



# Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

*Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico*

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July 1, 2016

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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 result in the Council deviating 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,

*Carie M. Simmons for:*

Doug Gregory  
Executive Director

cc: Gulf Council  
Council Staff  
John Carmichael

**GMFMC Stock Assessment Priorities: 2018 - 2021**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Agency</u>
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;		
	6	warsaw and yellowfin grouper; and banded		
	7	rudderfish	Research	SEFSC
	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