

Modifications to Red Snapper Private Recreational Accountability Measures



Gulf Council
August 2026
Anabelle Suitor

Recreational Red Snapper Flexibility



- **April 2024 Motion:** Request staff develop a document to adjust the for-hire red snapper season and **private recreational red snapper accountability measures**
- **January 2025:** Council presentation on private recreational red snapper AMs
- **January 2026:** Council request to discuss additional flexibility measures including potential carryover and/or ACL sharing among states
- **April 2026:** Council made a motion to direct staff to develop a document to modify the private recreational red snapper post-season accountability measure.
- **June 2026:** Council presentation and draft options document on AMs, Council suggested limits on overage frequencies

Red Snapper Accountability Measure



AM 50A: Effective February 6, 2020; implemented state-specific AMs

Private Recreational sector

Post Season: If a state's red snapper private angling component landings exceed the applicable state's component ACL, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year, reducing that state's private angling ACL by the amount of the ACL overage in the prior fishing year, unless the best scientific information available determines that a greater, lesser, or no overage adjustment is necessary.

(50 CFR 622.23(b))

Red Snapper ACL Allocation

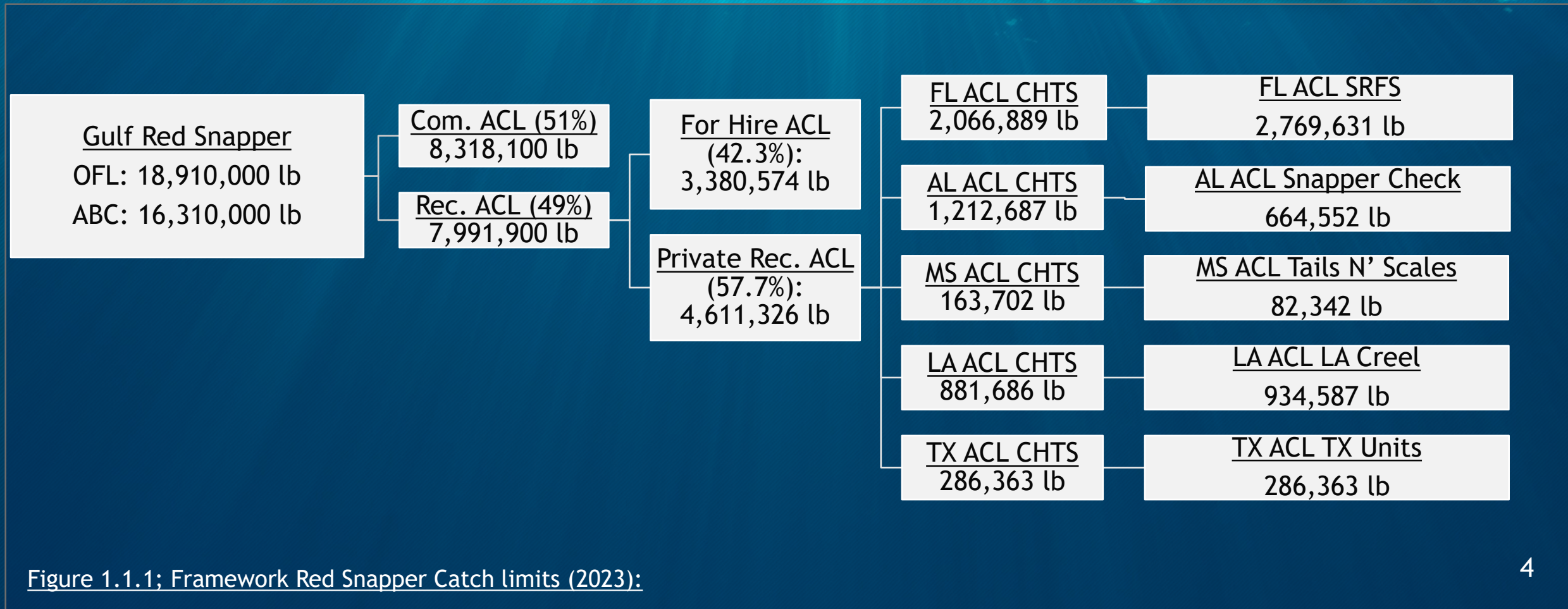


Figure 1.1.1; Framework Red Snapper Catch limits (2023):

Purpose and Need



The purpose of this framework action is to modify the current, state-specific, post-season accountability measures for the red snapper recreational private angling component.

The need for this framework action is to provide additional management flexibility in a manner that retains the integrity and effectiveness of state management, while achieving optimum yield consistent with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, including preventing overfishing and providing sustained access for recreational participants and members of fishing communities in states across the Gulf.

Action 1 - Modify the private recreational red snapper accountability measures



Alternative 1 - No Action: Retain the current state-specific post-season AMs for red snapper, which require that if a state's red snapper private angling component landings exceed the applicable state's component annual catch limit (ACL) as specified in 50 CFR 622.23(a)(1)(ii), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year, reducing that state's private angling ACL by the amount of the ACL overage in the prior fishing year unless the best scientific information available determines that a greater, lesser, or no overage adjustment is necessary.

Action 1 - Modify the private recreational red snapper accountability measures



Alternative 2: Unless the best scientific information available determines that a greater, lesser, or no overage adjustment is necessary, NMFS would reduce a state's private angling component ACL in the fishing year following an overage of the ACL by the amount of the overage if:

- The applicable state exceeds its ACL by more than the percentage specified in Options 2a-2c, or
- A state's red snapper private angling component landings exceed the applicable state's component ACL by any amount and private recreational landings from all states combined exceed the total private angling component ACL, or
- A state exceeds its ACL more than once in any three-year rolling period no matter the amount of the overage, and regardless of whether the total private recreational ACL is exceeded.

Option 2a: up to 5% of the state-specific private angling ACL

Option 2b: up to 7.5% of the state-specific private angling ACL

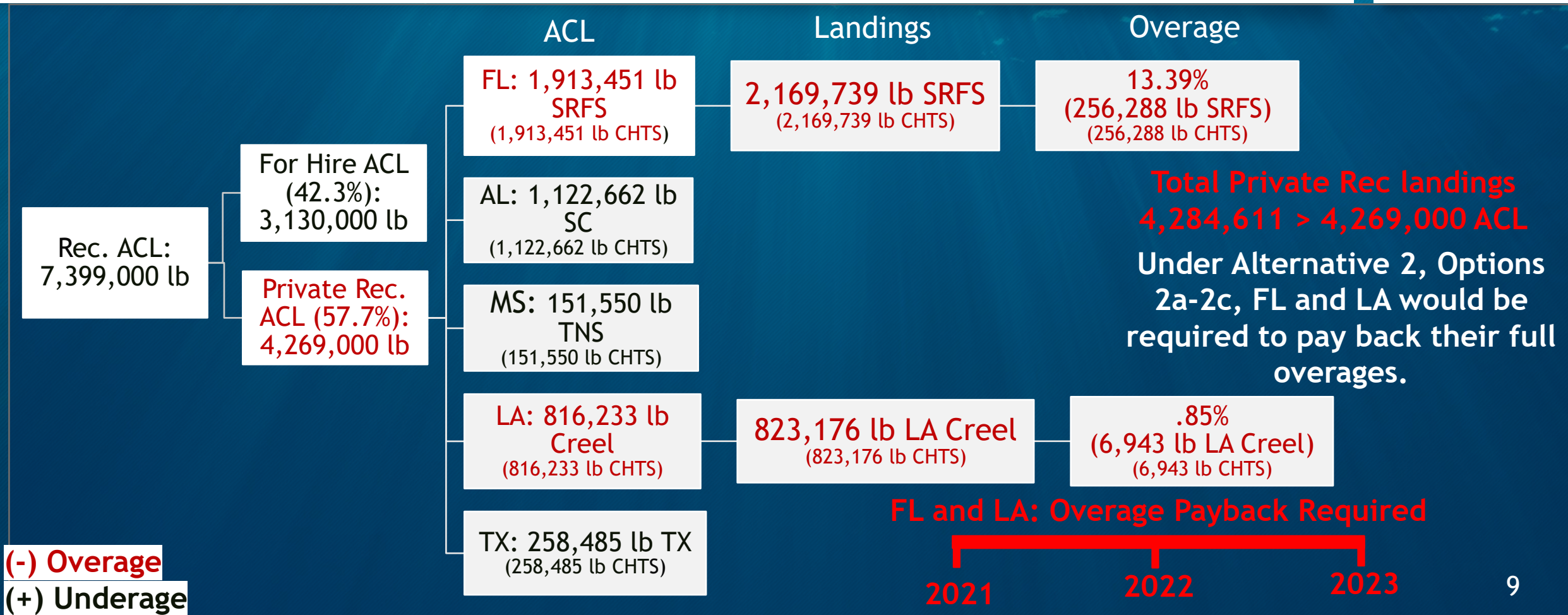
Option 2c: up to 10% of the state-specific private angling ACL

Historic Overages (Percent)

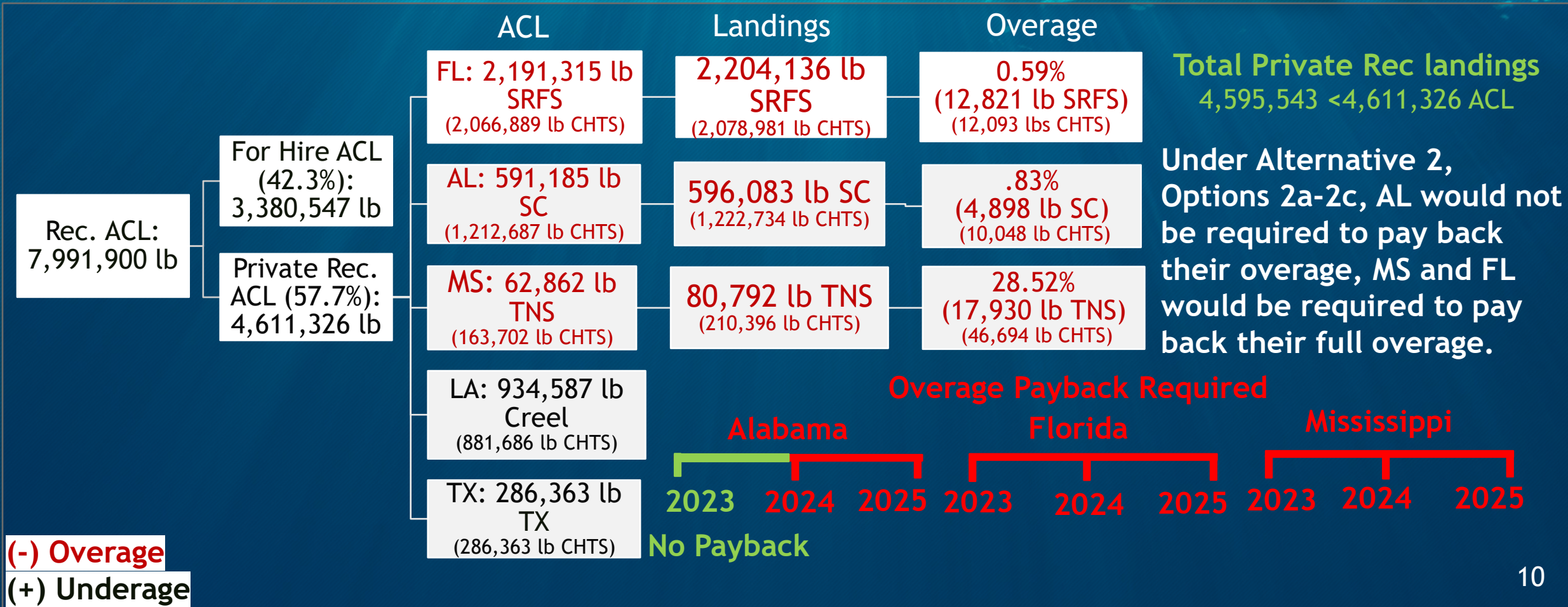


Year	AL	TX	MS	LA	FL
2020	-	2.97%	-	-	-
2021	-	-	-	0.85%	13.39%
2022	-	-	-	-	-
2023	0.83%	-	28.52%	-	0.59%
2024	-	-	-	4.24%	-
2025	-	-	-	5.83%	-

2021 Scenario



2023 Scenario



Louisiana 2024 and 2025



2024:

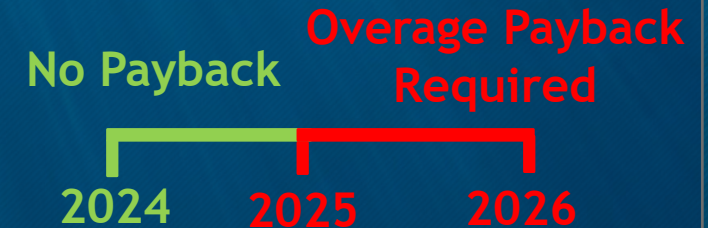
Private Rec. ACL
(57.7%):
4,611,326 lb

LA: 934,587 lb Creel
(881,686 lb CHTS)

974,219 lb Creel
(919,075 lb CHTS)

4.241%
(39,632 lb Creel)
(37,389 lb CHTS)

- Total Private Rec landings 3,228,834 < 4,611,326 ACL
- Under Alternative 2, Options 2a-2c LA would not be required to pay back their overage.



2025:

Private Rec. ACL
(57.7%):
4,611,326 lb

LA: 894,954 lb Creel
(844,297 lb CHTS)

947,103 lb Creel
(893,493 lb CHTS)

5.827%
(52,149 lb Creel)
(49,197 lb ww CHTS)

- Total Private Rec landings 3,640,707 < 4,611,326 ACL
- Under Alternative 2, Options 2a-2c LA would be required to pay back their overage.



Frequency Limitation: Discussion and Questions

Alternative 2: Unless the best scientific information available determines that a greater, lesser, or no overage adjustment is necessary, NMFS would reduce a state's private angling component ACL in the fishing year following an overage of the ACL by the amount of the overage if:

- The applicable state exceeds its ACL by more than the percentage specified in Options 2a-2c, or
- A state's red snapper private angling component landings exceed the applicable state's component ACL by any amount and private recreational landings from all states combined exceed the total private angling component ACL, or
- **A state exceeds its ACL more than once in any three-year rolling period no matter the amount of the overage, and regardless of whether the total private recreational ACL is exceeded.**

Option 2a: up to 5% of the state-specific private angling ACL

Option 2b: up to 7.5% of the state-specific private angling ACL

Option 2c: up to 10% of the state-specific private angling ACL

Next Steps



- Council can identify a preferred Alternative and Option and take final action in October 2026; **OR**
- Council can suggest how to further develop the Alternatives and Options and take final action at a later date.

Questions?



Action 1, Alternative 2, Options 2a-2c



State	State ACL (no adjusted paybacks)	Option 2a: 5%	Option 2b: 7.5%	Option 2c: 10%
AL (Snapper Check)	664,552	33,228	49,841	66,455
FL (SRFS)	2,769,631	138,482	207,722	276,963
TX (TX)	286,363	14,318	21,477	28,636
LA (LA Creel)	934,587	46,729	70,094	93,459
MS (Tails N' Scales)	82,342	4,117	6,176	8,234