



Golden Tilefish

Specs Review



Council Meeting

6 April 2022

Today

- Objective: Review most recent information to determine whether modifications to the current 2023 specifications are warranted
- We will discuss:
 - Stock status, 2021 MTA
 - Regulatory Review
 - Recent Fishery Performance
 - Fishery Information Document
 - Fishery Performance Report
 - Staff Memo to Dr. Chris Moore
 - SSC and MC Recommendations

Stock Status; 2021 MTA

- Golden tilefish management track assessment (Nitschke 2021)
- Stock not overfish and overfishing was not occurring in 2020

Stock Status; 2021 MTA

- Fishing mortality in 2020 was estimated at $F=0.160$; 39% below the fishing mortality threshold of $F=0.261$ (F_{MSY} proxy = $F_{40\%}$)
- SSB in 2020 was estimated at 23.28 million pounds (10,562 mt), and was at 96% of the biomass target (SSB_{MSY} proxy = $SSB_{40\%}$)

2021 MTA

- CPUE continues to increase
- Broad distribution of fish landed

2022 Update

- Not getting a data update
 - Timing and logistics constraints
 - Preliminary landings data are available in CAMS (Catch Accounting and Monitoring System project), but are still being vetted
 - CAMS = one shared catch accounting and monitoring system for quota monitoring and assessment needs

Specifications Process Timeline

- 3-year Specifications Cycle (2022, 2023, 2024)
- Tilefish FW6
 - Multi-year specifications
 - Fishing year timing
 - 2022-2024 GTF fishery specifications
 - Proposed rule – April
- This year the SSC, MC, Council
 - Review 2023 fishery specifications

Specifications Process Timeline

- 2021 MTA was used to develop 2022-2024 specifications
- 2024 RTA will be used to develop specifications for the next cycle

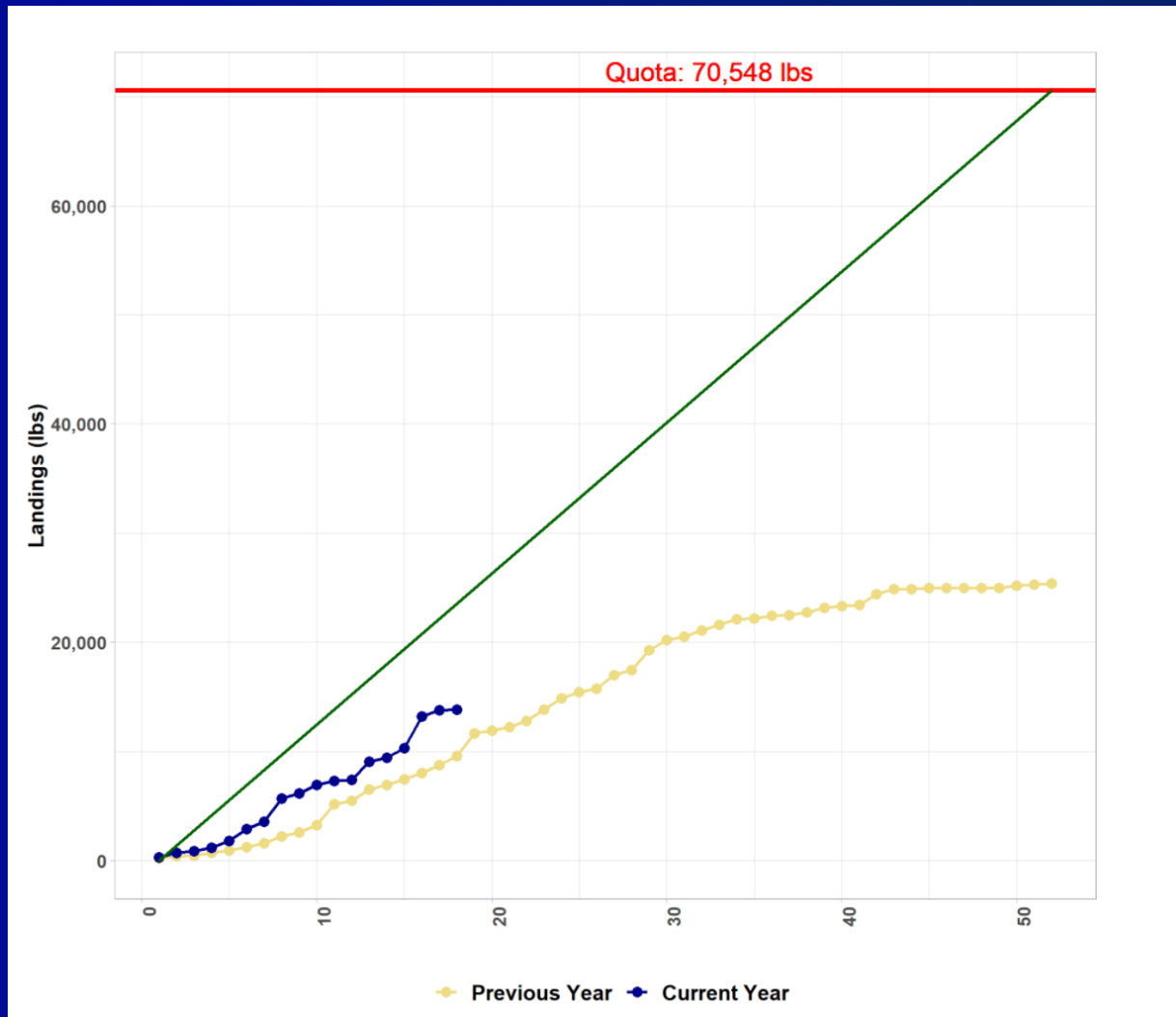
Table 1 (Abbreviated). Summary of management measures and landings for FY 2011 through 2024.

Management Measures	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
ABC (m lb)	-	-	2.013	2.013	1.766	1.898	1.898	1.636	1.636	1.636	1.636	1.964	1.964	1.964
TAL (m lb)	1.995	1.995	1.995	1.995	1.755	1.887	1.887	1.626	1.626	1.626	1.625	1.839	1.839	1.839
Com. quota- (m lb)	1.995	1.995	1.995	1.995	1.755	1.887	1.887	1.626	1.626	1.626	1.625/ 1.672*	1.839	1.839	1.839
Com. landings	1.924	1.873	1.840	1.826	1.351	1.051	1.501	1.624	1.563	1.403	1.546	-	-	-
Com. Overage / underage (m lb)	-0.071	-0.122	-0.155	-0.169	-0.404	-0.836	-0.387	-0.003	-0.064	-0.223	-0.125	-	-	-
Incidental trip limit (lb)	300	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Rec. possession limit	8 ^b	8 ^b	8 ^b	8 ^b	8 ^b	8 ^b	8 ^b	8 ^b	8 ^b	8 ^b	8 ^b	8 ^b	8 ^b	8 ^b

Landings, ex-vessel value, and price

- 2021 landings (landed weight) – 1.44 million pounds (13% increase from 2020)
 - 1.28 million pounds in 2020
- 2021 ex-vessel revenue – \$6.22 million (29% increase from 2020)
 - \$4.81 million in 2020
- 2021 average price per pound – \$4.31 (15% increase from 2020)
 - \$3.75/lb in 2020

Incidental Landings



Incidental Landings

Fishing year	Landings (pounds)	Incidental quota (pounds)	Percent of quota landed (%)
2013	36,442	99,750	37
2014	44,594	99,750	45
2015	18,839	87,744	21
2016	20,929	94,357	22
2017	60,409	94,357	64
2018	61,254	72,752	84
2019	22,246	72,752	31
2020	25,864	72,752	36
2021	25,356	70,548	36

Table 12. Incidental commercial landings for 2013-2021 fishing years.

Catch Disposition / Discard Trends

- No commercial discards of golden tilefish in directed tilefish trips
- None to very little discarding reported in longline vessels targeting GTF (VTR)
- Commercial discards not included in the assessment

Catch Disposition / Discard Trends

- According to the “Discard Estimation, Precision, and Sample Size Analysis” conducted by the NEFSC, discard estimations for commercial fisheries are low (mostly large/small mesh trawls and gillnets)
 - 2012-2016 – avg. 9,393 pounds (~4 mt)
 - 2014-2018 – avg. 11,627 pounds (~5 mt)
 - 2015-2019 – avg. 11,524 pounds (~5 mt)
 - 2016-2020 – avg. 17,405 pounds (~8 mt)

Dealers

- In 2021 - 47 dealers - \$6.22 million – 110 vessels
- In 2020 - 54 dealers - \$4.81 million – 105 vessels
- Dealers are mostly located in NY, RI, NJ, MA, and CT (Table 9)

Recreational Fishery

- NMFS recreational statistics (Table 13)
- Recreational landings for the 1982 - 2021 period, ranged from zero for most years to approximately 200k fish in 2010
- In 2021, ~ 10,000 tilefish landed (preliminary - NMFS recreational statistics database)

Recreational Fishery

Year	Landed no. A and B1				Released no. B2			
	Party/charter		Private/rental		Party/charter		Private/rental	
1982	0		2,225	(102.0)	0		0	
1983-93	0		0		0		0	
1994	555	(101.6)	0		0		0	
1995	0		0		0		0	
1996	1,765	(80.5)	0		0		0	
1997	0		0		0		0	
1998	0		0		0		0	
1999	0		0		0		0	
2000	0		0		0		0	
2001	98	(101.4)	0		0		0	
2002	0		122,443	(85.7)	0		8,163	(85.7)
2003	967	(75.2)	0		0		0	
2004	55	(102.2)	0		0		0	
2005	0		0		0		0	
2006	471	(103.7)	0		0		0	
2007	1,837	(71.4)	0		0		0	
2008	0		0		0		0	
2009	168	(89.8)	0		0		0	
2010	4,754	(81.9)	213,382	(98.4)	0		0	
2011	0		0		0		0	
2012	0		0		0		0	
2013	1,145	(0)	0		0		0	
2014	0		0		0		0	
2015	0		0		0		0	
2016	0		26,691	(70.4)	0		0	
2017	0		59,413	(59.4)	0		0	
2018	7,925	(80.3)	893	(102.9)	4	(106.8)	0	
2019	0		10,364	(64.2)	0		0	
2020	1,933	(30.3)	9,336	(94.7)	41	(100.3)	0	
2021	233	(103.0)	9,778	(55.5)	0		0	

Table 13.
Recreational
tilefish data from
the NMFS
recreational
statistics
databases, 1982-
2021.

Recreational Fishery

Year	Party/Charter		Private	
	Number of golden tilefish kept	Mean effort	Number of golden tilefish kept	Mean effort
1996	81	1.4	---	---
1997	400	7.5	---	---
1998	243	8.1	---	---
1999	91	0.4	---	---
2000	147	0.5	---	---
2001	172	0.7	---	---
2002	774	0.9	---	---
2003	991	1.6	---	---
2004	737	1.2	---	---
2005	498	0.9	---	---
2006	477	1.2	---	---
2007	1,077	1.2	---	---
2008	1,100	1.3	---	---
2009	1,451	1.3	---	---
2010	1,866	2.0	---	---
2011	2,938	3.4	---	---
2012	6,424	2.8	---	---
2013	6,560	3.2	---	---
2014	6,958	3.1	---	---
2015	8,297	4.2	---	---
2016	5,919	4.1	---	---
2017	7,014	4.6	---	---
2018	7,110	3.9	---	---
2019	5,424	3.1	---	---
2020 ^a	3,466	3.2	50	5.0
2021	6,799	3.2	199	2.7
All	77,048	2.9	50	5.0

Table 14.
Number of tilefish kept by rec. anglers and mean effort from Maine through Virginia, 1996 through 2021, VTR data.

Private Recreational Permitting/Reporting

- For 2020 (August 2020 went live)
 - ~340 permits
 - 50 fish landed; 5 discarded
 - 5 recreational trips
 - 5 vessels reporting
- For 2021
 - ~814 permits (As of October 2021)
 - 199 fish landed; 5 discarded
 - 24 recreational trips
 - 16 vessels reported

FPR – Market Factors

- Prices and landings are improving
- Still experiencing COVID-19 effects
 - Not working at full capacity
 - Making less trips per year due to mkt constraints
 - Operating expenses continue to increase

FPR – Environmental Conditions / Management Issues

- Windy conditions impact fishing
 - Timing of trips
 - Duration of trips
- Recommend MRIP data not be used as a tool for management or stock assessment purposes
- Trip limit analysis be conducted
 - BLT and GTF (incidental)

FRP – General Fishing Trends

- General Fishing Trends
 - CPUE increased in 2021
 - A good mix of fish in 2021
 - A larger amount of small/kittens (2 to 3.5 pounds)
 - Multiple year classes being recruited into the fishery
 - Biomass is increasing

Landings by MKT Category

Market category (Approximate market size range in pounds)	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Pounds	% of total	Pounds	% of total	Pounds	% of total	Pounds	% of total	Pounds	% of total
Extra-large (> 25)	52,400	4%	40,278	3%	32,808	2%	19,307	2%	13,825	1%
Large (7-24)	307,696	22%	219,103	15%	281,749	20%	386,285	30%	365,644	25%
Large/medium (5-7)	86,240	6%	141,623	10%	262,095	19%	271,247	21%	168,614	12%
Medium (3.5-5)	266,837	19%	468,097	32%	590,681	42%	408,220	32%	439,176	30%
Small/kittens (2-3.5)	605,492	43%	575,511	39%	223,055	16%	154,984	12%	416,813	29%
Extra small (< 2)	70,286	5%	14,958	1%	9,954	1%	23,360	2%	8,365	1%
Unclassified	18,563	1%	14,482	1%	11,700	1%	19,130	1%	32,451	2%
Total	1,407,514	100%	1,474,052	100%	1,412,042	100%	1,282,533	100%	1,444,888	100%

FRP – Other Issues

- Continue outreach/work for the recreational permit/reporting requirements
 - HMS
 - Enforcement at the state level
- Consider changes in the recreational fishery
- Not to change current regulations or consider recreational allocations

FRP – Research Priorities

- Concern over the lack of biological sampling at the dock
- Maintain current biological sampling or increase
- Stock assessment needs

Staff Recommendations

- Memo to Dr. Chris Moore
- Base on the review of recent fishery trends and other available information
- No change to the 2023 fishing year specifications

SSC Recommendation

- March 2022 – SSC reviewed available information
- Did not make changes to their previously recommended ABC for 2023
 - Stock not overfished or experiencing overfishing
 - Overall increase in CPUE (reported by harvesters)
 - Size distribution of the catch is well represented, including small fish
 - Overall fishery improvements consistent with changes predicted by stock assessment

MC Recommendation

- March 2022 – MC reviewed available information
- MC did not make changes to their previously recommended catch and landings limits and other management measures for 2023
 - Bag Limit – 8-fish per angler per trips (with no minimum size)
 - 500 pounds or 50 percent, by weight, of all fish (including the golden tilefish) onboard the vessel, whichever is less

MC Recommendation

- Close monitoring of the targeting of golden tilefish during directed blue-line tilefish trips, as recently reported by some Advisory Panel members, was needed
- Shared the concerns raised by the SSC and Tilefish AP regarding the need to maintain/increase port sampling

	2022	2023	2024	Basis
OFL	2,228,873 (1,011 mt)	2,226,669 (1,010 mt)	2,151,712 (976 mt)	Projections
ABC	1,964,319 (891 mt)	1,964,319 (891 mt)	1,964,319 (891 mt)	Staff recommendation based on overfishing probability averaging
ACL	1,964,319 (891 mt)	1,964,319 (891 mt)	1,964,319 (891 mt)	ABC = ACL
IFQ fishery ACT	1,763,478 (800 mt)	1,763,478 (800 mt)	1,763,478 (800 mt)	Deduction from management uncertainty = 0. IFQ ACT = 95% of the ACL and incidental ACT = 5% of the ACL. However, the MC is recommending an ACT that is below the ABC/ACL derived from the SSC recommendation and it is based on the more stable long-term productivity of the stock to acknowledge the positive development in the stock status but also to mitigate the potential risk to the stability and success in managing this relative data poor fishery
Incidental fishery ACT	92,815 (42 mt)	92,815 (42 mt)	92,815 (42 mt)	
Projected IFQ fishery discards	0	0	0	Data indicates no discards in the IFQ fishery (directed fishery). IFQ fishery discards are prohibited in the FMP
Projected incidental fishery discards	17,405 (8 mt)	17,405 (8 mt)	17,405 (8 mt)	Average discards (2016-2020) mostly sm/lg mesh OT and Gillnet gear
IFQ fishery TAL = IFQ fishery quota	1,763,478 (799.900 mt)	1,763,478 (799.900 mt)	1,763,478 (799.900 mt)	IFQ fishery TAL = IFQ fishery ACT – IFQ fishery discards. No additional reductions applied between IFQ TAL amounts and final IFQ fishery quota amounts
Incidental fishery TAL = incidental fishery quota	75,410 (34.205 mt)	75,410 (34.205 mt)	75,410 (34.205 mt)	IFQ fishery TAL = IFQ fishery ACT – IFQ fishery discards. No additional reductions applied between IFQ TAL amounts and final IFQ fishery quota amounts

Questions?

