



Tab B, No. 9

Overview Presentation on Framework Action for Vermilion Snapper Recreational Bag Limit and Gray Triggerfish Commercial Trip Limit and Recreational Fixed Closed Seasons

August 23, 2022



Background

Council decided to move forward:

- ✓ Framework Action to Increase Gray Triggerfish Annual Catch Limits – Implemented July 2021
- Framework Action to Modify Vermilion Snapper Annual Catch Limits – Transmitted but not implemented

Potential modifications to:

1. Vermilion snapper recreational bag limits
2. Gray triggerfish recreational fixed closed season
3. Gray triggerfish commercial catch limits

Council Motions:

November/December 2020 Meeting:

Motion: To add an action to modify the recreational bag limit for vermilion snapper, including alternatives for a 15-fish bag limit and to eliminate the bag limit, but retain the 20-fish aggregate bag limit for those reef fish species without a species-specific bag limit.

Motion: Modify the recreational fixed closed season for gray triggerfish to be January 1 through the end of February and June 1 through the end of June.

October 2021 Meeting:

Motion: Add an action to the Framework Action: Modifications to Vermilion Snapper Bag Limits and Gray Triggerfish Recreational Fixed Closed Season to adjust the commercial gray triggerfish trip limits.

1. Current Vermilion Snapper Regulations

RECREATIONAL

- Open year-round
- 10-inch total length
- 10 fish per person within the 20-reef fish aggregate

COMMERCIAL

- Open year-round
- 10-inch total length
- No trip limit

No sector allocations



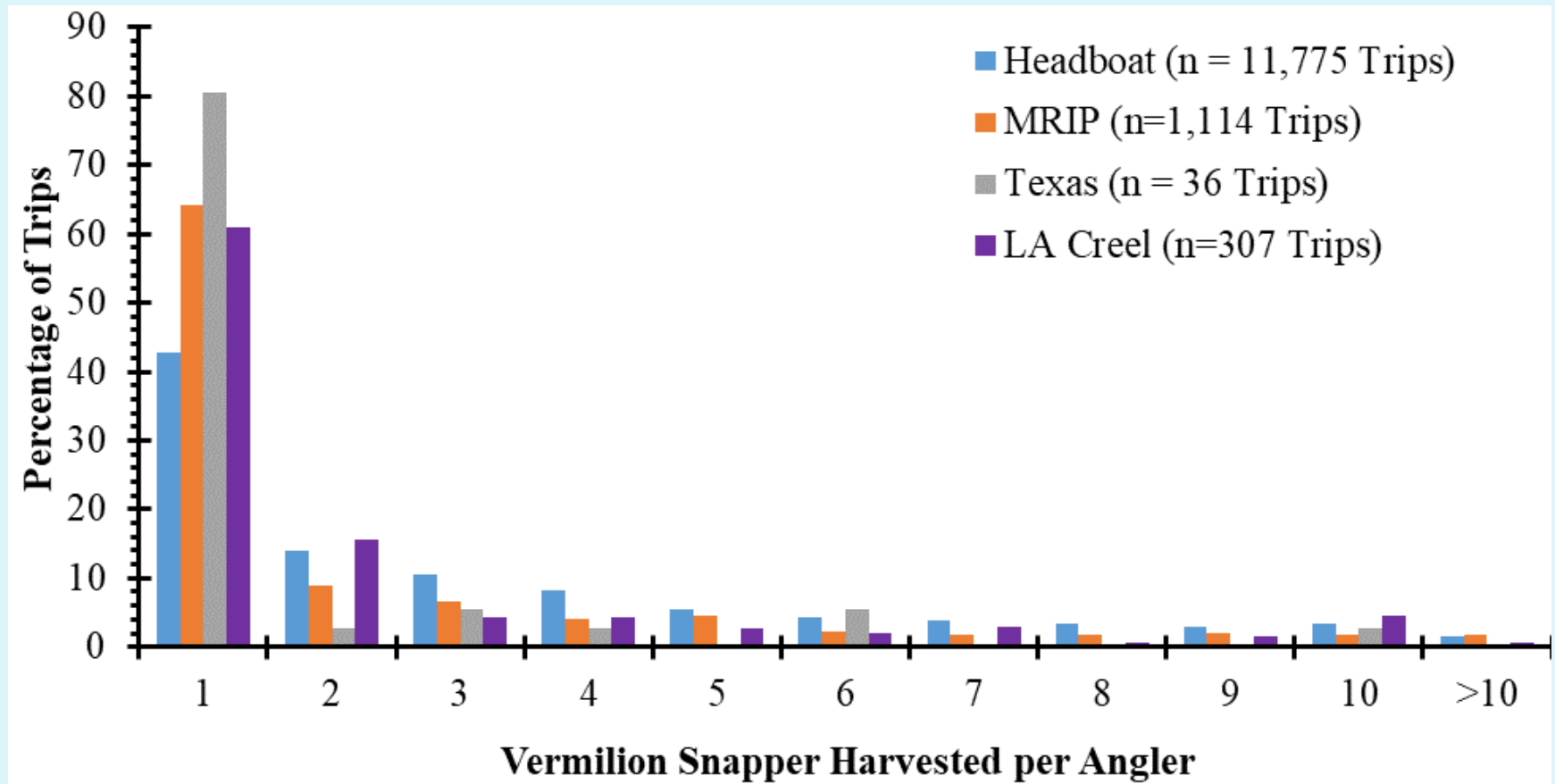
1. Recent Vermilion Snapper Landings

Year	Recreational	Commercial	Total Landings	Stock ACL	Total Landings (% ACL)
2012	719,926	2,441,360	3,161,286	3,420,000	92.4%
2013	1,131,054	1,418,401	2,549,455	3,420,000	74.5%
2014	1,147,574	1,745,222	2,892,796	3,420,000	84.6%
2015	1,053,269	1,352,934	2,406,203	3,420,000	70.4%
2016	1,118,252	1,565,364	2,683,616	3,420,000	78.5%
2017	1,479,681	1,612,859	3,092,540	3,420,000	90.4%
2018	1,797,815	1,398,445	3,196,260	3,110,000	102.8%
2019	1,355,763	1,283,633	2,639,396	3,110,000	84.9%
2020	1,058,136	860,613	1,918,750	3,110,000	61.7%

- Landings are lbs ww using MRIP-CHTS



1. Gulf Vermilion Snapper Bag Limit Harvest Per Person



Analysis based on Gulf MRIP and headboat landings from 2019, 2020, and 2021.



1. Considerations for Modifications to the Vermilion Snapper Bag Limit

- Would increasing bag limit change fishing behavior?
 - Most rec anglers don't retain 10 vermillion snapper now
- Council chose conservative option for FES catch limits: increasing bag limit could result in early season quota closure
- Reconsider reef fish aggregate if Council increases vermillion snapper bag limit within aggregate?

2. Current Recreational Gray Triggerfish Regulations

Sector allocations: 79% recreational, 21% commercial

- Closed January-February and June and July for spawning
- 15-inch fork length minimum size limit
- 1 fish per person within the 20-reef fish aggregate



2. Gray Triggerfish Fixed Closed Season

- The Council approved a Framework Action in January 2021 to increase the gray triggerfish recreational ACL and ACT
 - New ACT = 274,323 lbs ww
 - Increase from previous ACT of 217,100 lbs ww
 - Increased in response to stock growth, identified in the 2021 gray triggerfish interim analysis
- Fixed closed season analysis uses new catch limits

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

2. Data used to predict future recreational landings

Time Period	Data Source:
January - February	2014 and 2016 data, adjusted for increase in minimum size and decrease in bag limit
March - April	Mean of 2018 and 2019 data
May	2018 data
June	Applied daily catch rate for May of 2018

- No data to predict landings for July – December
- Bag limit reductions in 2016 and 2018
- Increase in minimum size limit in 2018
- Average size of gray triggerfish has changed over time (SEDAR 43 2015).



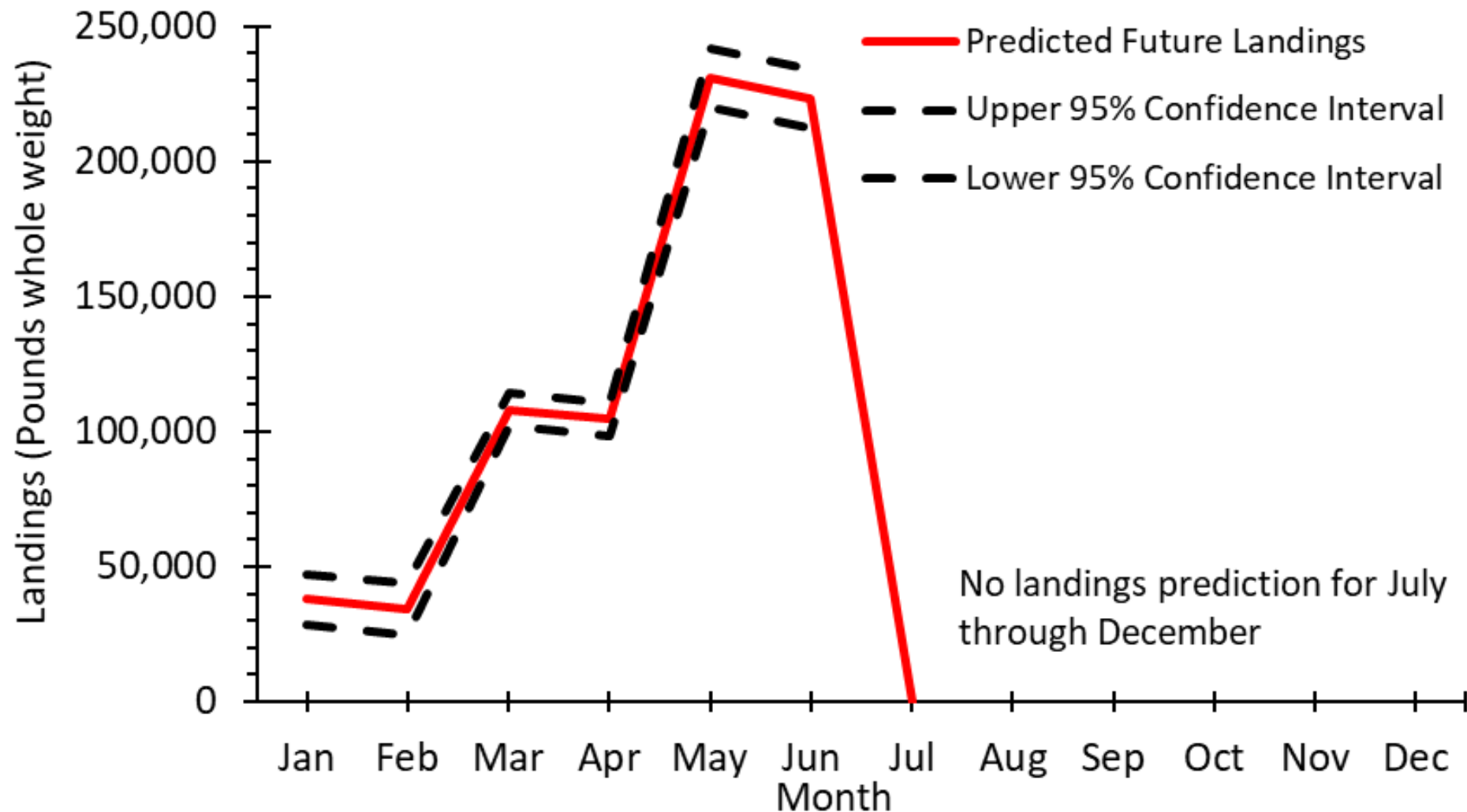
2. Predicted Recreational Landings

Opening the recreational sector the month of January and/or June is projected to result in an early closure even with increased New ACT = 274,323 lbs ww

	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total
Predicted Future Landings	37,866	34,202	108,142	104,654	230,932	223,483	739,278
Lower 95% Confidence Interval	28,311	24,647	102,174	98,686	220,074	212,624	686,515
Upper 95% Confidence Interval	47,421	43,757	114,110	110,622	241,790	234,341	792,042



2. Predicted Recreational Landings



2. Seasonal Closure Analysis

Predicted Gulf of Mexico recreational gray triggerfish closure dates with new ACL:

		Closure Dates		
Alternative	Closed Period(s)	Predicted Closure	As late as:	As soon as:
Alternative 1	January 1 - end of February; June 1 - July 31	May 9	May 11	May 7
Alternative 2	January 1 - January 31; June 1 - July 31	May 4	May 7	May 1
Alternative 3	February 1 - end of February; June 1 - July 31	May 4	May 7	May 1
Alternative 4	June 1 - July 31	April 27	May 3	April 19

The new ACT is expected to be reached in April or May, depending on which alternative is chosen as preferred



3. Current Commercial Gray Triggerfish Regulations

Sector allocations: 79% recreational, 21% commercial

- Closed during peak spawning in June and July
- Trip limit is 16 fish per vessel
- 14-inch fork length minimum size limit
- Commercial ACT set 5% below the commercial ACL

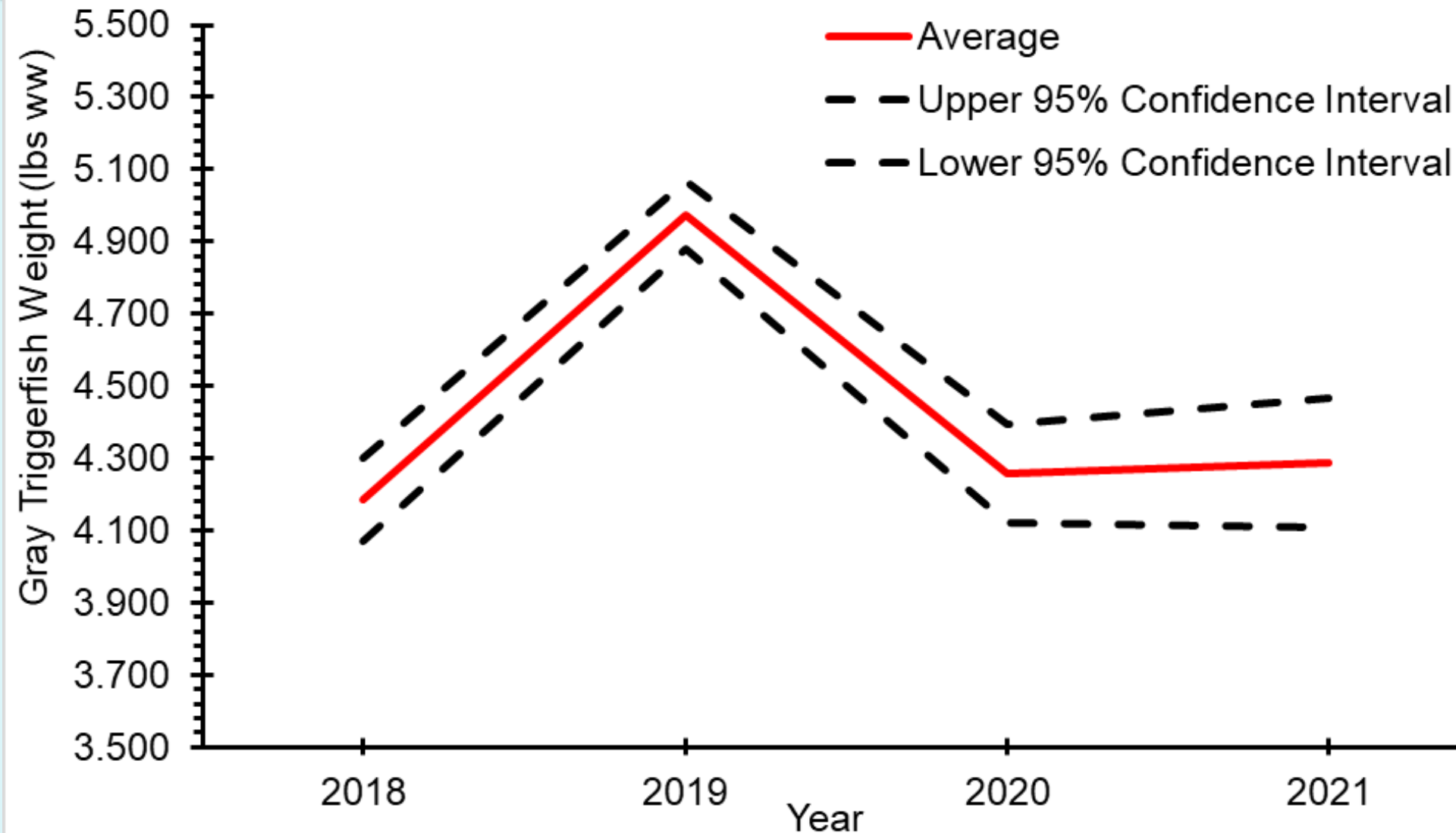


Table 1.1.2. Gray triggerfish commercial landings, commercial ACL, payback-adjusted ACL, percent ACL landed, and closure dates for 2008-2021. Landing units are in pounds whole weight.

Year	Landings	ACT	Adjusted ACT	ACL	Adjusted ACL	Percent of ACL Landed	Closure Date
2008	76,717	80,000	None	105,000	None	73.1	None
2009	78,117	93,000	None	122,000	None	64.0	None
2010	55,661	106,000	None	138,000	None	40.3	None
2011	105,251	106,000	None	138,000	None	76.3	None
2012	72,778	60,900	None	64,100	None	113.5	7/1/2012
2013	63,086	60,900	51,602	64,100	54,802	98.4	None
2014	40,664	60,900	None	64,100	None	63.4	None
2015	47,496	60,900	None	64,100	None	74.1	None
2016	59,147	60,900	None	64,100	None	92.3	None
2017	62,647	60,900	None	64,100	None	97.7	11/17/2017
2018	64,702	60,900	None	64,100	None	100.9	10/07/2018
2019	62,362	60,900	60,298	64,100	63,498	97.3	11/26/2019
2020	52,520	60,900	None	64,100	None	81.9	None
December 2021	43,015	88,273	NA	95,949	NA	44.8	NA

Source: SEFSC Commercial ACL data retrieved August 5, 2022 from SERO website. 2021 data is preliminary.

3. Weight of Commercially Landed Gray Triggerfish



3. Commercially Landed Gray Triggerfish Weights

YEAR	n	Average Weight (lbs ww)	Standard Deviation	Standard Error
2018	920	4.19	1.79	0.06
2019	1,479	4.97	1.84	0.05
2020	754	4.26	1.91	0.07
2021	442	4.29	1.92	0.09

3. Predicted Gray Triggerfish Pounds vs. Numbers

Trip Limit (Number of Fish)	Pounds	Lower 95% Confidence Interval	Upper 95% Confidence Interval
16	68.6	65.7	71.5
18	77.2	73.9	80.4
20	85.7	82.1	89.4
25	107.2	102.7	111.7
30	128.6	123.2	134.0
35	150.1	143.7	156.4
40	171.5	164.3	178.7
45	192.9	184.8	201.1
50	214.4	205.3	223.4

Draft Options for Commercial Trip Limits

- Alternative 1: No Action - Trip limit is 16 fish per vessel
- Alternative 2: Increase trip limit to 20 fish per vessel
- Alternative 3: Increase Trip Limit to 25 fish per vessel



Next Steps

- The Reef Fish AP was **not** in support of:
 - removing vermilion snapper from the 20-reef fish aggregate bag limit
 - modifying the recreational fixed closed season for gray triggerfish
- Reef Fish AP **did** support:
 - Increasing the vermilion bag limit to 15 fish per person within the 20-fish aggregate
 - increasing gray triggerfish commercial trip limit
- Streamlining document could result in faster implementation
 - Would the Council like to postpone the vermilion snapper bag limit and recreational fixed closed season changes as they could result in early closures?



QUESTIONS?



1. Reef Fish Aggregate

- 20 fish per person combined total
- vermilion snapper (**10 per person within aggregate**)
- lane snapper
- gray triggerfish (**1 per person within aggregate**)
- almaco jack
- golden tilefish
- goldface tilefish
- blueline tilefish



1. Vermilion landings by mode

Year	Recreational				Commercial	Total
	Charter	Headboat	Private	Total		
2012	170,651	283,132	925,125	1,378,908	2,441,360	3,820,268
2013	302,959	302,328	1,220,917	1,826,204	1,418,401	3,244,605
2014	466,349	330,088	947,619	1,744,056	1,745,222	3,489,278
2015	367,276	338,865	836,032	1,542,173	1,352,934	2,895,107
2016	529,907	311,779	685,455	1,527,140	1,565,364	3,092,504
2017	660,805	430,518	1,355,116	2,446,438	1,612,859	4,059,297
2018	741,305	541,200	1,657,706	2,940,211	1,398,445	4,338,656
2019	458,612	409,294	1,393,872	2,261,779	1,283,633	3,545,412
2020	515,246	328,792	703,432	1,547,470	860,613	2,408,083

- Landings in lbs ww, MRIP-FES units



3. Size Frequency Distribution Commercial Landed Gray Triggerfish

