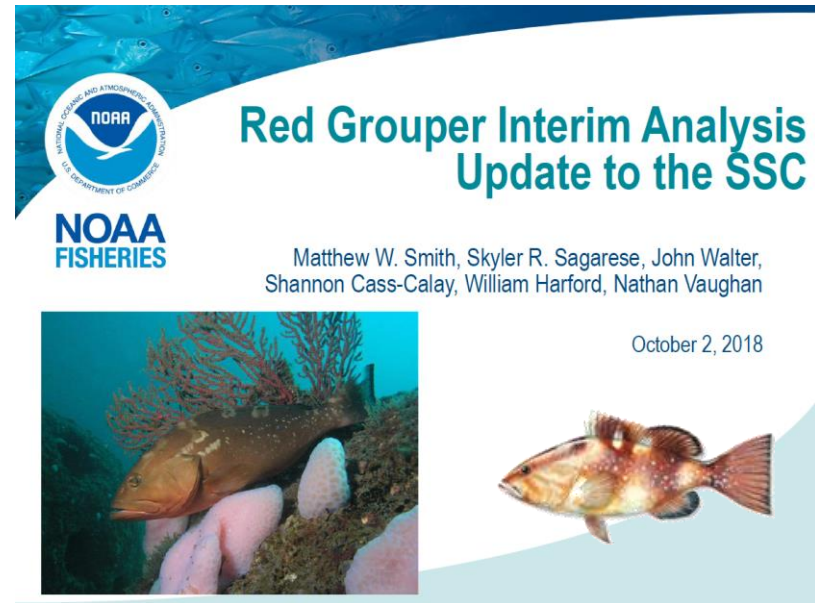
- Continue improving the SOW (more detail). Get feedback from Council Chair and SSC Chair.
- Include goals of management actions (including Council summaries) in the SOW so the SSC can provide advice as it relates to these goals
- SSC Chair will appoint members to lead discussion on specific topics
- Development of SSC procedures doc for discussion



Red Grouper Interim Analysis

Interim Analysis

- Designed to occur between regular stock assessments to provide opportunity to adjust harvest recommendations based on current stock conditions
 - Unpredictable events
 - Recruitment event/failure
 - Environmental disasters (e.g., Hurricane, Red tide)
 - Man-made disasters (e.g., Deepwater Horizon)



Red Grouper Interim Analysis

Interim analysis uses:

1. Index of abundance (NMFS-BLL)
2. Harvest control rule (HCR)

- $ABC_y = ABC_{assess} \left(\frac{O_y + \beta}{F_y + \beta} \right)$

- Where ABC_{assess} = ABC from most recent assessment

O_y = observed index value in year y,

F_y = Forecast index value in year y,

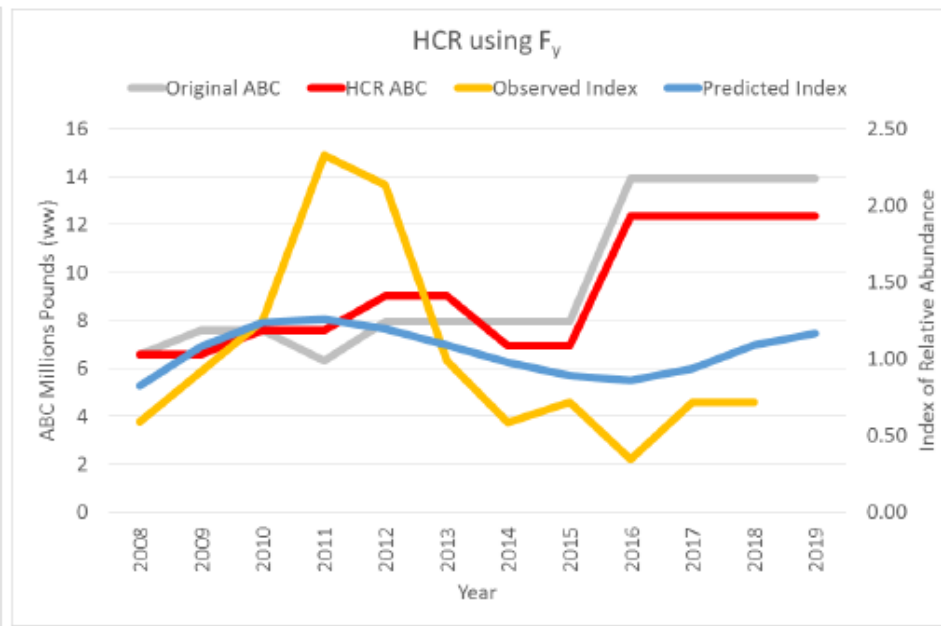
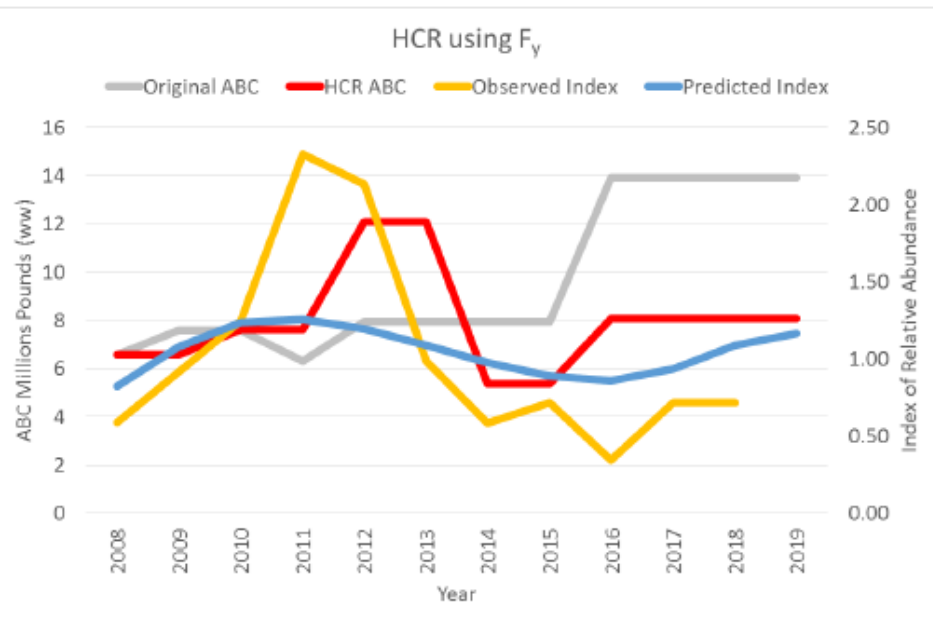
β = Scalar to adjust responsiveness of HCR



Effect of β

$\beta=1$

$\beta=10$

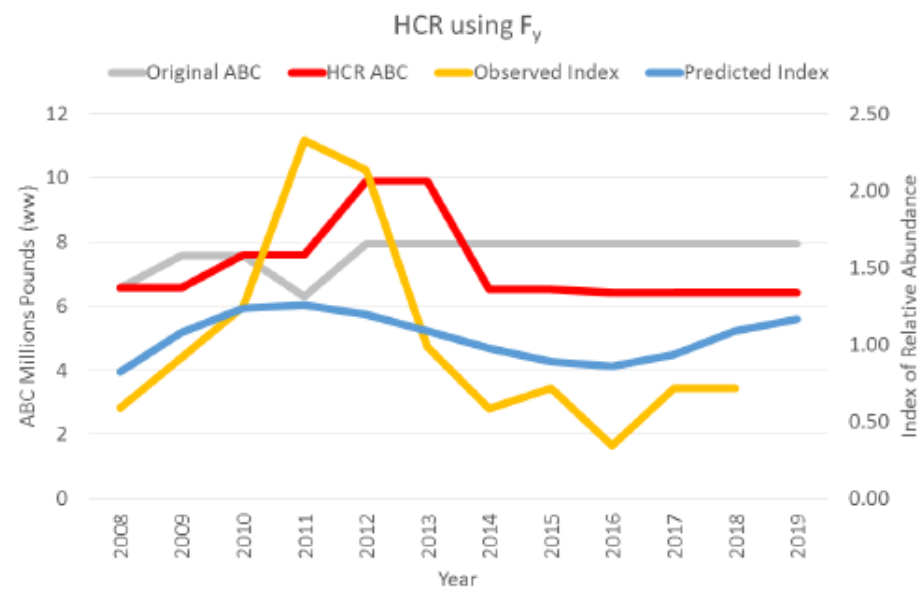
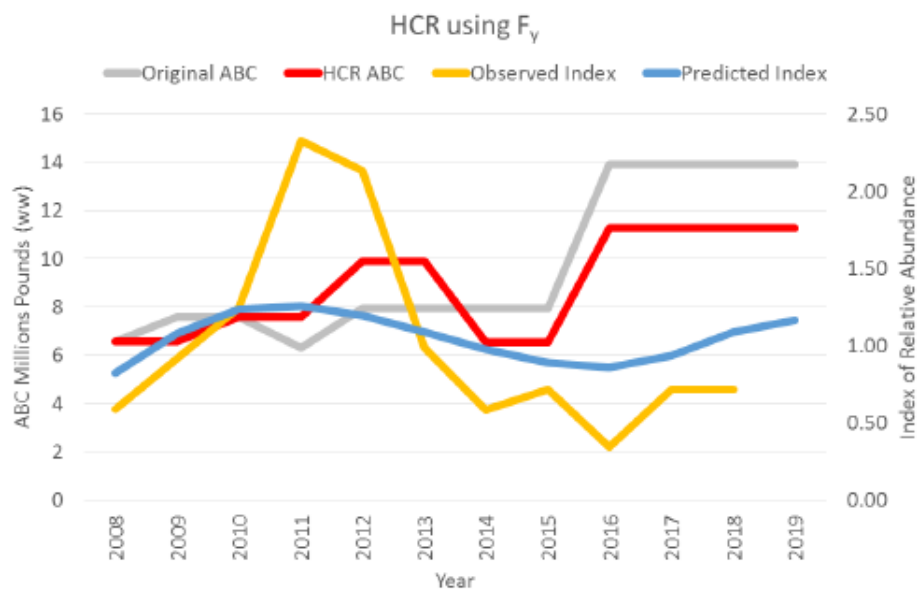


Low β tracks index more closely, high β tracks ABC recommendation from assessment.

Effect of SEDAR 42

With SEDAR 42, $\beta=5$

Without SEDAR 42, $\beta=5$



SEDAR 42 result suggesting large increase in sustainable harvest rate may not hold after SEDAR 61.

Discussion

- Can SSC recommend use of this approach for setting 2019 catch levels?
- If yes, should the SEDAR 42 result be included or not?
- What level of β is preferred?

β	2019 ABC with S42	2019 ABC no S42
1	8.08	4.60
3	10.28	5.85
5	11.27	6.42
7	11.84	6.75
9	12.21	6.96

Red Grouper Interim Analysis

SSC Recommendations:

- That the SEFSC continue the management strategy evaluation of the interim analysis approach
- An interim **ACL** for red grouper in 2019 of 4.6 mp. This recommendation is based on the SEFSC interim analysis conducted, not including the SEDAR 42 assessment, and using a $\beta = 1$

ACL in 2017 = 10.7

Landings = 4.2

β	2019 ABC with S42	2019 ABC no S42
1	8.08	4.60
3	10.28	5.85
5	11.27	6.42
7	11.84	6.75
9	12.21	6.96



Additional Topics

Council's Monitoring and Research Priorities (2020-2025):

- Staff reviewed previous plan. New plan due Oct 2019
- SSC requested to review a draft by mid-2019
- Asked to include > outreach and socio-economics

“Something's Fishy” Red Grouper Questionnaire:

- Great stakeholder engagement tool
- SSC supports continue use of this approach to collect stakeholder input

