



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## Reminder: Circle Hook Requirements in the South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Fishery Effective March 3, 2011

Beginning March 3, 2011, the use of non-stainless steel circle hooks (offset or non-offset) will be required on any vessel (commercial or recreational) using hook-and-line gear with natural baits to fish for snapper-grouper species north of 28 degrees N. latitude in federal waters of the South Atlantic. After March 3, 2011, it will be unlawful to possess snapper-grouper species north of 28 degrees N. latitude without possessing non-stainless steel circle hooks. The use of circle hooks is expected to reduce bycatch mortality of incidentally caught red snapper and other non-target fish species.

This circle hook requirement is being implemented through the final rule for Amendment 17A to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Amendment 17A), which was published by NOAA Fisheries Service on December 9, 2010. The effective date of the circle hook requirement was delayed for 90-days after publication of the final rule to allow adequate time for fishery participants to obtain the required gear.

### Addresses

Electronic copies of Amendment 17A and the final rule may be obtained from the NOAA Fisheries Service Web site at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>, the e-Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> docket number NOAA-NMFS-2010-0035, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at

<http://www.safmc.net>, or for hard copies contact:

NOAA Fisheries Service  
Southeast Regional Office  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

### More Information

More information on the circle hook requirement and other actions contained in Amendment 17A can be found by clicking on the following links:

- [Frequently Asked Questions on Amendment 17A](#)
- [Amendment 17A to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region, 2010](#)

### 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, Communications Specialist  
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If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, please email: [sero.communications.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:sero.communications.comments@noaa.gov) and include: "Request for Electronic Fishery Bulletins" in the subject line and your preferred e-mail address in the body of the e-mail.