

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON AMENDMENT 24 TO THE SNAPPER GROUPE FMP FROM SCOPING ACTIVITIES

April 2011

The Council solicited comments on Amendment 24 to the Snapper Grouper FMP during a scoping comment period during January and February 2011. The Council and NMFS received 1,437 comments, though the majority of comments were “form” letters. In addition, five people spoke at the scoping meetings on Amendment 24. This document serves to summarize the comments received by action item.

Maximum Sustainable Yield

- Supports Alternative 1 (no action) (form letters)
- Supports Alternative 2 (updating MSY per assessment) (1 comment)

Minimum Stock Size Threshold

- Supports Alternative 1 (no action) (form letters)

Rebuilding Strategy

- Supports Alternative 2 (1 comment)
($F_{OY}=F_{REBUILD}$ w/ 70% probability of success)
- Supports constant F strategy, not constant catch
(1 comment)
(currently all alternatives)

Annual Catch Limit

- Supports ACL=90%TAC (form letters)
- Supports adding all SWG together, not just gag closing everything (1 comment). Should have either SWG ACL/AM or red grouper ACL/AM, not both

Allocations

- Supports Alternative 2e (current preferred)
(1 comment; form letters)
45% comm./55% rec.
- Supports 2 sector allocations (current preferred)
(1 comment)
keep private boat/charter/headboat all together
- Does not support using landings (1 comment)
Should use economic value as key criteria

Management Measures

- 1,000 lb trip limit w/ 100 lb bycatch allowance
- 700 lb trip limit (first 75%), then 200 lbs (remaining 25%)
- Remove Jan-April closure
- Remove size limit and circle hook mandate as raises release mortality
- Raise bag limit to 4 fish/person/day