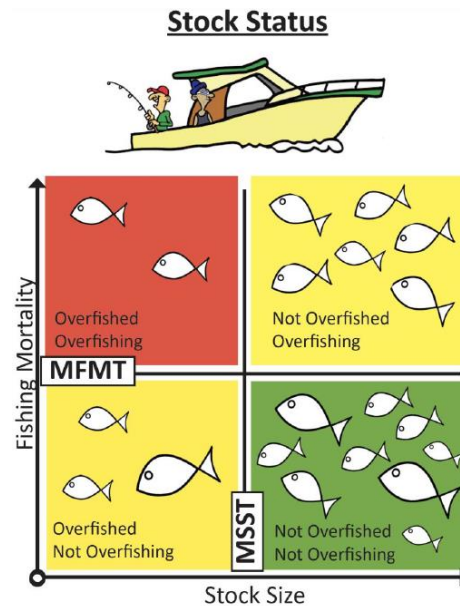


SSC Summary Report – August 2019 Meeting

Sustainable Fisheries Committee



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



Draft Amendment Reef Fish 48/Red Drum 5

Action 1 – MSY Proxies

Sub-Action 1.1 – MSY Proxies for Assessed Stocks

Establishes MSY proxy for Black Grouper, Yellowedge Grouper, Mutton Snapper, and Yellowtail Snapper

- **Alternative 3:** set MSY proxy as yield at $F_{30\%SPR}$

Motion: For future assessments of reef fish stocks and red drum, the MSY or MSY proxy equals the yield produced by F_{MSY} or F_{PROXY} recommended by the Council's SSC and subject to approval by the Council through a plan amendment



Draft Amendment Reef Fish 48/Red Drum 5

Sub-Action 1.2 – MSY Proxies for Stock Complexes and Unassessed Stocks

- **For Alternatives 2-8:** F_{MSY} proxy of 30%
 - Shallow-water groupers (Black Grouper as indicator)
 - Deep-water groupers (Yellowedge as indicator)
 - Tilefish, jacks, mid-water snappers
 - Cubera Snapper and Lane Snapper
- **For Alternative 9:** F_{MSY} proxy of 40%
 - Goliath Grouper



Draft Amendment Reef Fish 48/Red Drum 5

Sub-Action 1.3 – MSY Proxies for Red Drum

- SSC discussed the different methodologies and criteria used by different Gulf states to set escapement rates for red drum
- Unclear how escapement rates translate to SPR-based MSY proxies
- SSC decided to not make a recommendation for red drum at this time



Draft Amendment Reef Fish 48/Red Drum 5

Action 2 – Defining MFMT

- SSC discussed how $F_{Rebuild}$ fits into this discussion relative to F_{MSY} or its proxy (**Alternative 3**)
 - *How do we define MFMT for a rebuilding stock?*
 - *Fishing above $F_{Rebuild}$ delays rebuilding but does it represent overfishing?*
- SSC decided to delay comment on this item until we get clarification on this issue



Draft Amendment Reef Fish 48/Red Drum 5

Action 3 – Defining MSST

- SSC discussed previous analyses conducted by SEFSC
 - *Stocks do not seem to decline below 75% of B_{MSY} due to M or environmental conditions alone*
 - More conservative MSST leads to more stable catches; avoids long rebuilding if needed

Motion: The SSC recommends that in Action 3 Alternatives 4 and 5 (MSST = 50% of B_{MSY}) not be the preferred alternatives



Draft Amendment Reef Fish 48/Red Drum 5

Action 4 – Defining OY

- SSC reviewed the different alternatives presented
- OY is difficult to measure and quantify (e.g., 50%, 75%, or 90% of MSY or proxy)
- SSC would like to engage in a broader discussion with Council re. their long term management goals and how they relate to setting OY for different stocks



Research and Monitoring Priorities for 2020 – 2024

- More, timelier data on the size composition of recreational discards
- Characterization of the efficacy of improvements in release mortality reduction methods and their adoption by the recreational angling community
- Perhaps consider a separate repository for the more species-specific recommendations, like the one currently curated by SEDAR
- The SSC will review these research and monitoring priorities again at its September meeting

