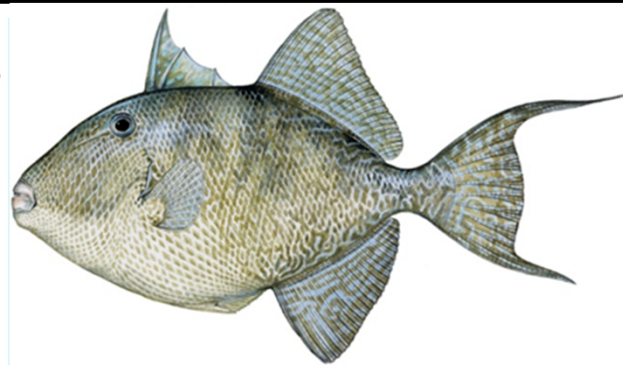




Tab B, No. 7(a)

Modifications to Vermilion Snapper and Gray Triggerfish Catch Levels and Gray Triggerfish Recreational Fixed Closed Season

Framework Action Draft



Background

- Purpose: Modify the OFL, ABC, ACL, and ACT, as applicable, consistent with the most recent stock assessment for Gulf vermilion snapper and the interim analysis for gray triggerfish, and SSC, SEFSC, and Reef Fish AP recommendations.
- Need: Establish catch limits that achieve OY consistent with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, while preventing overfishing.



Background – Vermilion Snapper

- 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 recommended rather than declining yield stream
 - May help account for year-to-year variability of recruitment and mortality



Background – Vermilion Snapper

- Stock is healthy and capable of supporting increased yield
 - Recent declines in F , strong recruitment, and subsequent increases in SSB
 - Stock assessment includes MRIP-FES recreational landings calibrated back to 1981
- 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 (MRIP-CHTS).

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



Action 1 Management Alternatives – Vermilion Snapper

- **Alternative 1:** No Action. Retain the OFL, ABC, and ACL for vermilion 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

Note: Values are in pounds whole weight. Units are in MRIP-CHTS.

- **Alternative 2:** Modify the OFL, ABC, and ACL for vermilion 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

Note: Values are in pounds whole weight. Units are in MRIP-FES.



Background

- Change in recreational data systems (MRIP-CHTS to MRIP-FES) accounts for a majority of the increase in future yields; some increase attributed to high recruitment events (2015, 2016)
- Should not affect the sustainability of the stock
- Reef Fish AP members agreed fishery appears sustainable and would not hurt the stock to increase the ACL



■ Timeline? Next Steps?



Background – Gray Triggerfish

- Last accepted assessment was SEDAR 43
 - Finalized in 2015 using data through 2013
 - SSC review accepted assessment as BSIA
 - Agreed stock is not experiencing overfishing but is overfished
- Reef Fish Amendment 46 (May 2017):
 - Implemented January 2018
 - Established a rebuilding time period, catch levels and management measures for gray triggerfish in the Gulf



Background – Gray Triggerfish

- Reef Fish Amendment 46:
 - Set rebuilding plan (based on SEDAR 43) at 9 years or by end of 2025
 - Retained ACLs and ACTs implemented in 2012 (Amendment 37)
 - Set fixed closed season: January 1 to end of February and June 1 – July 31

ABC	Commercial ACL	Recreational ACL	OFL*
305,300	64,100	241,200	1,220,000
	Commercial ACT (quota)	Recreational ACT	
	60,900	217,100	

- *OFL was not directly addressed in Amendment 46

Background – Gray Triggerfish

- Interim analysis conducted following withdrawal of SEDAR 62
 - Produced catch advice for 2021 using the SEAMAP combined video index as its representative index of abundance
- SSC reviewed the interim analysis:
 - Determined the interim analysis is a useful tool for providing interim catch advice and suitable for management advice
 - SSC recommended increase in ABC for 2021 to 2023



Action 2 Management Alternatives – Gray Triggerfish

- **Alternative 1: No Action.** Retain the ABC, ACL, and ACT for gray triggerfish as implemented in 2018 by Reef Fish Amendment 46.

Year	OFL	ABC	Recreational ACL	Recreational ACT	Commercial ACL	Commercial ACT
2019+	1,220,000	305,300	241,200	217,100	64,100	60,900

Note: Values are in pounds whole weight. Units are in MRIP-CHTS.



Action 2 Management Alternatives – Gray Triggerfish

- **Alternative 2:** Modify the ABC, ACL, and ACT for gray triggerfish based on the results of the 2020 interim analysis, the recommendations of the Council's SSC, and Reef Fish Advisory Panel (Reef Fish AP). Apply the ACL/ACT Control Rule to determine the buffer between the ACL and ACT for the recreational and commercial sectors, respectively.

Year	OFL	ABC	Recreational ACL	Recreational ACT	Commercial ACL	Commercial ACT
2021+	1,220,000	456,900	360,951	274,323	95,949	88,273

Note: Values are in pounds whole weight. Units are in MRIP-CHTS.



Current Gray Triggerfish Regulations

RECREATIONAL

- Open year-round with a fixed seasonal closure from Jan. 1 – end of Feb. and June 1 – July 31
- 15-inch fork length
- 1 fish per person per day within the 20-reef fish aggregate

COMMERCIAL

- Open year-round with fixed seasonal closure June 1 – July 31
- 14-inch fork length
- 16 fish per trip



Action 3 Management Alternatives – Gray Triggerfish

- **Alternative 1:** No Action. Retain the current recreational fixed closed season (January 1 through the end of February and June 1 through July 31) for gray triggerfish.
- **Alternative 2:** Modify the recreational fixed closed season for gray triggerfish to be January 1 through January 31 and June 1 through July 31.
- **Alternative 3:** Modify the recreational fixed closed season for gray triggerfish to be February 1 through the end of February and June 1 through July 31.
- **Alternative 4:** Modify the recreational fixed closed season for gray triggerfish to be June 1 through July 31.



Action 3 Management Alternatives – Gray Triggerfish

Table 2.3.1 Months of the current (Alternative 1) and proposed (Alternatives 2-4) fixed closed season (shaded in black) and months that may be open (white), provided the ACT has not been met or projected to have been met for the fishing year beginning on January 1.

Alt 1	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alt 2	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alt 3	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alt 4	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec



■ Timeline? Next Steps?

