



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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

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FB11-038

NOAA Fisheries Service Requests Public Comments on South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Trip Limits and Bag Limits *Comment Period April 29, 2011-May 16, 2011*

NOAA Fisheries Service is seeking public comments on a proposed rule that would prevent the progressive shortening of fishing seasons for black sea bass, gag, and vermilion snapper, and would increase the trip limit for greater amberjack.

Harvest restrictions implemented through recent amendments to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (FMP) have resulted in some reduced quotas and effort shifts causing derby-fisheries for black sea bass and vermilion snapper to develop. The potential also exists for a derby fishery to develop for gag. Additionally, the quota for greater amberjack has never been met under the current trip limit of 1,000 pounds (lbs) gutted weight (gw). To address these issues, Regulatory Amendment 9 to the FMP (Regulatory Amendment 9) was developed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries Service.

Regulatory Amendment 9, if implemented through rulemaking would:

- Reduce the bag limit for black sea bass from 15 fish per person to 5 fish per person;
- Split the black sea bass commercial quota into two seasons, (June-November 128,547 lbs gw) and (December-May 180,453 lb gw);
- Establish a trip limit of 1,000 lbs gw for gag;
- Establish a trip limit of 1,500 lbs gw for vermilion snapper; and
- Increase the trip limit for greater amberjack from 1,000 lbs gw to 1,200 lbs gw.

Request for Comments

Written comments on this proposed rule must be received no later than May 16, 2011, in order to be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service. See the **Addresses** section for information on where and how to submit comments.

Addresses

Electronic copies of proposed rule may be obtained from

the e-Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>, or:

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

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>, by entering "NOAA-NMFS-2011-0107" in the keyword search, then check the box labeled "Select to find documents accepting comments or submissions", then select "Send a Comment or Submission." All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA Fisheries Service will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only. Comments received through means not specified in this bulletin or the proposed rule may not be considered.
- **Mail:** Kate Michie
NOAA Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
Sustainable Fisheries Division
263 13th Avenue South
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- **Fax:** 727-824-5308, Attention: Kate Michie

More Information

For more information on Regulatory Amendment 9 please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions for Regulatory Amendment 9](#) or the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web page at: www.safmc.net.