Overview of Stock Status
Black Sea Bass, Centropristis striata

Update September 2015

Management Considerations:
Condition: Although the resource was declared rebuilt in 2009, black sea bass’ unique life history characteristics (e.g., the species changes sex from female to male) contributes to some level of uncertainty about the size of the stock, as well as the species’ response to exploitation. 2012 assessment indicates resource is not overfished nor experiencing overfishing, with biomass estimated at 102% of the biomass target. Next benchmark assessment scheduled for 2016.

FMP Biological Reference Points:
SSB Target = 24 million pounds
SSB Threshold = 12 million pounds
Fishing Mortality Threshold = 0.44

FMP Status:

Primary Management Measures:
Annual total allowable landings (TAL) divided into a state-by-state commercial quota (49% of TAL) and recreational harvest limit (51% of TAL). Coastwide commercial management measures include minimum fish and mesh sizes, as well as pot/trap specifications. The Commission and the MAFMC determine coastwide recreational bag/size limits each year, but in 2011 they set state-by-state regulations for the first time.

Timeline of Management Actions: FMP (1996); Amendment 10 (1997); Amendment 11 (1998); Amendment 12 (1999); Amendment 13 (2003); Addenda II & III (2004); Addendum XVI (2005); Addendum XIX (2007); Addendum XX (2009); Addendum XXI (2011); Addendum XXIII (2013); Addendum XXV (2014)