



**TAB B, No. 8**

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

# **Mutton Snapper Management**



# Update Assessment- SEDAR 15A

- Not overfished:  $SSB_{2013}/SSB_{MSY} = 1.13$
- Not undergoing overfishing:  $F_{Current}/F_{MSY} = 0.65$
- Most recent stock assessment recommends reduction in allowable harvest
- Stock managed cooperatively among Gulf, South Atlantic Councils, and Florida
- All three agencies considering changes to mutton snapper management

# 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)

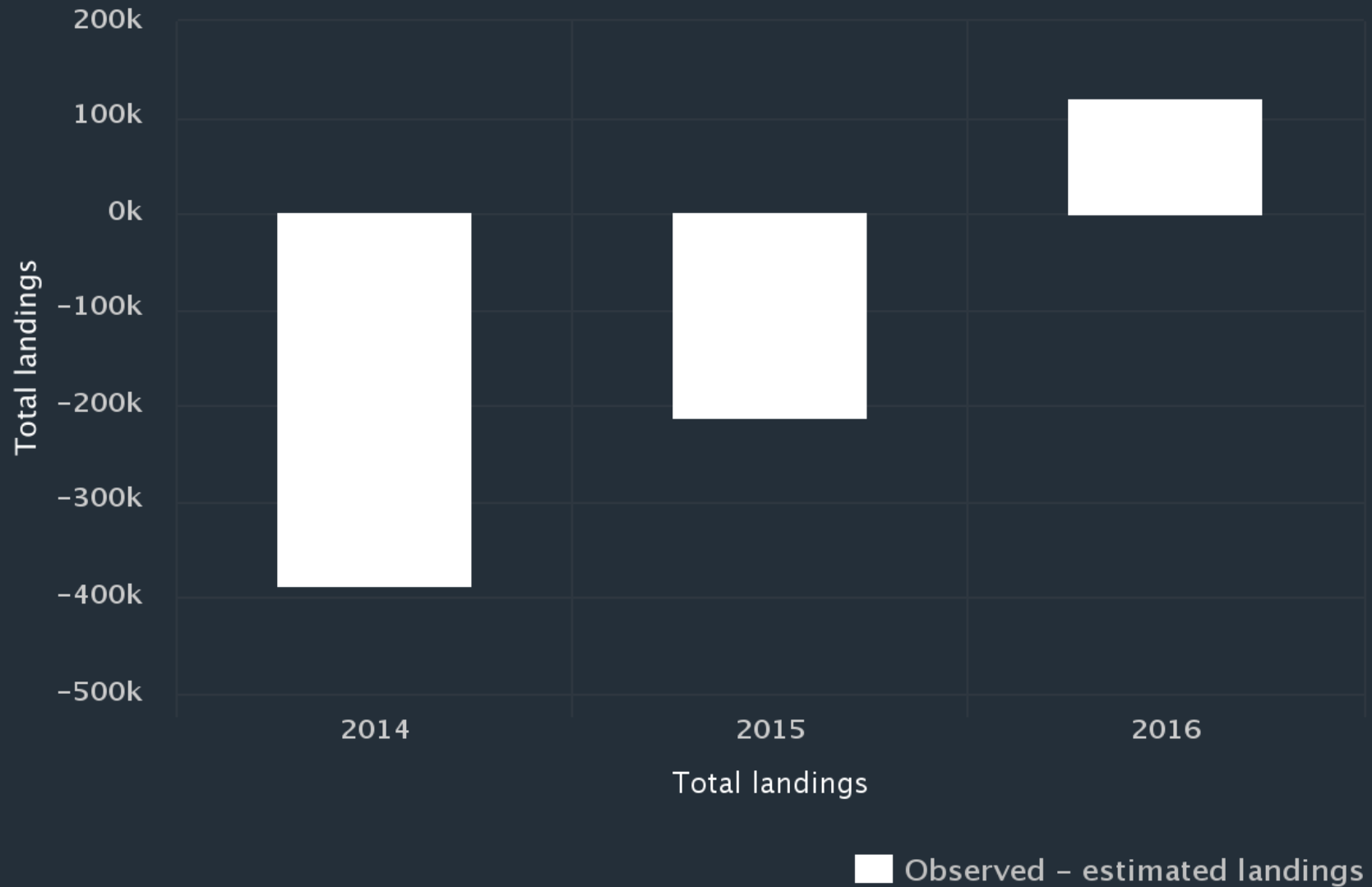
# Stock assessment projections

- Terminal year of assessment 2013
- 2014-2015 projections assume current ACL is caught
- 2016 projections assume projected ACL is caught
- Deviations from these assumption can affect validity of 2017+ projections
- Consider updating projections with current landings

# Observed and Estimated Landings



# Observed and Estimated Landings





# Landings summary

- Stock landings were under projected harvest in 2014 and 2015
- If current stock ACL is landed in 2016, would exceed stock assessment project harvest in 2016
- 2016 – 2020 projections:
  - Increasing yield stream but;
  - Substantial decline from status quo

# FWC Mutton Snapper Management

- Increase minimum size limits to 18 inches
  - Recreation and commercial
- Reduce bag limit from 10 to 3 within 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit
- Replace May-June 10 fish commercial harvest limit with 3 fish April-June (Atlantic waters)
- Establish 300-pound trip limit (Atlantic waters) from July through March

# Draft SA Council Mutton Snapper Management Actions

- Specify MSY
- Specify MSST
- Revise ACLs and optimum yield
- Revise ACTs and optimum yield
- Designate spawning season to apply specific management measures
- Modify recreational bag limit
- Modify commercial trip limit
- Modify minimum size limit

# Draft Gulf Council Mutton Snapper Management Actions

## Mutton snapper Actions

- Revise ACLs and ACTs
- Modify recreational bag limit
- Modify commercial trip limit
- Modify minimum size limit

## Gag Action

- Modify commercial gag minimum size limits

## Next steps

- Adopt compatible regulations among Gulf, South Atlantic, and Florida?
- Update stock assessment projections based on more recent landings?
- Provide guidance on range of Actions and Alternatives

# Questions ?

