



Tab B, No. 6(a)
June 2021

Reef Fish Amendment 54:

Greater Amberjack Rebuilding Plan

GAJ Stock Assessments

Assessment	Completion Date	Terminal Year of Data
Turner et al.	2000	1998
SEDAR 9	2006	2004
SEDAR 9 Update	2011	2008
SEDAR 33	2014	2012
SEDAR 33 Update	2017	2015
SEDAR 70	Nov 2020	2018

On April 7, 2021, NMFS advised Council that greater amberjack is now subject to overfishing and continues to be overfished.



SEDAR 70 Status Results

- Based on RF44 definition of MSST, stock remains overfished.
- Based on MFMT, stock is undergoing overfishing.
- Over assessment time period of 1950-2018, stock has experienced overfishing since 1977 and continues to experience overfishing through terminal year (2018) of SEDAR 70.
- Stock has been in a consistent overfished state since 1988.
- Projections based on 2027 rebuilding date.



Current Catch Levels

A 2017 Framework Action adopted SSC recommended OFLs and ABCs and set 2018-2020+ ACLs based on SEDAR 33 Update (2016). Established 13% buffer for commercial ACT and 17% buffer for recreational ACT.

		Recreational		Commercial	
Year	ABC	ACL	ACT	ACL	ACT
2018	1,182,000	862,860	716,173	319,140	277,651
2019	1,489,000	1,086,970	902,185	402,030	349,766
2020+	1,794,000	1,309,620	1,086,985	484,380	421,411

Values in pounds whole weight.



Sector Allocation

- Amendment 30A – 73%:27% Rec:Comm
- Based on 1981-2004 historical landings.
- Landings by sector available for 1981-2019.
- Commercial “Jacks” landings aggregated <1992.
- Greater amberjack added to Reef Fish FMU through Amendment 1 (1990).



Amendment 54

- Incorporate SEDAR 70 results into management to end overfishing and rebuild the stock
- Review sector allocations based on change from MRIP-CHTS to MRIP-FES
- Modify catch levels
- Council to determine alternatives for allocations to set catch levels



Action 1: Sector Allocation, OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs

Potential Alternatives –

Historical Landings:

- **Alternative 1:** (No Action) 1981-2004 in CHTS
- **Alternative 2:** 1981-2004 in FES
- **Alternative 3:** 1981-2019 in FES (longest time series)
- **Alternative 4:** 1992-2019 in FES (commercial data by species)

Maintain Current Sector Allocation:

- **Alternative 5:** Convert CHTS to FES and maintain 73% rec : 27% comm.



Action 1: Potential Alternatives

Alt.	Method/ Time Series	Avg Landings Rec : Comm (mp ww)	Rec : Comm Allocation
1	1981-2004 (CHTS)	2.85 : 1.04	73% : 27%
2	1981-2004 (FES)	5.44 : 1.04	84.0% : 16.0%
3	1981-2019 (FES)	4.26 : 0.83	83.6% : 16.4%
4	1992-2019 (FES)	3.24 : 0.75	81.0% : 19.0%
5	FES & maintain Alt 1 allocation		73% : 27%

Catch levels to be determined by SEFSC based on sector allocations for proposed alternatives.



OFL and ABC

	Current* (GMFMC 2017a)		SSC recommendation (Jan 2021)	
Year	OFL	ABC	OFL**	ABC**
2020	2.167	1.794		
2021	2.438	1.794		
2022	2.666	1.794	1.637	1.255
2023	2.666	1.794	2.223	1.767
2024	2.666	1.794	2.781	2.270

Values in millions of pounds whole weight.

*Current OFL and ABC based on 73% recreational and 27% commercial allocation. Recreational units in CHTS; SSC recommendation based on FES and are greater than projection results from SEDAR 70.

**SSC recommendations may change after allocations are determined



Potential Action 2: Modify ACT

Alternative 1: 13% buffer for commercial ACT and 17% buffer for recreational ACT based on ACL/ACT Control Rule.

Alternative 2: Apply the ACL/ACT Control Rule to revise the buffer between the ACL and ACT for each sector.



Next Steps

- OFL and ABC are conditional upon the sector allocations
- Committee Guidance is requested about allocation scenarios of interest
 - Council staff will ask SEFSC to prepare updated projections based on the allocations requested here
 - Could be based on a time series or other method(s)
 - Results will be presented to SSC and OFL and ABC recommendations conditioned on each allocation option will be provided
- Committee will review draft options at a future meeting



Questions?

