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Dr. Ponwith;

At its June 2016 meeting in Clearwater Beach, Florida, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) considered its stock assessment priorities for 2018 – 2021. The Council’s goal was to establish its intent to have more assessments completed each year. The Council recognizes current resource limitations which may prevent this goal from being realized in the short term; however, the Council expects that by making its intentions known to both the Southeast Fisheries Science Center and the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) program, that some progress can be made with respect to increasing the number of assessments completed each year for Gulf species. The Council has considered the stock assessment prioritization tool (tool) proffered by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in creating the attached list of species assessments; however, other factors including pending management actions and rebuilding plans may see the Council deviate from the NMFS tool. Representatives from the Council would like to discuss this list at the next SEDAR Steering Committee meeting in September 2016 in Charleston, South Carolina. Please contact the Council if you have any questions about this request.

Sincerely,

Doug Gregory, Executive Director

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

cc: Gulf Council

Council Staff

John Carmichael

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| **GMFMC Stock Assessment Priorities: 2018 - 2021** | | | | |
| **Year** | **Rank** | **Species** | **Type** | **Agency** |
| 2018 | 1 | Gray Triggerfish | Benchmark | SEFSC |
| 2 | Hogfish | Update | FWC |
| 3 | MRIP Updates | \* | SEFSC |
| 4 | MRIP Updates | \* | SEFSC |
| 5 | King Mackerel | Benchmark | HMS |
| 6 | Gray Snapper | Benchmark | SEFSC |
| 7 | Scamp | Research | SEFSC |
| 8 | Yellowmouth Grouper | Research | SEFSC |
| 9 | Mutton Snapper | Update | FWC |
| 10 | Vermilion Snapper | Update | SEFSC |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2019 | 1 | Gray Snapper | Benchmark | SEFSC |
| 2 | Cobia | Update | SEFSC |
| 3 | Spanish Mackerel | Update | SEFSC |
| 4 | Yellowedge Grouper | Update | SEFSC |
| 5 | Tilefish | Update | SEFSC |
| 6 | Spiny Lobster | Benchmark | FWC |
| 7 | Red Grouper | Update | SEFSC |
| 8 | Hogfish | Update | SEFSC |
| 9 | Red Drum | Update | SEFSC |
| 10 | Lane Snapper | Update | SEFSC |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2020 | 1 | Red Snapper | Update | SEFSC |
| 2 | King Mackerel | Update | HMS |
| 3 | Gag | Update | SEFSC |
| 4 | Greater Amberjack | Update | SEFSC |
| 5 | Data Poor: queen, blackfin, cubera, and silk snapper; warsaw and yellowfin grouper; and banded rudderfish | Research | SEFSC |
| 6 |
| 7 |
| 8 |
| 9 | Snowy Grouper | Update | SEFSC |
| 10 | Speckled Hind | Update | SEFSC |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2021 | 1 | Gray Triggerfish | Update | SEFSC |
| 2 | Yellowtail Snapper | Update | FWC |
| 3 | Scamp | Update | SEFSC |
| 4 | Yellowmouth Grouper | Update | SEFSC |
| 5 | Vermilion Snapper | Update | SEFSC |
| 6 | Mutton Snapper | Update | FWC |
| 7 | Black Grouper | Update | FWC |
| 8 | Spiny Lobster | Update | FWC |
| 9 | Gray Snapper | Update | SEFSC |
| 10 | Goliath Grouper | Research | SEFSC |