



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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Commercial Harvest for the Longline Component of Golden Tilefish in South Atlantic Waters Will Close on March 15, 2016

The commercial longline component of golden tilefish harvest in South Atlantic waters will **close at 12:01 a.m. (local time) March 15, 2016**. Commercial harvest will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on January 1, 2017. The 2015 longline component commercial catch limit is 405,971 pounds gutted weight. Reports indicate the longline catch limit will be met by March 15, 2016.

The operator of a vessel that has been issued a federal commercial permit for snapper-grouper and a golden tilefish longline endorsement that is landing golden tilefish for sale must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such golden tilefish prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, March 15, 2016.

During the commercial longline closure:

- Golden tilefish may still be harvested commercially using hook-and-line gear.
- Vessels with a golden tilefish longline endorsement are not eligible to harvest golden tilefish using hook-and-line gear.
- The commercial longline closure applies in both state and federal waters.

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