



Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper Bag Limit



- The Gulf of Mexico red grouper recreational fishery currently has a two fish per angler bag limit (effective May 7, 2015) within the four fish grouper aggregate limit.
- Reef Fish Amendment 53 is currently in development based on recommendations from the most recent assessment (SEDAR 61, 2019).
- Analyses are preliminary and do not account for the aggregate grouper bag limit, do not include data for Louisiana and Texas, and other factors.
- Data from 2017 through 2019 were used to predict potential changes in harvest of a one red grouper per angler bag limit.
- The following formulas were used to estimate reductions in harvest resulting from bag limits,

If AB1 catch \leq bag limit, then harvest = A + B1

If AB1 catch $>$ bag limit, then harvest = AB1_{bag limit}

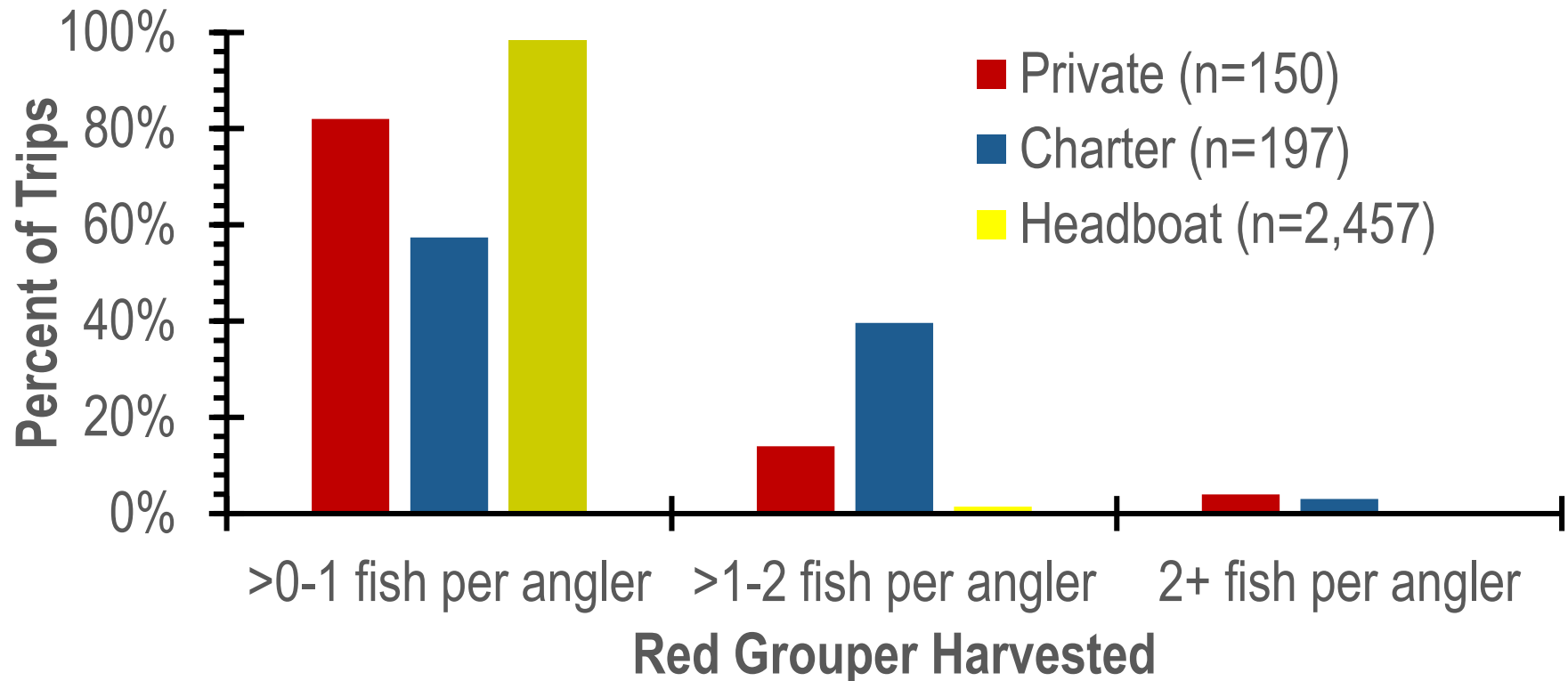




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The percent of trips harvesting red grouper for private, charter, and headboat modes by bin from 2017 through 2019



Sources: MRIP-FES survey data available at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/recreational-fishing-data/recreational-fishing-data-downloads>. Southeast Regional Headboat Survey CRNF file obtained July 10, 2020. Private and charter mode data from LA and TX are not included.





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- A total reduction in annual harvest of 12.7% is predicted by implementing a one red grouper per angler bag limit from the current two fish bag limit.
- The total percent change is weighted by the contribution of each mode's landings to overall red grouper landings.

The percent change in harvest (numbers) predicted by implementing a one red grouper per angler bag limit

Mode	% Change
Charter	-31.4%
Private	-8.5%
Headboat	-2.3%
Total	-12.7%