



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South., St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## COMBINED TRIP LIMIT FOR DEEP-WATER GROUPEL AND SHALLOW-WATER GROUPEL REDUCED TO 7,500 POUNDS

Based on current statistics, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has determined 50 percent of the available commercial quota for red grouper (5.31 million pounds) will be reached on or before June 8, 2005. Accordingly, NMFS is reducing the combined trip limit for deep-water grouper (misty grouper, snowy grouper, yellowedge grouper, warsaw grouper, and speckled hind) and shallow-water grouper (black grouper, gag, red grouper, yellowfin grouper, scamp, yellowmouth grouper, rock hind, and red hind) to 7,500 pounds per trip in the Gulf of Mexico exclusive economic zone effective 12:01 a.m., local time, on June 9, 2005. If the deep-water grouper or shallow-water grouper fisheries are subsequently closed, no fish subject to the closure may be retained.

Further, notice is hereby given by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, pursuant to Chapter 68B-14.0045(3)(B)3., Florida Administrative Code, that the trip limit for commercial vessels fishing for grouper in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico has been reduced to 7,500 pounds of fish per vessel per trip effective June 9, 2005, at 12:01 a.m. The trip limit reduction in state waters is concurrent with the trip limit reduction in federal waters for deep-water and

shallow-water grouper that will also be effective on June 9, 2005, at 12:01 a.m. The 7,500-pound trip limit is a harvest/possession/landing limit that applies to all commercial vessels fishing for grouper in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

NMFS is dedicated to protecting and preserving the nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management, and enforcement. NMFS 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. This and other news releases are available on the SERO homepage at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

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

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