



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

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SEDAR 96: Southeastern US Yellowtail Snapper Operational Assessment Terms of Reference DRAFT: February 2024

1. Update the SEDAR 64 Southeastern U.S. Yellowtail Snapper base model (including modifications approved in the 2022 Interim analysis) with data through 2023.
 - a. Explore the State of Florida's State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS) to inform private recreational landings data and consider its use in the current assessment.
 - b. Document any changes or corrections made to model and input datasets and provide updated input data tables.
 - c. Update life history data (e.g., growth, reproduction, natural mortality) if warranted.

2. Update model parameter estimates and their variances, model uncertainties, estimates of stock status and management benchmarks, and provide the probability of overfishing occurring at specified future harvest and exploitation levels. Provide commercial and recreational landings and discards in pounds (whole weight) and numbers.
 - a. Use the following status determination criteria (SDC):
 - i. $MSY = \text{yield at } F_{MSY} \text{ (or proxy)}$
 - ii. $MSST = 0.75 * SSB_{MSY}$
 - iii. $MFMT = F_{MSY} \text{ (or proxy) and } F_{Rebuild} \text{ (if overfished)}$
 - iv. $OY = ABC$, based on the SAFMC ABC control rule
 - v. If different SDC are recommended, provide outputs for both the requested and recommended SDC.
 - b. Unless otherwise recommended, use the geometric mean of the previous three years' fishing mortality to determine $F_{Current}$. If an alternative approach is recommended, provide justification and outputs for the current and alternative approach.
 - c. Once projections are parameterized and the scientific uncertainty evaluated, provide yield and spawning stock biomass streams for the overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch in pounds (whole weight):
 - i. Annually for five years using constant F
 - ii. Under a "constant catch" scenario for both three and five years
 - iii. For the equilibrium yield at F_{MSY} , when estimable

3. Develop a stock assessment report to address these terms of reference and fully document the input data, methods, and results of the analyses.