

Decision Points for Red Snapper Catch Limits and Allocations



August 2026

Gulf Red Snapper Stock Assessment Update and Management Implications



Key Updates

- Stock assessment (SEDAR 98) is near completion and will incorporate revised MRIP Fishing Effort Survey data
 - Also includes calibrated Texas and Louisiana historical landings from state data units to MRIP-FES based on calibration studies. Will need to be updated upon completion of MRIP updates
- The assessment is expected to alter estimates of historical participation between both sectors and components of the recreational sector



Gulf Red Snapper Stock Assessment Update and Management Implications



Important Considerations

- Due to the transition to MRIP-FES data, assessment outputs will not be directly comparable to current harvest levels and allocations
- The new assessment is likely to trigger a review of existing allocations, including:
 - Commercial and Recreational Sectors
 - Federal For-Hire and Private Angling Components
 - State allocations within the Private Angling Component

Key Message: Updated science will provide new catch advice, but implementation will require revisiting multiple allocation decisions

How We Got Here: Sector Allocation

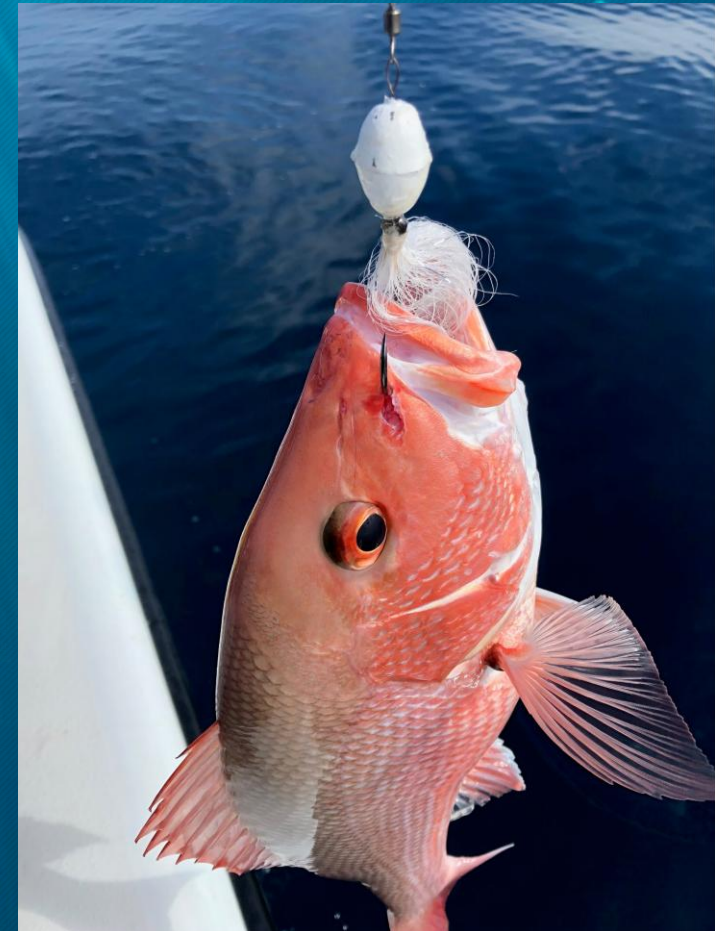


Commercial and Recreational Sector Allocation:

- Reef Fish Amendment 1 (1990) established a sector allocation of
 - 51% Commercial
 - 49% Recreational

Reef Fish Amendment 28:

- Revised allocation to:
 - 48.5% Commercial
 - 51.5% Recreational
- Subsequently set aside by a U.S. District Court ruling



Recreational Allocation



Federal For-Hire & Private Angling Component

- Reef Fish Amendment 40 established separate allocations for:
 - Federal For-Hire Component (42.3%)
 - Private Angling Component (57.7%)

Basis for Allocation

- Allocations informed by historical participation estimates
- The historical recreational data used to establish this allocation are now being updated (recalibrated MRIP-FES)

Future Consideration

- Are the current component allocations still appropriate given the new assessment?

State Allocations Within the Private Angling Component



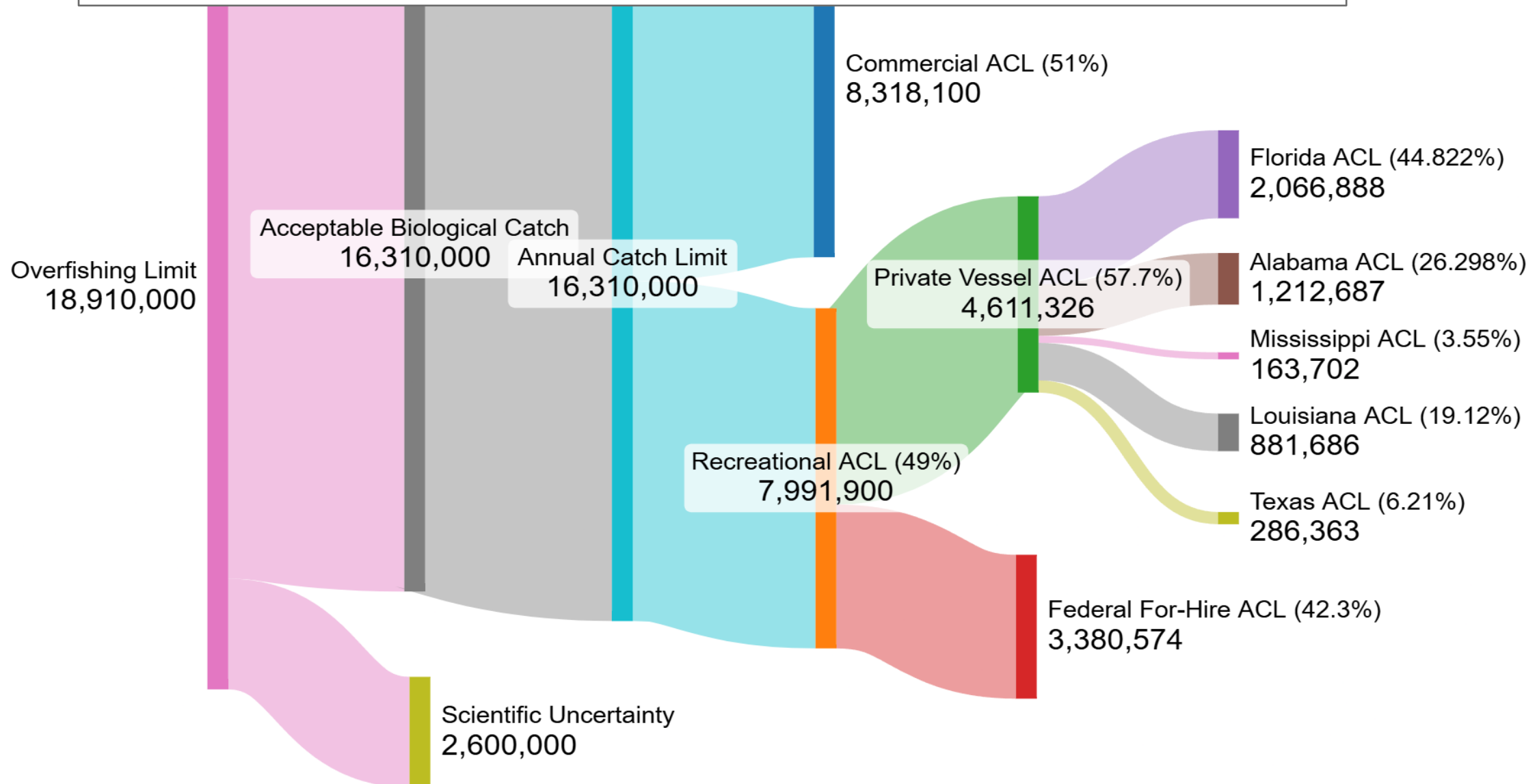
Reef Fish Amendment 50

- Established state allocations for the Private Angling Component for the five Gulf states

Followed:

- A two-year Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Pilot Program testing each Gulf states' ability to monitor harvest for red snapper
- Allocations among states were agreed upon in Amendment 50
- Changes in state data collection programs since implementation of Amendment 50 will likely require consideration and potential updates
- With time, the reliability of the calibration from FES to CHTS and state data units continues to decline

Current Catch Limits & Allocations



Allocation Review Requirement



- The Council is scheduled to begin allocation reviews for red snapper in 2027
- An allocation review conducted as part of implementing stock assessment results satisfies this requirement
- Since 2018, the Council has explored allocation alternatives informed by:
 - Amendment 28 litigation outcomes
 - Recommendations from the Ad Hoc Red Snapper Private Angling Advisory Panel
 - Work began on another red snapper reallocation document (Amendment 52) but was paused pending the outcome of this stock assessment

Guidance Documents and Policies



The Council's review of red snapper allocations can be informed by existing guidance and policies

- Gulf Council Allocation Policy
- Allocation Review Schedule
- Allocation Review Policy
- Allocation Review Guidelines

These documents provide the framework for evaluating whether existing allocations continue to achieve management objectives and are consistent with the best scientific information available. Documents available at www.gulfcouncil.org/about/policies-procedures

Other Changes to Recreational Data



- AL-Creel and MS-Creel are expected to become the primary data source of private angling data in their respective states. This will require further modification to data monitoring procedures
- Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission is offering an RFP to explore development of a common data unit across Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana for monitoring recreational data from the private angling component.
- Anticipated changes to the federal for-hire data collection program will need consideration based on the timing and implementation of the revised SEFHIER program

Anticipated Decision Points



After Completion of Assessment:

- Review SSC recommended OFL & ABC
- Evaluate commercial and recreational sector allocations
- Evaluate Federal For-Hire and Private Angling allocations
- Evaluate Private Angling state allocations
- Establish catch limits consistent with allocation structure

Key Takeaway:

- ABC → Stock ACL → Sector Allocations → Recreational Component Allocations → State Allocations → Final Catch Limits

Next Steps



- A review of allocations and development of calibration factors for private angling data is required to use stock assessment results
- Consider forming a small working group to facilitate use in management
 - Relevant staff may include Council, SERO, SEFSC, GSMFC, and staff from the Gulf states
 - This group could begin working prior to the completion of the stock assessment

Questions & Feedback

