



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Phil Steele, or Phil.Steele@noaa.gov
(727) 570-5305, FAX (727) 570-5583
<http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 17, 2003
NR03-039

RED SNAPPER COMMERCIAL FISHERY IN GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS WILL OPEN AT NOON, OCTOBER 1, 2003, AND CLOSE AT NOON, OCTOBER 10, 2003

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) announces that the commercial fishery for red snapper in Gulf of Mexico Federal waters will open at noon, local time, on October 1, 2003, and close at noon, local time, on October 10, 2003. The 2003 Gulf of Mexico commercial red snapper quota is 4.65-million pounds. The commercial fishing season is divided into spring and fall seasons. The spring season began at noon, local time, on February 1, with 3.10 million pounds available, and the fall season begins at noon, local time, on October 1, with the remainder of the annual quota available. During the spring and fall seasons fishing will be allowed during the first 10 days of each month until the quota is caught. Preliminary landings for the 2003 spring season indicated that 3,007,843 pounds of red snapper

were landed. Therefore, a total of 1,642,157 pounds remain in the fall quota.

The operator of a vessel with a valid reef fish permit and a Class 1 or Class 2 red snapper license having red snapper aboard must have landed and sold such red snapper before noon, local time, on October 10, 2003. The minimum size limit for the commercial fishery is 15 inches total length.

This and other news releases are available on the SERO homepage at <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>.

NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.