

SAFMC Liaison Report to Gulf Council:

Outreach

- South Atlantic council has spent a lot of effort on our outreach campaign focused on best fishing practices. This is in support of our recently passed amendment which requires descending devices to be rigged and ready when fishing for s/g species. Topics include safe handling techniques and identifying signs of barotrauma. We have posted videos demonstrating the use and effectiveness of descending devices on our website.

3 Recent Stock assessments:

- Atlantic King Mackerel and Greater Amberjack stocks are neither overfished nor undergoing overfishing. Harvest has remained relatively consistent for both stocks and they benefited from strong recruitment years. *We will be adjusting catch levels and allocations as needed.*
- The same cannot be said for the Red Porgy stock. Despite a rebuilding plan being in place for almost 3 decades, the stock assessment finds Red Porgy remains overfished and is undergoing overfishing, with chronically low recruitment. In September we began work on an amendment to address overfishing and revise allocations.

Dolphin/Wahoo

- At our September meeting we took final action on amend 12 to add bullet and frigate mackerel as an ecosystem component species in the d/w FMP.
- We are also working on Amendment 10 to the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan which will be considering new catch levels as well as modifications to accountability measures, allocations, and current vessel limits for Dolphin.

**We have heard concerns from recreational fishermen and for-hire captains in South Florida and the Florida Keys expressing concerns about the decline of the dolphinfish fishery in their area. (lower catch and no bull dolphin)

Red snapper:

- We had a short 4-day rec season in July with the new stock assessment available to us June 2021.

Covid:

- In June we requested two emergency actions to try and help mitigate some negative impacts of covid.
 - 1) Increase the federal recreational bag limit of Atlantic King Mackerel to 4 fish per person per day off the east coast of Florida through the Mid Atlantic.
 - 2) Requested an increase in the federal commercial trip limit for vermillion snapper to 1500 pds gutted weight.

President's Executive Order to Promote American Seafood

- We also developed a list of recommendations in response to the president's executive order to promote American seafood including modernizing the ITQ program for wreckfish, modification

to the Oculina bank habitat area of particular concern, commercial electronic logbooks and reconsideration of the 2 for 1 commercial permit requirement for the snapper grouper fishery.

Citizen Science:

- Finally, I just want to note that our citizen science program has quite a few cool projects going on. If the gulf council would like to receive a presentation on our efforts please let us know. Examples include FISHstory and Scamp Release app.