

**Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC
Review of SEDAR 37 - Hogfish
Tampa, Florida
March 11-12, 2015**

The meeting of the Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC was held March 11-12, 2015. The Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC did not have a quorum present. Therefore, the SSC did not vote to make OFL and ABC recommendations for hogfish. OFL and ABC will be reviewed at a future meeting.

**Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC
Review of SEDAR 37 - Hogfish
New Orleans, Louisiana
May 20, 2015**

Hogfish OFL and ABC

Mr. Dustin Addis (Florida FWC) presented a summary of OFL and ABC projections for the west Florida shelf hogfish stock. The SSC previously concluded that the west Florida Hogfish stock is neither overfished nor undergoing overfishing. The 2014 SEDAR 37 hogfish assessment used data through 2012. Commercial and recreational catches for 2013 and 2014 were obtained from the FWRI Trip Tickets and Discard logbook program and from MRIP and the Southeast Region Headboat Survey respectively. 2015 catches were assumed to be the average of 2013-2014. Recreational discards were left out of assessment model but were included in the projections. Projections were made using Stock Synthesis 3 and $F_{30\% SPR}$ as a proxy for F_{MSY} . A yield stream of OFL was produced using a $P^* = 0.5$ and a yield stream of ABC was produced using a $P^* = 0.4$ with a CV of 0.37. Projection results are based on year 1 = 2016 and extending through 2026.

Yields are projected to decline from 2016 (Figure 7, Tables 5 and 6) toward equilibrium values of:

OFL = 161,900 lbs. whole weight
ABC = 159,261 lbs. whole weight
OY = 151,826 lbs. whole weight

For reference, the current hogfish ACL in the Gulf of Mexico is 208,000 pounds.

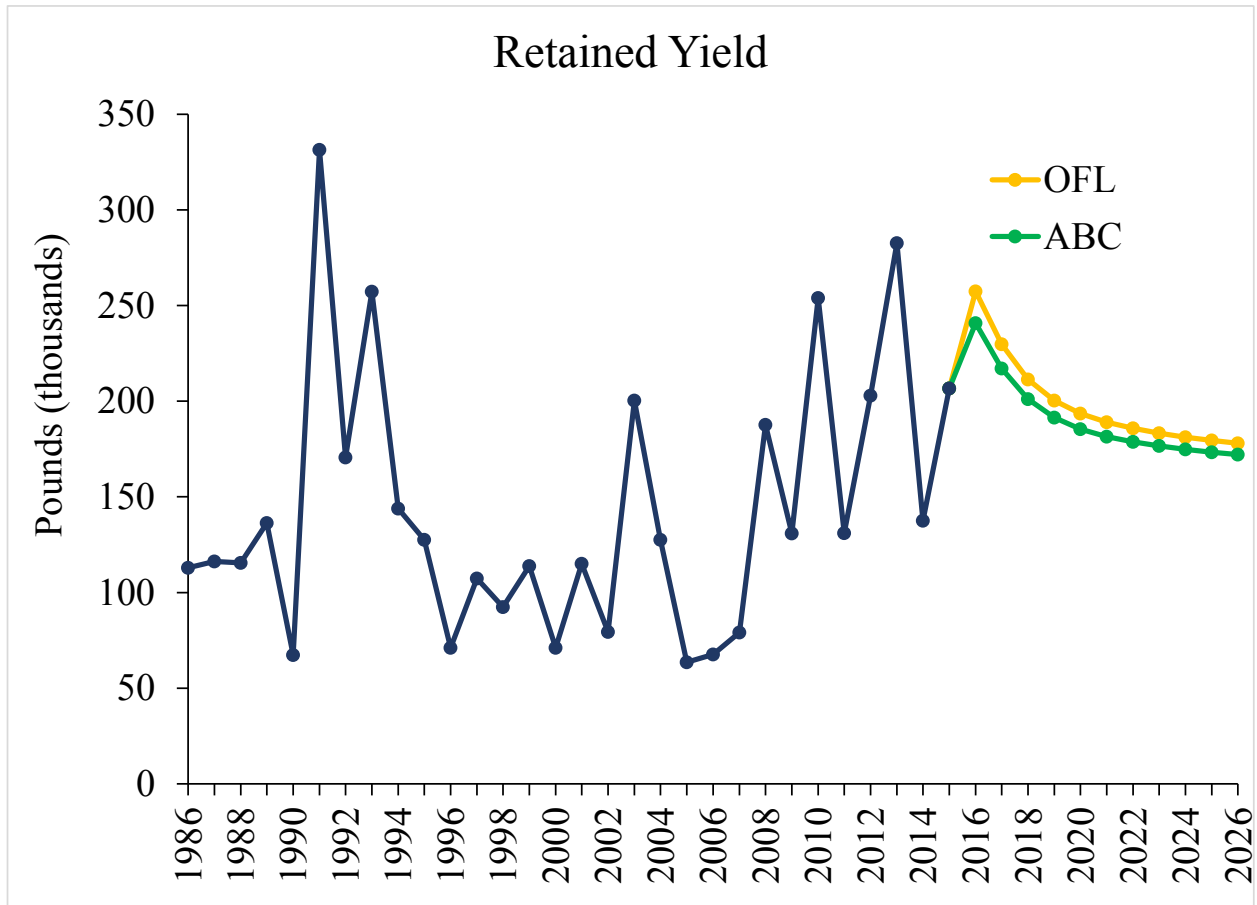


Figure 1. West Florida shelf hogfish stock OFL and ABC yield trends.

SSC members noted that declining yield streams appear to be a common feature of several stock OFL/ABC projections, and questioned if that was an artifact of Stock Synthesis. It was suggested that this was more likely the result on recent high recruitment levels being replaced by average recruitment going forward.

Table 5. Projected OFL yield stream for the west Florida hogfish stock using $P^* = 0.5$.

West Florida Shelf Hogfish Stock Projected OFL (pounds are in whole weight)				
YEAR	Yield (pounds)	Yield (numbers)	Discards (pounds)	Discards (numbers)
2016	257,140	95,407	288	89
2017	229,432	84,073	276	84
2018	211,044	77,691	266	82
2019	200,060	74,272	257	81
2020	193,281	72,332	248	80
2021	188,783	71,125	240	80
2022	185,557	70,294	233	80
2023	183,048	69,679	227	80
2024	181,002	69,190	221	80
2025	179,277	68,777	215	80
2026	177,806	68,410	211	80

Table 6. Projected ABC yield stream for the west Florida hogfish stock using $P^* = 0.4$ and $CV = 0.37$.

West Florida Shelf Hogfish Stock Projected OFL (pounds are in whole weight)				
YEAR	Yield (pounds)	Yield (numbers)	Discards (pounds)	Discards (numbers)
2016	240,081	89,252	288	89
2017	216,808	79,429	278	85
2018	200,783	73,810	269	83
2019	191,139	70,778	261	82
2020	185,193	69,061	254	81
2021	181,275	68,000	247	81
2022	178,490	67,277	241	81
2023	176,341	66,748	235	81
2024	174,601	66,333	230	82
2025	173,143	65,985	225	82
2026	171,910	65,677	221	82

SSC members noted that ABC is close to OFL, but this is similar to results obtained by the PFMC’s ABC control rule when using a $CV = 0.37$. In keeping with recent practice and concerns about the uncertainty associated with long-range projections, the SSC recommended OFL and ABC for just three years. In the motions below, OFL and ABC yields are rounded to four digits, also in keeping with recent practice.

Motion: The SSC recommends that the west Florida hogfish stock OFL yield stream for the years 2016 – 2018 using a P* of 0.5 be as follows:

2016	257,100 lbs. ww
2017	229,400 lbs. ww
2018	211,000 lbs. ww

Motion carried unanimously

Motion: The SSC recommends that the ABC for the west Florida hogfish stock for the years 2016-2018 using a P* of 0.4 and a CV of 0.37 be as follows in lbs. ww:

2016	240,400 lbs. ww
2017	216,800 lbs. ww
2018	200,800 lbs. ww

Motion carried unanimously

The SSC considered offering an alternative ABC based on a constant catch strategy. However, a motion to recommend a constant catch ABC based on the average of the 2016-2018 ABCs was withdrawn because it would have resulted in the ABC exceeding OFL in 2018. The Council, however, has the option to set a constant catch ACL at any level that does not exceed any of the annual ABCs.

SSC members felt that if the Council would like to have alternative constant catch ABC yield streams, there is a need for the SEFSC to develop a standardized method for calculating constant catch yield streams.

Dr. Luiz Barbieri discussed the South Atlantic SSC's OFL and ABC projections for the east Florida/Florida Keys hogfish stock, which is overfished and undergoing overfishing. This stock extends partially into Gulf Council jurisdictional waters, but mostly occurs in South Atlantic waters. South Atlantic SSC rebuilding projections were made at a $P^* = 0.275$. Given that the stock occurs primarily in South Atlantic waters, the SSC felt that the South Atlantic SSC should take the lead in setting OFL and ABC.

Motion: The SSC concurs with the SAFMC SSC OFL and ABC recommendations for the FL Keys eastern Florida hogfish stock. .

Motion carried unanimously