



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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

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## *NOAA Fisheries Service Transfers Management Authority of Atlantic Red Drum*

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) is publishing a final rule to withdraw the Atlantic Coast Red Drum Fishery Management Plan implemented under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and implement the management measures for Atlantic red drum under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (Atlantic Coastal Act). The purpose of this action is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of managing Atlantic coast red drum. The final rule was published in the *Federal Register* on October 6, 2008.

Currently, the red drum fishery off the South Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic coastal states is managed under two separate Fishery Management Plans (FMP). The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) manages red drum in federal waters under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) manages red drum in state waters.

Through this rule the Council and the Commission seek to withdraw the Council's FMP and establish comparable regulations under the Atlantic Coastal Act. This action is unrelated to the recent Executive Order designating red drum a game fish species in federal waters of the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

The transfer of management authority is intended to reduce management costs and unnecessary duplication of management efforts. Under the Atlantic Coastal Act, the existing harvest and possession prohibition in federal waters will continue to be enforced by the NOAA Fisheries Service and the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Secretary of Commerce will continue to have regulatory authority over red drum in federal waters.

### Addresses

Electronic copies of the final rule may be obtained from the Federal Register Web site at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. Copies of the Revised Environmental Assessment and and/or the final rule may be found on the NOAA Fisheries Service Web site at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>, or obtained from:

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Southeast Regional Office  
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