

Standing and Shrimp SSC

Meeting Summary

May 8, 2025



Review: SEDAR 68 Updated Projections for Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper

Scamp Grouper: *Mycteroperca phenax*



Yellowmouth Grouper: *M. interstitialis*

Where are we now

- December 2024 Council request
 - Update projections

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
January	Appointments	Data Process & Virtual Data Workshop (DW)	Assessment Process (AP)	Operational Assessment (OA)				
February								
March					SSC (Final Projections)			
April								
May						SSC		
June	Stock ID Process							
July						58A IPT starts		
August			Review Workshop (RW)					
September				SSC				
October								
November			SSC					
December	Data Process	Assessment Process (AP)						

- Results of assessment still not implemented

Council Request

Motion: Request the Council's SSC provide a comparison of MSY Proxy of 30%_{SPR} and 40%_{SPR} and associated catch level projections for scamp [and yellowmouth] grouper. In addition to catch level projections, the comparison should highlight the consequences for management of using either MSY Proxy.

Therefore, the Council requests that the Southeast Fisheries Science Center update landings and re-run its projections for scamp and yellowmouth grouper based on the SEDAR 68 model as approved by the SSC, and provide yield stream projections under both $F_{30\%SPR}$ and $F_{40\%SPR}$. These projections should use finalized recreational and commercial landings data through 2023 as available to improve their accuracy and applicability to future management decisions. Once completed, these projections should be presented to the SSC at its May 2025 meeting, if possible, to allow for their consideration in providing management advice for Draft Amendment 58A.

Recent finalized landings

Year	Commercial Vertical Line (lb gw)	Commercial Longline (lb gw)	Charter-Private (number)	Headboat (number)
2021	63,666	66,316	83,596	3,133
2022	70,318	52,434	95,006	2,836
2023	60,633	48,504	52,535	2,379
2021-2023	64,872	55,751	77,046	2,783

- Recreational landings in lb gw* (not used in the assessment)

Fleet	2021	2022	2023
Charter-Private	308,067	315,904	205,294
Headboat	11,544	8,977	6,998

*Source: mrip_fes_rec81_24wv6_25feb25 file

Start 2027: ABC projection (mp gutted weight)

Year	Recr (1,000s)	F	F/ FSPR30	SSB	SSB/ SSBSPR30*	SSB/ MSST*	SSB ratio	Yield
2021	900	0.149	0.874	1,321	1.645	2.193	0.350	
2022	900	0.178	1.044	1,200	1.494	1.992	0.318	
2023	900	0.128	0.748	1,063	1.323	1.764	0.282	
2024	900	0.177	1.036	1,004	1.250	1.667	0.266	
2025	900	0.190	1.110	913	1.137	1.516	0.242	
2026	900	0.093	0.545	835	1.039	1.386	0.221	
2027	900	0.128	0.75	854	1.063	1.417	0.227	0.254
2028	900	0.128	0.75	846	1.053	1.404	0.224	0.251
2029	900	0.128	0.75	841	1.047	1.397	0.223	0.250
2030	900	0.128	0.75	838	1.044	1.392	0.222	0.249
2031	900	0.128	0.75	837	1.042	1.389	0.222	0.248

- Assuming recent mean recruitment where:
 - MSY proxy = yield when fishing at **30%SPR** ($F_{30\%SPR}$)
 - ABC = 0.75 of $F_{30\%SPR}$

Start 2027: ABC projection (mp gutted weight)

Year	Recr (1,000s)	F	F/ FSPR40	SSB	SSB/ SSBSPR40*	SSB/ MSST*	SSB ratio	Yield
2021	900	0.149	1.277	1,321	1.077	1.436	0.350	
2022	900	0.178	1.525	1,200	0.978	1.304	0.318	
2023	900	0.128	1.093	1,063	0.866	1.155	0.282	
2024	900	0.177	1.513	1,004	0.818	1.091	0.266	
2025	900	0.190	1.622	913	0.744	0.992	0.242	
2026	900	0.093	0.796	835	0.680	0.907	0.221	
2027	900	0.088	0.75	854	0.696	0.928	0.227	0.174
2028	900	0.088	0.75	879	0.716	0.955	0.233	0.179
2029	900	0.088	0.75	904	0.737	0.982	0.240	0.184
2030	900	0.088	0.75	927	0.755	1.007	0.246	0.188
2031	900	0.088	0.75	947	0.772	1.029	0.251	0.192

- Assuming recent mean recruitment where:
 - MSY proxy = yield when fishing at **40%SPR** ($F_{40\%SPR}$)
 - ABC = 0.75 of $F_{40\%SPR}$

Motion: The SSC accepts the updated projections produced for SEDAR 68 for Gulf of America Scamp and Yellowmouth Grouper, setting an OFL (0.233 mp gw) equal to the yield at $F_{40\%SPR}$, and the ABC (0.183 mp gw) as the yield at 75% of $F_{40\%SPR}$, for 2027 – 2031.

Motion carried without opposition.

Motion: The SSC recognizes that the Scamp and YMG OFL at $F_{30\%SPR}$ would be 0.311 mp gw, and the ABC would be 0.250 mp gw at $0.75 * F_{30\%SPR}$, for the years 2027 – 2031, but we do not recommend the $F_{30\%SPR}$ values for scamp and YMG based on life history/biological attributes of this species.

Motion carried without opposition.

*Review: Center for Independent Experts (CIE)
Independent Peer Review of the Shrimp Bycatch
Estimation Methodology for Finfish Species*

*Review: New Bycatch Estimates and Other Analyses
for Smalltooth Sawfish and Giant Manta Ray*

*Review: Population Viability Analysis for Endangered
and Threatened Resources that Interact with the
Shrimp Fishery*

Motion: The SSC reviewed the population viability analysis for smalltooth sawfish and concluded that it represents a useful analysis for understanding impacts of bycatch and other mortality sources on population viability. The SSC encourages cooperative research for targeted data collection and increased observer coverage in areas of high bycatch, evaluation of uncertainty around bycatch source estimates, potential impacts of range expansion, and continued refinement of effective population size estimates. Ultimately, continued development of this approach could be used to inform bycatch mitigation measures for fisheries in the Gulf.

Motion carried without opposition.

Revised OFL and ABC Projections for Gulf Red Grouper (SEDAR 88)

- Robust discussion, with concern from economists about the effects of increased ABC on IFQ program
- Ultimately supported the 3-year projections to allow Council to move forward with emergency rule

Motion: The SSC recommends using the 3-year projection from 2025 – 2027 to calculate an average OFL and ABC giving a constant catch for the OFL at 10.64 mp gw, and the ABC at 8.28 mp gw. The SSC recommends prioritizing interim analyses and other pertinent evaluations of the stock on an annual basis.

Motion carried 12 – 5, with two absent.