



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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December 19, 2012
FB12-093

NOAA Fisheries Seeks Comments on a Proposed Rule for South Atlantic Commercial Golden Tilefish *Comment Period Ends January 18, 2013*

NOAA Fisheries is seeking public comment on a proposed rule for Amendment 18B to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Amendment 18B). The proposed rule for Amendment 18B published in the *Federal Register* on **December 19, 2012** (77 FR 75093). The comment period ends on **January 18, 2013**.

The proposed rule for Amendment 18B includes:

- An endorsement program for the commercial longline sector of the golden tilefish component of the snapper-grouper fishery.
- Establishment of landings criteria to determine who will receive endorsements. Only golden tilefish fishermen who meet certain landings criteria, and also have a valid Unlimited South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Permit, would receive an endorsement and be allowed to use longline gear to harvest golden tilefish.
- An appeals process for the golden tilefish endorsement program.
- Allowance to transfer golden tilefish endorsements.
- Allocation of 75% of the commercial annual catch limit to the longline sector and 25% to the hook-and-line sector.
- Removal of the 300-pound trip limit when 75% of the annual catch limit is caught.
- Establishment of a 500-pound trip limit for those who do not qualify for a golden tilefish endorsement.

This bulletin serves as a Small Entity Compliance Guide, complying with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.

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*.

More Information

For more information on Amendment 18B please click on this link to the Amendment 18B [Frequently Asked Questions](#) or view the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web page at: www.safmc.net.

Request for Comments

Written comments on this proposed rule must be received **no later than January 18, 2013**, to be considered by NOAA Fisheries. Comments received by NOAA Fisheries will be addressed in the final rule. Electronic copies of the proposed rule or the amendment may be obtained from the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov, and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at www.safmc.net.

How to Submit Comments

You may submit comments by either of the following methods. Comments received through other means may not be considered.

Electronic Submissions: Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: www.regulations.gov

- Enter the following docket number into the "Search" box: **NOAA-NMFS-2012-0177**.
- Click on "Comment Now." This will display the comment Web form.
- Attachments to electronic comments (up to 10 MB) will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

Mail:

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All comments will be part of the public record, and generally posted for public viewing 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. Anonymous comments will be accepted.