



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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**In Order to Determine Whether the Commercial Season May Re-Open,
NOAA Fisheries is Requesting Dealers in the South Atlantic to Report
Purchases of Red Snapper that Occurred During the 2012 Season**

NOAA Fisheries will be unable to determine if the commercial season can re-open in 2012 until all red snapper purchases are reported for the September opening. Therefore, NOAA Fisheries is requesting dealers in the South Atlantic to report purchases of red snapper that occurred during the 2012 season. NOAA Fisheries will announce a red snapper re-opening, if it is to occur, through the *Federal Register* and a Fishery Bulletin.

The 2012 commercial red snapper season in the South Atlantic opened at 12:01 a.m., local time, on September 17, 2012, and closed at 12:01 a.m., local time, on September 24, 2012. Prior to the opening, NOAA Fisheries announced that they would monitor the commercial landings and may re-open the commercial fishing season after September 24, 2012, if landings are less than the 2012 commercial annual catch limit of 20,818 pounds gutted weight.