

Recreational



Initiative



Welcome!

Working Group Meeting 1
October 29-30, 2024
Tampa, Florida

Introductions

Working Group members, please share:

- Name and Affiliation
- Involvement in Gulf recreational fisheries/management
- Regarding Gulf federal recreational reef fish management:
 1. What do you view as the biggest problem?
 2. What do you view as the biggest success?

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Setting the Stage

Working Group Meeting 1
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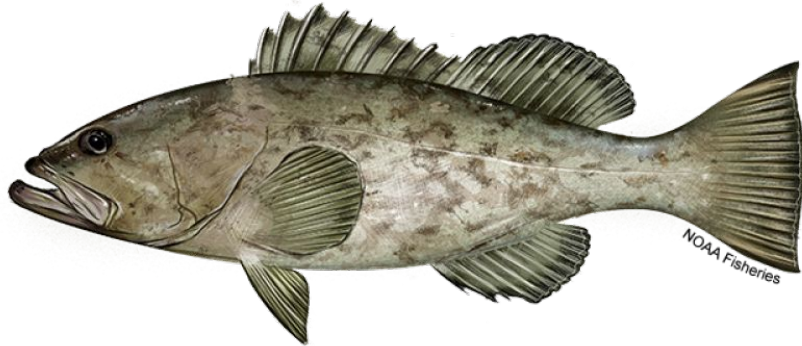
What is the Gulf Council's Recreational Initiative?

- An effort to engage the recreational community to:
 1. Review and evaluate past and current management strategies
 2. Explore potential innovative management strategies that could be applied in the future
- Use focal species of key interest to the recreational community to examine past/ongoing challenges and evaluate new approaches

Recreational Initiative Items

1. Development, review, and revision of goals and objectives for recreational fisheries management.	5. Evaluation and consideration of harvest control rules (i.e., pre-agreed guidelines) for setting bag, size, and season limits.
2. A review of the status of Federally managed species in the Gulf of Mexico that are highly sought after by recreational anglers, including recreational sources of directed and bycatch mortality.	6. Scientific recommendations to the Council for addressing variability and uncertainty in recreational catch estimates , including use of multiple years of data, identification of catch estimates that are the result of low sample sizes or outliers, and statistical recommendations and guidance for how such approaches could be implemented.
3. A review of recreational management measures , including how management measures have changed over time.	
4. Assessment of the performance and efficacy of recreational accountability measures and recommended improvements.	7. Exploration of innovative new management strategies .

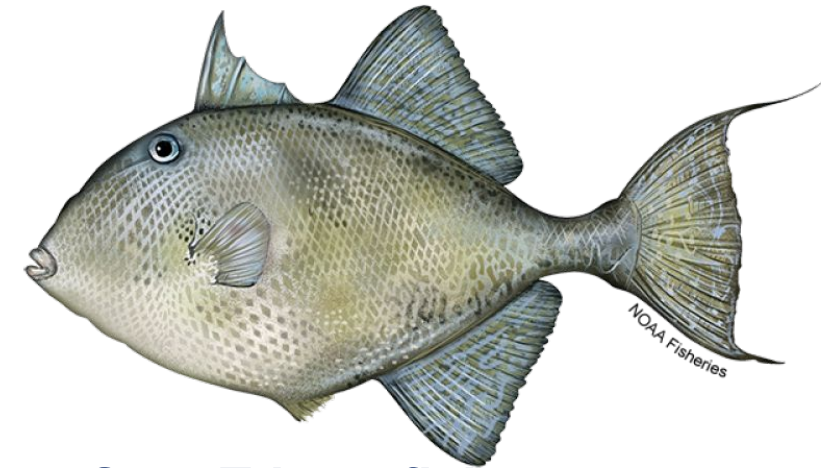
Recreational Initiative: Focal Species



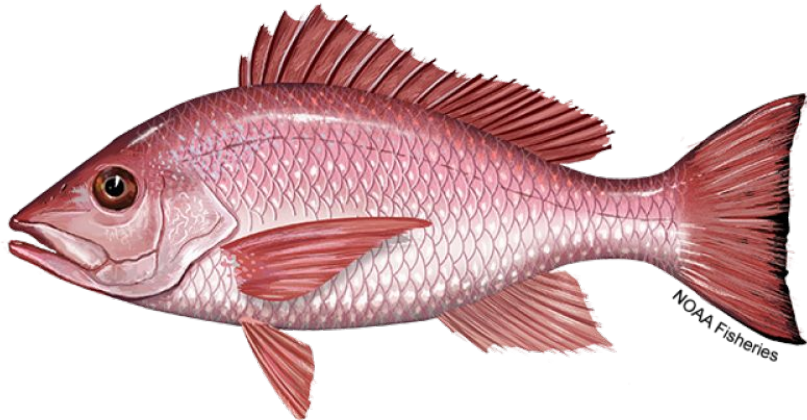
Gag Grouper



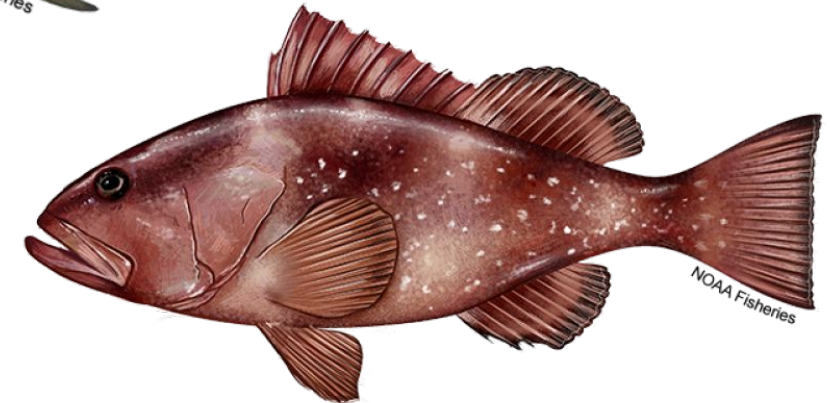
Greater Amberjack



Gray Triggerfish



Red Snapper



Red Grouper

Who's Involved

Steering Committee

- Provides guidance on overall effort (meets monthly)

Technical Group

- Provide background information to Working Group members

Working Group

- Review management successes and failures and advise the Council on potential novel management measures.
- Focus on the exploration of ideas rather than reacting to proposed regulatory decisions from the Council.
- 12 members, consensus-based

Working Group Meetings: Core Tenets

1. The focus of these meetings will be **collecting information** from Working Group members, not one-way communication/lecturing.
2. Working Group members are encouraged to **consider innovative, creative, and potentially “game changing” solutions** for the future of recreational fisheries management in the Gulf.
3. Working Group members should focus not on rehashing issues from the past, but on being **forward-thinking**, using lessons from the past to inform future approaches.
4. The **fisheries landscape is ever-changing** (e.g., advancing technology, increasing participation) and Working Group members should consider strategies that are resilient to a dynamic setting.

Working Group Meeting #1: Purpose

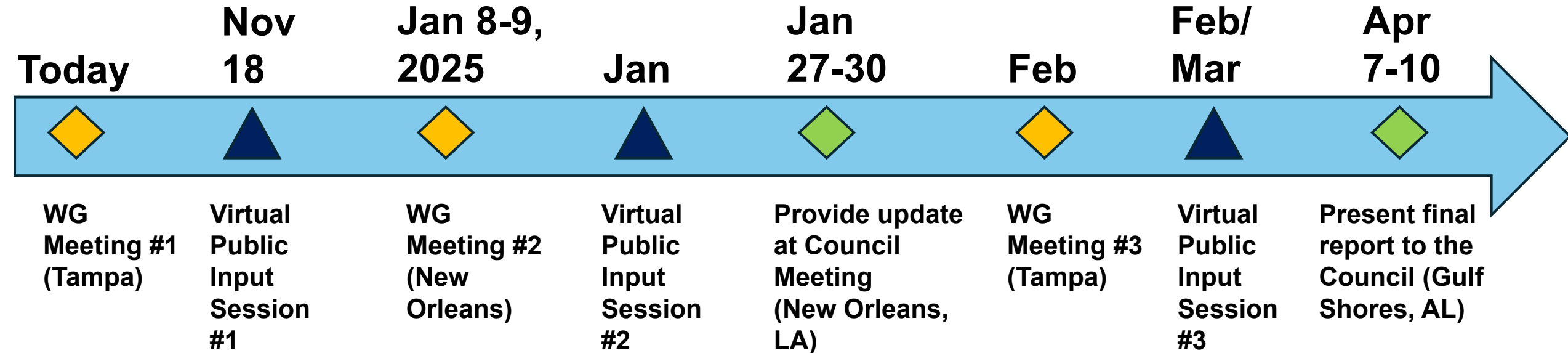
- Develop **goals and objectives** for recreational fisheries management for reef species in the Gulf of Mexico (*Item 1*).
- An opportunity for Working Group Members to share their primary concerns with reef fish management, provide perspectives on what “success” would look like to them, and offer initial thoughts on approaches that they would like to see the Council consider.

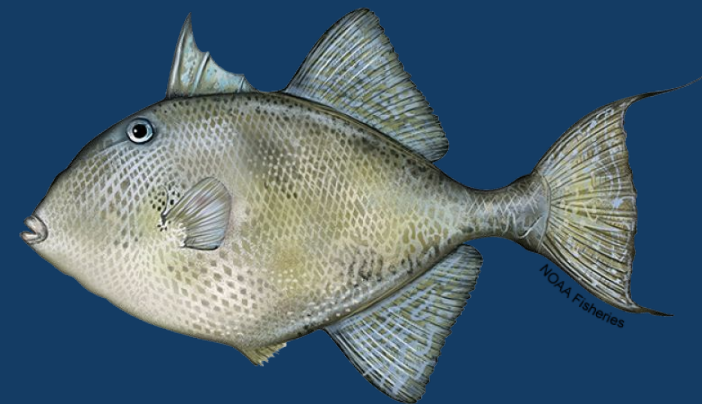
Public Engagement throughout the Initiative

Platform	Progress Update	Public Feedback*	Notes
Council Meetings (January, April 2025)	Presentation with updates	Public Comment	Dedicated public comment opportunity for Rec Initiative at April meeting
Recreational Initiative Landing Page	Copies of presentations, public engagement session summaries, background and Working Group meeting materials, etc.	Public comment/input web portal (Comments submitted via portal are publicly accessible)	Posted materials to be shared by Steering Committee, Working Group members, etc.
Virtual Public Engagement Session after each Working Group meeting	Brief presentation summarizing recent Working Group Meeting	Three-hour virtual evening meeting	Each session to be held 2-3 weeks after Working Group meetings; Summaries will be prepared by Council staff

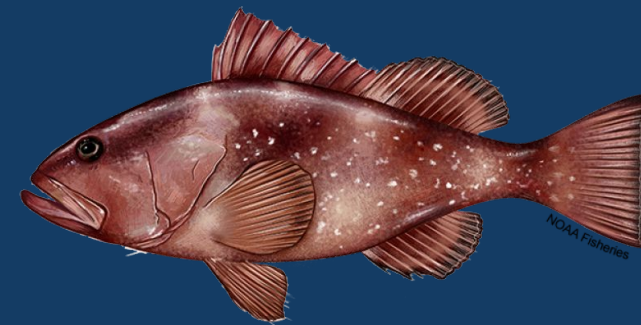
**Given these opportunities, there will not be a public comment period during Working Group meetings.*

Summary of Timeline





Q&A



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Backup

Working Group Meeting #2 (Dec 2024)

Purpose: Ensure collective understanding of stock status and management measures/history for each of the five focal species.

Specifically, Meeting #2 will entail the following:

- A **review of the status of Federally managed species** in the Gulf of Mexico that are highly sought after by recreational anglers, including recreational sources of directed and bycatch mortality (*Item #2*).
- A **review of recreational management measures**, including how management measures have changed over time (*Item #3*).
- Assess the performance and efficacy of **recreational accountability measures** and recommended improvements (*Item #4*).
- Meeting purpose is subject to change given outcomes of Meeting #1.

Working Group Meeting #3 (Feb 2025)

Purpose: Explore innovative **new management strategies** for reef species in the Gulf of Mexico, using the five focal species to illustrate potential approaches (*Item 7*)

Potential new strategies to discuss include the following:

- Evaluation and consideration of **harvest control rules** (i.e., pre-agreed guidelines) for setting bag, size, and season limits (*Item 5*).
- Approaches for **addressing variability and uncertainty in recreational catch estimates** (*Item 6*)
- Whether certain approaches are better suited to certain fisheries/species than others given the stock status and management discussion at Working Group Meeting #2