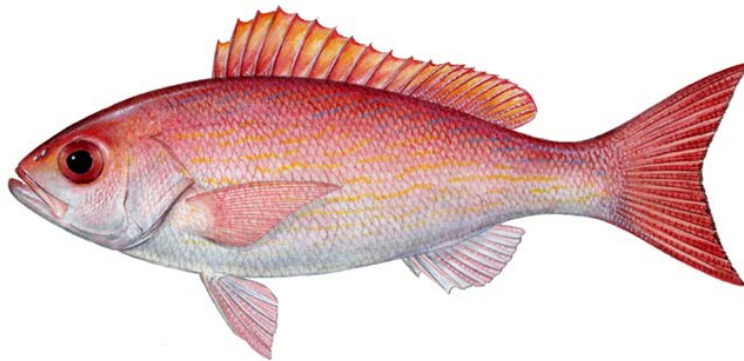




Vermilion Snapper Draft Management Alternatives



Background

- SSC reviewed SEDAR 67, with updated data through 2017
 - Evaluated new data, reconsidered discards and shrimp bycatch estimates
 - Not overfished nor undergoing overfishing
- SSC: SEDAR 67 is BSIA, suitable for management advice
- Constant catch more appropriate than annual yields
 - May help account for year-to-year variability of recruitment and mortality
- Stock is healthy and capable of supporting increased yield
 - Recent declines in F , strong recruitment, and subsequent increases in SSB
 - This includes MRIP-FES recreational landings calibrated back to 1981



Background

- Reef Fish Amendment 47 (July 2017):
 - MSY proxy = yield when fishing at $F_{30\%SPR}$
 - A constant catch ACL was set equal to the average ABC for 2017 – 2021 at 3.11 mp ww.
- **Purpose:** Modify the OFL, ABC, and ACL for Gulf vermilion snapper consistent with the most recent stock assessment and SSC recommendations.
- **Need:** Establish an ACL that achieves optimum yield consistent with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), while preventing overfishing.

Current Vermilion Snapper Regulations

RECREATIONAL

- Open year-round unless landings reach the stock ACL
- 10-inch total length
- 10 fish per person within the 20-reef fish aggregate

COMMERCIAL

- Open year-round unless landings reach the stock ACL
- 10-inch total length
- No trip limit

NO SECTOR ALLOCATIONS



Recent Landings (lbs ww)

Year	Recreational Landings	Commercial Landings	Total Landings	ACL	% of ACL	Data
2012	756,052	2,441,360	3,197,412	3,420,000	93.5	MRFSS
2013	1,118,790	1,418,401	2,537,191	3,420,000	74.2	MRFSS
2014	1,160,951	1,764,716	2,925,667	3,420,000	85.5	MRFSS
2015	886,587	1,369,645	2,256,232	3,420,000	66.0	MRFSS
2016	1,021,924	1,588,256	2,610,180	3,420,000	76.3	MRFSS
2017	1,507,360	1,636,048	3,143,408	3,420,000	91.9	MRFSS
2018	1,807,682	1,386,621	3,194,303	3,110,000	102.7	MRIP-CHTS
2019	1,333,263	1,275,486	2,608,749	3,110,000	83.9	MRIP-CHTS
2020*	74,739	672,087	746,826	3,110,000	24.0	MRIP-CHTS



Management Alternatives

- **Alternative 1:** No Action. Retain the OFL, ABC, and ACL for vermillion snapper as implemented in 2018 by Reef Fish Amendment 47.

Year	OFL (lb ww)	ABC (lb ww)	ACL (lb ww)
2021+	3,580,000	3,110,000	3,110,000

- **Alternative 2:** Modify the OFL, ABC, and ACL for vermillion snapper based on recommendations from the SSC for 2021 to 2025. The stock ABC is equivalent to the OY, and the ACL equals the ABC.

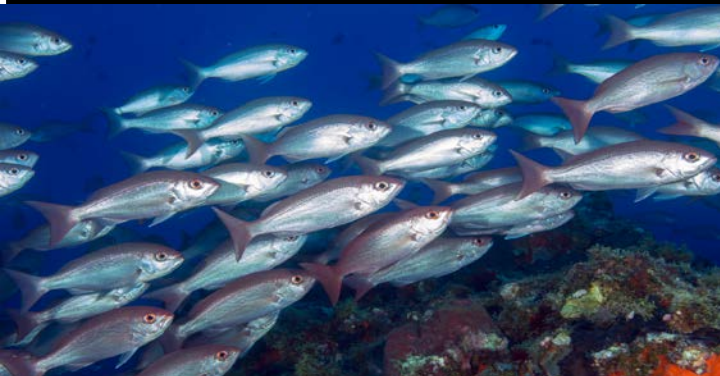
Year	OFL (lb ww)	ABC (lb ww)	ACL (lb ww)
2021-2025	8,600,000	7,270,000	7,270,000





Summary of Responses from 11/1/19 – 12/14/19

Something's Fishy: Vermilion Snapper



What is Something's Fishy?

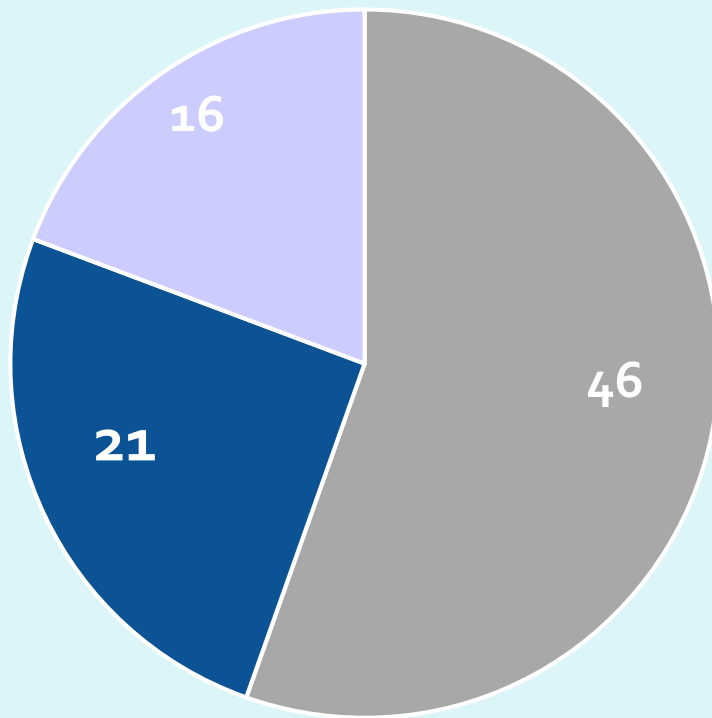
A tool used to gather information on a fish stock from active fishermen on trends or unusual occurrences that scientists and managers may not have observed.

- Responses gathered from November 1, 2019 – December 14, 2019
- Final report was sent to stock assessment analysts in March 2020.



Respondents

Responses by Sector



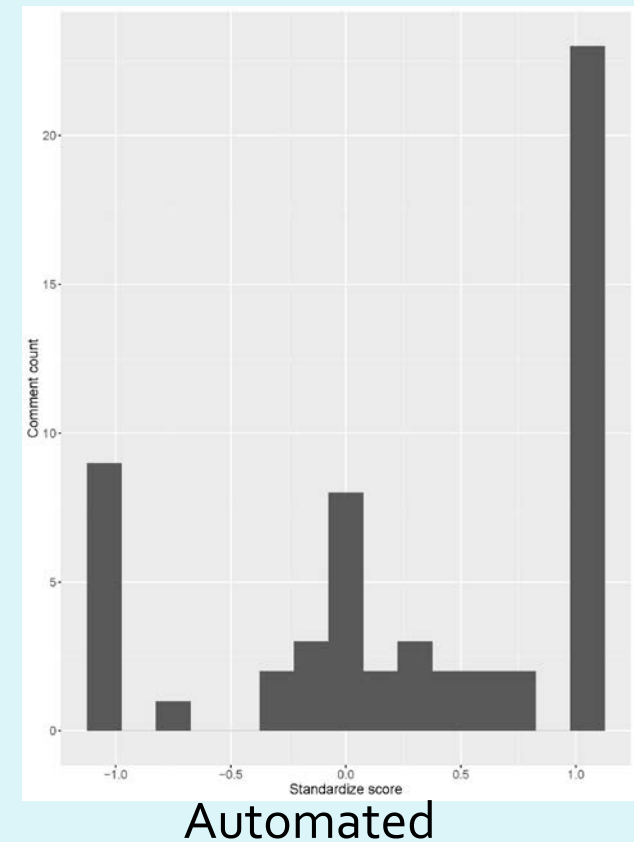
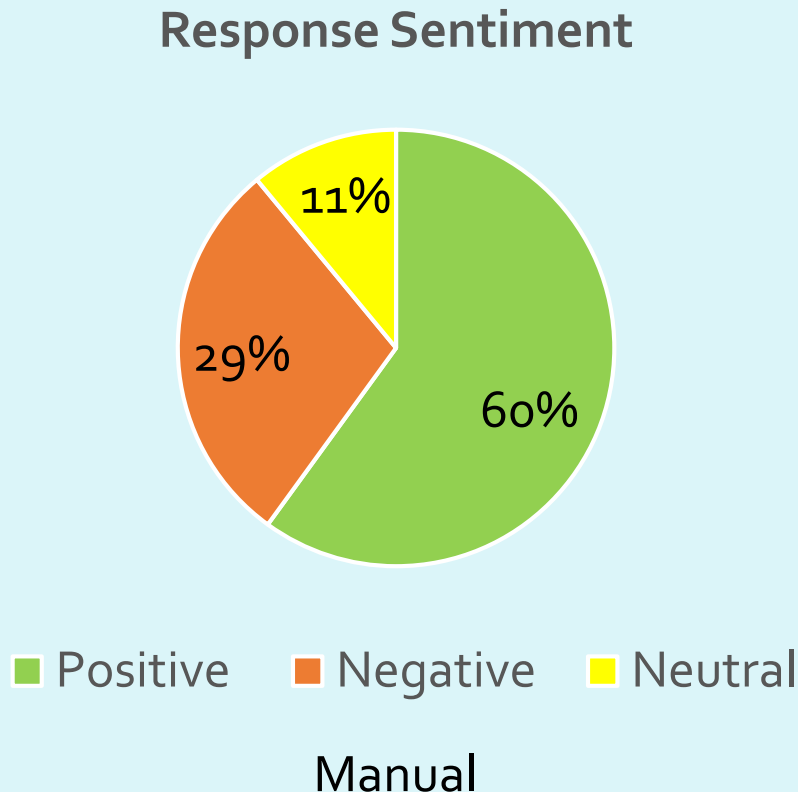
■ Private ■ For-Hire ■ Commercial

63 Respondents

- Self-identified with sector
- Not limited to a singular response (n=83)

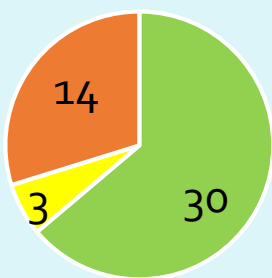
Response Sentiment

- Both manual and automated analysis produced similar results. Both indicated a slightly positive trend in perception of stock abundance
- Manual analysis showed a greater proportion of positive comments while automated analysis showed a minor trend towards positive comments



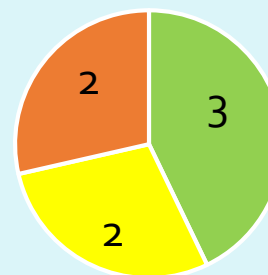
Sentiment by Sector

Private Recreational



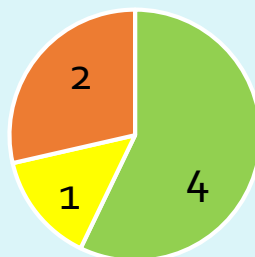
■ Positive ■ Neutral ■ Negative

Commercial



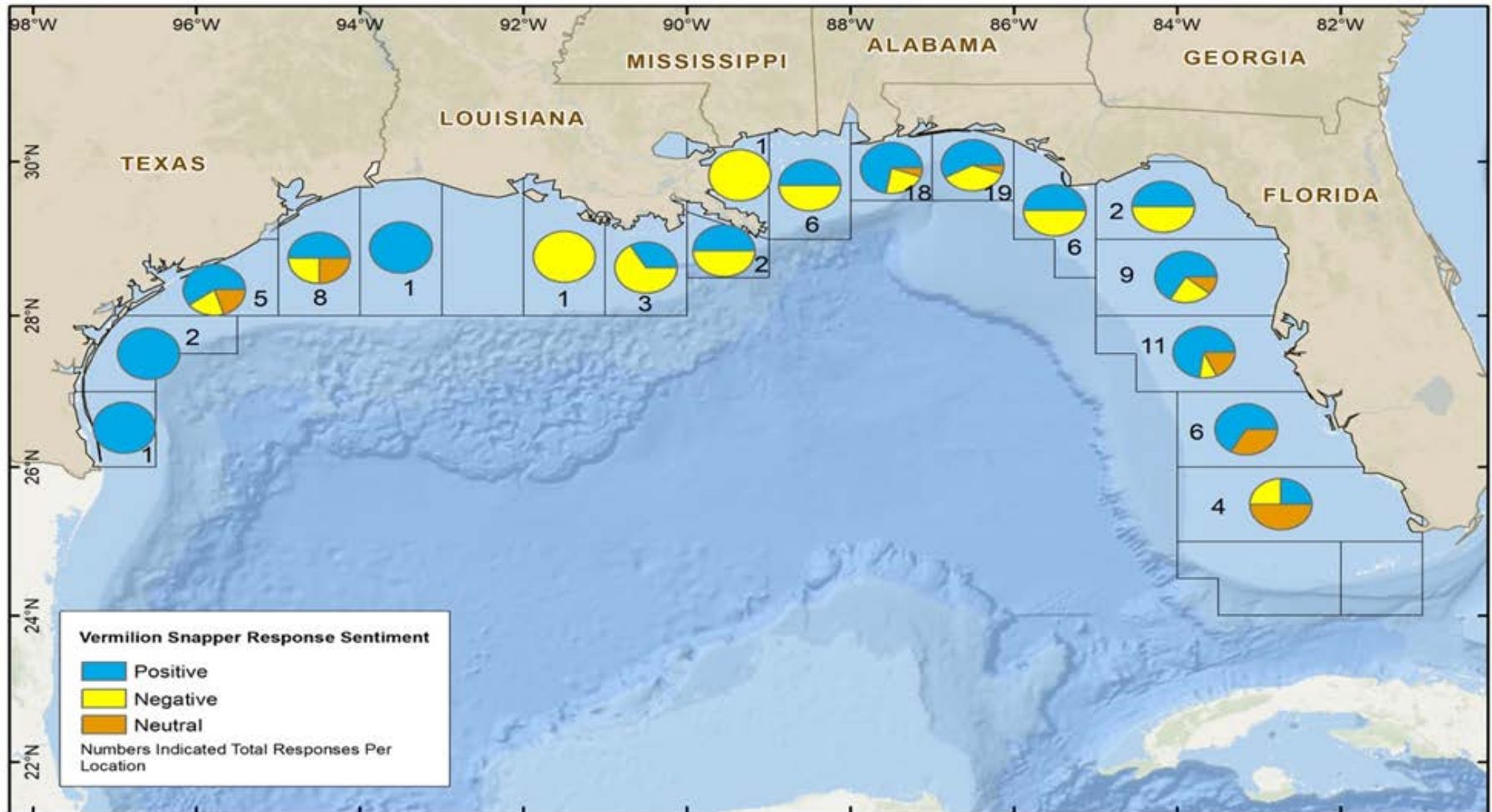
■ Positive ■ Neutral ■ Negative

Identified as Both Sectors



■ Positive ■ Neutral ■ Negative

Response Sentiment by Location



Respondents could report observations for multiple grid locations.
No responses were gathered from central Louisiana or the Florida Keys.

Manual Analysis - Emergent Themes

- Indicated a positive trend in stock health
- Stock has been continuously healthy for years
- Stock may be healthier than ever
- Anglers seeing larger vermilion in deep waters
- Vermilion are moving into shallower waters than they have been historically
- Vermilion snapper are being outcompeted by triggerfish and red snapper
- Juveniles are being found in lionfish stomachs
- Dolphin depredation is harming the population
- Fishing effort is shifting to vermilion due to unhealthy grouper stocks, short seasons for other species and increased commercial pressure
- Red tide and the oil spill may have displaced local vermilion populations



Questions/Recommendations?

