

*Science, Service, Stewardship*



# An Overview of the Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper and Grouper/Tilefish IFQ Programs

Andy Strelcheck

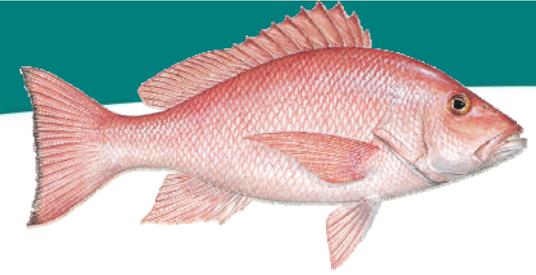
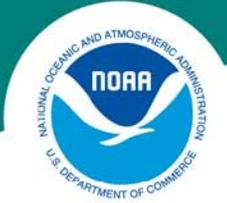
Southeast Regional Office

St. Petersburg, FL

September 2, 2009

**NOAA  
FISHERIES  
SERVICE**

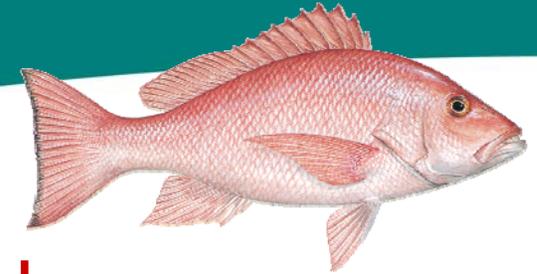
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## Red Snapper IFQ Program

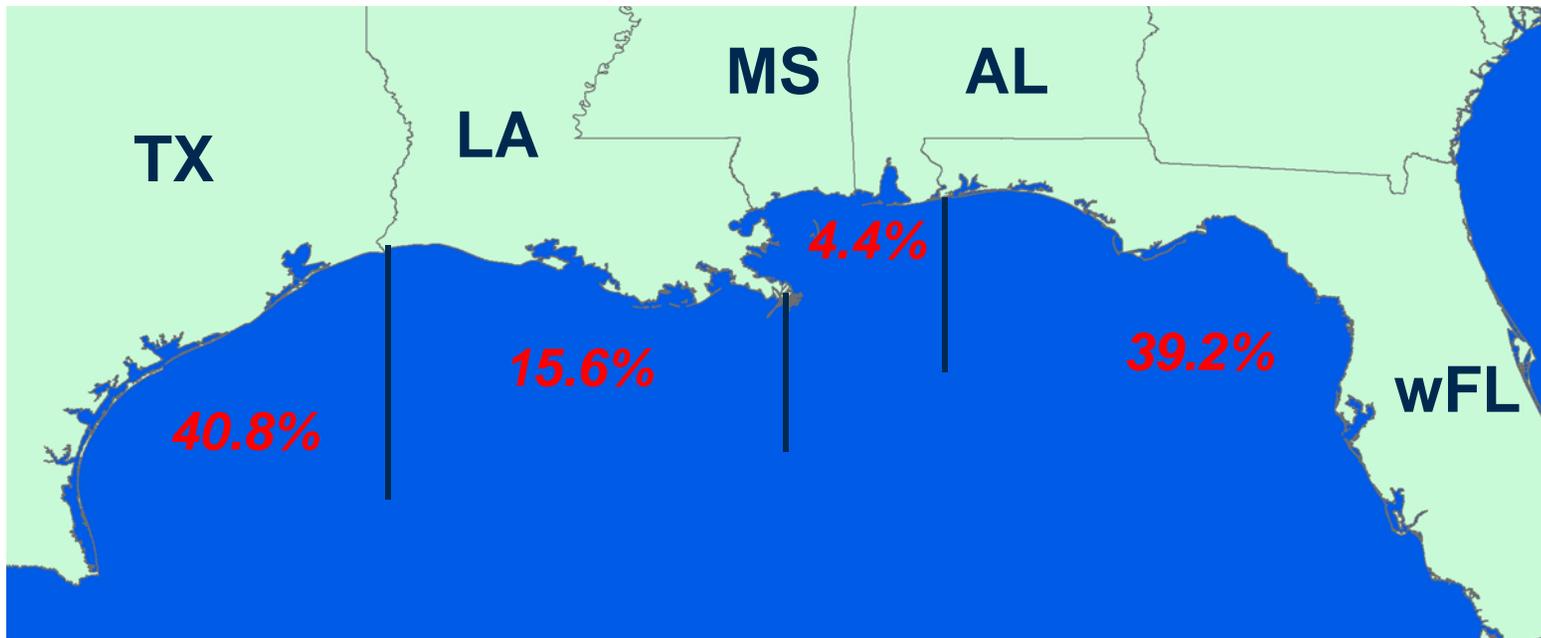
- Overview of Red Snapper IFQ
  - Fishery description
  - Need for IFQ
  - IFQ objectives and goals
  - Successes/Challenges
  - Lessons Learned



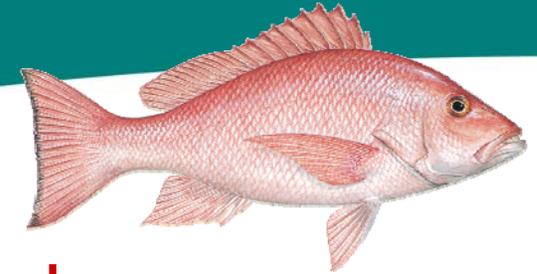


# Red Snapper Fishery

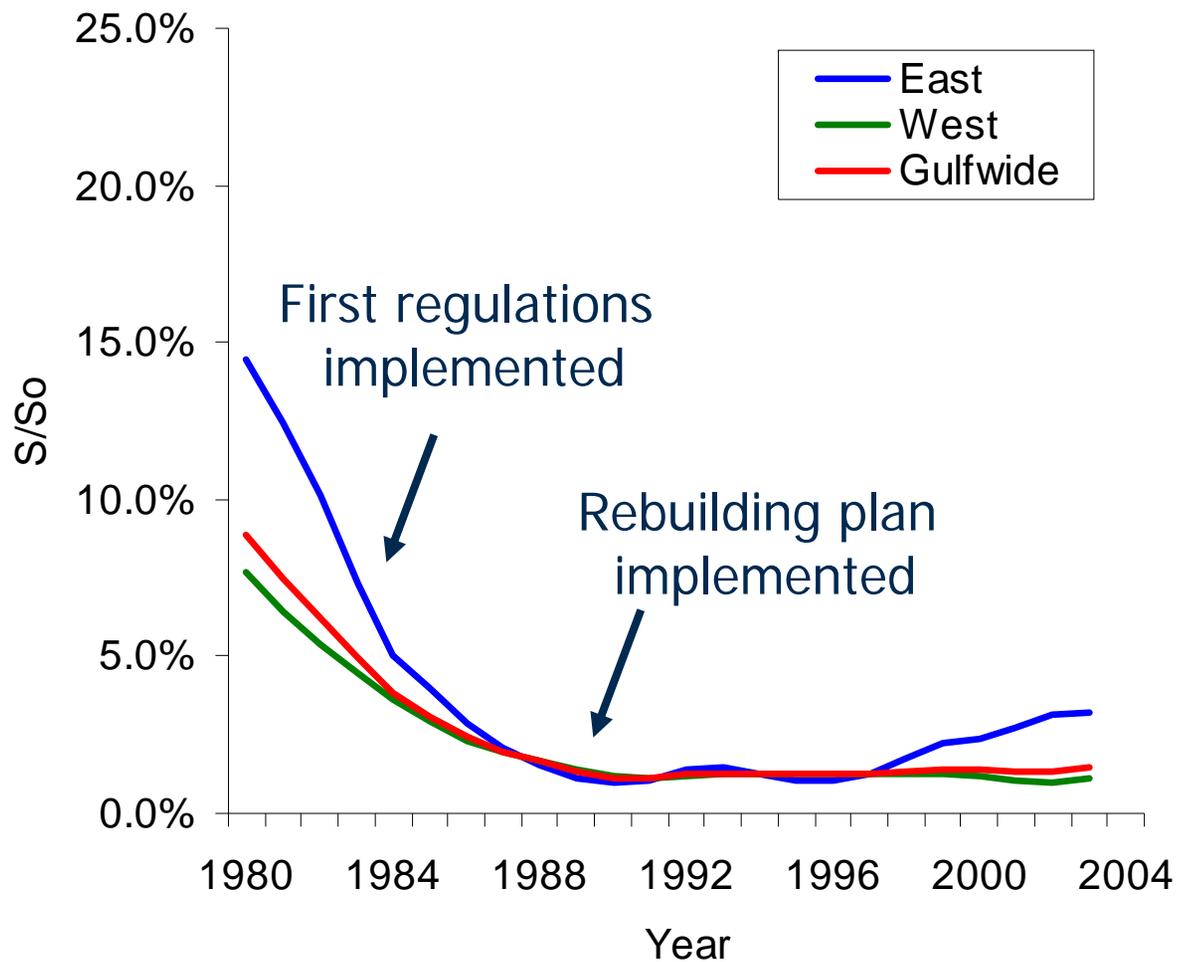
- Predominately hook-and-line/bandit rigs
- 2.55 mp quota

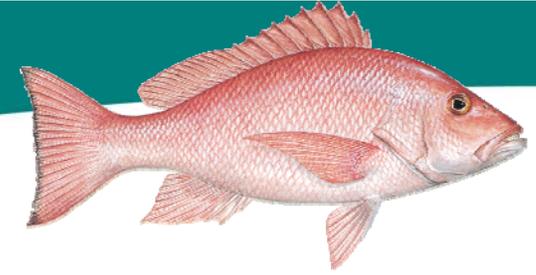
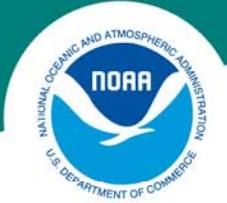


Source: 2007 Red Snapper IFQ Report



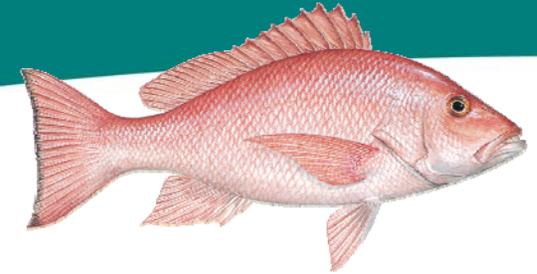
# Red Snapper Status





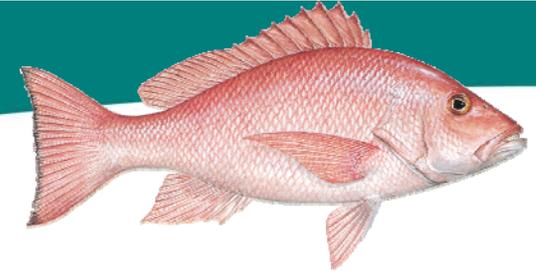
## Regulations Pre-IFQ

- Class 1 (2,000 lbs) and Class 2 permits (200 lbs)
- Spring and fall quotas
- 10-day commercial mini-seasons
- 15" size limit
- Trip limits

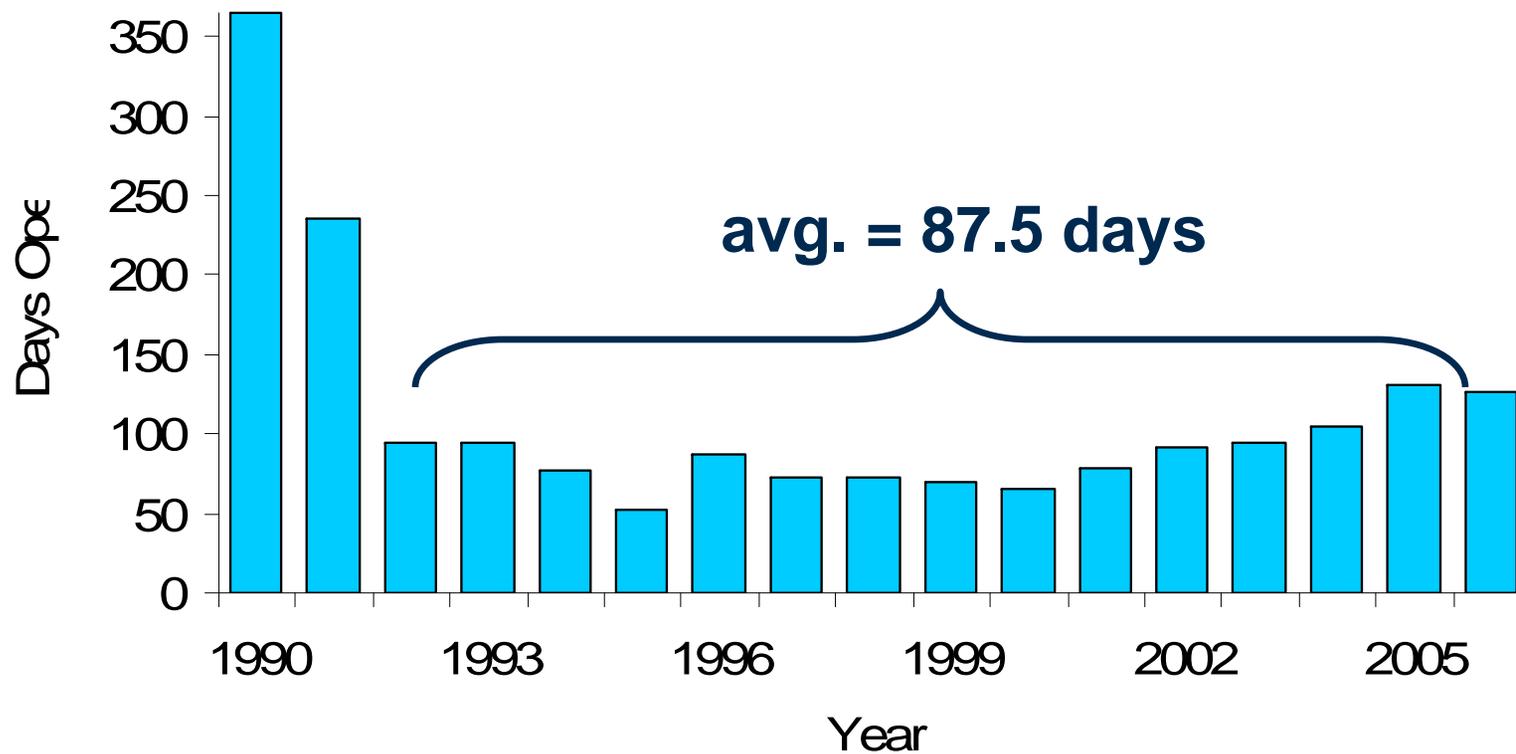


## Need for Red Snapper IFQ

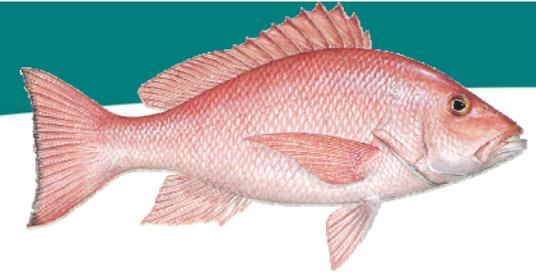
- Overcapitalized – derby fishing
- Frequent quota overages
- Short fishing seasons
- Safety-at-sea
- Market gluts
- High bycatch and discard mortality



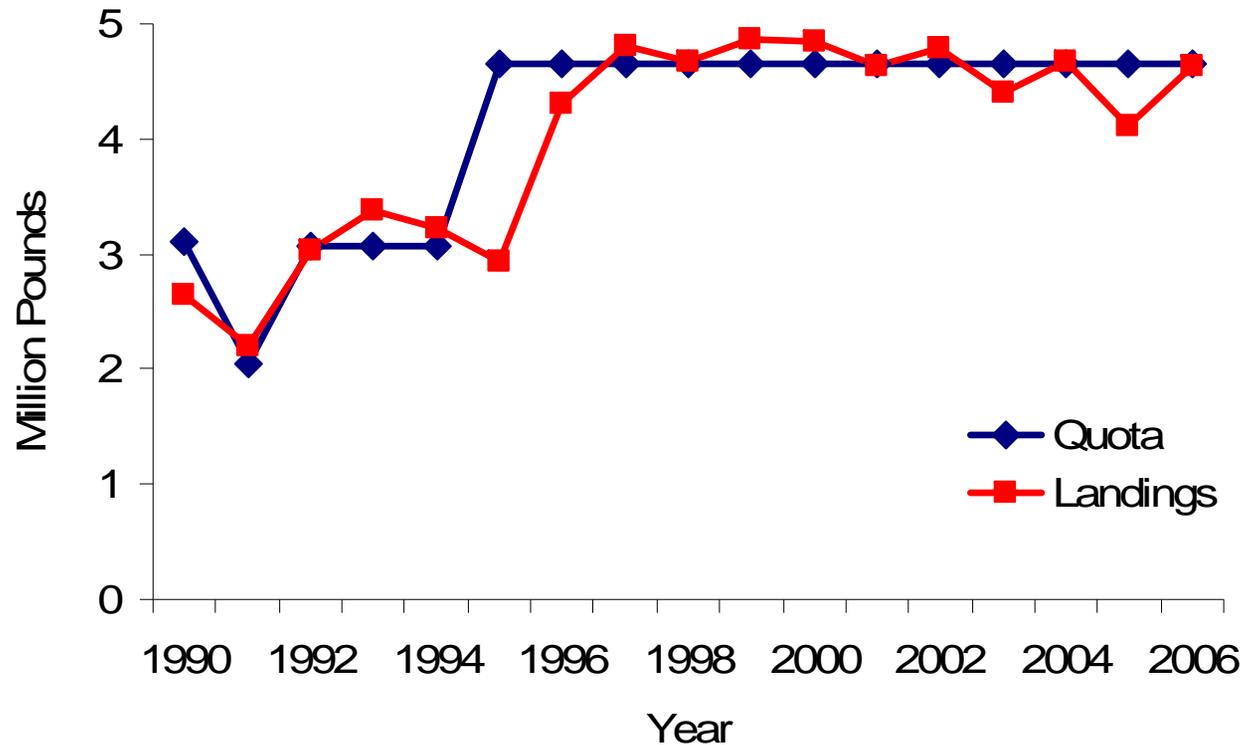
## Days Open Pre- and Post-IFQ



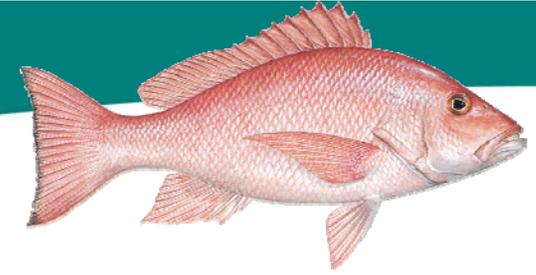
\* First quota for red snapper established in 1990



# Quota Management

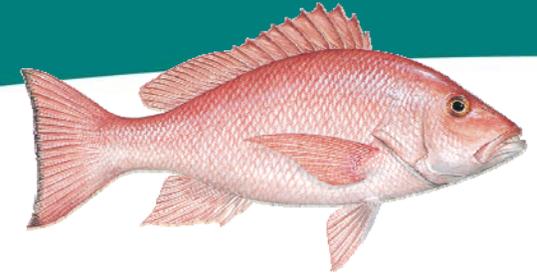


➤ Quota exceeded 9 out of 17 years



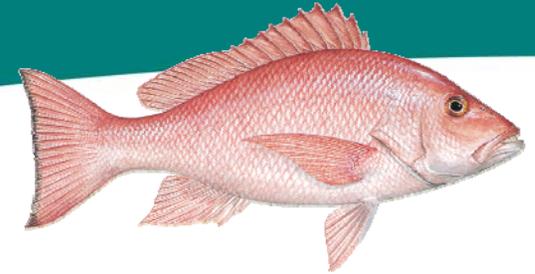
## Red Snapper IFQ History

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1995      | Council submits IFQ program                           |
| 1996      | IFQ moratorium until Oct. 2000                        |
| 2001-2003 | Council develops IFQ profile                          |
| 2004      | 1st referendum to proceed with IFQ development passes |
| 2004-2006 | AP and Council develop Amendment 26                   |
| 2006      | 2nd referendum approves IFQ program                   |
| 2007      | IFQ program implemented                               |



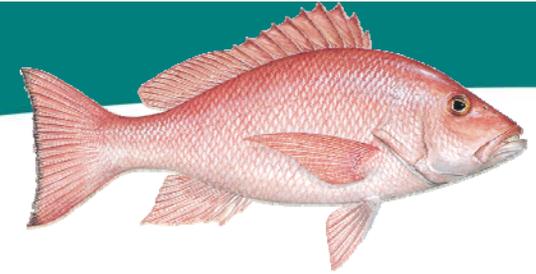
## Key Components of IFQ

- Only red snapper license holders initially eligible
- Initial shares
  - Class 1 – 10 best consecutive years (1990-2004)
  - Class 2 – 5 best years (1998-2004)
- 6.02% ownership cap
- Appeals process
- Program reviewed every 5 years



## Key Components of IFQ

- Transfer allowed:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> five years only to reef fish permit holders
  - After five years to all U.S. citizens & resident aliens
- 3% cost recovery fee based on ex-vessel value
- Quota adjustments allocated proportionally among IFQ shareholders
- Electronic transactions: <https://ifq.sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>



# Electronic Transactions

**NOAA - NMFS - SERO - IFQ**

[Home](#) | [IFQ Participants](#)

### Individual Fishing Quota - Red Snapper

#### IFQ Red Snapper Login

User ID:

PIN:

Role:

Accept Terms of Use

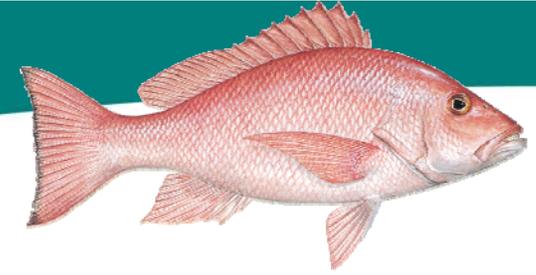
This U.S. Government system is to be used by authorized users only. Information from this system resides on computer systems funded by the Government. The data and documents on this system include Federal records that

Today is Monday, September 29, 2008

Commercial Red Snapper Quota 2008:	2,550,000 lbs. (whole)
	2,297,469 lbs. (gutted)
Remaining Commercial Red Snapper Quota 2008:	567,738 lbs. (gutted)

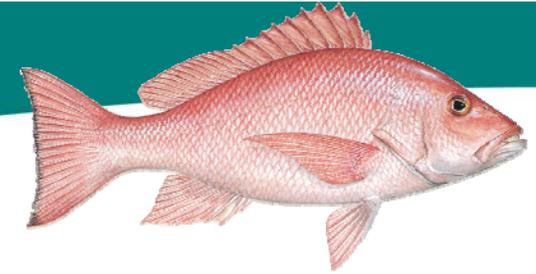
**IFQ Customer Support Toll-Free 866-425-7627**  
**IFQ Customer Support Email [SER-IFQ.Support@noaa.gov](mailto:SER-IFQ.Support@noaa.gov)**

[Federal Register Notice of Final Rule](#)  
[Frequently Asked Questions \(January 2008\)](#)  
[Updated User Manual \(October 2007\)](#)

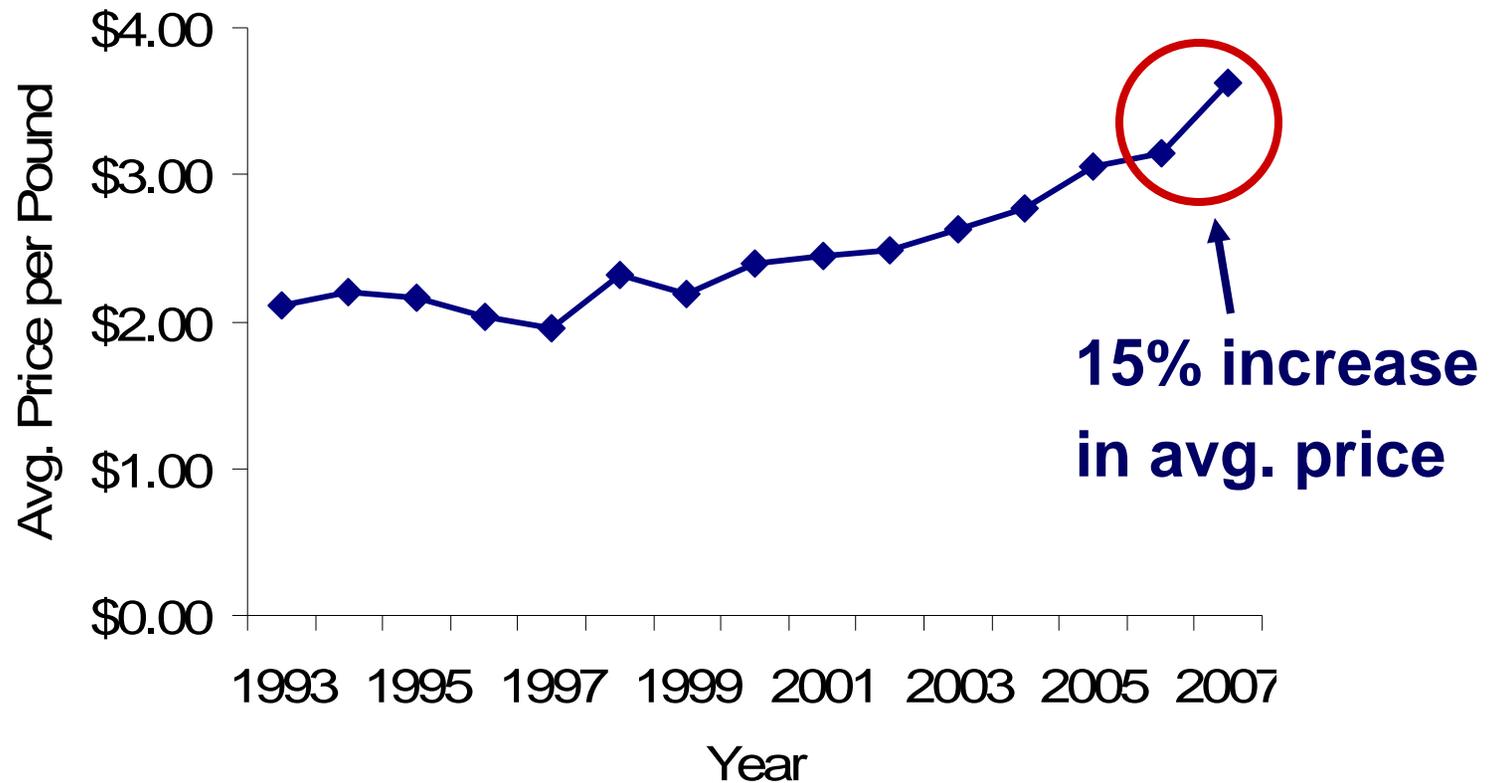


## Law Enforcement

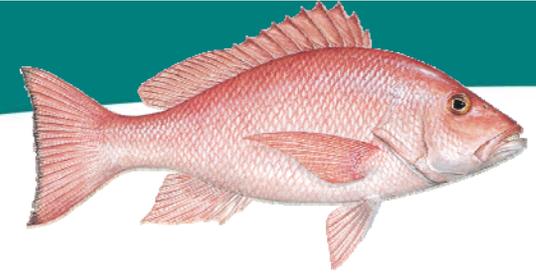
- Vessel monitoring systems
- Electronic accounting system
- 3-hour landing notification requirement
- Restrictions on time of offloading (6 am – 6 pm)



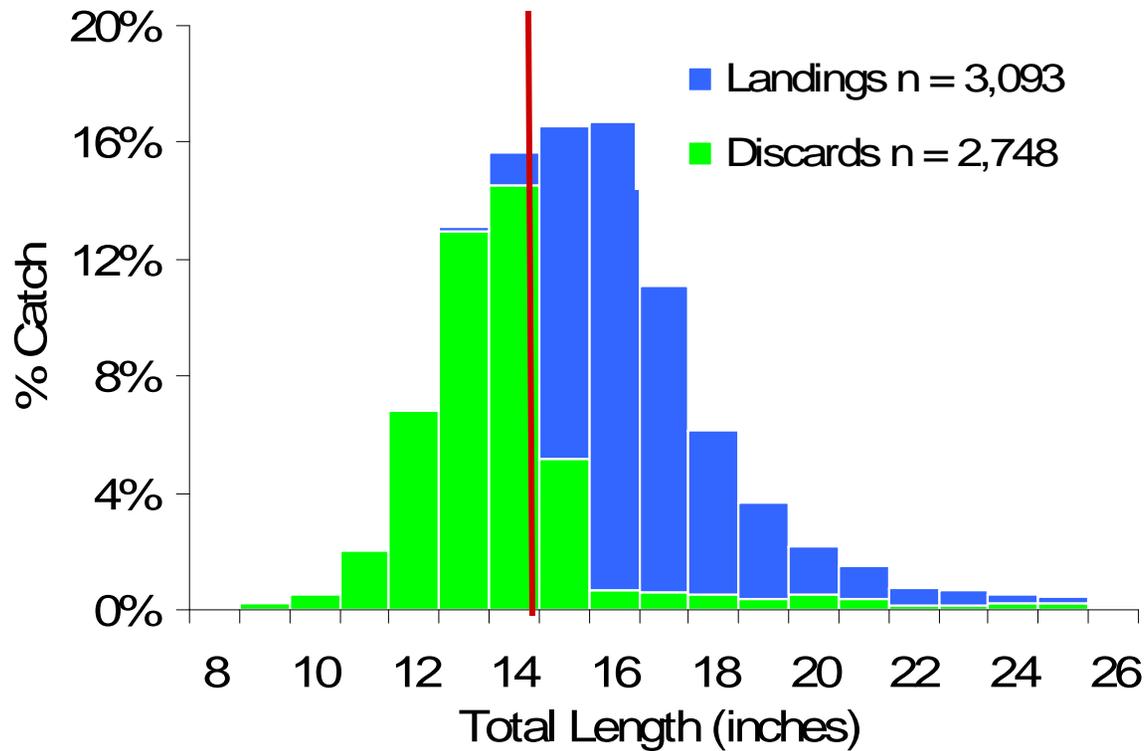
## Successes: Price per Pound



Source: 2007 Red Snapper IFQ report

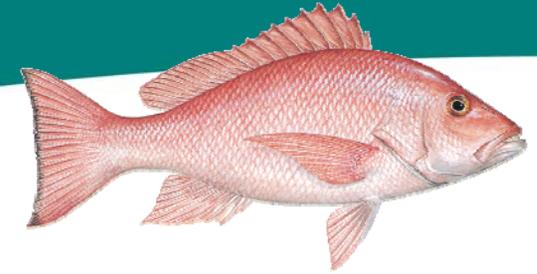


## Successes: Reduction in Directed Bycatch



**15" size limit**

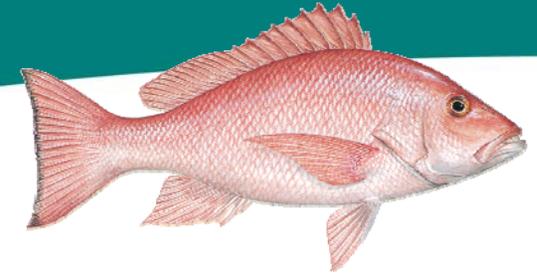
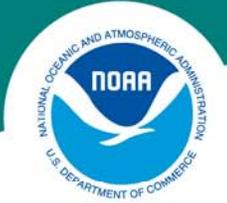
**Landings to discard  
ratio = 1.13**



## Successes: Consolidation and 2007 Quota Underage

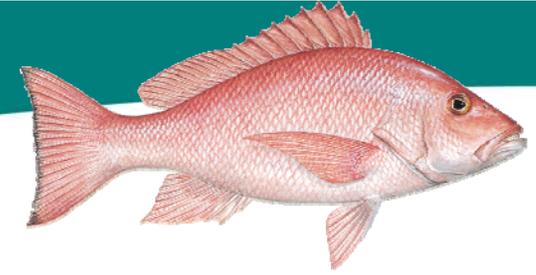
- 96% of 2007 quota filled
- Year-round season
- Greater price stability
- Consolidation of shareholders: 546 to 489





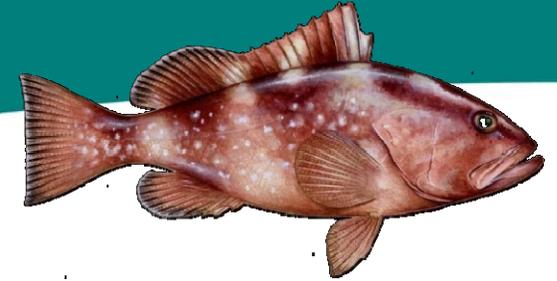
# Ongoing Challenges

- 2.55 mp quota in place from 2008-2010
  - Limits availability of shares/allocation
  - Some reluctance to purchase shares or allocation
  
- Discards along west Florida shelf
  
- Data validation and accuracy



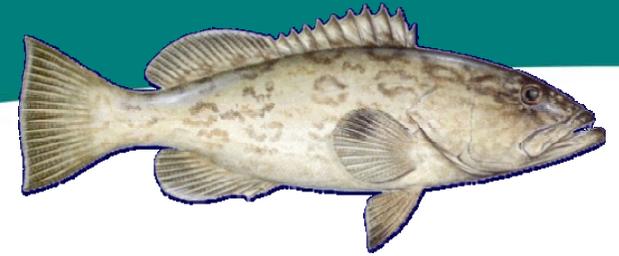
## Lessons Learned

- Establish an AP early; involve them throughout process
- Timing of implementation is important!
- Plan for a lengthy implementation process
- Develop implementation workgroups at each stage of IFQ program development
- Prior to implementation, develop educational materials for fishermen



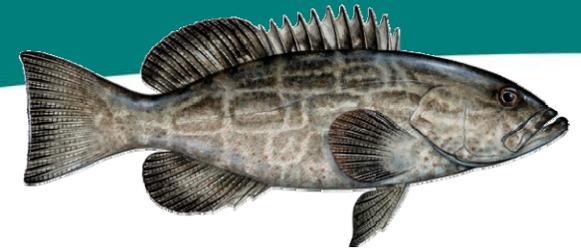
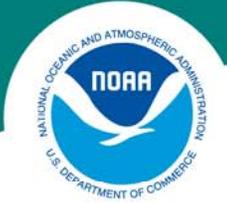
# Grouper/Tilefish IFQ Program

- Overview of proposed Grouper/Tilefish IFQ
  - o Fishery description
  - o IFQ objectives and goals
  - o Key program elements
  - o Development schedule



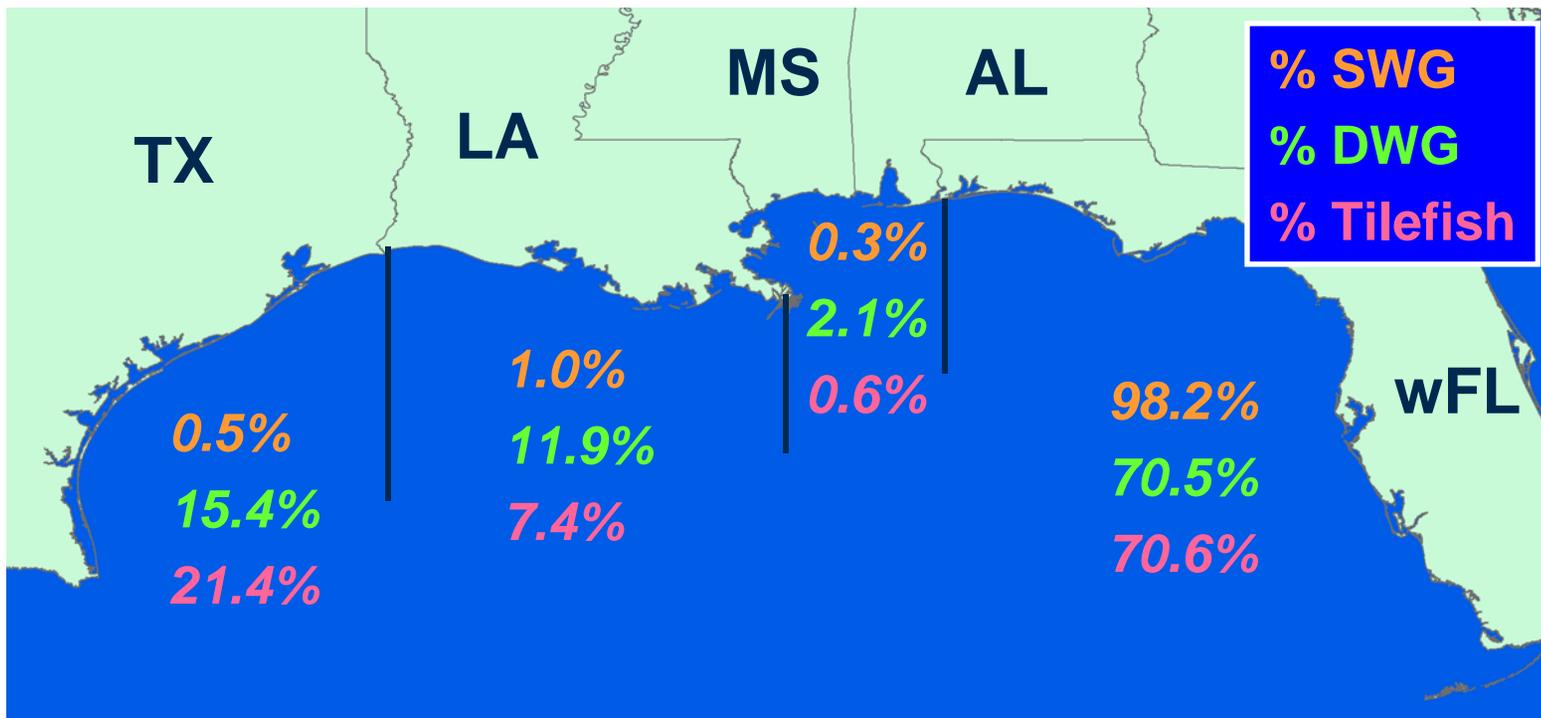
## Grouper/Tilefish Fishery

- Multispecies fishery:
  - o 8 shallow-water grouper      8.80 mp quota
  - o 5 deep-water grouper      1.02 mp quota
  - o 5 tilefishes      0.44 mp quota
  - 10.26 mp
  
- Stock status
  - o Red grouper (rebuilt)
  - o Gag (undergoing overfishing)
  - o Remaining species - unknown

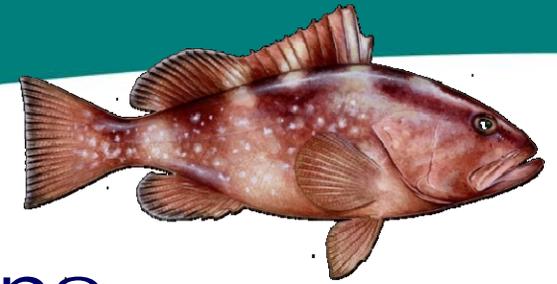


# Grouper/Tilefish Landings

- Longline, hook-and-line, and bandit rigs

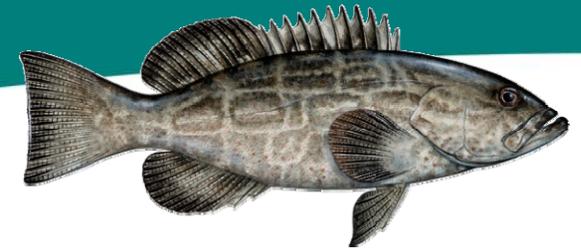


Source: 2004-07 avg. ALS landings



## Current Regulations

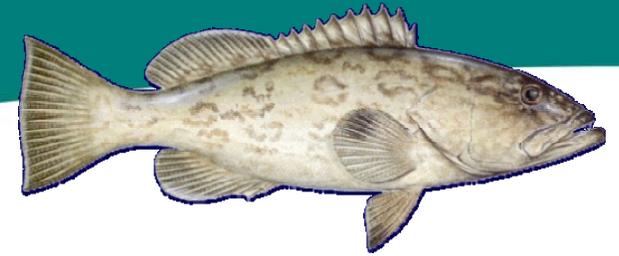
- Permits (moratorium since 1992)
- Quotas
- Trip Limit – 6,000 pounds all grouper
- Seasonal and area closures
- Gear restrictions
- Size limits
- Closed areas



## Quota Closures

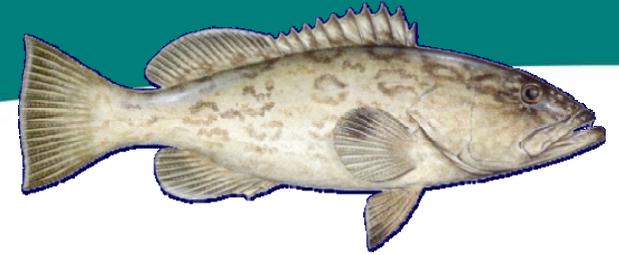
Year	Closure Dates		
	SWG	DWG	Tilefish
2004	15-Nov	15-Jul	no closure
2005	10-Oct	23-Jun	15-Nov
2006	no closure	27-Jun	22-Jul
2007	no closure	2-Jun	18-Apr
2008	58% of quota	10-May	10-May

Beginning in 2009, SWG fishery will close when either SWG, red grouper, or gag quota is met



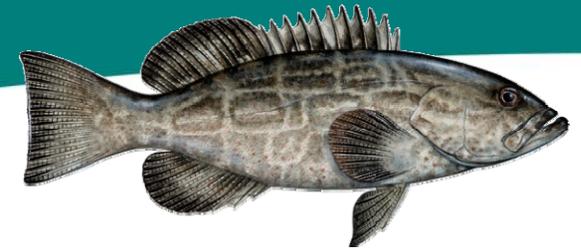
## Grouper/Tilefish IFQ Objectives

- Reduce overcapitalization – derby fishing
- Lengthen fishing season
- Lower operating costs
- Improve market conditions
- Reduce bycatch and discard mortality
- Protect participation of small-scale fishermen
- Promote safe fishing operations



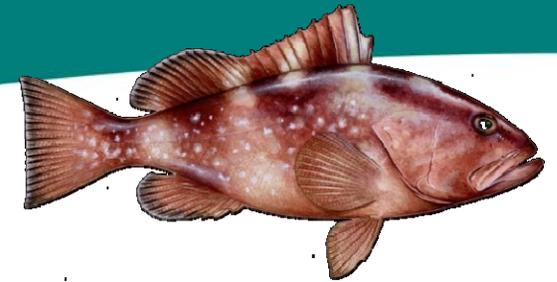
## Key Elements of IFQ Program

- Referendum before approval (MSA 303A (c)(6)(D))
- All active commercial reef fish permit holders eligible
- Transfer allowed:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> five years only to commercial reef fish permit holders
  - After 1<sup>st</sup> five years to all U.S. citizens or resident aliens
- Initial shares based on best 5 of 6 years of landings (1999-2004)

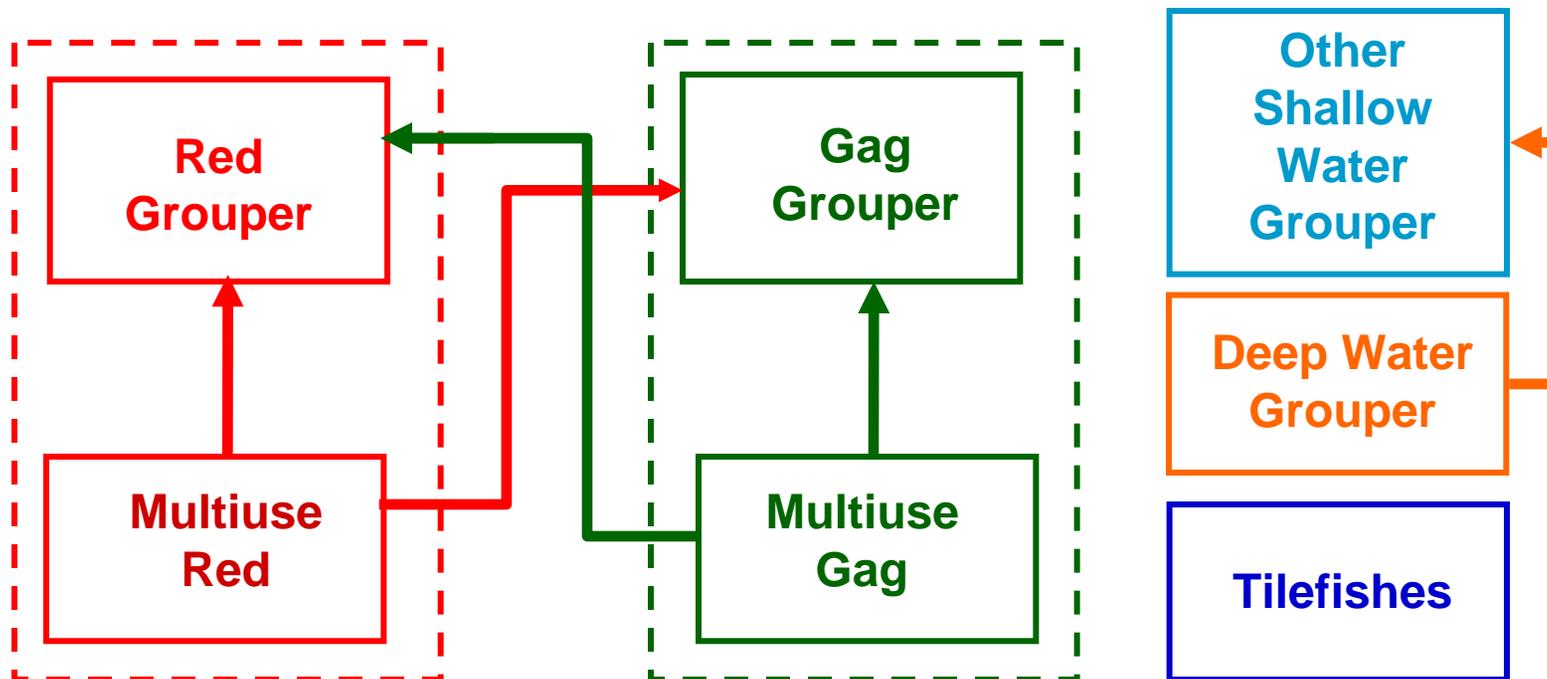


## Key Elements of IFQ Program

- Caps on share ownership and allocation
- 3% cost recovery fee
- Appeals process
- Electronic transactions
- Law Enforcement provisions
- Multiuse allocation
- Adjustments to gag/black grouper landings due to misidentification

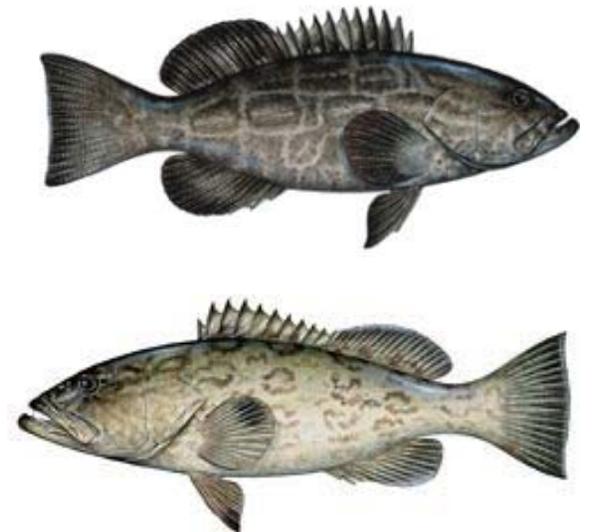
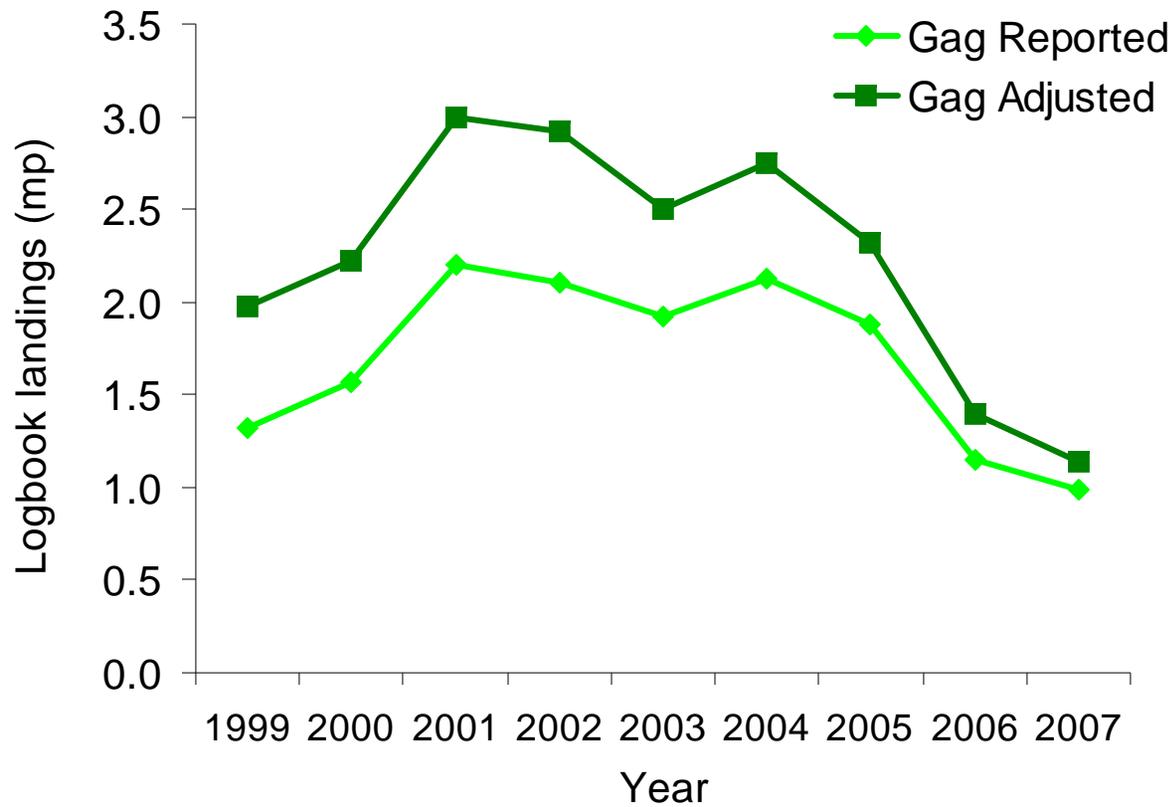


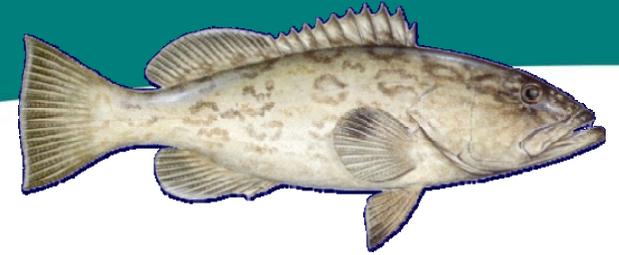
## Flexibility: Multiuse Allocation





## Misidentification of Landings





## Timeline

### February 2006 – First AP meeting held



Ongoing - proposed referendum rule

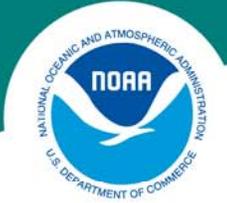
Fall 2008 - final rule for referendum

Winter 2008 - referendum

Spring 2009 - Council final action if IFQ  
approved through referendum

### January 1, 2010 - Implementation

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## Questions?

E-mail: [andy.strelcheck@noaa.gov](mailto:andy.strelcheck@noaa.gov)

Phone: 727-824-5374

Red Snapper IFQ program:

<https://ifq.sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

Proposed Grouper/Tilefish IFQ program:

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/Amendment29.htm>