



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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NOAA Fisheries Service is Seeking Comments on a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack and Gray Triggerfish Fisheries

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) requests comments from the public on the DSEIS developed to analyze the impacts of proposed management actions addressing overfishing of greater amberjack and gray triggerfish. The Environmental Protection Agency announced the availability of the DSEIS on December 14, 2007 (72 FR 71138).

The Gulf of Mexico greater amberjack stock is overfished and undergoing overfishing. Although the stock has been under a rebuilding plan since 2003, it is not recovering as projected. Action is necessary to end overfishing, and adjust total allowable catch and harvest controls to bring the rebuilding plan back on course for recovery by 2012. The gray triggerfish stock is undergoing overfishing, and is approaching the overfished condition. Action is necessary to set total allowable catch and harvest controls to end overfishing, to set management targets and thresholds, and to set a rebuilding plan.

The primary purpose of the DSEIS prepared by NOAA Fisheries Service is to evaluate the effectiveness of alternative regulatory measures for the following actions relating to greater amberjack: 1) Modify the rebuilding plan; 2) develop accountability measures for the rebuilding plan; and 3) change the recreational and commercial harvest controls (i.e., size limits, bag limits, trip limits, or seasons).

This DSEIS also evaluates the effectiveness of alternative regulatory measures for the following actions relating to gray triggerfish: 1) Establish minimum stock size and fishing mortality thresholds and set optimum yield; 2) develop a rebuilding plan; 3) develop accountability measures for the rebuilding plan; 4) manage the fishery on a regional basis; and 5) change the recreational and commercial harvest controls.

The regulatory measures evaluated in this DSEIS may be implemented through Amendment 30A to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Fishery Management Plan for Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico.

DATES and ADDRESSES: Written comments must be received no later than 5 p.m., eastern time, on January 28, 2008. You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- E-mail: 0648-AV34.DSEIS@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line the following document identifier: 0648-AV34-DSEIS.
- Mail: Peter Hood, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701.
- Fax: 727-824-5308, Attention: Peter Hood.

Copies of the DSEIS are available in electronic format from the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>, or in printed form by contacting Peter Hood (address above).

How Can We Improve These Fishery Bulletins?

If you have any suggestions on how we may improve the contents of future fishery bulletins please contact:
Kim Amendola, Communication Specialist,
Phone: 727-551-5707, FAX: 727-824-5320,
e-mail: sero.communications.comments@noaa.gov.

If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, please e-mail us at the address below. You will still receive a hard copy of these bulletins through the mail.

E-mail: SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov and include: (1) "Request for Electronic Fishery Bulletins" in the subject line; and (2) your preferred e-mail address in the body of the e-mail.

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