



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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NOAA Seeks Comments on an Amended Proposed Rule to Change the Wreckfish Annual Catch Limit to 235,000 Pounds Whole Weight in the South Atlantic

NOAA Fisheries Service is seeking public comment on an amended proposed rule to modify the proposed rule for the Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit Amendment. The amended proposed rule published in the *Federal Register* (76 FR 82264) on December 30, 2011, with the comment period ending January 17, 2012.

The proposed rule for the Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit Amendment published on December 1, 2011 (76 FR 74757), with a comment period ending December 19, 2011. The proposed rule contains a provision to specify the annual catch limit for wreckfish equal to the acceptable biological catch. This equates to an annual catch limit of 250,000 pounds whole weight. The commercial and recreational annual catch limits would equal 237,500 and 12,500 pounds whole weight, respectively. (Note that this annual catch limit is not currently in place). The amended proposed rule would change the annual catch limit value to 235,000 pounds whole weight. The amended proposed rule would also change the commercial and recreational annual catch limits to 223,250 and 11,750 pounds whole weight, respectively.

The annual catch limit would be revised because the acceptable biological catch specification for wreckfish was changed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee at their November 2011 meeting. The change was based upon a new analysis of the wreckfish population presented at the meeting. The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council reviewed the catch recommendation in December 2011 and passed a motion to concur with the process of adjusting the proposed wreckfish annual catch limit to reflect the acceptable biological catch value of 235,000 pounds whole weight.

Request for Comments

Comments on this amended proposed rule must be received no later than **January 17, 2012**, 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 the amended proposed rule may be obtained from the NOAA Fisheries Service Web site <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SAACLAamend.htm>, or the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>.

You may submit comments by the following method:

Federal e-Rulemaking Portal:

<http://www.regulations.gov>. After selecting "submit a comment," enter the following docket number into the "Search" box: **NOAA-NMFS-2011-0087**. 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.

More information, including Frequently Asked Questions for the amended proposed rule, may be found online at: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, please notify us at: sero.communications.comments@noaa.gov.