Commercial Harvest of Vermilion Snapper
in South Atlantic Waters Will Close on April 15, 2015

Commercial harvest of vermilion snapper in South Atlantic waters will close at 12:01 a.m. (local time) April 15, 2015. The 2015 January-June commercial catch limit is 438,260 pounds whole weight. Reports indicate the catch limit will be met by April 15, 2015. Commercial harvest will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on July 1, 2015.

The operator of a vessel that has been issued a federal commercial permit for snapper-grouper and that is landing vermilion snapper for sale must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such vermilion snapper prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, April 15, 2015. The prohibition on sale does not apply to sale or purchase of vermilion snapper that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m. (local time) April 15, 2015, and held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

During the closure:
- Harvest or possession of vermilion snapper in or from federal waters is limited to the recreational bag and possession limits.
- Sale and purchase of vermilion snapper in or from federal waters is prohibited.
- The closure applies in both state and federal waters for a person onboard a vessel with a federal snapper-grouper permit.

This closure is necessary to protect the snapper-grouper resource.