

Table 1.1.2 Recreational landings (pounds whole weight) of Gulf greater amberjack, ACTs, and ACLs since 2008.

Year	Landings	ACT	Adjusted ACT	% ACT	ACL	Adjusted ACL	% ACL	Closure Date
2008	1,318,662	-	-	NA	1,368,000	-	96.4	-
2009	1,480,315	-	-	NA	1,368,000	-	108.2	10/24/2009
2010	1,225,225	-	-	NA	1,368,000	1,243,184	105.9	-
2011	949,999	-	-	NA	1,368,000	1,315,224	78.5	-
2012	1,238,718	1,130,000	-	NA	1,299,000	-	96.7	-
2013	1,620,761	1,130,000	-	NA	1,299,000	-	118.1	-
2014	1,090,048	1,130,000	895,438	102.0	1,299,000	1,063,538	85.8	8/25/2014
2015	1,407,551	1,130,000	-	119.7	1,299,000	-	104.2	9/28/2015
2016	2,037,378	1,092,372	933,731	218.1	1,255,600	1,101,959	184.8	6/1/2016
2017	794,202	1,092,372	385,413	206.1	1,255,600	548,641	144.8	3/24/17
2017/2018*	622,011	716,173	-	86.9	862,860	-	72.1	None
2018/2019**	929,497	902,185	-	103.0	1,086,970	-	85.5	5/1/2019

* Landings from January 1 – January 27, 2018 and May 2018 (closed January 28 – April 30 and June 1 – July 31)

**2018/2019 landings are preliminary; Data presented for 201/2019 are complete through May 30, 2019.

Source: See Appendix A.2 Data sources

The fishing year for most reef fish species is January 1 – December 31 (GMFMC 1981). As a result, many species are open to harvest on January 1 each year, but the season may be closed prior to year's end if a species is subject to in-season monitoring and reaches its ACL or ACT (GMFMC 2011). The result may be fewer reef fish species open to harvest later in the calendar year. This could be attributed to socioeconomic preferences, prevailing weather patterns, market conditions, or migratory patterns of some species and thus, may not allow maximum benefits to be realized from the reef fish resource. At the August 2017 meeting, the Council began working on an action to open recreational fishing for greater amberjack later in the calendar year to improve fishermen's access to greater amberjack and provide an opportunity to harvest a prized reef fish species during a period of the year when some other desirable species are prohibited from harvest (e.g., red snapper).

Effective in 2018 (GMFMC 2017b), the recreational fishing year was modified from the calendar year to August 1 – July 31. Additionally, fixed closed seasons were established within the new fishing year from November 1 – April 30, and June 1 – July 31. This resulted in a fishing season that is potentially open August 1 through October 31, and May 1 – May 31, provided the ACT is not met before the end of the fishing season.