Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC Report

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting

Oct 5-9, 2015

Galveston, TX

Best Practices for Constant Catch ABC Projections

The SSC discussed different constant catch options:

1) **Use equilibrium yield at F_{ABC}**
2) **Average ABC's over the projection period**
3) **Pick a value from the ABC projection stream**
4) **The SEFSC produces a constant catch ABC using an iterative projection process:**

   → **After the SSC selects a base assessment model, reference points, P*, CV, etc.**

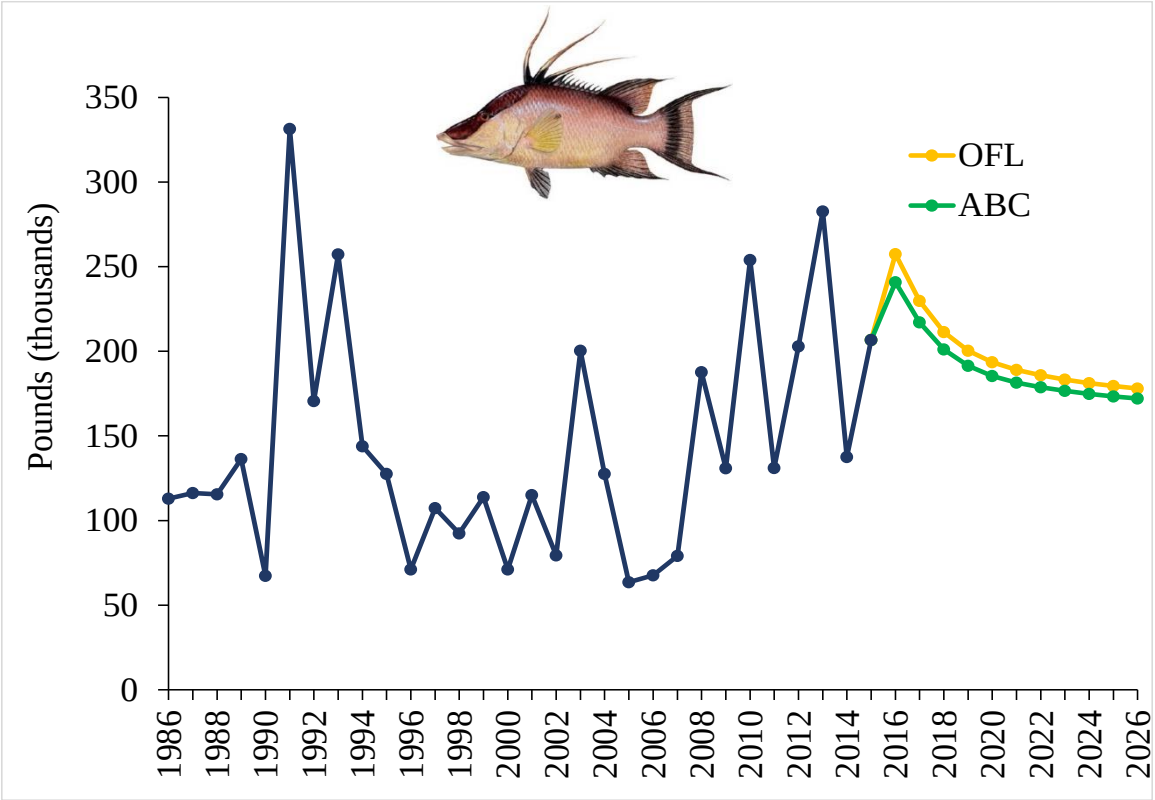
   → **Requires projections be brought back to the SSC**

Best Practices for Constant Catch ABC Projections

- **The SSC recommends that for future stock assessments, once a base model is selected and projection parameters, including P* are determined, the SSC will ask for both constant *F* and constant catch OFL and ABC projections**

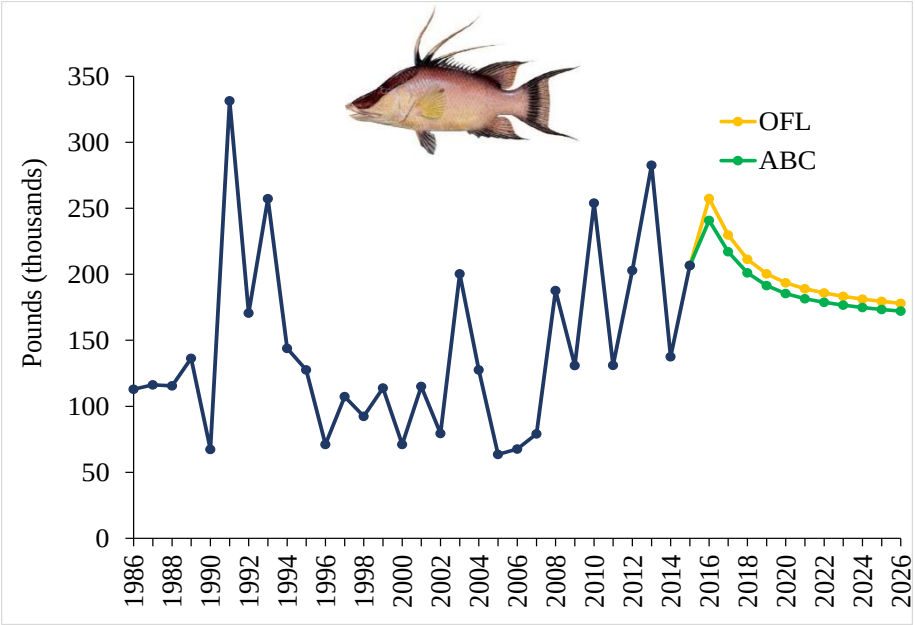
Constant Catch ABC for West Florida Shelf Stock of Hogfish

- **Equilibrium ABC of about 159,000 lbs**
- **ABC_{2016} from current stream about 240,000 lbs**

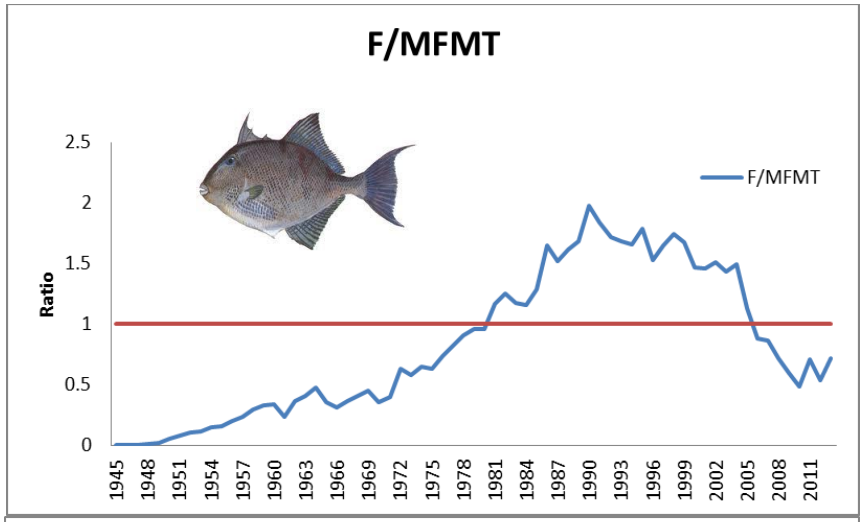


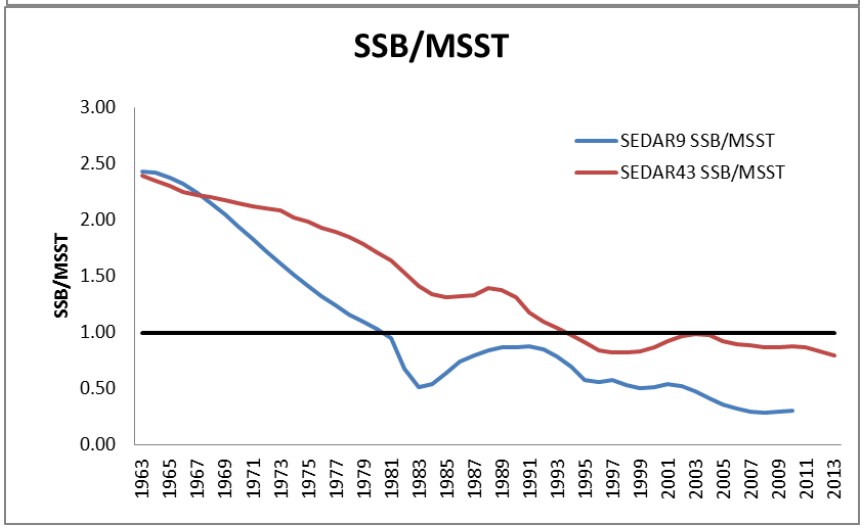
Constant Catch ABC for West Florida Shelf Stock of Hogfish

- **SSC recommends the use of the 'iterative method'**
- **If at the end of the projection period no new assessment is available, and the equilibrium ABC is below the ABC of the constant catch yield stream, ABC should revert to the equilibrium ABC**



SEDAR 43 Gray Triggerfish Standard Assessment



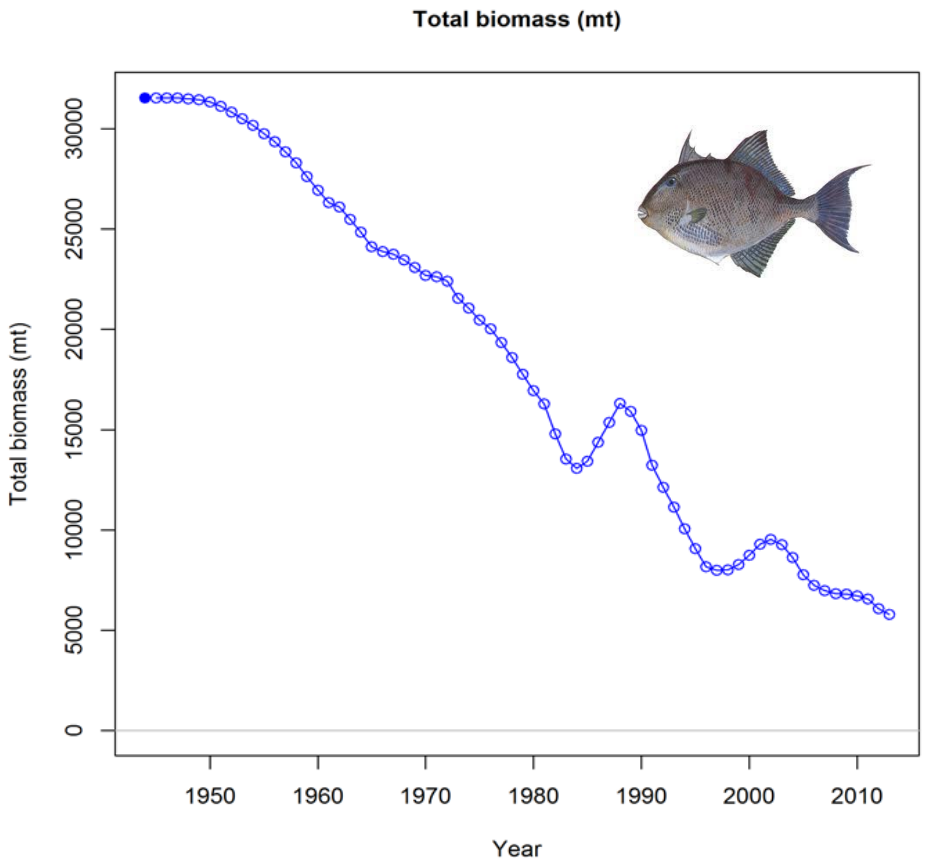


- **Update using SS3, data through 2013**
- **Stock overfished and undergoing overfishing**
- **Stock does not appear to be recovering under the current rebuilding plan**

SEDAR 43 Gray Triggerfish Standard Assessment

- **The Committee accepts the SEDAR 43 Gray Triggerfish Assessment as the best available science**
- **The SSC expressed concerns about continued low R, declining or level indices of abundance, and declining SSB estimates, despite nearly a decade of *F* being well below MFMT**
- **Therefore, the SSC recommends OFL and ABC to continue at the current rebuilding levels and not based on assessment results**

SEDAR 43 Gray Triggerfish Standard Assessment



- **Stock-recruit steepness was estimated at 0.45 (but with high uncertainty)**
- **There are questions as to how long the recent low recruitment from the six previous years will continue**