



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## **Commercial Harvest of Jacks in South Atlantic Waters Will Close on June 23, 2015**

Commercial harvest of jacks in South Atlantic waters will **close, at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on June 23, 2015**. Commercial harvest will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on January 1, 2016. The jacks complex is comprised of the following species: almaco jack, banded rudderfish, and lesser amberjack. The 2015 commercial catch limit is 189,422 pounds whole weight. Reports indicate that landings are approaching the 2015 catch limit for the commercial sector.

The operator of a vessel with a federal commercial permit for snapper-grouper that is landing jacks for sale must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such jacks prior to 12:01 a.m. (local time), June 23, 2015. The prohibition on sale does not apply to sale or purchase of jacks that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m. (local time), June 23, 2015, and held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

During the closure:

- Harvest or possession of jacks is limited to the recreational bag and possession limits.
- Sale and purchase of jacks is prohibited.
- The closure applies in both state and federal waters.

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