



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## **Commercial Fishing for Vermilion Snapper to Reopen in the South Atlantic Federal Waters May 1 until May 8, 2011**

The commercial sector for vermilion snapper in federal waters of the South Atlantic from, Cape Hatteras Light, North Carolina (35°15.19' N. latitude), to Key West, Florida, will **reopen, effective 12:01 a.m. (local time) May 1, 2011, until 12:01 a.m. May 8, 2011**. NOAA Fisheries Service has determined the January - June 2011, commercial quota of 315,523 pounds has not yet been met.

Commercial harvest of vermilion snapper closed on March 10, 2011, 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 2011 daily landings rates and the pounds remaining on the quota, NOAA Fisheries Service has determined commercial harvest of vermilion snapper can reopen for 7 days. May 1, 2011, 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 vermilion snapper prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, May 1, 2011, and must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such vermilion snapper prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, May 8, 2011. The prohibition on sale or purchase does not apply to sale or purchase of

vermilion snapper that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, May 8, 2011, and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

Commercial harvest of vermilion snapper will remain closed until 12:01 a.m., July 1, 2011. During the closure, all harvest and possession of vermilion snapper 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 vermilion snapper 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.

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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*.