NOAA Fisheries is seeking public comment on the proposed rule for Regulatory Amendment 20 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Regulatory Amendment 20). The proposed rule published on April 8, 2015 (80 FR 18797), and the comment period ends on May 8, 2015.

The proposed rule would:

- Increase the commercial and recreational annual catch limits for snowy grouper as a result of the latest population assessment. The annual catch limits would increase during 2015 to 2019, and remain at 2019 levels until a new assessment takes place. The new values in pounds gutted weight are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Commercial Annual catch limit</th>
<th>Recreational Annual catch limit</th>
<th>Estimated Recreational Numbers of Fish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>82,900</td>
<td>4,400</td>
<td>523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>115,451</td>
<td>23,647</td>
<td>4,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>125,760</td>
<td>25,758</td>
<td>4,483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>135,380</td>
<td>27,729</td>
<td>4,819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>144,315</td>
<td>29,558</td>
<td>4,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>153,935</td>
<td>31,529</td>
<td>5,315</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Increase the commercial trip limit for snowy grouper from 100 pounds gutted weight to 200 pounds gutted weight.
- Modify the recreational fishing season for snowy grouper from 1 per vessel per day year-round to 1 per vessel per day from May through August with no recreational retention during the rest of the year.

Request for Comments
Comments on the proposed rule must be received no later than May 8, 2015, to be considered by NOAA Fisheries. See the Addresses section for information on where and how to submit comments.

Addresses
Electronic or hardcopies of the proposed rule may be obtained from:
- The NOAA Fisheries Web site:

You may submit comments by the following methods:
- Electronic Submission: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to http://www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail?D=NOAA-NMFS-2015-0003, click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- Mail: Nikhil Mehta
  NOAA Fisheries
  Southeast Regional Office
  Sustainable Fisheries Division
  263 13th Avenue South
  St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NOAA Fisheries will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

More Information
For more information on the proposed rule for Regulatory Amendment 20, please follow this link to the Frequently Asked Questions: