

## **Summary of Public Comment January 19, 2022**

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

### **Summary of Written Public Comment**

**155 Public Hearing Video Views  
11 comments were received.**

#### Support for Alternative 1: No Action

- Vermilion catch limits do not need to be increased.
- The commercial sector has not caught the ACL in recent years.
- The decline in commercial landings indicates that there is no need to increase the catch limit.
- The population may not be healthy enough for an increase due recreational overfishing, oil spill, and the dead zone.
- The current ACL should be met 2-3 years in a row before an increase is considered.

#### Support for Preferred Alternative 2

- Increase catch limits because vermilion is one of the few fish that can be harvested year-round by private anglers.

#### Other Vermilion Comments

- The 10 per person recreational limit is rarely met and does not need to be modified.
- 10 per person limit is enough. Increasing the bag limit beyond that is wasteful.
- Modifications to red grouper allocations and catch limits will cause commercial fishermen to shift effort towards non-IFQ species like vermilion and mangrove snapper.

#### Other Comments

- Open the gray triggerfish season for longer.
- Increase the triggerfish bag limit and decrease the size limit to minimize discards.
- The cost of red grouper allocation is forcing small business owners out of their livelihoods.
- The IFQ program needs to be reformed.