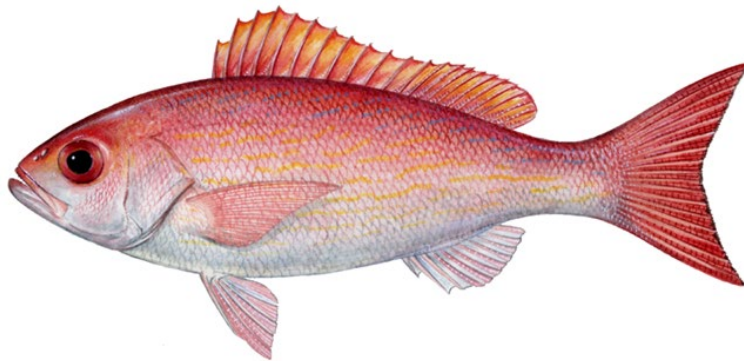




**Reef Fish AP Meeting
February 24, 2021**

**Modify Recreational Bag Limit for
Vermilion Snapper**



Background:

Council and RFAP Activity

- Discussed modifying vermilion snapper OFL, ABC, and ACL at last Reef Fish AP meeting in Oct. 2020
- Actions to modify vermilion snapper catch limits and the recreational bag limit not yet seen by Council
 - Partial and preliminary bag limit analysis completed
 - Using Gulf MRIP and headboat data

Background:

Catch Limit Performance

- 2018: Current ACL implemented by Reef Fish Amendment 47
 - **OFL (lbs ww): 3,580,000**
 - **ABC (lbs ww): 3,110,000**
 - **ACL (lbs ww): 3,110,000**
- Fishing season has never been subject to an ACL closure



Recent Vermilion Snapper Landings

Year	Recreational Landings	Data Units	Commercial Landings	Total Landings	Stock ACL	Percent of ACL
2012	776,068	MRFSS	2,441,360	3,217,428	3,420,000	94.1%
2013	1,116,205	MRFSS	1,418,401	2,534,606	3,420,000	74.1%
2014	1,168,831	MRFSS	1,764,716	2,933,547	3,420,000	85.8%
2015	967,814	MRFSS	1,369,645	2,337,459	3,420,000	68.3%
2016	101,5100	MRFSS	1,588,255	2,603,355	3,420,000	76.1%
2017	148,8571	MRFSS	1,636,048	3,124,619	3,420,000	91.4%
2018	1,797,815	MRIP-CHTS	1,419,698	3,217,513	3,110,000	103.5%
2019	1,355,761	MRIP-CHTS	1,283,687	2,639,448	3,110,000	84.9%



Current Vermilion Snapper Regulations

RECREATIONAL

- Open year-round
- 10-inch total length
- 10 fish per person within the 20-reef fish aggregate

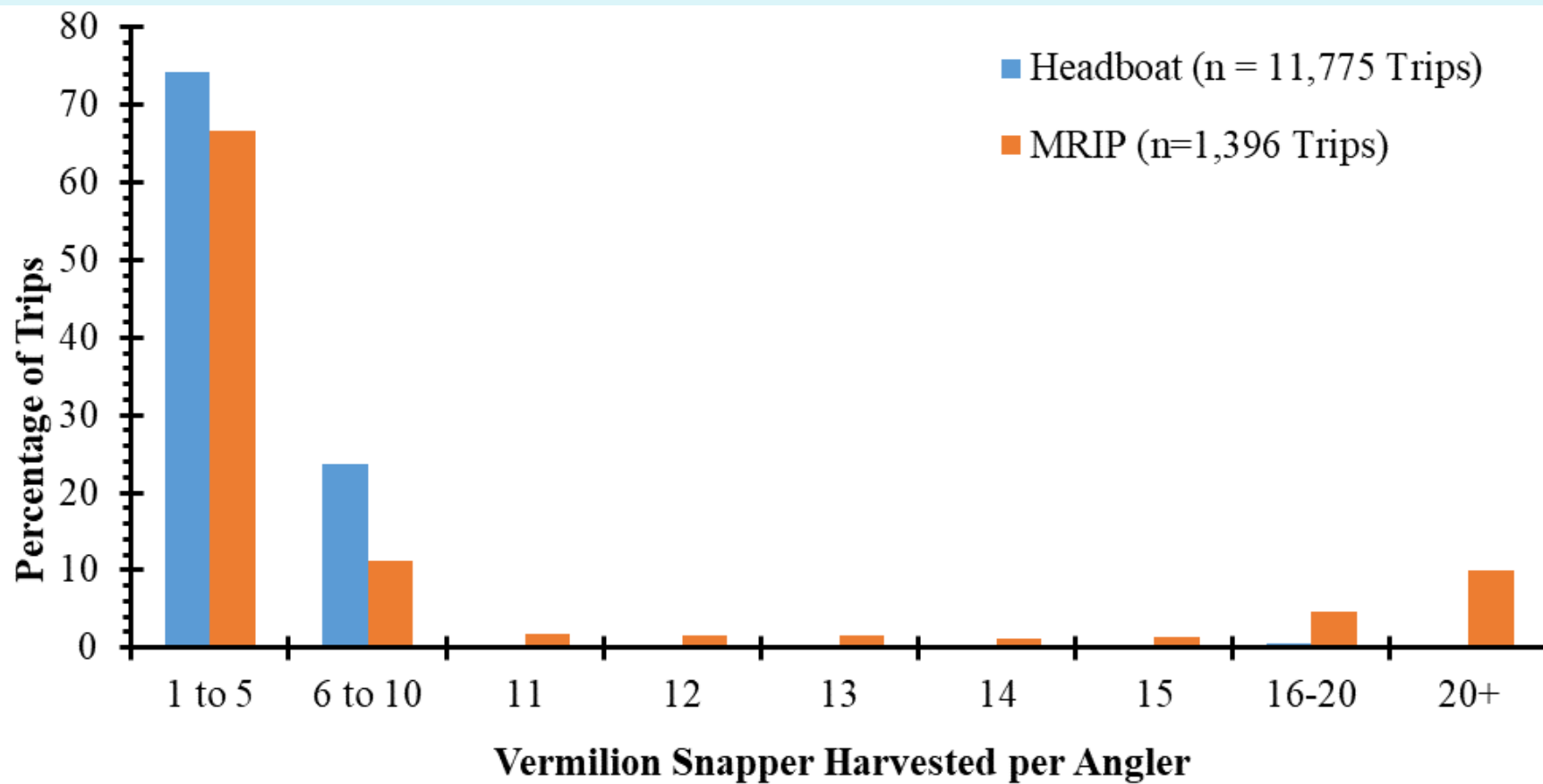
COMMERCIAL

- Open year-round
- 10-inch total length
- No trip limit

No sector allocations



Gulf Vermilion Snapper Bag Limit Harvest Per Person



Preliminary analysis based on Gulf MRIP and headboat landings from 2017, 2018, and 2019.



Vermilion Snapper Bag Limit Action

- Motion made at November/December 2020 Council meeting

Motion: To add an action to modify the recreational bag limit for vermillion snapper, including alternatives for a 15-fish bag limit and to eliminate the bag limit, but retain the 20-fish aggregate bag limit for those reef fish species without a species-specific bag limit.

Motion carried with no opposition.

- Changing recreational bag limit is not expected to meaningfully affect recreational harvest
 - Most recreational anglers do not retain the bag limit

Previous Vermilion Snapper Bag Limit Changes

- **Amendment 12 (1997)** created an aggregate daily bag limit of 20 reef fish for all reef fish species without a bag limit (including vermillion snapper).
- **Amendment 23 (2005)** implemented a 10-fish vermillion snapper bag limit within the 20-reef fish aggregate bag limit.
- **February 2007 Framework Action** eliminated the 10-fish bag limit for vermillion snapper, but retained vermillion snapper within the 20-fish aggregate bag limit.
- A **September 2013 Framework Action** re-established a recreational bag limit for 10-fish vermillion snapper within the 20-reef fish aggregate bag limit.

