

Tab F, No.5

Marine Recreational Information Program

Status Update on progress of recreational fishing
effort calibrations and catch time series revisions

Gulf Council Meeting, August 2026



NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

Pre-Release Briefing Schedule

OST Director	July 22
DAA of Scientific Programs	July 24
Greater Atlantic and Southeast Leadership	July 27
Regional Partner Previews*	July 27-30
NMFS AA	Aug 3
NOAA Leadership	Aug 6-20

*States, Commissions, Councils (+interested regional NMFS staff)

Agency Roll Out Plan and Next Steps

- Public release of the revised time series is anticipated to occur toward the end of August (26th-31st)
 - The approval process for the release is thorough because of its visibility and importance to assessments and management.
- Attention will turn then to 2026 estimates following the release of the revised time series. Agency is currently reviewing release options:
 - Expect the first few waves to be released in batch
 - Later waves will be on their regular schedule for review and publishing
 - Estimates will include revised and back-calibrated (old FES).

Next Steps (cont.)

- Following official release of the revised time series:
 - OST will be available to respond to Council requests for more detailed information on revised estimates and to try to tackle technical questions related to the calibration model
 - We plan to provide partners regular status updates on the progress toward publishing 2026 estimates
 - Because we expect to bundle the first few waves, the review burden on partners and OST will increase
 - We will monitor and are working with Leadership on options to minimize impacts

Upcoming Assessments - Gulf of America

To be completed in 2026	To be completed in 2027	To be completed in 2028
• King Mackerel • Gray Triggerfish • Red Snapper • Gag grouper	• Vermilion Snapper • Gray snapper • Sandbar shark	• Greater Amberjack • Yellowedge • Red grouper • Red snapper

Check the [Southeast Data Assessment, and Review \(SEDAR\) Schedule](#) for the full list and latest timelines. Management decisions are generally made the year after an updated assessment is completed.

How Will These Changes Impact Recreational Fishing?

- The revised time series will not be a simple reflection of the results of the 2024 study
 - The new calibration model is improved over the 2018 model
- Key lesson learned from 2018 calibration: We can't predict stock assessment or management outcomes yet.
 - Other data inputs and assessment model updates can influence the final results.
- NOAA Fisheries Science Centers and regional partners will begin **integrating the improved data** into ongoing and upcoming **prioritized stock assessments**, which will **inform determinations** about the health of each stock and **provide new management advice**, if warranted, through a public process.
- **Back-calibrated estimates** will be provided upon request for **interim management use**, comparison with existing ACLs.

Questions?



For more information on NOAA Fisheries Fishing Effort Survey:
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/recreational-fishing-data/fishing-effort-survey-research-and-improvements>