



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## NOAA Seeks Comments on a Proposed Rule Modifying the Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack Rebuilding Plan

NOAA Fisheries Service has published a proposed rule adjusting the sector specific annual catch limits and annual catch targets for the greater amberjack stock in the Gulf of Mexico. The rule also establishes a 2,000 lb commercial trip limit throughout the fishing year.

### Addressing Changes to Rebuilding Plan

In 2008, NOAA Fisheries Service issued a final rule establishing commercial and recreational quotas, accountability measures, and a rebuilding plan for the greater amberjack stock. In response to the 2010 update stock assessment, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) recommended a new acceptable biological catch of 1,780,000 lb, which is less than the current catch limit of 1,830,000 lbs. Adjustments to the rebuilding plan are needed because the current annual catch limit exceeds the new acceptable biological catch.

### Commercial Trip Limit

The proposed rule would establish a commercial sector trip limit of 2,000 lb throughout the fishing year. Implementing a trip limit is intended to extend the fishing season for the commercial sector.

### Annual Catch Targets (quotas)

The Council established quotas for the commercial and recreational sectors. The commercial allocation is 27 percent and the recreational allocation is 73 percent of the catch limit. Until a future stock assessment is completed, or the catch limit is exceeded, the commercial quota would be 409,000 lb, and the recreational quota would be 1,130,000 lb.

### Request for Comments

The proposed rule published in the *Federal Register* on July 19, 2012. Written comments on this proposed rule must be received **no later than August 20, 2012**, to be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service. All comments received by NOAA Fisheries Service will be addressed in the final rule. Electronic copies of the proposed rule may be obtained from the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), and the amendment is available at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.

### 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](http://www.regulations.gov).

- Enter the following docket number into the "Search" box: **NOAA-NMFS-2012-0107**.
- Select the appropriate title, and click "Submit a Comment." 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:** Rich Malinowski, NOAA Fisheries Service, 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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