



Agenda item XI.

Modification of Gray Triggerfish Commercial Trip Limits

Reef Fish AP
October 11, 2022



Council Motion:

August 2022 Meeting:

Motion: To direct staff to begin a standalone Framework Action for Gray Triggerfish commercial trip limits.

- Removed consideration of gray triggerfish commercial trip limits from the framework action examining vermilion snapper bag limits and the gray triggerfish recreational season

Current Commercial Gray Triggerfish Regulations

Sector allocation: 79% recreational, 21% commercial

- Closed during peak spawning in June and July
- Vessel trip limit: 16 fish
- 14-inch fork length minimum size limit
- Commercial ACT set 5% below commercial ACL
- Commercial landings recorded in lbs ww
- Trip limit is in number of fish for enforcement purposes
- Converted back and forth for trip-level analysis



Gray triggerfish commercial landings, commercial ACL, payback-adjusted ACL, percent ACL landed, and quota closure dates for 2008-2021. Landing units are in pounds whole weight.

Year	Landings	ACT	Adjusted ACT	ACL	Adjusted ACL	Percent of ACL Landed	Closure Date
2008	76,717	80,000	None	105,000	None	73.1	None
2009	78,117	93,000	None	122,000	None	64.0	None
2010	55,661	106,000	None	138,000	None	40.3	None
2011	105,251	106,000	None	138,000	None	76.3	None
2012	72,778	60,900	None	64,100	None	113.5	7/1/2012
2013	63,086	60,900	51,602	64,100	54,802	98.4	None
2014	40,664	60,900	None	64,100	None	63.4	None
2015	47,496	60,900	None	64,100	None	74.1	None
2016	59,147	60,900	None	64,100	None	92.3	None
2017	62,647	60,900	None	64,100	None	97.7	11/17/2017
2018	64,702	60,900	None	64,100	None	100.9	10/07/2018
2019	62,362	60,900	60,298	64,100	63,498	97.3	11/26/2019
2020	52,520	60,900	None	64,100	None	81.9	None
2021	43,015	88,273	NA	95,949	NA	44.8	NA

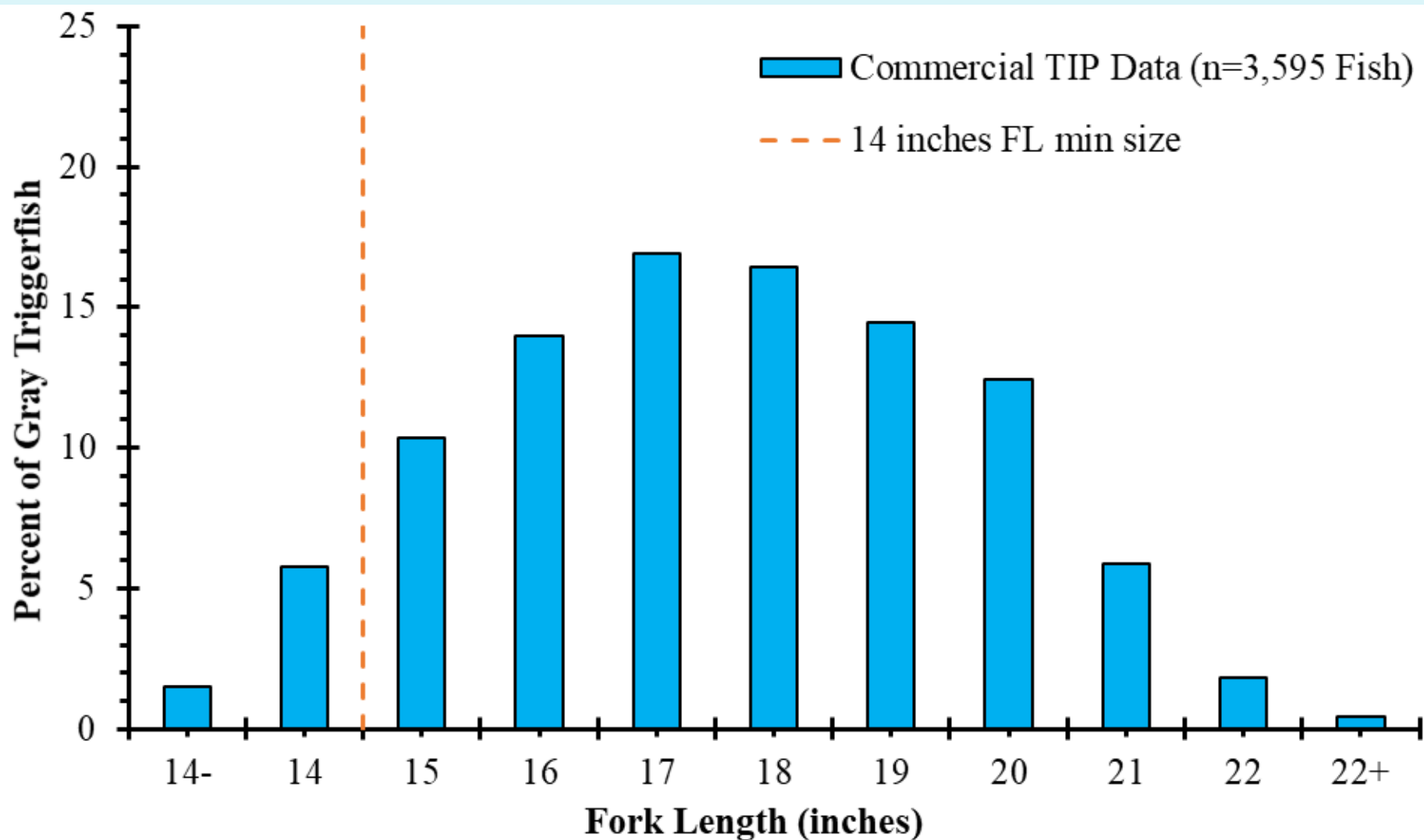
Source: SEFSC Commercial ACL data retrieved August 5, 2022 from SERO website. 2021 data is preliminary.

Percent of Commercial Gray Triggerfish Landings by State

Year	AL	FL	LA	MS	TX
2014	8.2%	85.2%	1.8%	1.4%	3.4%
2015	6.9%	89.6%	1.0%	1.1%	1.4%
2016	3.8%	94.5%	0.6%	0.4%	0.8%
2017	6.4%	91.3%	1.1%	0.6%	0.6%
2018	6.1%	92.6%	0.7%	0.1%	0.4%
2019	5.7%	93.0%	0.8%	0.1%	0.4%
2020	4.8%	92.5%	1.6%	0.4%	0.6%
2021	2.7%	95.0%	1.4%	0.3%	0.6%



Size Frequency Distribution Commercial Landed Gray Triggerfish

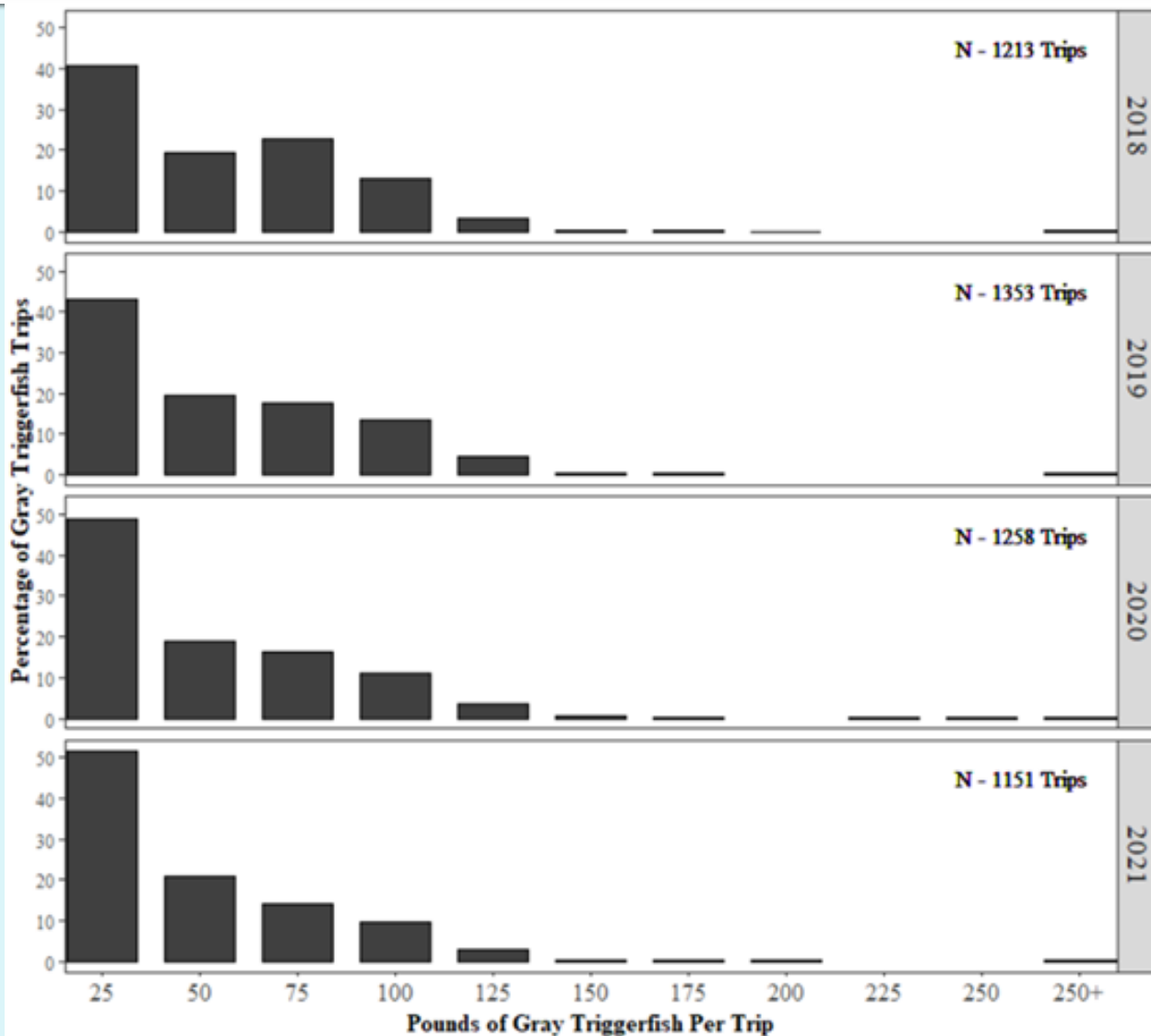


Predicted Gray Triggerfish Pounds vs. Numbers of Fish

Trip Limit (# Fish)	Pounds	Lower 95% Confidence Interval	Upper 95% Confidence Interval
16	68.6	65.7	71.5
18	77.2	73.9	80.4
20	85.7	82.1	89.4
25	107.2	102.7	111.7
30	128.6	123.2	134.0
35	150.1	143.7	156.4
40	171.5	164.3	178.7
45	192.9	184.8	201.1
50	214.4	205.3	223.4



Commercial Pounds of Gray Triggerfish Per Trip



Draft Alternatives: Commercial Trip Limits

- Alternative 1: No Action – Vessel trip limit is 16 fish
- Alternative 2: Increase vessel trip limit to 20 fish
- Alternative 3: Increase vessel trip limit to 25 fish
- Alternative 4: Increase vessel trip limit to 30 fish
- Alternative 5: Increase vessel trip limit to 40 fish



Feedback

- Since the increase in the ACL (July 2021), does the current 16-fish trip limit constrain harvest?
- If the Council increases the commercial trip limit, would fleet behavior change to target this species?
- If the trip limit is increased and quota is landed more quickly, should the Council be concerned about increased discards?



QUESTIONS?

