

2016 Red Grouper ACL Framework

Summary of Written Comments

March 30, 2016

- The Council should select Alternative 3, and use the mean OFL and ABC to set annual catch limits.
- The recreational season should be open year round.
- The Council should not raise the limit just yet. Instead, the stock should allow the stock to stabilize at a higher level before greater harvest is allowed.
- Recreational anglers should be allowed three-fish per person year round.
- The commercial sector should not be allowed 76% of the allocation. The allocation should be adjusted to allow the recreational sector a year round 4 fish bag limit.
- The catch limit should not be raised. An increase will be disruptive to the commercial sector and it will cause effort shifting in the recreational sector.
- Much like what happened with gag, the Council should take no action because the commercial ACL is not being harvested anyways.
- Only raise the ACL slightly. The Reef Fish AP and commercial fishermen don't feel that the biomass is as large as the stock assessment shows.

Other Comments

- There are too many red snapper in the Gulf, especially around oil rigs. The Council needs to do better stock assessments and stop voting in favor of commercial interests.
- There is a need for anglers to understand how to prevent discard mortality.