



# 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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FB09-060

## Greater Amberjack Commercial Harvest Closed to Vessels Fishing in the Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters

The commercial harvest of greater amberjack in the Gulf of Mexico is **closed, effective 12:01 a.m. (local time) November 7, 2009**, through December 31, 2009. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service has determined the 2009 commercial quota of 503,000 pounds of greater amberjack will be reached by this date. During the closure period, no person aboard a vessel for which a commercial Gulf of Mexico reef fish permit has been issued may fish for or retain greater amberjack in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, this closure applies in state waters for persons aboard a vessel for which a federal reef fish permit has been issued.

Closure of the commercial greater amberjack harvest in the Gulf of Mexico complies with regulations implemented under the Fishery Management Plan for Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and is necessary to protect the Gulf reef fish resource. NOAA Fisheries Service has determined this action is necessary to prevent overfishing and to keep the commercial sector from exceeding the quota during the 2009 fishing year.

The operator of a vessel with a valid commercial reef fish permit having greater amberjack aboard must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such greater

amberjack prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, November 7, 2009. The prohibition on sale or purchase does not apply to sale or purchase of greater amberjack that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, November 7, 2009, and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor. The commercial harvest will remain closed until 12:01 a.m., January 1, 2010.

### How can we improve these fishery bulletins?

If you have any suggestions on how we may improve future fishery bulletins, please contact:

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If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, please e-mail us at [SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov). You will still receive a hard copy of these bulletins through the mail.

This bulletin provides only a summary of the information regarding the existing regulations. Any discrepancies between this bulletin and the regulations as published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

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