



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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May 1, 2015  
FB15-033

## **Commercial Harvest of Gray Triggerfish in South Atlantic Waters Will Close on May 8, 2015**

Commercial harvest of gray triggerfish in South Atlantic waters will **close at 12:01 a.m. (local time) May 8, 2015**. The commercial annual catch limit for gray triggerfish is 272,880 pounds, whole weight. Landing reports indicate the catch limit will be met by May 8, 2015. The commercial closure of gray triggerfish will remain effective until NOAA Fisheries announces the reopening of the fishing season.

The operator of a vessel that has been issued a federal commercial permit for snapper-grouper and who is landing gray triggerfish for sale must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such gray triggerfish prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, **May 8, 2015**. The prohibition on sale does not apply to sale or purchase of gray triggerfish that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m. (local time) **May 8, 2015**, and held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

During the closure:

- Harvest or possession of gray triggerfish in or from federal waters is limited to the recreational bag and possession limits when the recreational sector is open.
- Sale and purchase of gray triggerfish 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.