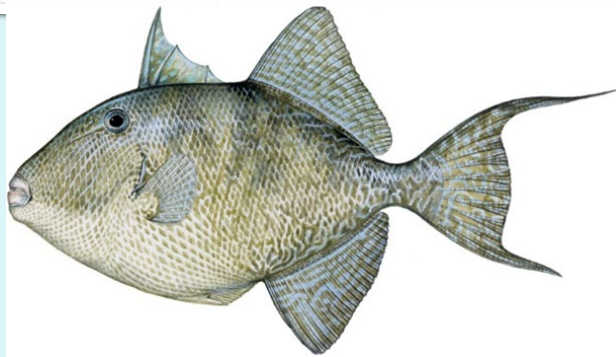




Reef Fish AP Meeting February 24, 2021

Gray Triggerfish Action: Modify Recreational Fixed Closed Season



Gray Triggerfish Action: Modify Fixed Closed Season

- Motion made at November/December 2020 Council meeting:

Motion: Modify the recreational fixed closed season for gray triggerfish to be January 1 through the end of February and June 1 through the end of June.

Motion carried 9 to 8.

Gray Triggerfish Action: Modify Fixed Closed Season

- The Council approved a Framework Action in January 2021 to increase the gray triggerfish recreational ACL and ACT
 - New ACT = 274,323 lbs ww
 - Increased in response to stock growth, evidenced in the 2021 gray triggerfish interim analysis
- Fixed closed season analysis uses new catch limits

| Year | OFL | ABC | Recreational ACL | Recreational ACT | Commercial ACL | Commercial ACT |
|-------|-----------|---------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 2021+ | 1,220,000 | 456,900 | 360,951 | 274,323 | 95,949 | 88,273 |

Current Gray Triggerfish Regulations

RECREATIONAL

- Open March – May
- Open August
- 15-inch fork length minimum size limit
- 1 fish per person within the 20-reef fish aggregate

Sector allocations: 79% recreational, 21% commercial



Data used to predict future recreational landings

Table: Description of the data used to predict future Gulf of Mexico gray triggerfish recreational landings.

| Time Period | Data Source: |
|--------------------|---|
| January - February | 2014 and 2016 data, adjusted for increase in minimum size and decrease in bag limit |
| March - April | Mean of 2018 and 2019 data |
| May | 2018 data |
| June | Applied daily catch rate for May of 2018 |



Landings Predictions

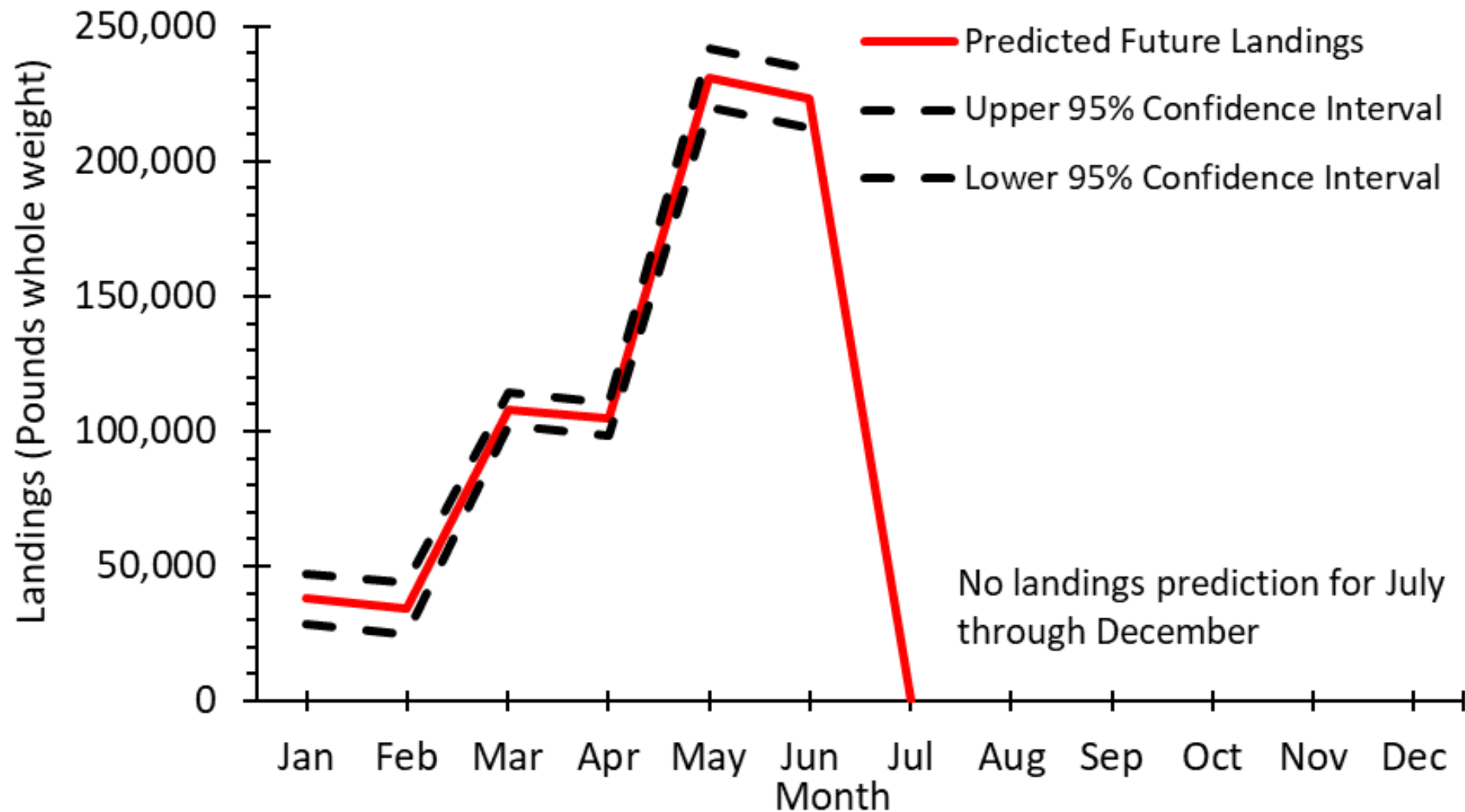
- No data to predict landings for July - December
- Changes to the fishery over past decade:
 - 2013 - Recreational sector last open in July and August
 - 2011 - Recreational sector last open September - December.
 - Recreational sector management changes since 2013:
 - Bag limit reductions in 2016 and 2018
 - Increase in minimum size limit in 2018
- Average size of gray triggerfish has changed over time (SEDAR 43, 2015).



Predicted Recreational Landings

| | January | February | March | April | May | June | Total |
|-------------------------------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Predicted Future Landings | 37,866 | 34,202 | 108,142 | 104,654 | 230,932 | 223,483 | 739,278 |
| Lower 95% Confidence Interval | 28,311 | 24,647 | 102,174 | 98,686 | 220,074 | 212,624 | 686,515 |
| Upper 95% Confidence Interval | 47,421 | 43,757 | 114,110 | 110,622 | 241,790 | 234,341 | 792,042 |

Predicted Recreational Landings



Seasonal Closure Analysis

Predicted Gulf of Mexico recreational gray triggerfish closure dates with new ACL:

| Alternative | Closed Period(s) | Closure Dates | | |
|---------------|---|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | Predicted Closure | As late as: | As soon as: |
| Alternative 1 | January 1 - end of February; June 1 - July 31 | May 9 | May 11 | May 7 |
| Alternative 2 | January 1 - January 31; June 1 - July 31 | May 4 | May 7 | May 1 |
| Alternative 3 | February 1 - end of February; June 1 - July 31 | May 4 | May 7 | May 1 |
| Alternative 4 | June 1 - July 31 | April 27 | May 3 | April 19 |

The new ACT is expected to be reached in April or May, depending on which alternative is chosen as preferred

