



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Catherine Bruger or Catherine.Bruger@noaa.gov
727-824-5305, FAX 727-824-5308

November 19, 2010

FB10-100

Commercial Fishing for Black Sea Bass to Reopen in the South Atlantic Federal Waters December 1 until December 15, 2010

The commercial sector for black sea bass in federal waters of the South Atlantic from 35°15.19' N. lat., the latitude of Cape Hatteras Light, North Carolina, to Key West, Florida, will be **reopen, effective 12:01 a.m. (local time) December 1, 2010, until 12:01 a.m. December 15, 2010.** NOAA Fisheries Service has determined the 2010-2011 commercial quota of 309,000 pounds has not yet been met.

Commercial harvest of black sea bass closed on October 7, 2010, because NOAA Fisheries Service projected landings would reach the quota by that time. However, an updated report shows that less fish were landed than expected. Based on 2010 daily landings rates and the pounds remaining on the quota, NOAA Fisheries Service has determined commercial harvest of black sea bass can reopen for 14 days. December 1 was chosen as the opening day based on feedback from the fishing industry and weather concerns.

The operator of a vessel that has been issued a federal commercial permit for snapper-grouper may not fish for or possess black sea bass prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, December 1, 2010, and must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such black sea bass prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, December 15, 2010. The prohibition on sale or purchase does not apply to sale or purchase of black

sea bass that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, December 15, 2010, and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

Commercial harvest of black sea bass will remain closed until 12:01 a.m., June 1, 2011. During the closure, all harvest and possession of black sea bass in or from closed federal waters of the South Atlantic is subject to the applicable bag and possession limits, and the sale or purchase of black sea bass taken from closed federal waters is prohibited. In addition, those bag and possession limits, and the prohibition on sale or purchase apply in state and federal waters of the South Atlantic for a vessel for which a valid federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued.

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.

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*.