



NOAA
FISHERIES

Gulf of America Gag Grouper Interim Analysis

Gulf Branch SFD
NOAA Fisheries - SEFSC

SSC Meeting • January 2026 • Online

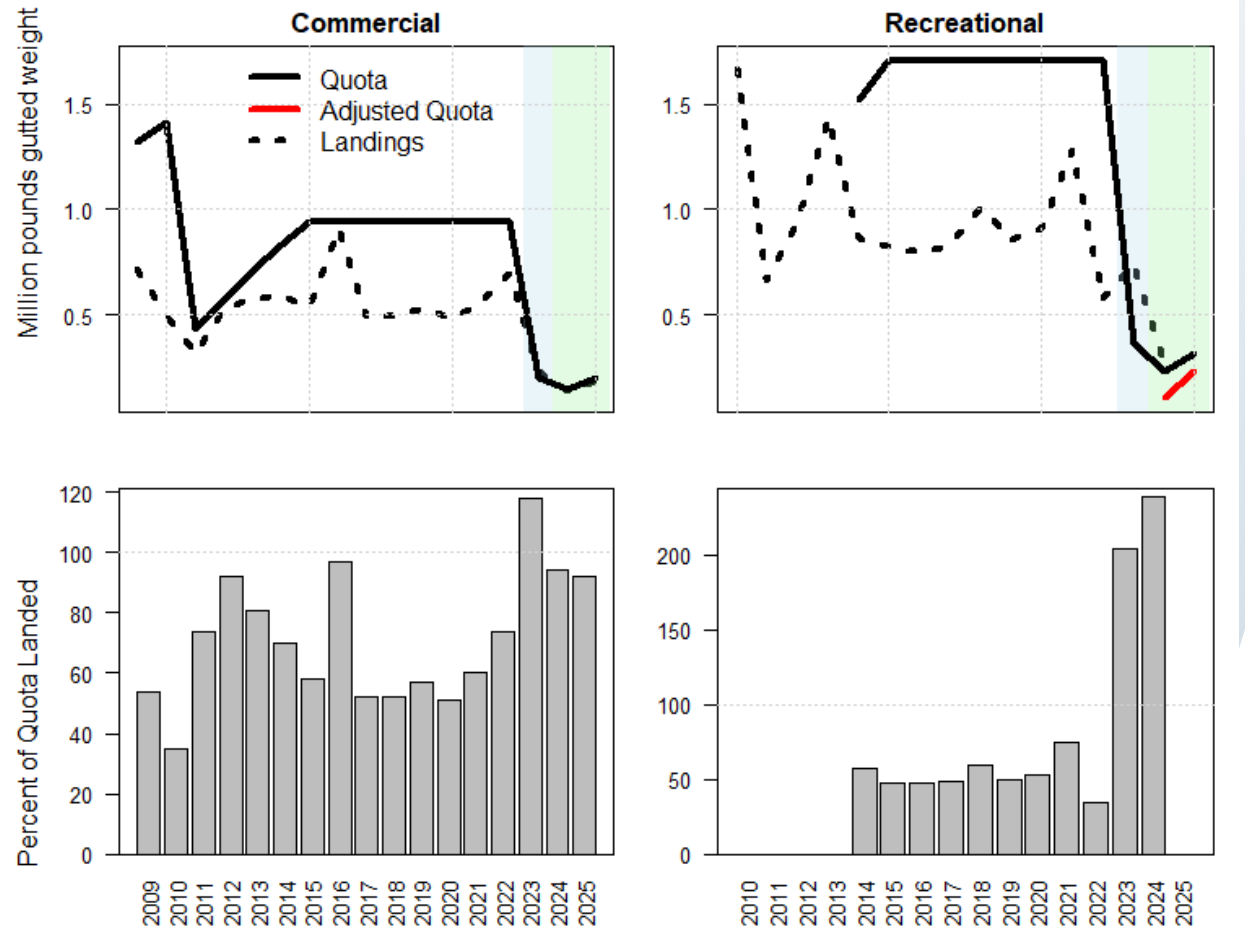
Overview

- Gag Grouper last assessed in 2021/2022
 - Terminal year 2019
- Since Gag is in a rebuilding plan, this IA serves as a **health check** on the condition of the stock
 - Last health check was conducted in September 2023
 - Downward trend 2019 to 2020 with slight uptick in 2021
- Next full assessment for Gag is this year.



Recent Landings

- Commercial landings exceeded the quota in 2023 but stayed below the ACL, landings near quota in 2024 and 2025
- Recreational ACL exceeded in 2023 and 2024 (ACT adjusted downward in 2024 and 2025, red line)



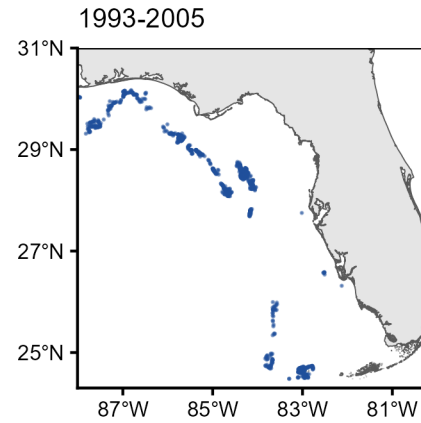
Stereo Baited Remote Underwater Video Surveys

- **SEDAR 72**

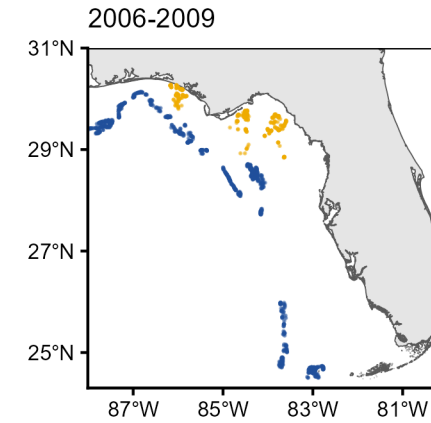
- SEAMAP Reef Fish Video Survey (SRFV)
- Panama City Lab Video Survey (PC)

- **2026 Health Check**

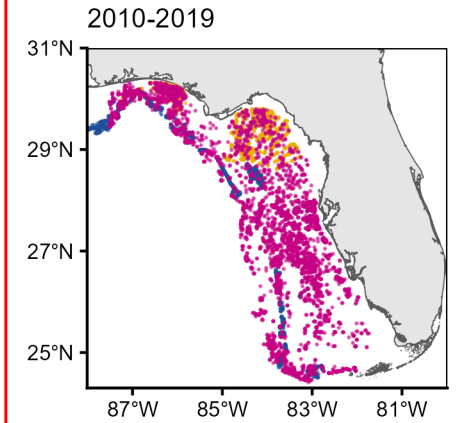
- Combined Video Index
- Truncated to 2010 to address concerns raised during SEDAR 72



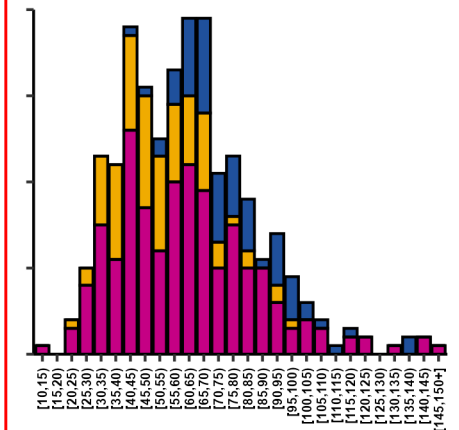
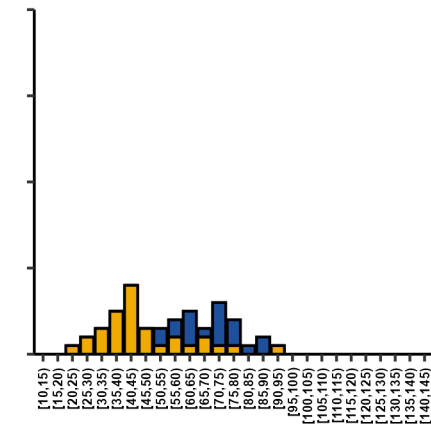
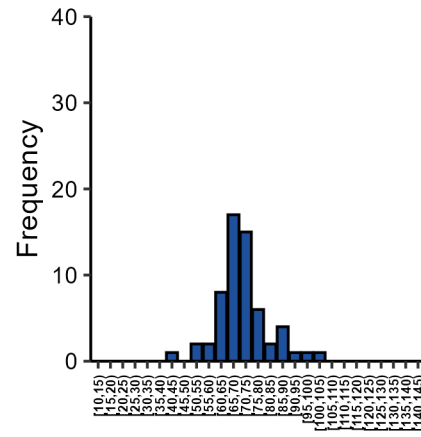
SRFV ~ 0.10



SRFV ~ 0.06
PC ~ 0.40

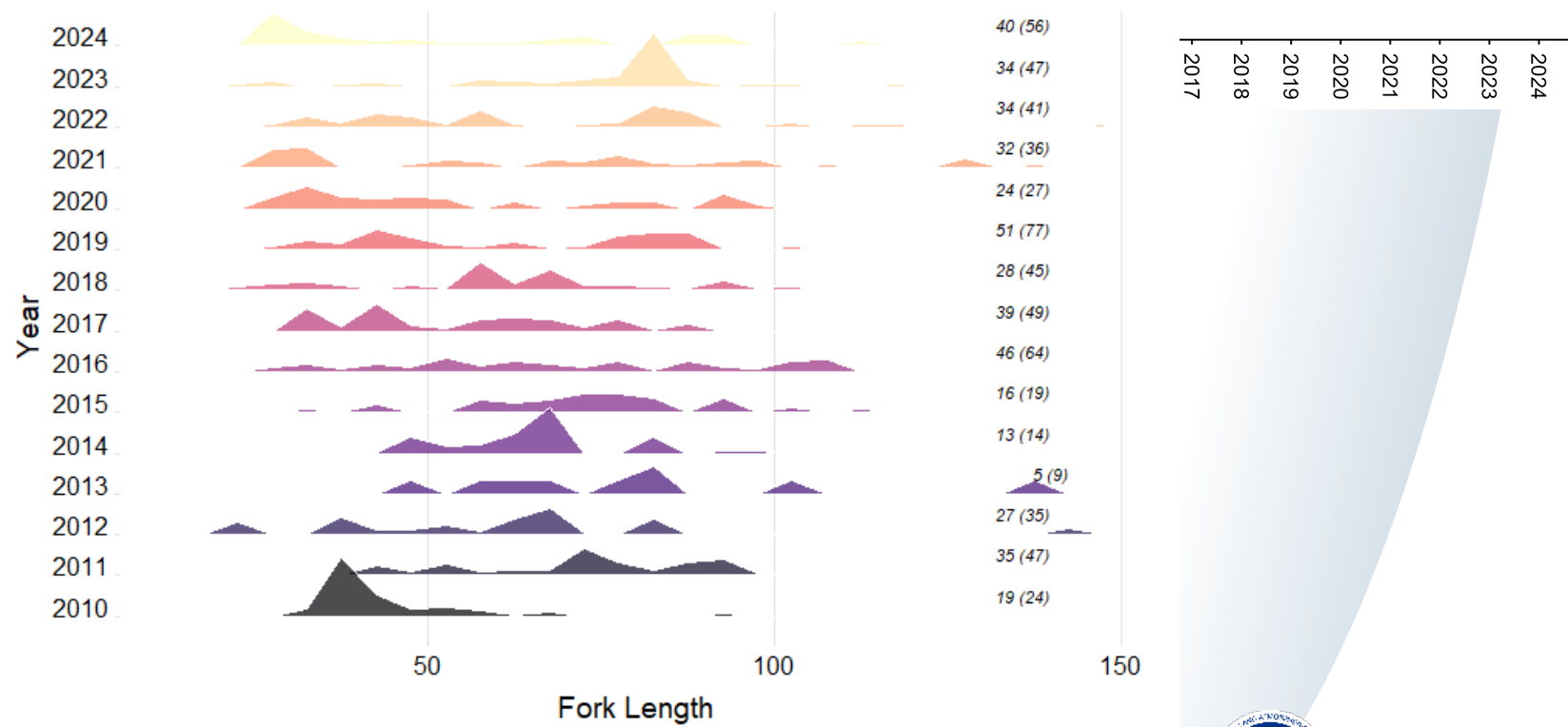
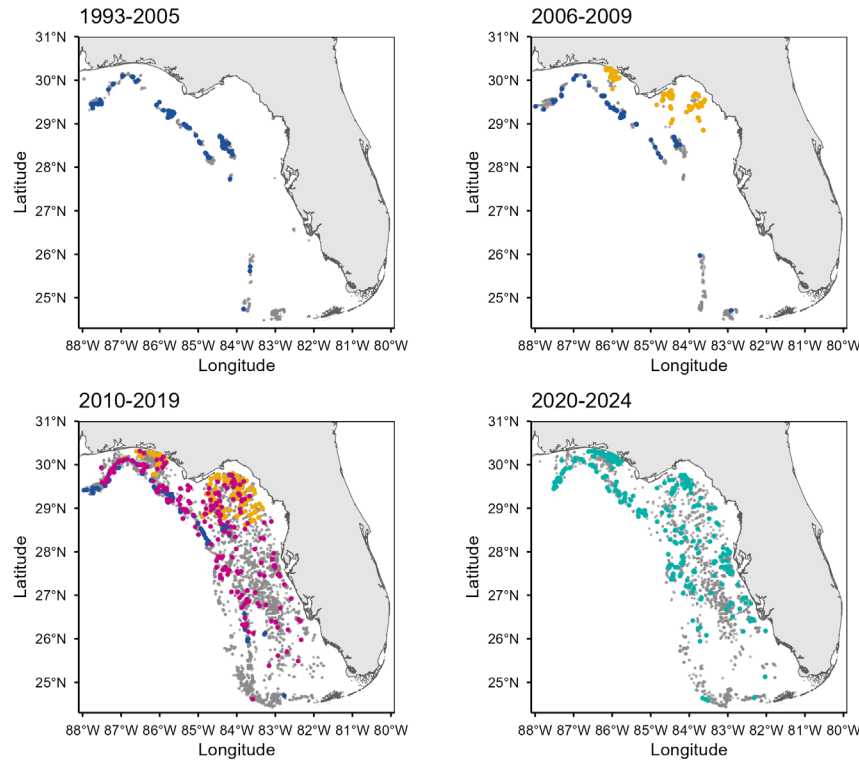
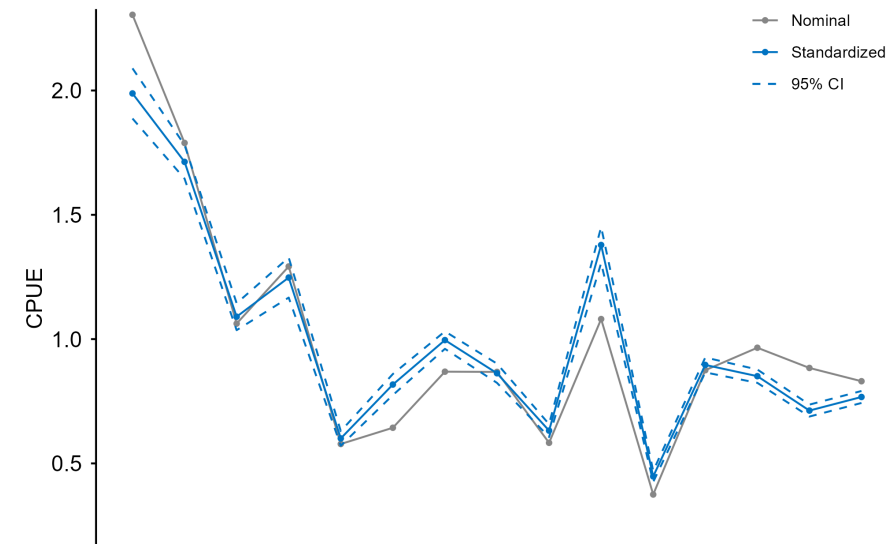


SRFV ~ 0.06
PC ~ 0.16
FWRI ~ 0.05

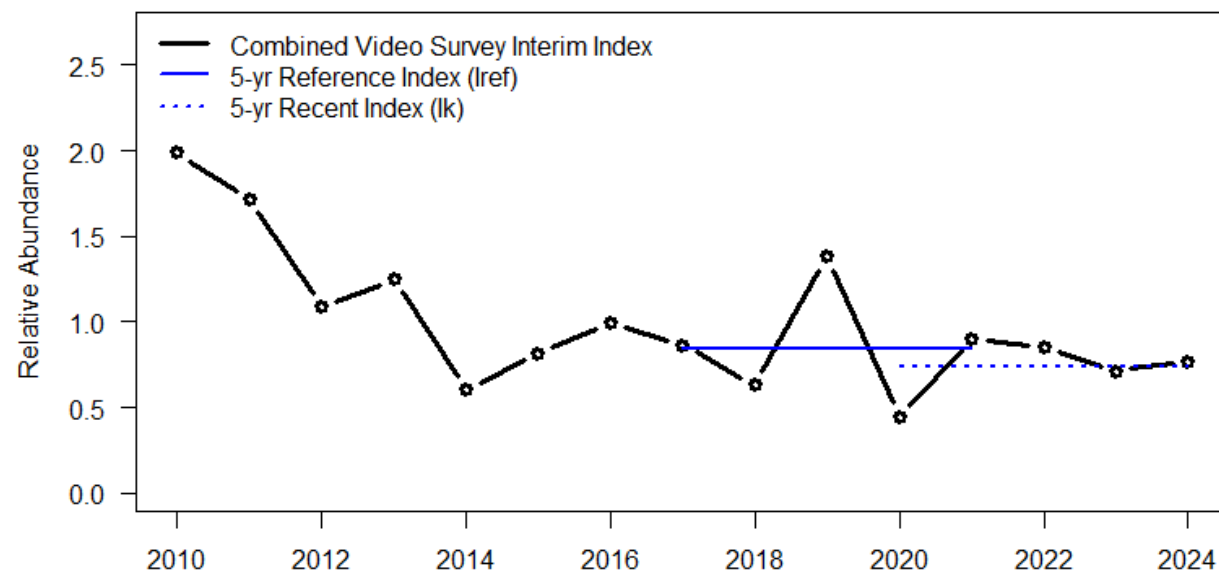
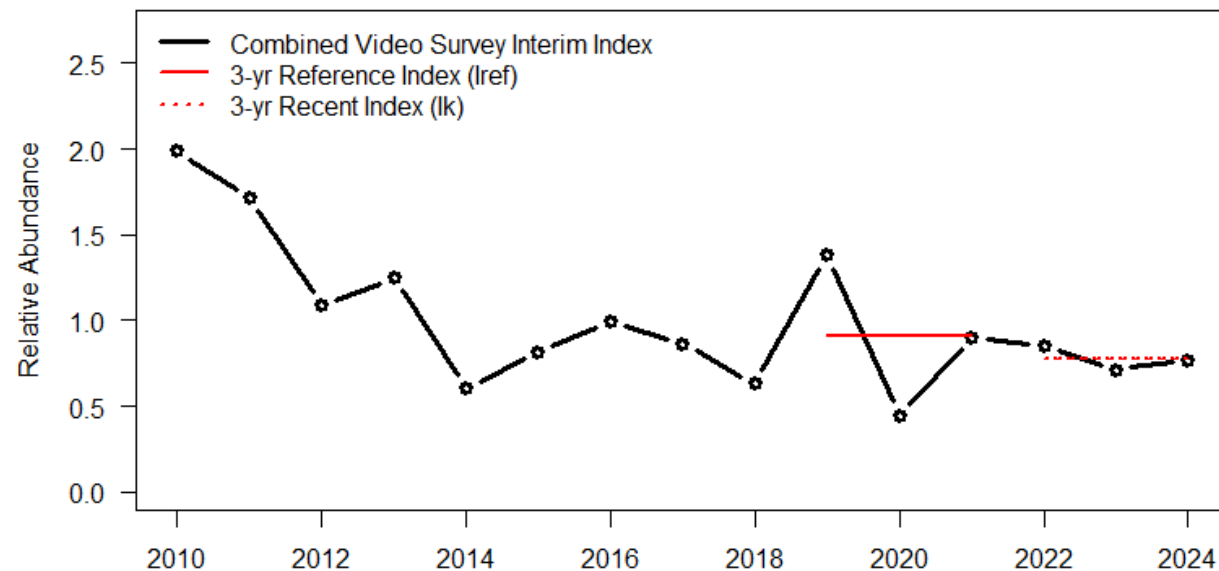
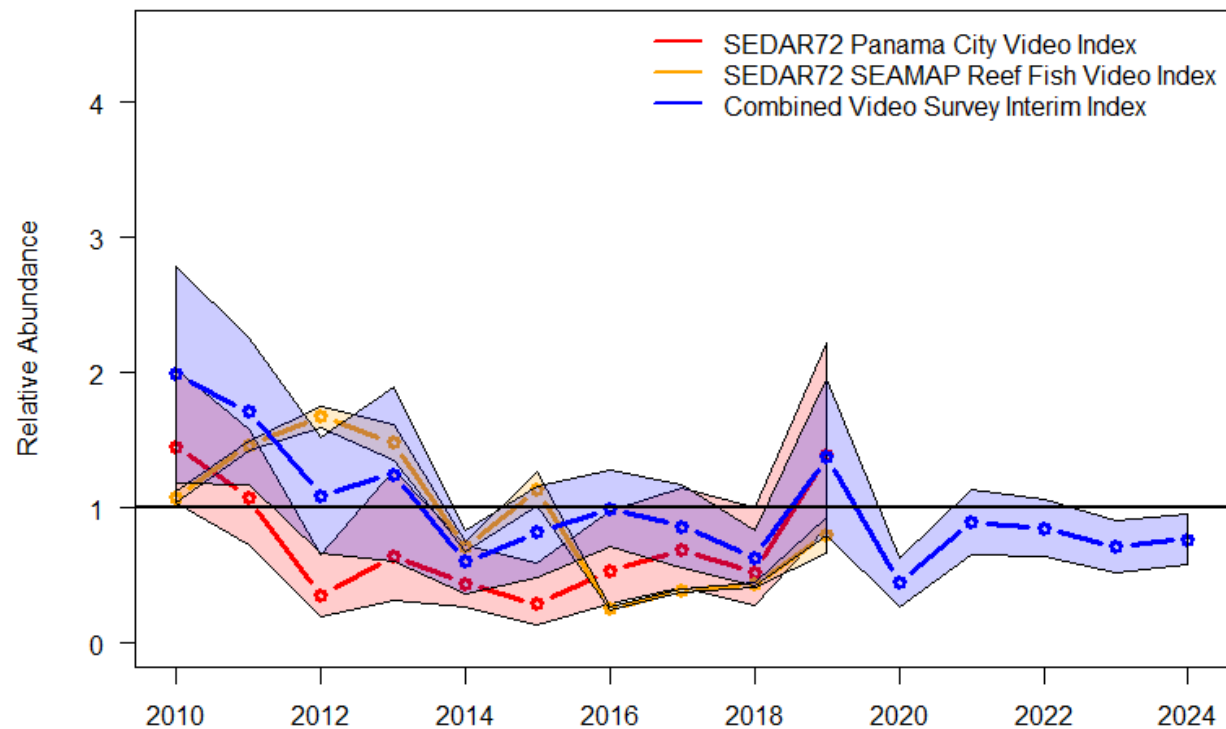


Combined Video Index

- CART-based habitat area weighted index (Thompson et al. 2022)



Health Check



Conclusions

- The Combined Video Index has remained largely stable in recent years, showing a slight decline in relative abundance since the previous assessment was completed.
- A new assessment is currently underway for Gulf Gag (SEDAR 105) and will provide a complete depiction of stock status and rebuilding progress.



Questions?



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