



Evaluation of Black Grouper and Yellowfin Grouper Landings

May 2023 Gulf SSC Meeting



Recap...

- Shallow-water grouper complex: Scamp, yellowmouth grouper, black grouper, yellowfin grouper
 - Currently not an OFL for the complex
 - No defined sector allocation
 - De facto allocation for IFQ program function assumes a black grouper allocation of 73% comm, 27% rec, and that comm takes 80.1% of scamp, YMG and YFG
 - Based on landings during 2001-2004 (Gen. ACL/AM Amendment)
- ACLs date back to Generic ACL/AM Amendment
 - Used landings from 1999 – 2008
 - Used MRFSS data units

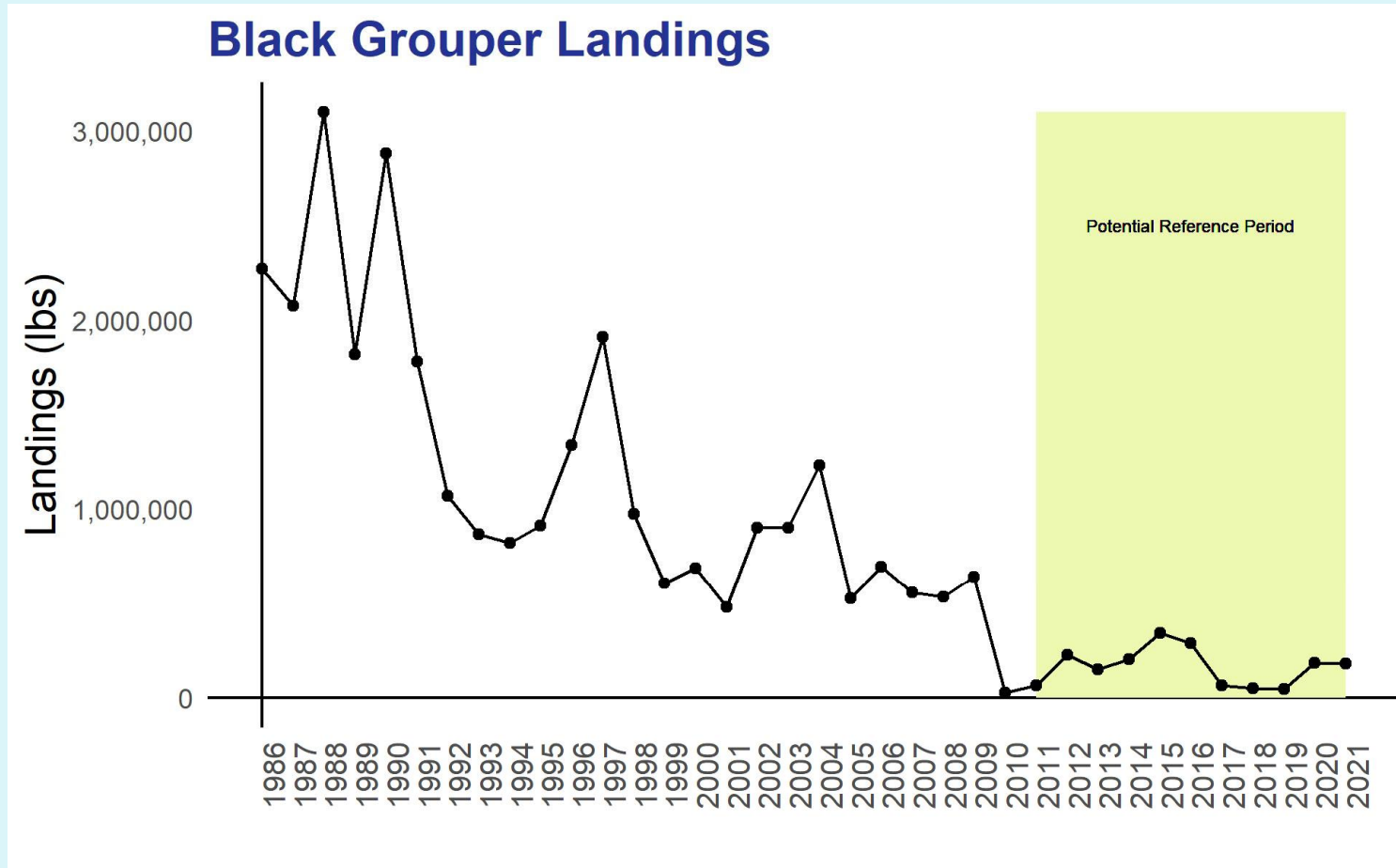


Recap...

- Black Grouper and Yellowfin Grouper
 - Functionally, no assessment available
 - Black grouper managed Jointly with SAFMC
 - Jurisdictional apportionment at Council boundary near Dry Tortugas
 - Yellowfin grouper landings *very* low (~ 500 lbs/year)
 - Data largely confidential if not aggregated



Recent Black Grouper Landings



- Landings in lb gw, rec portion in MRIP-FES



SWG Catch Limits from Gen. ACL/AM Amendment

Year	SWG	OFL	ABC	Comm allocation of ACL	Buffer	ACT
2012	Total	n/a	0.688			
	Comm	n/a		0.531	4%	0.510
2013	Total	n/a	0.700			
	Comm	n/a		0.540	4%	0.519
2014	Total	n/a	0.707			
	Comm	n/a		0.545	4%	0.523
2015+	Total	n/a	0.710			
	Comm	n/a		0.547	4%	0.526

Catch limits are in mp gw



Recent Black Grouper Information

- Landings decreasing over time
- Stakeholder feedback:
 - Dockside price \$8+/-lb gw (Tarpon Springs, Naples)
 - Desirable table fare
 - Fish more common at and beyond 75 meters
 - Requires longer travel times for fishermen in SWFL due to wide continental shelf
 - Comm economical access dependent on price
 - Rec access open
 - Possible rare event species with **high** variability in MRIP-FES rec landings



Potential Actions:

- Use Tier 3 to set OFL and ABC for black grouper and yellowfin grouper
 - Rec data in MRIP-FES units (formerly MRFSS)
 - Would need to identify a reference period for Tier 3
 - OFLs and ABCs would be additive across stocks to establish a SWG Complex OFL and ABC
 - Resolves issue of two OFLs & ABCs in SWG



Tier 3a

Condition for Use*	No assessment, but landings data exist. The annual probability of exceeding the OFL can be approximated from the variance about the mean of recent landings to produce a buffer between the OFL and ABC. Based on BSIA, recent historical landings are without trend or are small relative to stock biomass; or, the stock is unlikely to undergo overfishing if future landings \geq the mean of recent landings. For stock complexes, the determination of whether a stock complex is in Tier 3a or 3b will be made using all the information available, including stock specific catch trends.
OFL	Set OFL equal to the mean of recent landings plus two standard deviations. A time series of at least ten years is recommended to compute the mean of recent landings, but a different number of years may be used to attain a representative level of variance.
ABC	<p>Set ABC using a buffer from the OFL that represents an acceptable level of risk due to scientific uncertainty. The buffer will be predetermined for each stock or stock complex by the Council with advice from the SSC as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. $ABC = \text{mean landings} + 1.5 * \text{standard deviation}$ (risk of exceeding OFL = 31%)b. $ABC = \text{mean landings} + 1.0 * \text{standard deviation}$ (default, risk of exceeding OFL = 16%)c. $ABC = \text{mean landings} + 0.5 * \text{standard deviation}$ (risk of exceeding OFL = 7%)d. $ABC = \text{mean landings}$ (risk of exceeding OFL = 2.3%)

Tier 3b

Condition for Use*	No assessment, but landings data exist. Based on BSIA, recent landings may be unsustainable.
OFL	Set the OFL equal to the mean of landings. A time series of at least ten years is recommended to compute the mean of recent landings, but a different number of years may be used to attain a representative level of variance.
ABC	<p>Set ABC using a buffer from the OFL that represents an acceptable level of risk due to scientific uncertainty. The buffer will be predetermined for each stock or stock complex by the Council with advice from its SSC as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. $ABC = 100\%$ of OFLb. $ABC = 85\%$ of OFLc. $ABC = 75\%$ of OFL (default)d. $ABC = 65\%$ of OFL

Potential Actions:

- Use scamp/YMG as an indicator for SWG
 - May resolve issue of two OFLs in SWG
 - Doesn't address challenges affecting the IFQ program
 - SSC previously voiced concerns about scamp being representative of black grouper
 - Life history, distribution

