



Potential Changes to Reef Fish Harvest Restrictions – Summary for LETC

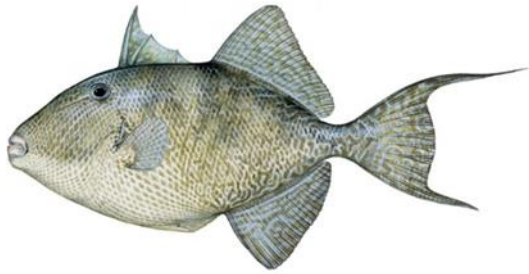


Recent and Upcoming Actions

- **Gray Triggerfish Commercial Trip Limit**
 - ✓ Jan 2023 final action
- **Greater Amberjack Management Measures**
 - June 2023 final action
- **Gag Grouper Recreational Fishing Season**
 - June 2023 final action



Gray Triggerfish Commercial Trip Limit



Action: Increase the gray triggerfish commercial trip limit

Alternative 1: No Action. Retain the current commercial trip limit of 16 gray triggerfish.

Increase the commercial trip limit to:

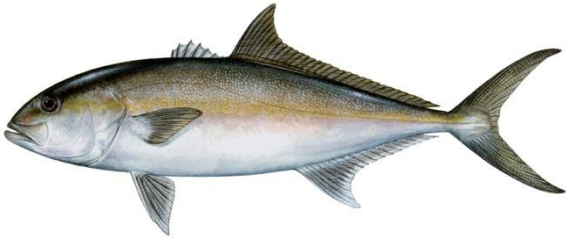
Alternative 2: 20 gray triggerfish per vessel.

Preferred Alternative 3: 25 gray triggerfish per vessel.

Alternative 4: 30 gray triggerfish per vessel.



Greater Amberjack: Recreational Season



Action 1: Modify the Recreational Fixed Closed Season for Greater Amberjack and the Jacks Complex

Alternative 1: No Action. Recreational fixed closed season is January 1 – April 30, June 1 – July 31, and November 1 – December 31 (open May 1 – May 31 and August 1 – October 31).

Modify the recreational fixed closed season to be:

Alternative 2: January 1 – July 31, September 1 – December 31 (open August 1 – August 31).

Alternative 3: January 1 – August 31, November 1 – December 31 (open September 1 – October 31).

Alternative 4: January 1 – October 31, (open November 1 – December 31).

An emergency rule, effective July 25, 2022, modified the recreational fixed closed season to be August 1 – 31, 2022 and November 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023.



Greater Amberjack: Commercial Trip Limit

Action 2: Modify the Greater Amberjack Commercial Trip Limit

Alternative 1: No Action. Do not modify the current commercial trip limit for greater amberjack of 1,000 lbs gutted weight (gw) (1,040 lbs whole weight [ww]). When 75% of the ACT is projected to be met, reduce the commercial trip limit to 250 lbs gw (260 lbs ww).

Establish a commercial trip limit for greater amberjack of:

Alternative 2: 250 lbs gw (260 lbs ww).

Alternative 3: 7 fish (~ 210 lbs gw [218 lbs ww]).

Alternative 4: 5 fish (~ 150 lbs gw [155 lbs ww]).



Greater Amberjack: Commercial Trip Limit

- The current management measures for the commercial sector are a closed fixed season from March 1 through May 31, a minimum size limit of 36 inches, a 1,000 lbs gw trip limit, and a reduction of the trip limit down to 250 lbs gw when 75% of the ACT is reached.
- Using commercial data from 2019-2021, the average weight of greater amberjack is 30 lbs gw.



Gag Grouper: Amendment 56

Action 1: Modification of Gag Grouper Status Determination Criteria (SDC)

Action 2: Modification of Gag Catch Limits, Sector Allocation, and Rebuilding Timeline

Action 3: Modify the Gag Sector ACTs based on selections in Action 2



Gag Grouper: Recreational Fishing Season

Action 4: Modification of Gag Recreational Fishing Season Start Date

Alternative 1: No Action. Retain the current June 1 recreational fishing season opening for gag.

The federal recreational fishing season for Gulf gag would open on 12:01 am local time on:

Alternative 2: September 1.

Alternative 3: October 1.

NMFS would close harvest when the recreational ACL is projected to be met.

