



**TAB B, No. 9**

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

# **Mutton Snapper Management Alternatives**



# Life History & Biology

- Considered a single stock- south Florida
- Sand/grass habitats as juveniles; reefs as adults
- Max observed age: 40 years
- Max length aged: 975 mm TL (~38.5" TL)
- Max observed weight: 15.6 kg (~34 lbs) approx. age-3
- Aggregate spawners
- Peak spawning May – June



# Update Assessment- SEDAR 15A

- Not overfished:  $SSB_{2013}/SSB_{MSY} = 1.13$
- Not undergoing overfishing:  $F_{Current}/F_{MSY} = 0.65$   
 $F_{Current}$  = geometric mean of  $F$  in 2011-2013
- Current stock apportionment from Generic ACL/AM Amendment (2011): South Atlantic = 82% of ABC and Gulf = 18% of ABC (Using 50% of catch history from 1990-2008 + 50% from 2006-2008).

# Gulf SSC Review

- Determined the assessment represented the “best scientific information available” and suitable for management advice
- Concurred with South Atlantic Council’s SSC on OFL and ABC recommendations as adopted by the SAFMC SSC for the years 2016-2020

# SSC OFL and ABC Determinations

<b>Year</b>	<b>OFL</b>	<b>ABC</b>
2016	713,492	692,000
2017	751,711	717,200
2018	793,823	746,800
2019	835,318	774,400
2020	850,077	798,300

Yield streams are in pounds whole weight (ww)

# Gulf Apportionment 18% of ABC

<b>Year</b>	<b>ABC</b>
2016	124,560
2017	129,096
2018	134,424
2019	139,392
2020	143,694

Yield streams are in pounds whole weight (ww)

# Action 1: Establish Mutton snapper Gulf apportioned ACLs

Based on the ACL/ACT Control Rule

Buffer 12%

Alternative 1: No action stock ACL = 203,000 lbs ww.

Year	ABC	ACL = ABC (Alternative 2)	ACL @ 88% of ABC (Alternative 3)
2016	124,560	ACL = ABC	109,613
2017	129,096		113,605
2018	134,424		118,293
2019	139,392		122,665
2020	143,694		126,451



# Recent Mutton Snapper Landings – No Sector Allocations

<b>Year</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Com</b>	<b>Total</b>
2012	7,156	88,695	95,851
2013	4,960	107,814	112,774
2014	7,156	134,536	139,575

Landings are in whole weight (ww)

Source: NMFS ACL monitoring page accessed September 11, 2015



# Action 2 – Mutton Recreational Bag Limits

**Alternative 1** – No Action. Mutton snapper is part of the aggregate 10 snapper bag limit in the Gulf of Mexico.

**Alternative 2** – Remove mutton from aggregate bag limit, establish regular (July – April) and spawning (May – June) bag limits:

**Option 2a:** *10 fish/person/day* regular season,  
*2 fish/person/day* spawning season

**Option 2b:** *5 fish/person/day* regular season,  
*2 fish/person/day* spawning season

**Option 2c:** *4 fish/person/day* regular season,  
*2 fish/person/day* spawning season

# Action 2 – continued

**Alternative 3** – Retain mutton within aggregate bag limit, but specify regular (July – April) and spawning (May – June) bag limits within the aggregate bag limit :

**Option 3a:** *10 fish/person/day* regular season  
*2 fish/person/day* spawning season

**Option 3b:** *5 fish/person/day* regular season  
*2 fish/person/day* spawning season

**Option 3c:** *4 fish/person/day* regular season  
*2 fish/person/day* spawning season

## Estimated percent reductions in landings from South Atlantic recreational landings from 2011-2013

Bag Limit	MRIP			Headboat		
	Jul-Apr	May-Jun	All Year	Jul-Apr	May-Jun	All Year
10	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
9	0.2	1.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3
8	0.4	2.5	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7
7	1.3	3.8	1.8	1.3	2.0	1.5
6	2.3	5.1	2.9	2.9	3.8	3.1
5	3.5	6.3	4.1	5.5	6.2	5.7
4	5.1	8.4	5.8	9.4	9.7	9.5
3	8.5	12.7	9.3	15.3	14.7	15.2
2	14.1	20.3	15.3	25.0	21.7	24.2
1	29.3	34.2	30.3	37.5	32.4	36.3

# Action 3 – Mutton Snapper Commercial Trip Limits

**Alternative 1:** No Action. Do not establish a commercial bag or trip limit for mutton snapper in the Gulf of Mexico during the spawning season.

**Alternative 2:** Specify a trip limit for mutton snapper for the commercial sector during the spawning season (May and June) in the Gulf of Mexico.

**Option 2a:** 5 fish/person/day

**Option 2b:** 10 fish/person/day

# Action 3 – continued

## Commercial Trip Limits by gear type

**Alternative 3:** Specify a trip limit for mutton snapper for the vertical line component of the commercial sector during the spawning season (May and June) in the Gulf of Mexico

**Option 3a:** 5 fish/person/day

**Option 3b:** 10 fish/person/day

**Alternative 4:** Specify a trip limit for mutton snapper for the bottom longline component of the commercial sector during the spawning season (May and June) in the Gulf of Mexico

**Option 4a:** 500 pounds whole weight trip limit

**Option 4b:** 50 pounds whole weight trip limit

# Commercial Landings (lbs ww) by Gear Type

<b>Year</b>	<b>Vertical</b>	<b>Longline</b>	<b>Traps</b>	<b>Diving</b>
2004	34,944	161,006	5,166	822
2005	20,634	115,772	2,952	1,271
2006	25,345	186,193	994	1,029
2007	20,335	110,979	631	612
2008	14,745	65,227	647	759
2009	12,258	29,589	847	811
2010	18,262	35,294	NA	358
2011	28,227	64,412	NA	729
2012	27,013	59,375	NA	568
2013	19,782	86,277	NA	1,073

# Monthly distribution of commercial mutton snapper landings from 2009 through 2013

Month	Logbooks	Dealer
January	6.1%	5.4%
February	11.3%	10.3%
March	7.1%	7.5%
April	8.2%	7.6%
May	11.6%	11.9%
June	7.1%	7.4%
July	13.7%	13.9%
August	6.7%	6.5%
September	6.7%	6.7%
October	8.3%	9.2%
November	5.7%	5.7%
December	7.5%	7.9%

Source: commercial logbooks and dealer reported accumulative landings system

## Action 3- Estimated % reduction or increase in landings for alternatives

Alternative	Option	Gulf of Mexico
Alternative 2	Option 2a: 5 fish	-14%
	Option 2b: 10 fish	-12%
Alternative 3	Option 3a: 5 fish, Vertical line gear	-3%
	Option 3b: 10 fish, Vertical line gear	-2%
Alternative 4	Option 4a: 500 lbs ww, Longline gear	4%
	Option 4b: 50 lbs ww, Longline gear	-12%



# Questions ?

