



FWC 2014 Recreational Red Snapper Workshops and 2015 Statewide Workshops

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Marine Fisheries Management

Summer 2014 FWC Recreational Red Snapper Workshops



Workshop Format

- Presentation on management history and options discussed by the Council
- Breakout group questions
 - Management goals and expectations
 - Desired management methods or regulations
- Polled participants on management options



Workshop Results

- A total of 139 people attended the 5 workshops and most provided feedback



FWC Red Snapper Workshops - Management Goals and Expectations



- More fishing days/opportunities
- Predictable fishing seasons
- Improve data collection, science, and assessments
- Improve trust and transparency



Management Measures and Regulations – General Feedback



- Opinions on sector separation were polarized
 - Strongest support in Destin
- Gulf-wide regional management viewed more favorable than unfavorable
 - Some favored zone management within Florida
- General desire to see FWC take over management
- Support for simple regulations



Management Measures and Regulations – General Feedback



- Mixed views on IFQ-type program for federal for-hire
 - Supporters suggested linking IFQ shares and allocation to federal permit so they could not be leased or sold
 - Others opposed privatization of recreational fishery
- Mixed views on harvest tags
- Strong opposition to inter-sector trading
- Most opposed a one-fish bag limit, weekends-only seasons, slot limits/hook-size requirements and days at sea



Management Measures and Regulations – Other Suggestions



- Some anglers open to changing timing of harvest season to spring and fall
- Consider split seasons
- Strong support for more red snapper habitat via artificial reefs



2015 FWC Statewide Survey and Workshops

Purpose

- Strategic planning process to look forward and develop proactive plan
- Not limited to recreational anglers; input sought from commercial industry, recreational industry, concerned citizens, tourism industry, and business community

Online Survey – Top Statewide Concerns

- Recreational and commercial allocations
- Confusing and complicated fishing rules
- Water quality and habitat loss
- Invasive species, such as lionfish
- Required to release fish that will die (regulatory discards)

Workshops – Top Federal Concerns for Gulf Coast Attendees

- Red snapper
- Grouper

