



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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NOAA Fisheries Publishes a Final Rule Affecting Snapper-Grouper Species (Effective November 6, 2014)

NOAA Fisheries has published a final rule to re-define the overfished (the population is too small) threshold for eight snapper-grouper species. The final rule for Regulatory Amendment 21 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Regulatory Amendment 21) published in the *Federal Register* on October 7, 2014 [79 FR 60379].

Regulatory Amendment 21 Action

This rule is administrative in nature and establishes new criteria for determining when red snapper, blueline tilefish, gag, black grouper, yellowtail snapper, vermilion snapper, red porgy, and greater amberjack are overfished.

Establishing a new threshold for determining whether or not the above species are considered overfished is expected to prevent the need for restrictive management actions when reductions in the population are due to non-fishing related factors i.e., naturally occurring events such as weather or water temperature shifts.

Addresses

The Framework Action and the final rule may be obtained from:

- The NOAA Fisheries Web site
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2014/reg_am21/index.html

More Information

For more information on the Framework Action, please click on this link to the Framework Action Frequently Asked Questions found at:

http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2014/reg_am21/index.html.

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