



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 6, 2005
NR05-002

RED SNAPPER COMMERCIAL FISHERY IN GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS WILL OPEN AT NOON, FEBRUARY 1, 2005

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) announces the commercial fishery for red snapper in Gulf of Mexico federal waters will open at noon, local time, on February 1, 2005, and will close at noon, local time, on February 10, 2005. The 2005 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 begins 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 the first 10 days of each month until the quota is caught. 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 February 10, 2005. The minimum size for the commercial fishery is 15 inches total length.

NOAA Fisheries is dedicated to protecting and preserving the nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management, and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to customers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing stewardship to our nation's coastal and marine resources.

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

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NR05-002