



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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## NOAA Fisheries Increases the Commercial Annual Catch Limit For Yellowtail Snapper in the South Atlantic *Effective November 7, 2012*

NOAA Fisheries is issuing a temporary rule that will increase the commercial annual catch limit from 1,142,589 pounds whole weight to 1,596,510 pounds whole weight. Increasing the commercial annual catch limit will reduce the probability of triggering an in-season closure of the commercial sector. The recreational sector annual catch limit is not affected by this temporary rule.

### Background

The state of Florida recently completed a new population assessment for yellowtail snapper in the southeast region, which indicates the stock is neither overfished (too few fish in the population) nor undergoing overfishing (fish being removed too quickly). This assessment indicates harvest can be increased without jeopardizing the health of the population. Based on these results the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council requested this temporary rule, which would increase the commercial annual catch limit for yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic.

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is working to implement the new commercial and recreational annual catch limits for yellowtail snapper permanently through Regulatory Amendment 15 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic. Regulatory Amendment 15 should become effective sometime in 2013.

### Dates

The new commercial annual catch limit will become effective on November 7, 2012. The temporary rule is effective for 180 days. NOAA Fisheries has the option to extend the temporary rule for an additional 186 days if needed.

### Request for Comments

Comments on the temporary rule must be received no later than December 7, 2012, to be considered by NOAA Fisheries. See the Addresses section for information on where and how to submit comments.

### Addresses

Electronic or hardcopies of the temporary rule may be obtained from:

- The NOAA Fisheries Web site:  
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SASnapperGrouperHomepage.htm>.
- The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>.

You may submit comments by the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** The Federal e-Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> (select "Submit Comment", then type in **NOAA-NMFS-2012-0207** in the "Keyword or ID" box). All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change.
- **Mail:** NOAA Fisheries  
Southeast Regional Office  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
c/o Kate Michie  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

NOAA Fisheries 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 may not be considered.

### More Information

For more information on the temporary rule to modify the commercial annual catch limit for yellowtail snapper in the South Atlantic please follow this link to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#)