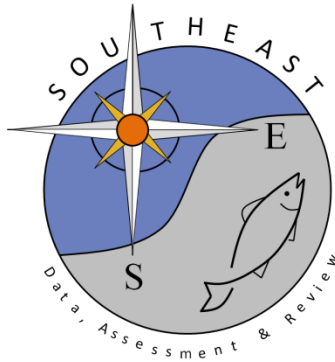


Public comments received during the Data stage of SEDAR 98

SEDAR

SEDAR98-DW-27

26 February 2025



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SEDAR

SouthEast Data, Assessment, and Review

Assessment

SEDAR 98 Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper

SEDAR 98 addresses the benchmark stock assessment for Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper. Data Scoping for this project was held in August 2024, with an in-person Data Workshop in December 2024. The assessment process will be a series of webinars from April through October 2025, with an in-person Review Workshop in March 2026. For more information on the review, please contact the SEDAR Coordinator for this project, Julie Neer: Julie.neer@safmc.net

Submit Date	Submitted By	Comment
12/9/2024	First Name: Ashford Last Name: Rosenberg Email: ashford@shareholdersalliance.org	<p>Dear SEDAR 98 Committee,</p> <p>As the Committee begins the next red snapper stock assessment (SEDAR 98), the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance (Shareholders' Alliance) requests that the following documents be taken into consideration. Although these documents are not formal scientific studies, they highlight the firsthand experiences and concerns of the working men and women who depend on red snapper and other reef fish species for their livelihoods.</p> <p>Since 2022, commercial and charter fishermen have been sounding the alarm to managers. Fish are getting smaller (as evidenced by the Gulf States' updates on private recreational angler seasons), and fishermen must go further and fish longer to catch their quotas.</p> <p>Additionally, we are concerned that increased recreational effort is causing more discards, which will further delay the rebuilding of the red snapper stock. We request that the SEDAR Committee consider using a similar approach to discards as is used in the South Atlantic. When catch levels are evaluated at the end of the SEDAR process, they should account for "total removals" from the fishery, not just landings (see Guindon letter below).</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to engaging in the SEDAR 98 process.</p> <p>Supporting Documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Public Comments from Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting, August 2022 (starts on page 27) - https://bit.ly/49vVaD52. "Managers Ignore Commercial Fishermen, Recommend Risky Red Snapper Quota Increase," August 29, 2022 - https://bit.ly/3ZqOxND3. "Increase in Red Snapper Limits Worries Commercial Anglers," August 29, 2022 - https://bit.ly/4ipwOPp4. Shareholders' Alliance June 2023 Gulf Council Comment Letter - https://bit.ly/4gnSPwb5. "Outlook for Gulf Fisheries Not Highlighted in Status of the Stocks," June 10, 2024 - https://bit.ly/4g9Qe9A6. "This Florida Fisherman Worries About the Industry's Future," July 13, 2024 - https://bit.ly/3B8Chti7. "Recreational Bycatch - It's Real," September 26, 2024 - https://bit.ly/3VujBLa8. Guindon Submission to Gulf Council, October 31, 2024 - https://bit.ly/3ONnfw39. "Red Snapper Reopens for Federal For-Hire Permitted Boats. Is This Good for the Fishery?" November 18, 2024 - https://bit.ly/3Vyry25 <p>Ashford Rosenberg Policy Director Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance ashford@shareholdersalliance.org</p>
12/12/2024	First Name: Mark Last Name: Tryon Email: mdtryon82@outlook.com	<p>I fish commercially and recreationally for red snapper out of Gulf Breeze Fl (Pensacola Pass), Operating a rod and reel day commercial vessel I have observed a significant decline of red snapper in my area of operation. Normally I fish within 30 miles of the pass. My daily average landings peaked at 538 lbs in 2019 and have steadily declined to 331 lbs this year. This downturn began shortly after the advent of state management and the ever-increasing number of fishing days which the state of Florida has granted to the recreational sector. I don't blame this situation on the individual anglers but rather on the state and federal regulators who have allowed the situation to spiral out of control. In conclusion it is not just me. Recreational anglers who I speak to have found it increasingly difficult to catch their limits of red snapper particularly during the summer season. i</p>