

Modifications to Vermilion Snapper Overfishing Limit, Acceptable Biological Catch and Annual Catch Limit



January 2022

Introduction

SSC's review of latest stock assessment of vermilion snapper (SEDAR 67, 2020):

- determined the assessment to represent the best scientific information available and was deemed suitable for management advice;
- determined the stock is not overfished or experiencing overfishing, and could support higher catch levels;
- provided new catch recommendations to the Council.



Vermilion Snapper Landings and ACL

Year	Recreational (MRIP-CHTS)	Commercial	Total Landings	Stock ACL	Total Landings (% ACL)
2012	719,926	2,441,360	3,161,286	3,420,000	92.4%
2013	1,131,054	1,418,401	2,549,455	3,420,000	74.5%
2014	1,147,574	1,745,222	2,892,796	3,420,000	84.6%
2015	1,053,269	1,352,934	2,406,203	3,420,000	70.4%
2016	1,118,252	1,565,364	2,683,616	3,420,000	78.5%
2017	1,479,681	1,612,859	3,092,540	3,420,000	90.4%
2018	1,797,815	1,398,445	3,196,260	3,110,000	102.8%
2019	1,355,763	1,283,633	2,639,396	3,110,000	84.9%
2020	1,058,136	860,613	1,918,750	3,110,000	61.7%

Vermilion Snapper Landings

Year	Recreational (MRIP – FES)	Commercial	Total
2012	1,378,908	2,441,360	3,820,268
2013	1,826,204	1,418,401	3,244,605
2014	1,744,056	1,745,222	3,489,278
2015	1,542,173	1,352,934	2,895,107
2016	1,527,140	1,565,364	3,092,504
2017	2,446,438	1,612,859	4,059,297
2018	2,940,211	1,398,445	4,338,656
2019	2,261,779	1,283,633	3,545,412
2020	1,547,470	860,613	2,408,083

Management Alternatives

Alternative 1 (No Action): Retain the OFL, ABC, and ACL for the vermilion snapper stock as implemented in 2018 by Reef Fish Amendment 47.

Year	OFL	ABC	ACL
2021+ (MRIP-CHTS)	3,580,000	3,110,000	3,110,000

Values are in pounds whole weight

Alternative 1 is not viable: Catch limits in Alternative 1 do not represent the best scientific information available

Management Alternatives

Preferred Alternative 2: Modify the OFL, ABC, and ACL based on the recommendation of the SSC for a constant catch yield for 2021 to 2025; maintain the ACL at the 2025 level until amended.

Year	OFL	ABC	ACL
2021-2025+ (MRIP-FES)	8,600,000	7,270,000	7,270,000

Values are in pounds whole weight

Management Alternatives

Alternative 3: Modify the OFL, ABC, and ACL based on the recommendation of the SSC. Set an ACL for 2021 to 2025 using the Council's ABC/ACL/ACT Control Rule (9% buffer between the ABC and ACL). The ACL will be maintained at the 2025 level until amended.

Year	OFL	ABC	ACL
2021-2025+ (MRIP-FES)	8,600,000	7,270,000	6,615,700

Values are in pounds whole weight