



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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RECREATIONAL RED GROUPER FISHERY IN GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS CLOSED AT 12:01 A.M., LOCAL TIME, NOVEMBER 1, 2005

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces changes to fishing regulations as a result of a recent court decision. The recreational fishery for red grouper in Gulf of Mexico federal waters closed at 12:01 a. m., local time, on November 1, 2005. The fishery will remain closed until 12:01 a.m., local time, January 1, 2006, at which time the aggregate bag limit will remain at five grouper, combined, per person per day, but not to exceed one speckled hind or one warsaw grouper per vessel per day or one red grouper per person per day.

During the closure, the possession of red grouper taken from federal waters is prohibited. However, the recreational fishery for other shallow-water grouper (black, gag, yellowfin, scamp, yellowmouth, rock hind, and red hind) and deep-water grouper (misty, snowy, yellowedge, warsaw, and speckled hind) remains open with an aggregate bag limit of five grouper, combined, per person per day, but not to exceed one speckled hind or one warsaw grouper per vessel per day. However, harvest of goliath and Nassau grouper is prohibited.

NMFS is dedicated to protecting and preserving our 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 consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners and nearly 60 countries to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes. This and other news releases are available on the SERO homepage at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

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