

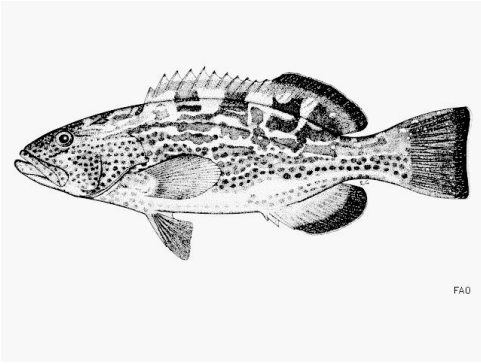
Fishery Profile
https://www.fishsource.org/fishery_page/1545

This profile last updated on 4 December 2015

Black grouper Southern Gulf of Mexico

 Fishery:  Southern Gulf of Mexico  Mexico Gulf of Mexico  Mexico  Mechanized lines

IDENTIFICATION


SCIENTIFIC NAME
Mycteroperca bonaci
SPECIES NAME(S)

Black grouper

COMMON NAMES

mero negro, Negrillo

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

Distributed from Massachusetts (USA) to Brazil, including the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico, the stock structure of this species is not clear. Spawning areas are known in the Caribbean but not yet in the Campeche Bank ([Eklund et al. 2000](#)).

The artisanal fleet uses mechanized lines and handlines, while the industrial fleet uses bottom longlines. This profile refers to the Southern Gulf of Mexico Assessment Unit.


RELATED LINKS:

- [Mexico National Commission of Aquaculture and Fisheries \(CONAPESCA\)](#)
- [Mexico National Commission of Aquaculture and Fisheries \(CONAPESCA\)](#) , [Mexico National Fisheries Institute \(INAPESCA\)](#)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths

- There is lack of information on possible effects of the fishery on PET species but the impacts are considered low.
- Discards are considered negligible in the artisanal fishery
- The main gears used in this fishery are unlikely to cause significant damages in the seafloor
- Implementation of the management plan started in 2015 which will increase the minimum landing size, close areas, and reduce fishing effort and mortality.
- Closed area size has increased and data collection improved due to the FIP.
- This stock and associated species are expected to recovery by 2022.

Weaknesses

- Historical biomass and catch data tend to feature both red and black grouper aggregated together, stymying historical trends analysis for both species individually.
- There are no quotas for species within this fishery.
- Overfishing may be occurring but poor data collection practices obscure full knowledge.
- Proposed management measures are not known to be in place yet.
- Environmental impacts are not quantified.

Options

- Implement annual quotas / catch limits.
- Based on a precautionary approach, the fishing effort should be reduced.
- Define fisheries reference points.
- Improve compliance.
- Improve data gathering operations.

SCORES

Management Quality:

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
≥ 6	≥ 6	< 6

Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
DATA DEFICIENT	DATA DEFICIENT

FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

No related MSC fisheries

RECOMMENDATIONS

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN

- Develop a system to report catch by species.
- Work with scientists to develop a formal stock assessment for black grouper.
- Ask INAPESCA to update the National Fisheries Chart (Carta Nacional Pesquera) with specific advice for sustainable management of black grouper including reference points, catch limits, a harvest control rule, and effort limitation.
- Work with managers implement the regulations specified in the 2014 multi-species grouper fishery management plan and in accordance with advice from INAPESCA.
- Ask managers to implement an observer program with adequate coverage to collect informative data on bycatch and fishery interactions with endangered, threatened and protected species.
- Press the government to enhance enforcement and control measures to ensure compliance with fishery regulations, particularly those related to seasonal and spatial closures, minimum legal sizes, and fishing effort.