



GULF OF MEXICO IFQ PRICING REPORT

JULY 2024

**Sea Grant**
FLORIDA

UF|IFAS
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

GULF OF MEXICO
JULY 2024
IFQ PRICING REPORT

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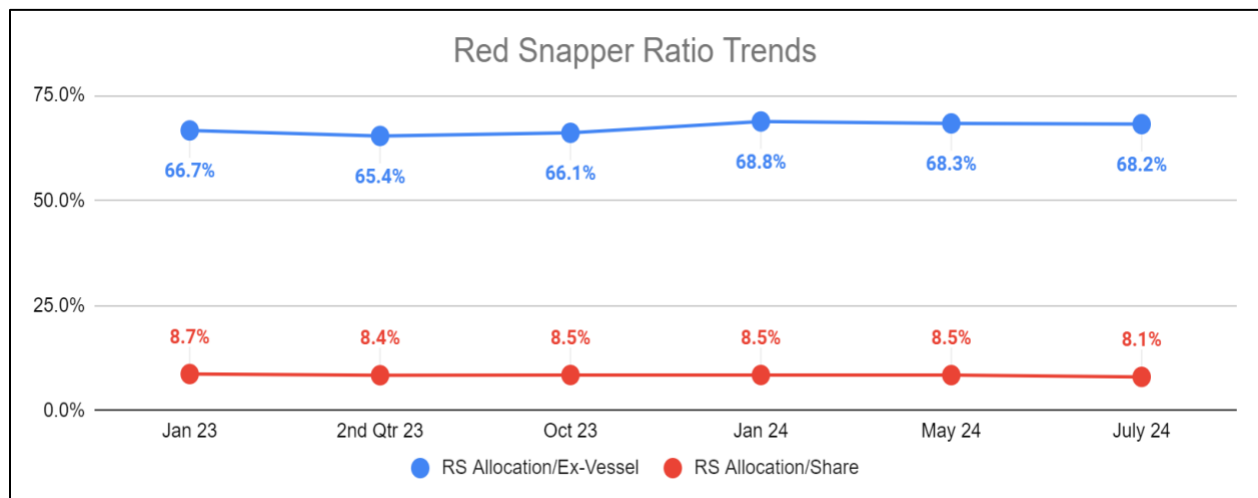
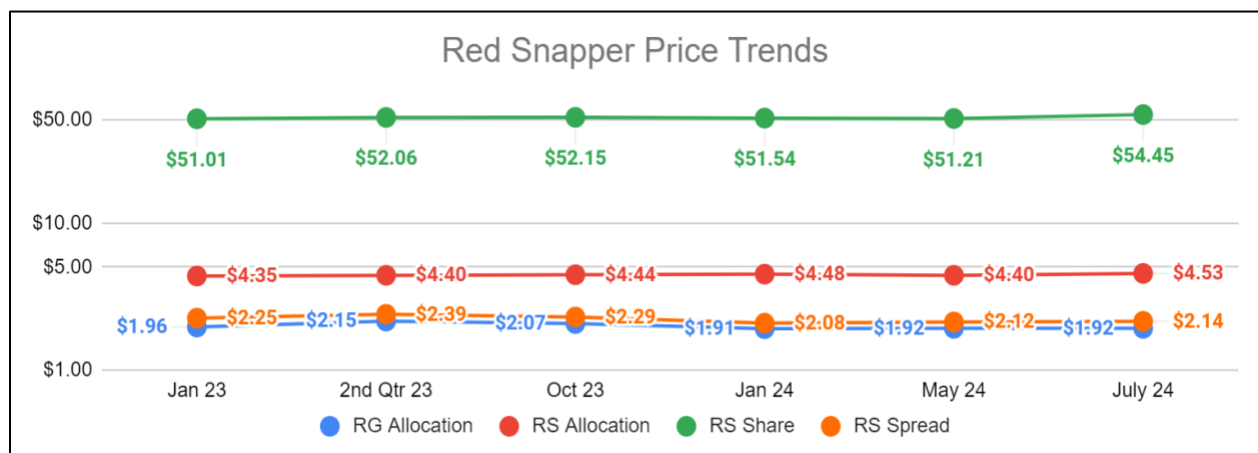
REPORT NOTES

- The objective of this report is to provide Gulf of Mexico IFQ fishermen and dealers with timely data on red snapper and grouper-tilefish ex-vessel (fish), allocation (lease), and quota share prices. The prices reported are based on a survey of IFQ participants. The survey was sent to 233 IFQ participants, and 18 of them provided pricing information for the survey (8% response rate). The survey was released on July 26, 2024, and responses were collected until August 27, 2024.
- This version of the survey measured prices in July 2024.
- Quota share prices provided are estimates of the price **with the current year's allocation included**. For survey responses for share purchased or sold without the current year's allocation included we add the respondent's estimate of the allocation price to their share price. This change allowed for an apples-to-apples comparison of share prices across responses.
- Average prices, price ranges, and number of observations are shown with outliers removed. Responses were deemed outliers if they were more than two standard deviations from the average. Charts showing all responses, including outliers, are at the back of the document. **I encourage those using this document to examine the averages and trends presented in each section and the column charts showing all responses at the end of the document.**
- **For each respondent that provided both an ex-vessel price and an allocation price, we calculated the allocation price as a percentage of the ex-vessel price (allocation/ex-vessel ratio). Allocation/ex-vessel indicates how much of a fisher's revenue goes toward paying for allocation. For each respondent that provided both an allocation and share price, we calculated the allocation price as a percentage of the share price (allocation/share ratio).**
- **Thank you to all IFQ participants who took the survey and made this report possible.** If you are interested in providing input for future surveys, please fill out the sign up form on the Florida Sea Grant webpage – [CLICK HERE](#).
- **If you would like to provide feedback on the report, how it could be made more useful, and any additional information you would like to see included please feel free to do so by [CLICKING HERE](#) or contact me directly at aropicki@ufl.edu or 352-294-7667. Thanks!**

Red Snapper (RS)

The table below shows the averages, ranges, and number of responses (**all with outliers removed**) for ex-vessel, allocation, share, spread, allocation/ex-vessel ratio, and allocation/share ratio. The charts show the average values of these measures across all of the IFQ pricing reports (**also with outliers removed**). The charts show the continuing stability of the red snapper market as prices ex-vessel and allocation prices moved only slightly. While the average quota share price increased roughly 6% it could be due to a decreased response rate relative to previous months.

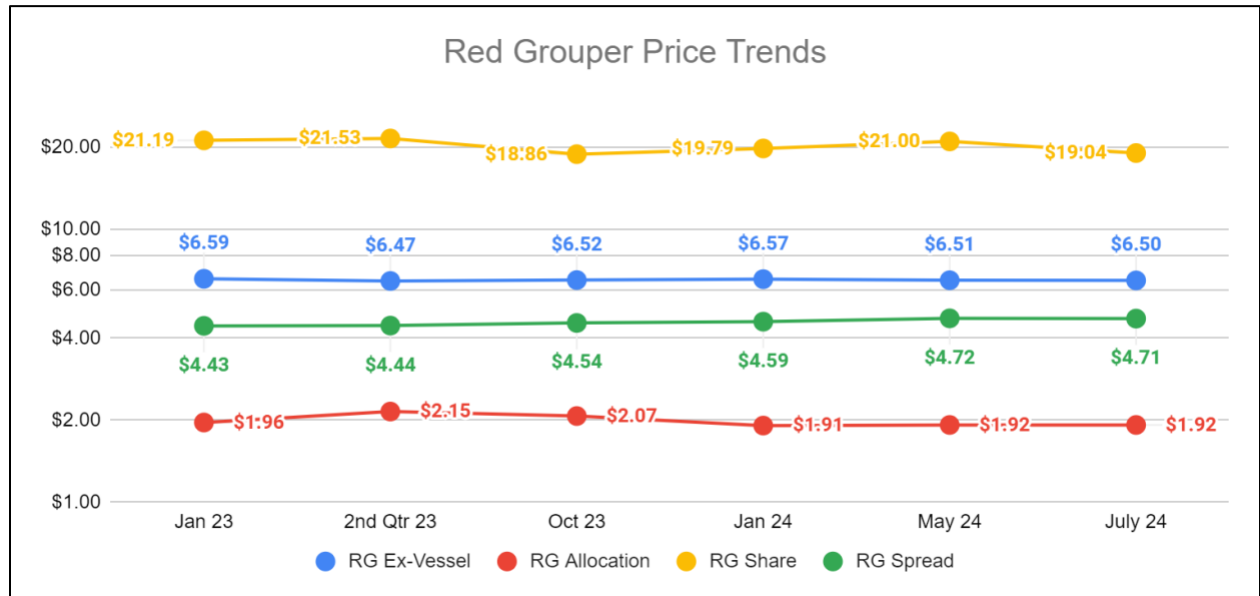
Red Snapper			
	Average	Price Range	# of Responses
Ex-vessel Price	\$6.71	\$6.00 - \$7.25	12
Allocation Price	\$4.53	\$4.00 - \$5.00	13
Share Price	\$54.45	\$50.00 - \$59.65	7
Spread (Ex-vessel – Allocation)	\$2.14	\$1.85 - \$2.50	12
Allocation/Ex-vessel Ratio	68.2%	64% - 72%	12
Allocation/Share Ratio	8.1%	7.4% - 8.7%	7



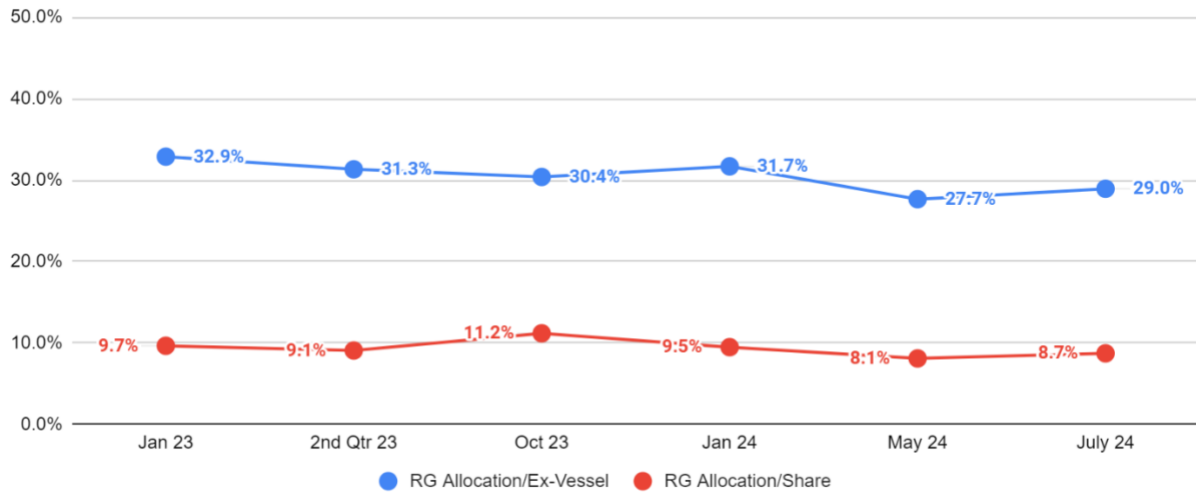
Red Grouper (RG)

The table below shows the averages, ranges, and number of responses (**all with outliers removed**) for ex-vessel, allocation, share, spread, allocation/ex-vessel ratio, and allocation/share ratio. The charts show the average values of these measures across all of the IFQ pricing reports (**also with outliers removed**). Red grouper allocation and ex-vessel prices were similar to the May 2024 report, while the quota share price fell approximately 9%.

Red Grouper			
	Average	Price Range	# of Responses
Ex-vessel Price	\$6.50	\$6.25 - \$6.75	8
Small	\$6.00	\$5.75 - \$6.25	2
Medium	\$6.25	\$5.75 - \$6.75	2
Large	\$6.50	\$6.25 - \$6.75	2
Allocation Price (RG)	\$1.92	\$1.00 - \$2.95	8
Share Price	\$19.04	\$15.00 - \$22.00	6
Spread (Ex-vessel – Allocation)	\$4.71	\$3.55 - \$5.50	8
Allocation/Ex-vessel Ratio	29.0%	16% - 45%	8
Allocation/Share Ratio	8.7%	5% - 10%	5



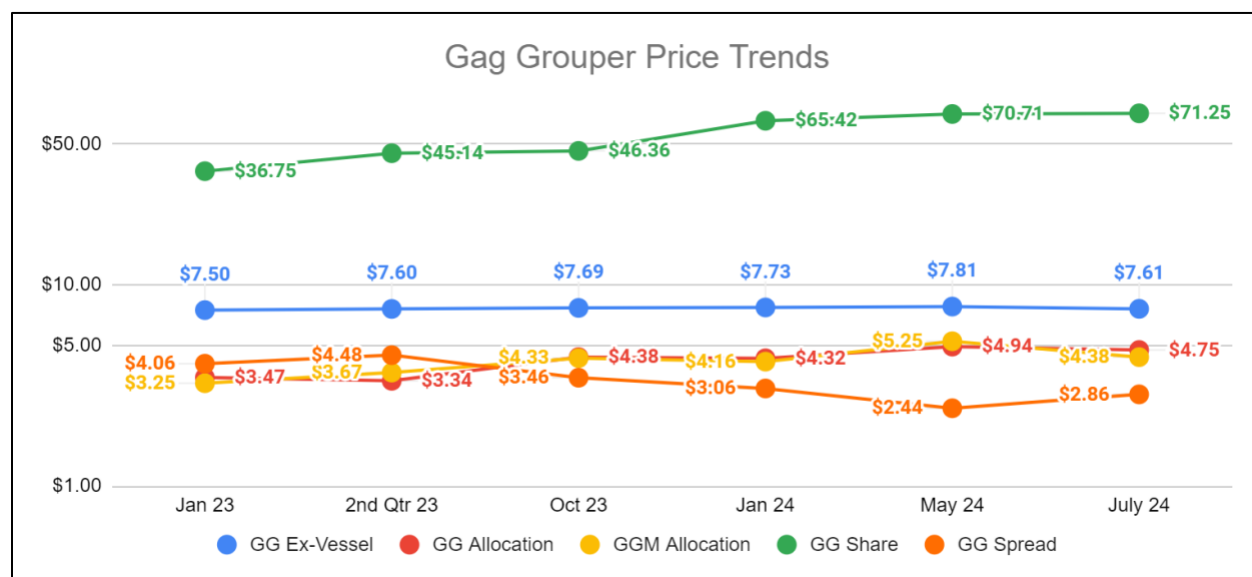
Red Grouper Ratio Trends



Gag Grouper (GG) and Gag Grouper Multiuse (GGM)

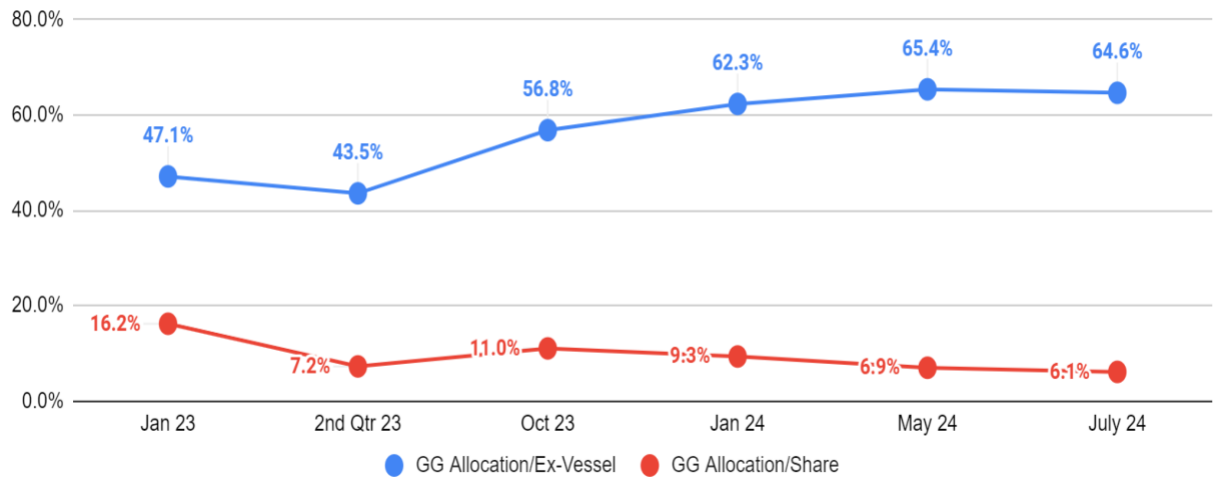
The table below shows the averages, ranges, and number of responses (**all with outliers removed**) for ex-vessel, allocation, share, spread, allocation/ex-vessel ratio, and allocation/share ratio. The charts show the average values of these measures across all of the IFQ pricing reports (**also with outliers removed**). Gag grouper ex-vessel and allocation prices have stabilized, with both falling relative to May 2024. Similarly, the quota share price increased only slightly, but there is still a great deal of variation in share prices provided, with one lower value bringing the average down. Response rates were down for the July survey and averages should be taken with a grain of salt.

Gag Grouper			
	Average	Price Range	# of Responses
Ex-vessel Price	\$7.61	\$6.50 - \$8.25	7
Allocation Price (GG)	\$4.75 ¹	\$4.00 - \$5.00	4
Share Price	\$71.25	\$50.00 - \$85.00	4
Spread (Ex-vessel – Allocation)	\$2.94	\$2.00 - \$3.75	4
Allocation/Ex-vessel Ratio	64.6%	52% - 82%	4
Allocation/Share Ratio	6.1%	5.9% - 6.3%	2
Allocation Price (GG Multiuse)	\$4.38	\$3.50 - \$5.00	4



¹ A gag grouper allocation price of \$9/lb was removed from the average although it was not two standard deviations above the average due to the low number of responses. The value was removed because it was 1.8 times larger than any other allocation price (across all share categories) and was assumed to be an entry error. If the observation is included the average gag grouper allocation price is \$5.60/lb.

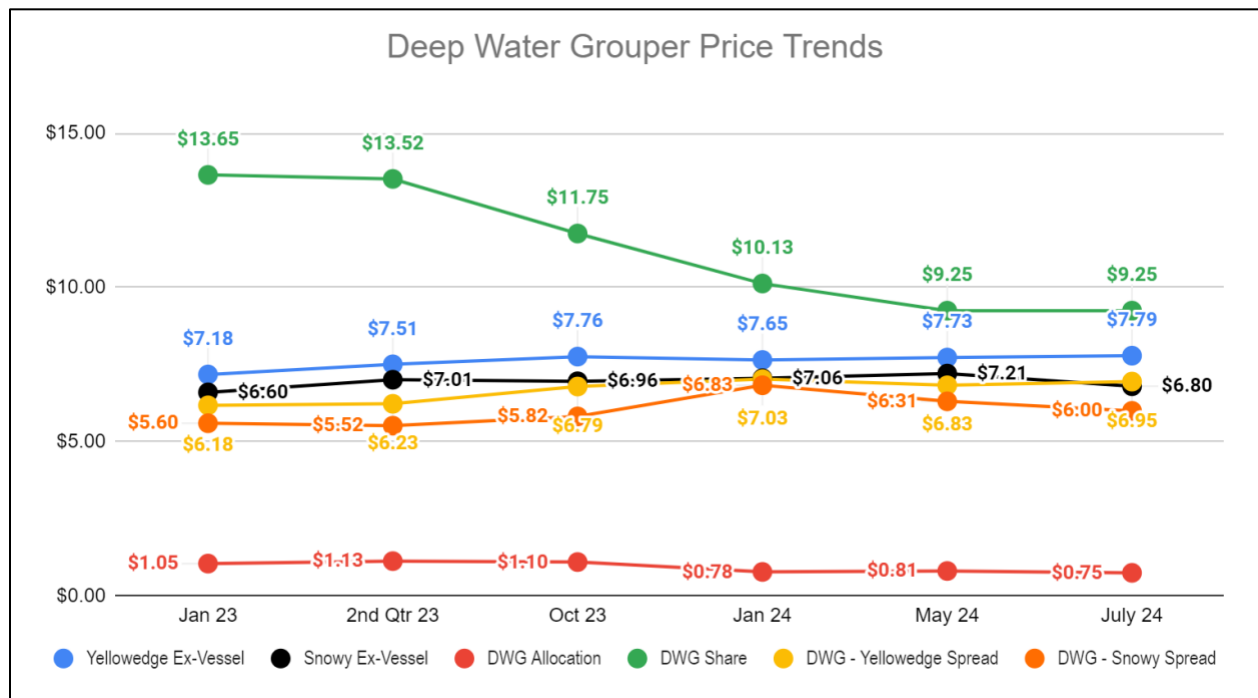
Gag Grouper Ratio Trends



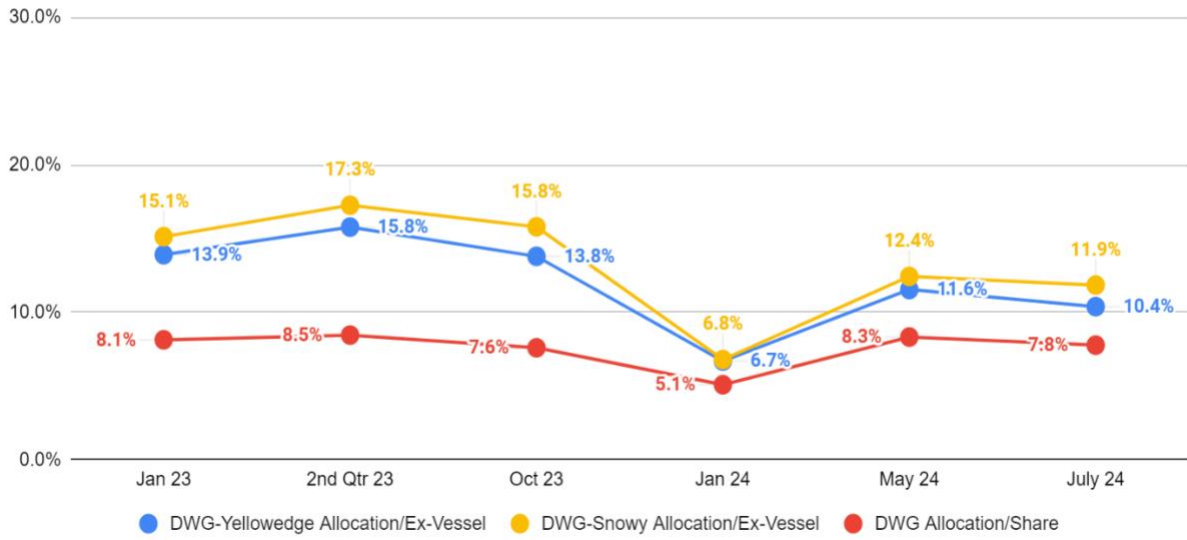
Deep Water Grouper (DWG)

The table below shows the averages, ranges, and number of responses (**all with outliers removed**) for ex-vessel, allocation, share, spread, allocation/ex-vessel ratio, and allocation/share ratio. The charts show the average values of these measures across all of the IFQ pricing reports (**also with outliers removed**). The DWG share price appears to have stabilized after a downward trend over the previous four surveys.

Deep Water Grouper			
	Average	Price Range	# of Responses
Ex-vessel Price (Yellowedge - YE)	\$7.79	\$7.50 - \$8.25	6
Small	\$4.83	\$2.00 - \$6.50	3
Medium	\$6.17	\$5.00 - \$7.00	3
Large	\$7.83	\$7.50 - \$8.25	3
Ex-vessel Price (Snowy Grouper - SG)	\$6.80	\$6.50 - \$7.25	5
Allocation Price	\$0.75	\$0.50 - \$1.00	6
Share Price	\$9.25	\$6.00 - \$12.00	4
YE Spread (Ex-vessel – Allocation)	\$6.95	\$6.50 - \$7.75	5
SG Spread (Ex-vessel – Allocation)	\$6.00	\$5.50 - \$6.50	5
YE Allocation/Ex-vessel Ratio	10.4%	6% - 13%	5
SG Allocation/Ex-vessel Ratio	11.8%	7% - 15%	5
Allocation/Share Ratio	7.8%	5.7% - 10%	2



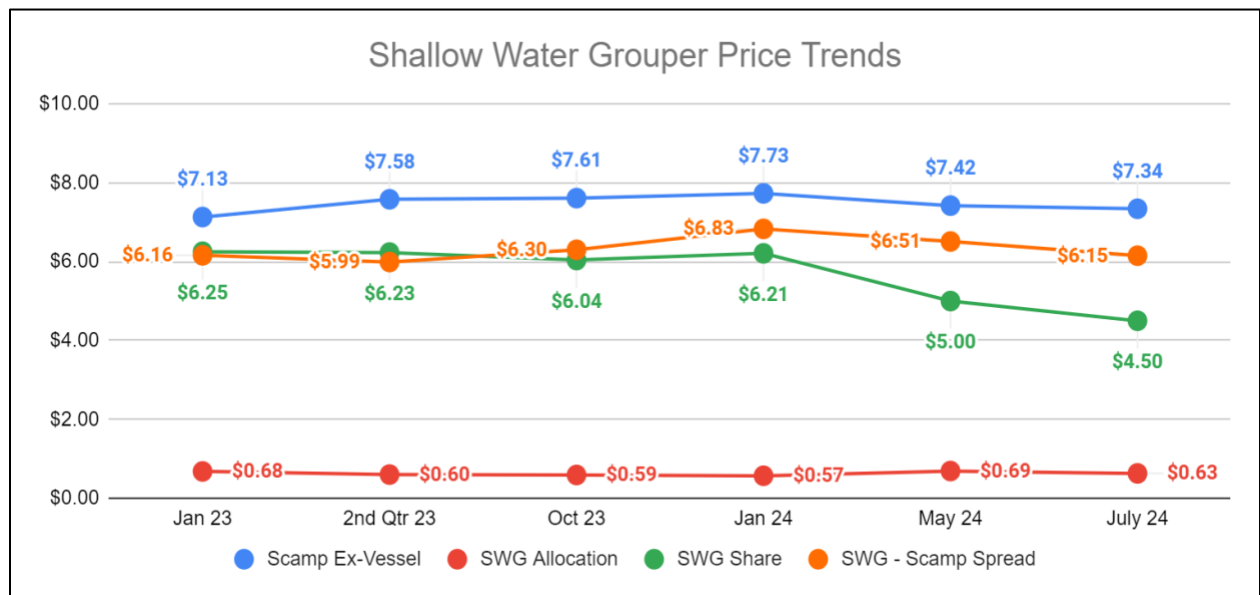
Deep Water Grouper Ratio Trends



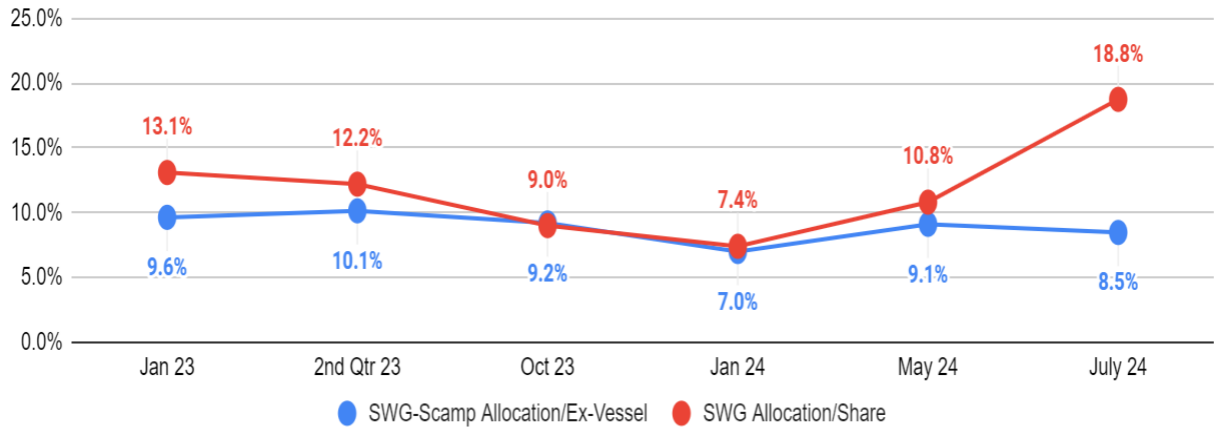
Shallow Water Grouper (SWG)

The table below shows the averages, ranges, and number of responses (**all with outliers removed**) for ex-vessel, allocation, share, spread, allocation/ex-vessel ratio, and allocation/share ratio. The charts show the average values of these measures across all of the IFQ pricing reports (**also with outliers removed**). SWG share prices continued to trend downward relative to 2023 and early 2024 prices, but the low number of responses to this month’s survey means the results might not be indicative of actual market conditions.

Shallow Water Grouper			
	Average	Price Range	# of Responses
Ex-vessel Price (Scamp)	\$7.34	\$6.50 - \$7.75	8
Allocation Price	\$0.63	\$0.50 - \$1.00	6
Share Price	\$4.50	\$4.00 - \$5.00	4
Spread (Ex-vessel – Allocation)	\$6.15	\$5.50 - \$6.75	5
Allocation/Ex-vessel Ratio	8.5%	6% - 13%	6
Allocation/Share Ratio	18.8%	13% - 25%	2



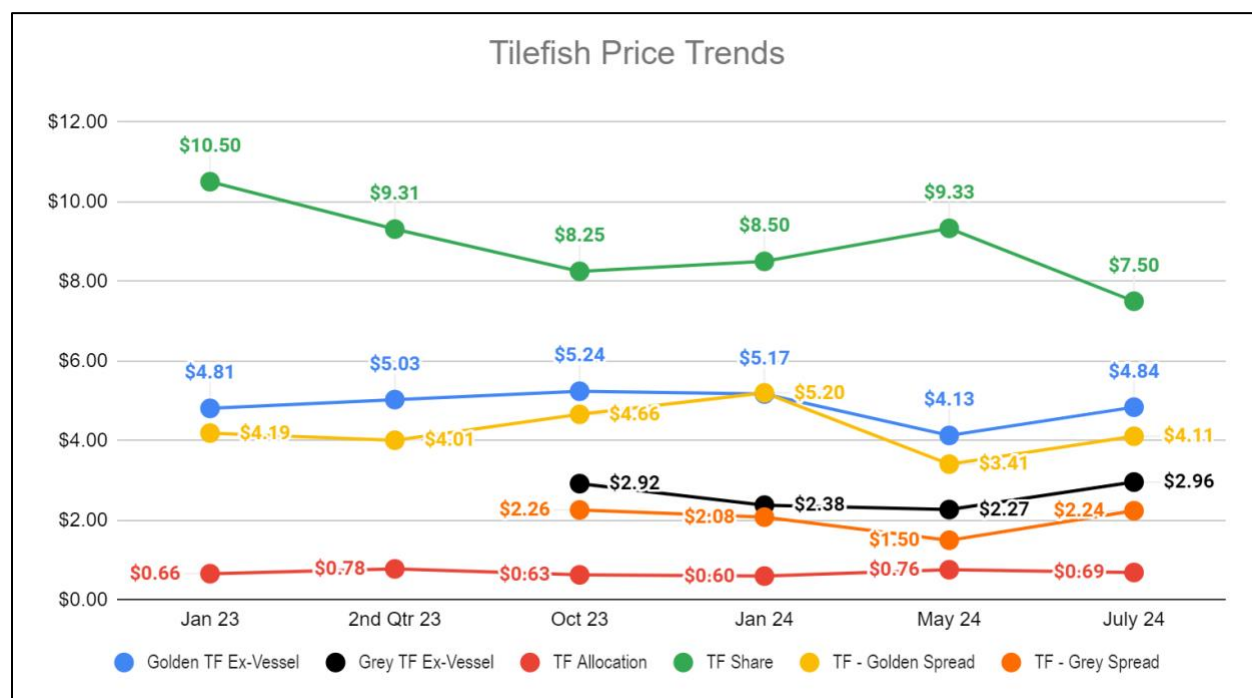
Shallow Water Grouper Ratio Trends



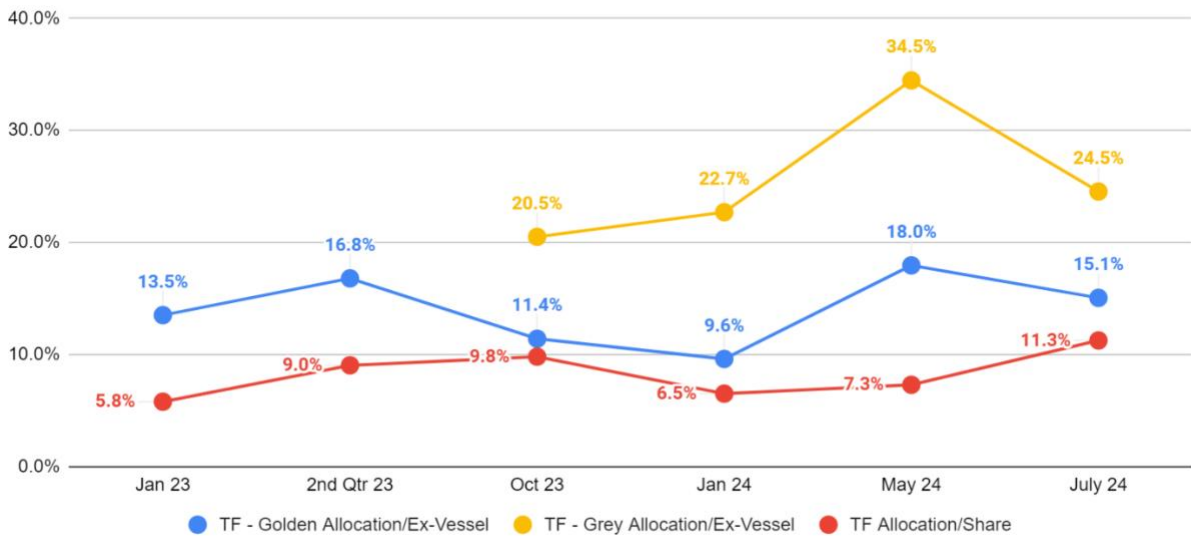
Tilefish (TF)

The table below shows the averages, ranges, and number of responses (**all with outliers removed**) for ex-vessel, allocation, share, spread, allocation/ex-vessel ratio, and allocation/share ratio. The charts show the average values of these measures across all of the IFQ pricing reports (**also with outliers removed**). The average ex-vessel prices of both golden and grey tilefish rebounded significantly relative to May 2024. Additionally, the TF quota share price fell substantially relative to May 2024. These averages are based on a small number of responses and might not accurately reflect market conditions.

Tilefish			
	Average	Price Range	# of Responses
Ex-vessel Price (Golden TF)	\$4.84	\$3.85 - \$6.35	5
Small	\$2.94	\$2.00 - \$3.50	4
Medium	\$3.75	\$3.00 - \$4.50	4
Large	\$5.09	\$4.00 - \$6.35	4
Ex-vessel Price (Grey TF)	\$2.96	\$2.85 - \$3.00	4
Allocation Price	\$0.69	\$0.40 - \$1.00	6
Share Price	\$7.50	\$4.00 - \$12.00	4
Golden Spread (Ex-vessel – Allocation)	\$4.11	\$3.10 - \$5.35	5
Grey Spread (Ex-vessel - Allocation)	\$2.24	\$2.00 - \$2.60	4
Golden Allocation/Ex-vessel Ratio	15.1%	10% - 19%	5
Grey Allocation/Ex-vessel Ratio	24.5%	13% - 33%	4
Allocation/Share Ratio	11.3%	10% - 13%	2



Tilefish Ratio Trends

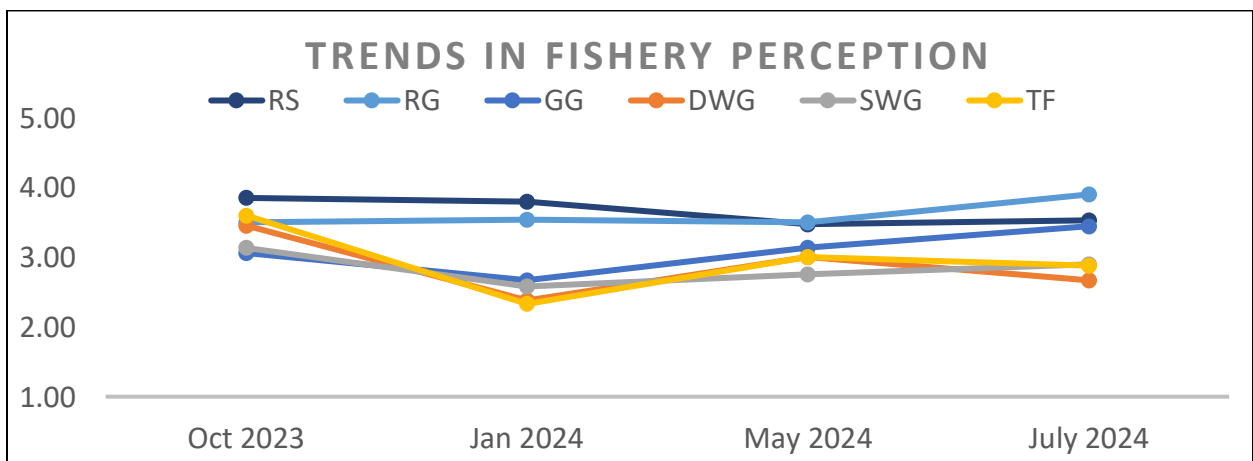
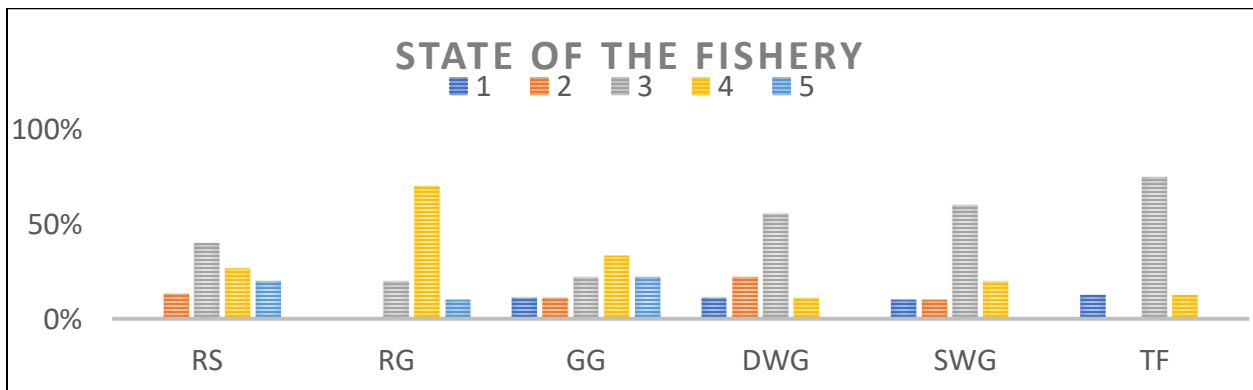


State of the Fishery

Respondents were asked to rate the current state of each fishery concerning the difficulty or ease of harvesting the fish and their beliefs on the stock status. The question asked them to rate the state of the fishery on a 1 to 5 scale, with 1 indicating the fishery is in bad shape and 5 indicating the fishery is in great shape. The results are shown in the table and chart below.

On average, the red grouper fishery was seen as in the best shape among the different IFQ species/species groups, with 80% of respondents scoring it at 4 or 5. Deepwater grouper and tilefish were the two species groups where the perception of the fishery's status fell relative to the May 2024 survey.

State of the Fishery						
	RS	RG	GG	DWG	SWG	TF
Average	3.53	3.90	3.44	2.67	2.90	2.88
# of Responses	15	10	9	9	10	8

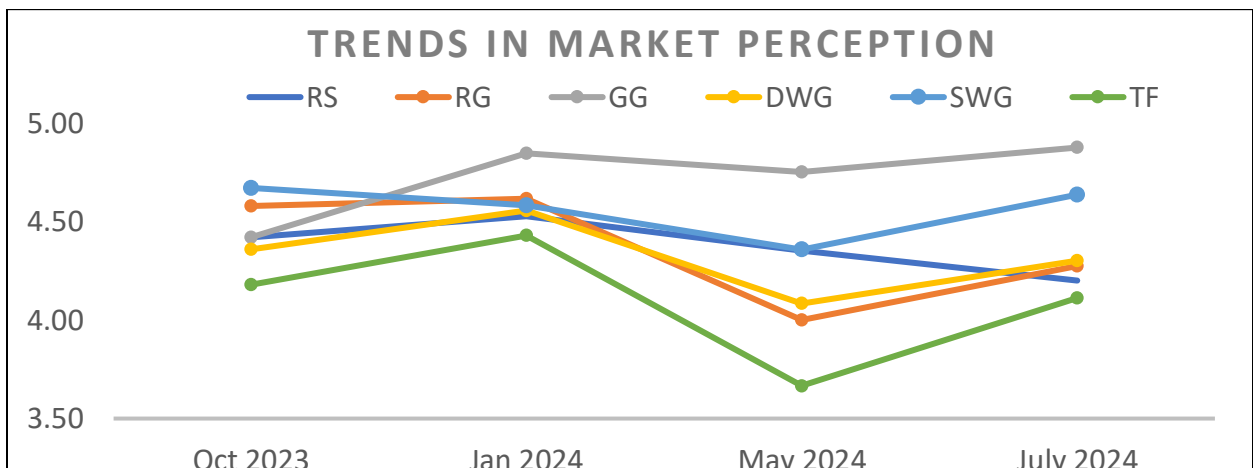
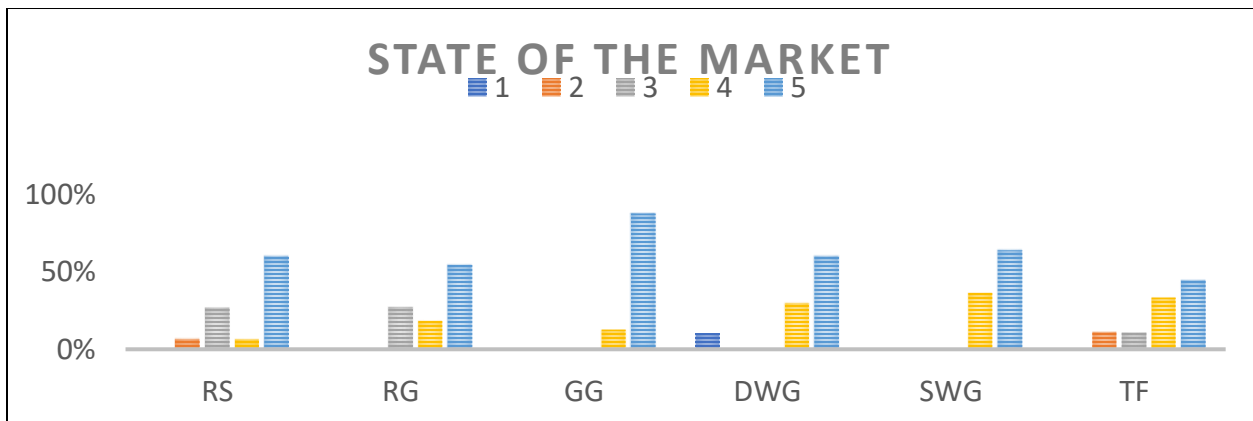


State of the Market

Respondents were asked to rate the current state of each market, the difficulty or ease of selling the fish, and how they felt the market was moving (are prices rising or falling). The question asked them to rate the state of the market on a 1 to 5 scale, with 1 indicating that demand and prices for the IFQ species group are low and/or falling and 5 indicating that demand and prices are high and/or rising. The results are shown in the table and charts below, and a comparison to previous surveys is included.

Average scores increased relative to the May 2024 report for all species groups except red snapper. Gag grouper continued to be viewed as having the strongest market status followed closely by other shallow water grouper.

State of the Market						
	RS	RG	GG	DWG	SWG	TF
Average	4.20	4.27	4.88	4.30	4.64	4.11
# of Responses	15	11	8	10	11	9



Survey Comments

At the end of the survey there is an additional comments section. Here is a summary of those comments:

- Indicated recreational overfishing continues to be a significant issue along Florida's west coast, and the Gulf Council's management of reef fish as one stock is problematic. Believes regional management is the only way to keep fish stocks sustainable.
- Concerned about high quota lease (allocation) prices. Indicated that high quota lease prices combined with fuel and bait prices make fishing unprofitable and they will have to find another job if something isn't done about the lease price of fish. Stated that fishermen can't survive making \$2/lb on fish when quota owners lease them for double that amount without having to fish themselves.
- Indicated something needs to be done about red snapper lease prices. Fisherman wants non-fishing shareholders out of the industry and believes NOAA has mismanaged the fishery.
- Stated lease prices (allocation) for red grouper have recently gone up \$0.50/lb, but red snapper lease prices are the same and the quota is much easier to get this year. They are usually held to a red snapper limit but not this season. Indicated gag grouper are abundant and doing much better than the science is showing. Their vessel is having to throw back gag grouper on every trip because quota is not available to lease.
- Believes the Gulf Council is trying to make unnecessary changes to the IFQ system that will destroy commercial fishermen.

***IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SIGN UP TO TAKE PART IN FUTURE SURVEYS, PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM ON THE FLORIDA SEA GRANT WEBSITE – [CLICK HERE](#). IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE REPORT, INCLUDING HOW IT COULD BE MORE USEFUL AND ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE, PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#).**

All Survey Responses

This section provides histograms of all responses to ex-vessel, allocation, and share prices. Responses shaded red were removed from the analysis presented earlier as outliers as described in the Report Notes. One slight change is that I have stopped categorizing responses based on personal transactions vs. prices heard from others due to the responses being similar across surveys.

