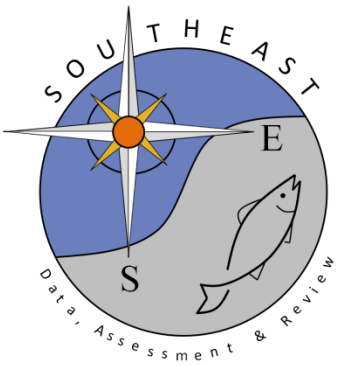
Public comments received via the online comment form during the data process

SEDAR90-DW-33

5 December 2025



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Assessment		

SEDAR 90 South Atlantic Red Snapper

SEDAR 90 addresses the benchmark stock assessment for South Atlantic Red Snapper. Data Scoping for this project will begin November 2024, with an in-person Data Workshop in April 2025. The assessment process will be a series of webinars from September 2025 through April 2026, with an in-person Review Workshop in September 2026. For more information on the review, please contact the SEDAR Coordinator for this project, Emily Ott: Emily.ott@safmc.net

Submit Date	Submitted By	Comment
5/1/2025	First Name: Haley Last Name: Stephens Email: haleywstephens@gmail.com	Good afternoon! Name is Haley Stephens. I am a Charter Headboat Owner/Operator in Northeast Florida. I also serve on the South Atlantic Snapper Grouper AP, MREP Southeast Steering Committee, Citizen Science pool, advocate for Best Fishing Practices, and current Vice Chair of SEFIER Improvement ad-hoc. First I'd like to take a moment to thank you all for your time, hard work, and dedication this week during the workshop. To start, I'd love the opportunity to share some red snapper observations we've encountered recently. In Northeast Florida/Ponce Inlet, red snapper have been caught this year and last year in Mosquito Lagoon (a.k.a. the Inter-coastal Waterway.) These fish are generally less than 20 inches, and have been caught by anglers fishing in the river from boats as well as from public fishing docks. One even had a tag on it! I also want to note changes in red snapper behavior. Recently our charter headboat was fishing a reef that our friend was also commercial diving on. We weren't getting many bites of anything. Our friend came up from his dive and called on the radio saying "HOW ARE YOUR BAITS NOT GETTING DESTROYED RIGHT NOW?! THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF RED SNAPPER DOWN THERE" It's my opinion that these fish are evolving and becoming smarter than people are sometimes willing to give them credit for. Just something to keep in mind…. Second, I love Best Fishing Practices. Circle hooks and venting tools/descending devices are truly one of the best things to happen to our fishery in history. BFP works. Our crew members are professional and experienced. We're grateful to handle the fish properly and also educate our passengers on how they can do the same! I can't tell you the last time I witnessed a red snapper float away dead. Our observed red snapper dead discards are virtually non existent. We as a federally permitted charter headboat recognize the importance of fishery dependent data through cooperative research, and welcome and host FWC at sea observers on a regular basis.