



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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

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FB12-54

NOAA SEEKS COMMENT-PROPOSED RULE

Increase Annual Catch Limits for Golden Tilefish in the South Atlantic

Regulatory Amendment 12 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region

NOAA Fisheries is seeking comments on a proposed rule for South Atlantic golden tilefish. A new assessment indicates the golden tilefish stock is healthy and annual catch limits can be increased. The rule, if implemented, would set the annual catch limit at 541,295 pounds gutted weight for the commercial sector and 3,019 fish for the recreational sector. The proposed rule published in the *Federal Register* on July 20, 2012 (77 FR 42688).

Annual catch limit	Current	Proposed
Commercial	282,819 pounds gutted weight	541,295 pounds gutted weight
Recreational	1,578 fish	3,091 fish

This proposed rule would also modify the accountability measures for the golden tilefish recreational sector. The recreational sector would close when the annual catch limit is projected to be met, and recreational landings would be monitored in the year following an overage. If high landings persist, the fishing season would be shortened as necessary. More information, including Frequently Asked Questions, can be found online at: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

Request for Comments

Written comments on this proposed rule must be received **no later than August 20, 2012**, to be considered by NOAA Fisheries. All comments received by NOAA Fisheries will be addressed in the final rule. Electronic copies of the proposed rule or the regulatory 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-2012-0087**.
- Select the appropriate title, and click "Submit a Comment." This will display the comment webform.
- Attachments to electronic comments (up to 10 MB) will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

Mail: Karla Gore, NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505.

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.

This summary is not a substitute for the actual regulations. We encourage you to read the full text of the regulations, available at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.

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