



Division of Marine Fisheries Management Workplan 2017-2018

Review and Discussion

April 20, 2017

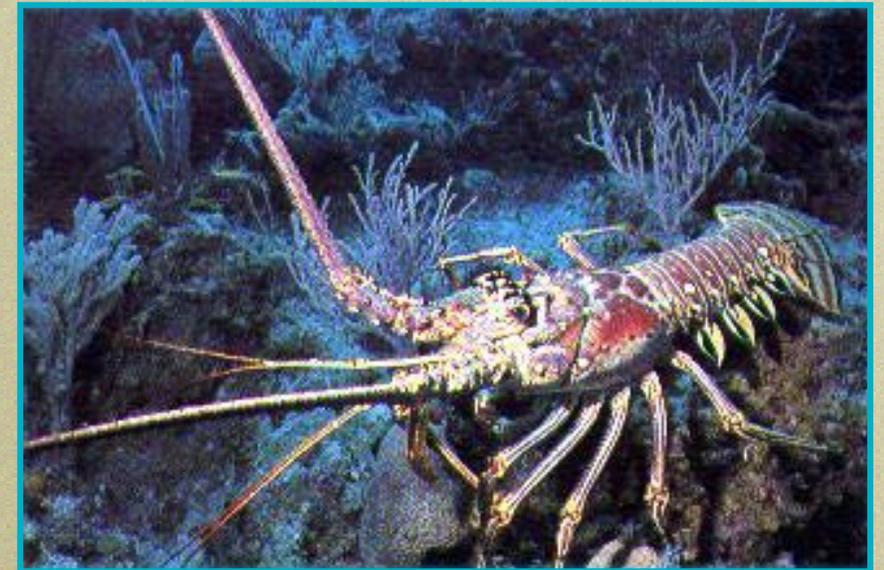
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Division of Marine Fisheries Management



Marine Fisheries Workplan Challenges

- High interest in a diversity of marine issues at state and federal levels
 - Need to prioritize among many items
 - Some items on workplan already known to be multi-year projects
 - More items on workplan than can be completed in a year
 - Items have varying levels of complexity
- Interest in new or developing items can shift focus away from previous priorities



Strategic Initiative-Related Considerations

Innovation in Marine Fisheries Management

Implement a comprehensive approach, using innovative conservation tools and strategies, focusing on marine fisheries management. Strategies may include enhancing partnerships, incentives, and streamlining regulations.

Strategic Initiative Goals

1. Effective long-term fisheries management
2. Streamlined marine fishery regulations
3. Improved internal and external communication
4. Marine fisheries habitat conservation
5. Maintaining and improving public access



Prioritization and Other Considerations

- Resource concerns – regional, statewide, and federal levels
- Stock assessment schedule effects timing
- Economic importance
- Speed at which the item moves forward varies
 - Complexity
 - Urgency of the situation
 - Level of stakeholder coordination desired
- Triage – influx of short-term needs affect ability to address long-term issues
- Items are constantly reordered and reprioritized



Checklist of Current Workplan Items (2016-2017)

HIGH

- ✓ Atlantic Gray Triggerfish
- ✓ Barracuda
- ✓ Bringing Fish Back from The Bahamas
- ✓ Dwarf Seahorses
- ✓ Gulf Gag and Black Grouper
- ✓ Red Drum Bag Limit
- ✓ Stone Crab Trap Gear Specification

! Bully Nets

- ∞ Spotted Seatrout
- ∞ Reef Ecosystem Management
- ∞ Sector Separation
- ∞ Gulf Grouper
- ∞ Snook
- ∞ Trap Fisheries Management
- ∞ Mullet
- ∞ Red Drum
- ∞ Goliath Grouper
- ∞ Orange Cup Coral
- ∞ Sharks
- ∞ MSA Reauthorization

- * Lionfish
- * Bay Scallops

- * Oysters
- * Hispanic Outreach
- * Sector Reallocation
- * Gulf and Atlantic Red Snapper
- * Wholesale/Retail Sales Requirements



MEDIUM

- ✓ Boca Grande Pass Boundary Line
- ✓ Commercial Yellowtail Snapper Gear
- ✓ Florida East Coast Shrimp Bed (Bubble)
- ✓ Hogfish
- ✓ Licensing Forms Clean-up
- ✓ Mutton Snapper
- ✓ Species Removed from Federal Management
- ✓ Speckled Hind and Warsaw Grouper

- ∞ Habitat and Water Quality
- ∞ Sheepshead
- ∞ Pinfish and Pigfish
- ∞ Cobia
- ∞ Citizen Science Opportunities
- ∞ Regional Preferences vs. Streamlined Regulation
- ∞ Managing Species as Complexes
- ∞ Regulatory Discards
- ∞ Predator Species Depredation and Nuisance Behavior
- ∞ Gulf Black Sea Bass
- ∞ Flounder
- ∞ Mangrove Snapper
- ∞ Snowy Grouper
- ∞ Atlantic Golden Tilefish
- ∞ Electronic Reporting

- * Sea Anemones
- * Shrimp
- * Blueline Tilefish
- * 68B & E Rule Cleanup
- * Fishery Strategic Plans

LOW

- ∞ Dolphin Bag/Size Limit
- ∞ Blackfin Tuna
- ∞ Tripletail
- ∞ Tournament Fishing in Southwest Florida
- ∞ Menhaden
- ∞ Slipper Lobster
- ∞ Marine Life Sales
- ∞ Marbled Grouper

✓ Completed

! Expected to be completed this year

∞ Carry-over

* Ongoing

Proposed 2017-2018 Workplan Items

HIGH

Deepwater Coral HAPCs
Gulf Gray Triggerfish
Vermilion Snapper

Agency Strategic Planning
Bay Scallops
Fisheries Management Outreach
Lionfish
Oysters
Reef Ecosystem Management
Rule Cleanup
Sharks
Shrimp
Snook
Spotted Seatrout
Trap Fisheries Management
Federal Legislation
Goliath Grouper
IFQ 5-Year Review
Gulf and Atlantic Red Snapper
Sector Reallocation
Lobster
Gulf Gag Grouper

MEDIUM

Multi-day Fishing Limits in Tortugas
SAL Updates
Western Dry Rocks
Permit

Sheepshead
Tripletail
Citizen Science Opportunities
Regulatory Discards
Predator Species and Nuisance Behavior
Cobia
Habitat and Water Quality
Gulf Black Sea Bass
Mullet
Wholesale/Retail Sales Requirements
Florida Threatened Species
Flounder
Mangrove Snapper
Grouper Closures
Electronic Reporting
Red Drum

LOW

Cownose Rays
Blackfin Tuna
Orange Cup Coral
Slipper Lobster
Horseshoe Crab
Spot and Atlantic Croaker
Marine Life Trends Analysis
Red Drum Tournament Permit
Marine Life Management
Menhaden
Blueline Tilefish

Blue = Federal Issue

Yellow box = New

Dashed orange box = Carry-over



Stock Assessments for Current and 2017-2018 Workplan

State

2017

Flounder
Gulf Black Sea Bass
Sheepshead
Spotted Seatrout
Stone Crab

2018

Black Grouper
Blue Crab
Hogfish
Silver Mullet

Federal

2017

Gulf

Gag Grouper
Greater Amberjack

Atlantic

Black Sea Bass
Blueline Tilefish
Red Grouper

HMS

Sandbar Shark

2018

Gulf

Gray Snapper
Gray Triggerfish
Red Snapper
Vermilion Snapper

Atlantic

Vermilion Snapper

HMS

Gulf Blacktip Shark
Sandbar Shark



Strategic Initiative-Related Priorities

Clearly identify long-term management goals (Effective long-term fisheries management)

- Federal legislation
- Trap fisheries management
- Shrimp fisheries management
- Oysters
- Gulf and Atlantic red snapper
- Lionfish control



Simplified regulations (Streamlined marine fishery regulations)

- Rule cleanup
 - Local laws, Special Acts of Local Application, species rules, and gear regulations

Improved information exchange (Improved internal and external communication)

- Fisheries management in-reach/outreach
- Citizen science opportunities



Staff Recommendation

Approve the proposed 2017-2018 workplan

- Staff welcomes additional direction on any workplan items
- Staff will continue to work on implementing Strategic Initiatives

Staff requests your approval and any additional direction on the 2017-2018 workplan



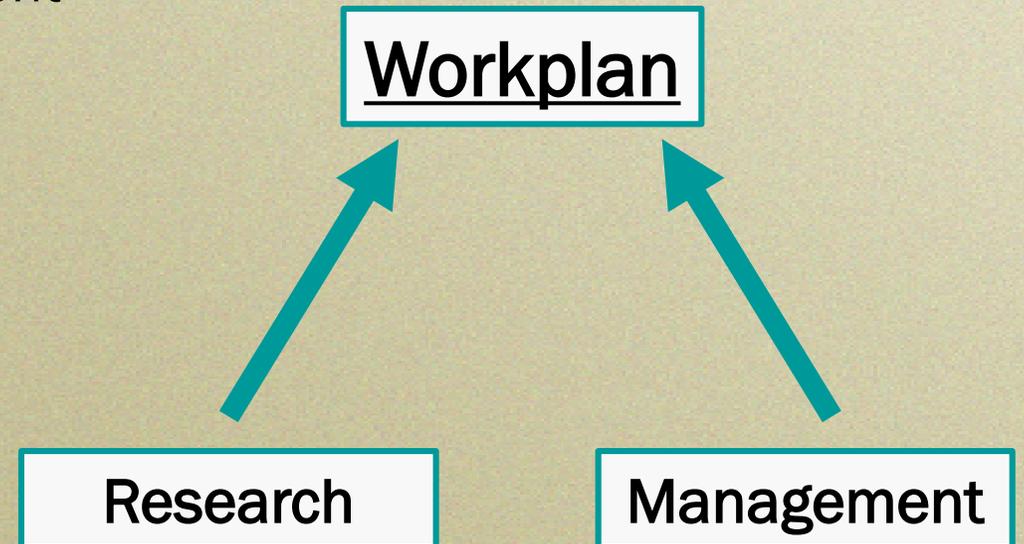
**The following slides are considered backup material
and are not anticipated to be part of the actual
presentation**



Incorporating Input into Future Management

Marine Fisheries Workplan

- Planning meeting held annually between DMFM and FWRI
- Considers
 - State and federal items
 - Research results that indicate management might be needed
 - Stock assessment schedules
 - Stakeholder concerns about issues
- Items chosen for upcoming year as well as considered for next 5 to 10 years



List of Terms

Priorities

- **High** – items that are most important to develop and complete in a timely manner
- **Medium** – items that are important but do not take precedence over high priorities
- **Low** – items that are important enough to include in the workplan but may only be done as time permits

Item Classifications

- **To Be Completed** – items that are not yet completed but are expected to be completed during the current workplan year
- **Ongoing** – multi-year projects that will continue into the next workplan cycle
- **Carry-over** – items that will be continued into the next workplan cycle
- **New** – brand new issues that will be added to next year's workplan
- **On Hold** – items that are no longer under active development



2017-2018 High Priority Items – **NEW**



Deepwater Coral Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC)

- Gulf Council considering restrictive regulations for deepwater coral HAPC areas in federal waters
- FWC staff will need to engage with stakeholders on areas that affect Florida anglers

Gray Triggerfish

- Gulf Council considering potential regulatory changes
- FWC rulemaking will be considered in 2017



2017-2018 High Priority Items – NEW

Vermilion Snapper

- Atlantic vermilion snapper stock assessment is expected in early 2018
 - South Atlantic Council may take regulatory action pending assessment results
- Gulf stakeholders have expressed interest in Gulf commercial IFQ



2017-2018 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carry-over



Agency Strategic Planning

- Staff continues to find innovative ways to address marine fisheries issues
- Commissioner Focal Area – Innovation in Marine Fisheries Management

Bay Scallops

- Local interest in changes to management, including the timing of the scallop season



2017-2018 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carry-over



Fisheries Management Outreach

- FWC continues to work on promoting fishing and educational opportunities within the community

Lionfish

- Continues to be an item of concern
- Staff is continuing to develop and implement removal programs



2017-2018 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carry-over

Oysters

- Need short-term and long-term plans for monitoring and assessment of population in Apalachicola Bay
- Consider potential needs for regulatory changes



Reef Ecosystem Management

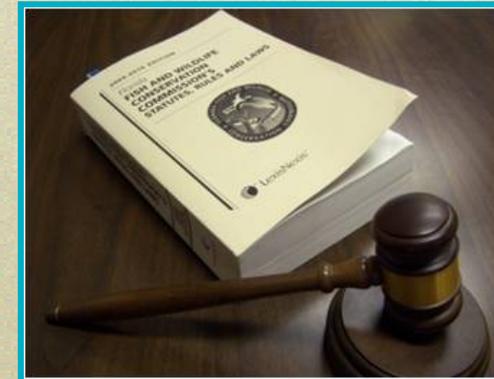
- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
- Biscayne National Park Fishery and General Management Plans
- Management of the northern portions of Florida's coral reef tract
- Conservation of ESA-listed coral species
- Boater education



2017-2018 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carry-over

Rule Cleanup

- Systematic effort to update and clarify existing marine fisheries rules to make them easier to read, understand, and enforce
- Collaborative project with FWC staff from DMFM, Law Enforcement, and the Legal Office



Sharks

- Finning
- Continued user conflicts related to shore-based fishing
- Reports of increased depredation on other species



2017-2018 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carry-over



Shrimp

- Examine how fishery is operating today
- Evaluate state regulations
- Federal permits in Gulf waters

Snook

- Small group meetings in 2017
- Evaluate management philosophies, goals, and regulations



2017-2018 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carry-over



Spotted Seatrout

- Various concerns from stakeholders around the state
- State stock assessment coming

Trap Fisheries Management

- Issues related to trap fisheries targeting lobster, stone crab, blue crab, and baitfish



2017-2018 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carry-over



Federal Legislation

- Staff will continue to monitor Congressional activities and advocate FWC's positions
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) reauthorization

Goliath Grouper

- Assessment indicates stock is likely rebuilt in Florida
- Commission will decide whether to consider allowing limited harvest



2017-2018 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carry-over



IFQ 5-Year Review

- Gulf Grouper IFQ put in place in 2010
- Gulf Council will propose potential changes suggested by industry, Council Advisory Panels, and the Council's Socioeconomic Science and Statistical Committee
- State rulemaking may be warranted

Gulf and Atlantic Red Snapper

- Gulf stock assessment due in 2018
- Gulf Council is considering management options
- Commission rulemaking may be considered
- South Atlantic Council working on a long-term management plan to rebuild the overfished stock



2017-2018 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carry-over



Sector Reallocation

- The Gulf Council will be discussing reallocations of several species, such as mackerels and groupers
- Staff may seek direction from the Commission on specific reallocation options

Spiny Lobster

- Joint amendment between Gulf Council and South Atlantic Council to increase ACL



2017-2018 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carry-over

Gulf Gag Grouper

- Possible changes to commercial minimum size limit
- Big Bend recreational season



2017-2018 Medium Priority – NEW

Multi-day Limits in Tortugas

- Anglers requesting they be allowed to possess two days worth of mutton snapper when returning home from multi-day trips in the Dry Tortugas
- Potential enforcement issues



**Scientific Research*
Special Activity License Application**
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Marine Fisheries Management
620 S. Meridian St., Mail Station 485, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600
Ph: 850-487-0554 • Fax: 850-487-4847

*Applicant for a Special Activity License (SAL) involving prohibited species may also use this application form, but an application for prohibited species must be separate from an application for non-prohibited species.
Complete all information that is applicable to your license request. If additional space is required other than what is provided on the form, you may provide additional attachments as long as they are clearly marked and identifiable. Documents submitted separately from an application form must be marked (or files named) with the applicant's name and affiliation. Applications will not be evaluated until all requested information, fees, and reporting documentation required by previously held licenses has been submitted.

A. GENERAL APPLICANT INFORMATION (Please Print or Type)

Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
Affiliation: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____
Country: _____ Phone Number: _____
Fax: _____ Alt. Phone Number: _____
Email Address: _____

This application is for a(n): New License Renewal Amendment To Existing License
Previous Special Activity License Number: _____
Time period requested (may not exceed 18 months for general scientific research activities or 12 months for scientific research activities involving prohibited species): _____

**To provide more timely exchange of information please check this box:
 I authorize the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to send me future correspondence regarding this application, including requests for additional information and final agency permitting actions by either e-mail or express delivery. Future agency actions will be provided henceforth by either e-mail or express delivery.

Have you ever been convicted or found guilty, of any criminal or non-criminal violation, regardless of adjudication, or fine entered, of any fisheries or wildlife violation (including a violation of Chapters 370, 372, 378, F.S.; Sections 397.004, F.S.; Title 21, 31.004, F.A.C. rules of the Commission (Title 68, F.A.C.), 50 CFR Parts 621, 635, 640, 648, 654, 660, or 679; similar laws or rules in another jurisdiction)? YES NO
If yes, please explain and list the type(s) of violation(s) cited and the county/state where the violation occurred: _____

Have you ever had a fisheries or wildlife related permit suspended or revoked? YES NO
If yes, please explain: _____

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____
Certification: I hereby swear and affirm by signature that the information submitted in this application and supporting documents is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any false statement herein may subject me to criminal penalties. I further state that I will abide by all applicable State, Federal, and local laws. Any false statements or misrepresentations when applying for this license may result in felony charges and will result in revocation of this license. By signing this document, I also agree to comply with the reporting and notification requirements outlined in sections "C" and "D" of this application form.

Rule 68B-8.006, F.A.C. Page 1 of 9 Form DMP-SRSAL (9/09)

Special Activity License Updates

- Update SAL regulations
- Potentially add new SALs
- Amending other provisions of existing SALs



2017-2018 Medium Priority – **NEW**



Western Dry Rocks

- Commission directed staff to return with consideration of a closure at Western Dry Rocks

Permit

- Concern that spawning season harvest closure is not long enough
- Commission may want to consider extending the season closure



2017-2018 Medium Priority – Ongoing/Carry-over



Sheepshead

- Concern that current bag limit is too high
- Regulations could be extended into federal waters

Tripletail

- Seasonally abundant inshore and nearshore
- Recent increase in commercial harvest
- GA requesting FL regulations be consistent with theirs



2017-2018 Medium Priority – Ongoing/Carry-over



Citizen Science Opportunities

- Desire by recreational community to become involved
- Exploring ways to incorporate angler-reported data into assessments

Regulatory Discards

- Stakeholder concern about mortality rates



2017-2018 Medium Priority – Ongoing/Carry-over

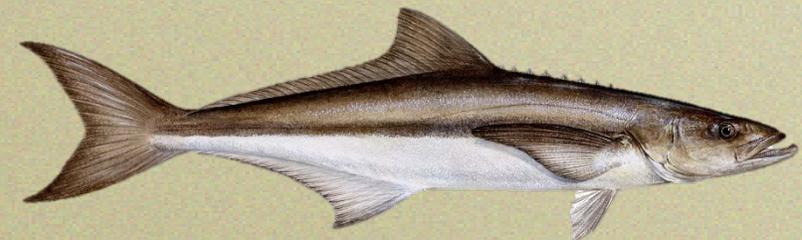


Predator Species and Nuisance Behavior

- Concern that certain species are interfering with fishing activity

Cobia

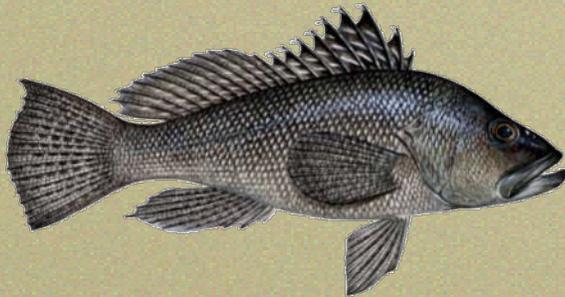
- Stakeholders continue to express concerns about the status of the cobia fishery, especially in the Panhandle



2017-2018 Medium Priority – Ongoing/Carry-over

Habitat and Water Quality

- Impacts of habitat loss and water quality on fisheries has become an issue of considerable concern for stakeholders

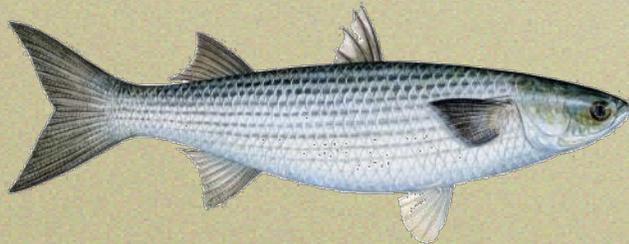


Gulf Black Sea Bass

- Bycatch issues related to stone crab and sea bass trap fisheries



2017-2018 Medium Priority – Ongoing/Carry-over



Mullet

- Discard issues associated with the roe fishery
- Request for regional regulatory changes

Wholesale/Retail Sales Requirements

- Dockside and roadside sales
- Recreational bag limit sales

1939723	FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION P.O. BOX 6150 • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32314-6150 • PHONE (850) 487-3122	
AUDIT NO.	LICENSE TO RETAIL SALTWATER PRODUCTS PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 379, F.S.	
THIS LICENSE IS VALID FROM JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2016		
SIGNATURE OF LICENSEE (NOT VALID UNTIL SIGNED)	CENTRAL DEALER NO.: STORE NO.:	RC-14870 123
SAMPLE COMPANY NAME 1234 TEST TAMPA, FL 33614	ISSUE DATE: FEE PAID: RESIDENT	10-16-15 \$ 75.00
PHYSICAL LOCATION: 5454 ABC LANE BRANDON, FL 33511		
<small>This license is not transferable, non-refundable, and is revocable for cause at any time. It is required to be available for inspection at all times when engaged in the activities for which it was issued. It may not be reproduced. The location as listed on this license and all required records for which this license is issued must be available for inspection.</small>		



2017-2018 Medium Priority – Ongoing/Carry-over

Florida Threatened Species

- Coordinated with HSC to develop management plans
- Remain engaged in implementation of drafted plans

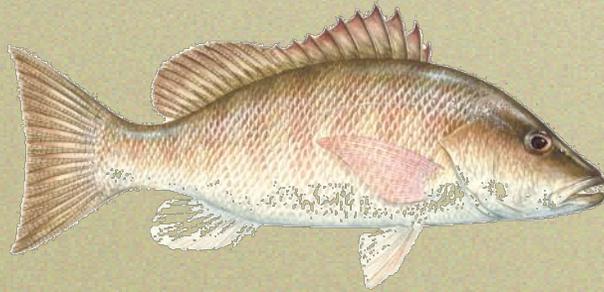


Flounder

- Concerns about status of flounder in the Panhandle and northeast Florida
- Regulations could be extended into federal waters



2017-2018 Medium Priority – Ongoing/Carry-over



Gray (Mangrove) Snapper

- Stakeholder concerns about state and federal size and bag limit discrepancies

Grouper Closures

- The South Atlantic Council is considering changes to the timing of grouper closures



2017-2018 Medium Priority – Ongoing/Carry-over



Electronic Reporting

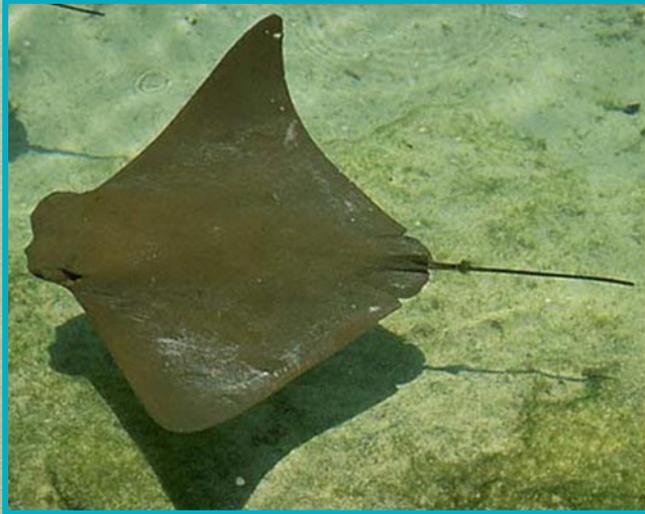
- Federal wholesale dealers required to report electronically
- Commission rulemaking may be considered

Red Drum

- Gulf Council may consider allowing recreational harvest in some federal waters



2017-2018 Low Priority – Ongoing/Carry-over



Cownose Rays

- Increasing harvest pressure due to bowfishing
- Excessive harvest in some areas may not be sustainable

Blackfin Tuna

- Not regulated in state or federal waters
- Stakeholder concerns that some fishermen are taking advantage of the lack of regulations and harvesting large quantities of fish



2017-2018 Low Priority – Ongoing/Carry-over



Orange Cup Coral

- Non-native and invasive species of stony coral
- Prohibited from harvest in state waters

Slipper Lobster

- Concern over population decline, particularly in the Panhandle



2017-2018 Low Priority – Ongoing/Carry-over

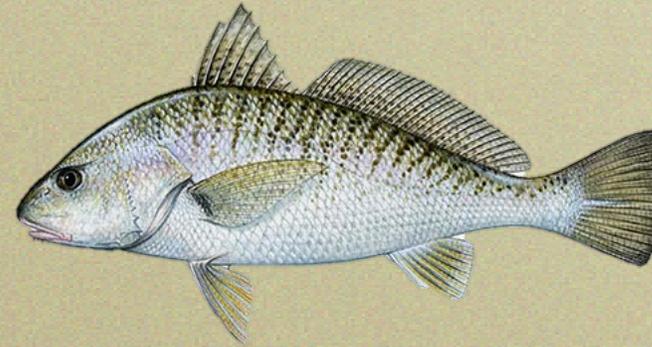


Horseshoe Crab

- Biomedical permit concerns
- Already small populations

Spot and Atlantic Croaker

- Assessment update
- Potential need for rule changes



2017-2018 Low Priority – Ongoing/Carryover



Marine Life Trends Analysis

- Completed trends analysis that DMFM will review

Red Drum Tournament Permit

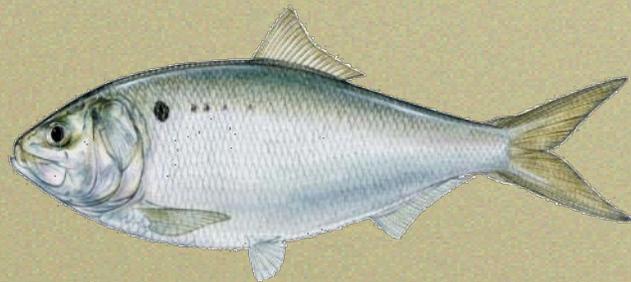
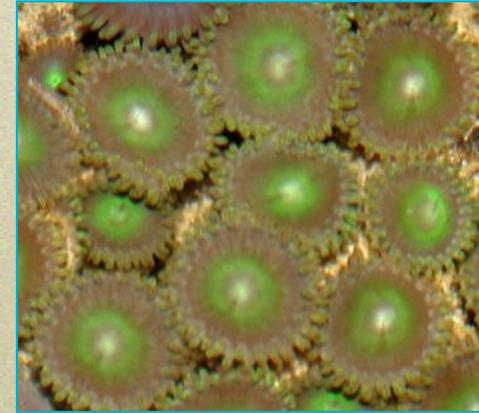
- Stakeholder concern for fishery resources and habitat based on amount of tournaments held in southwest Florida



2017-2018 Low Priority – Ongoing/Carry-over

Marine Life Management

- Aquarium enthusiasts are selling/exchanging marine life species
- Marine life under-reporting



Menhaden

- Develop electronic reporting for fishery
- Need mechanism in place to close fishery when quota is reached



2017-2018 Low Priority – Ongoing/Carry-over

Blueline Tilefish

- Deepwater species that is overfished and undergoing overfishing
- New stock assessment results expected in 2018
- South Atlantic Council recently approved management changes and is considering additional changes
- Not regulated in Atlantic state waters

