



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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FB16-008

Notice of Availability for Public Comments on Changes Proposed for Snapper-Grouper in the South Atlantic *Comment Period Ends April 5, 2016*

NOAA Fisheries is seeking public comment on Amendment 35 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Amendment 35). The Notice of Availability for public comment on this amendment published in the *Federal Register* on **February 5, 2016 (81 FR 6222)**. Comments are due by **April 5, 2016**.

Proposed management measures

If approved by NOAA Fisheries, Amendment 35 would:

- Remove dog snapper, black snapper, mahogany snapper, and schoolmaster from the Snapper-Grouper Fishery Management Plan. These species have extremely low landings, and regulations governing their harvest differ in state and federal waters. The State of Florida has indicated that if these species are removed from the Fishery Management Plan, it intends to extend state regulations for these species into federal waters off Florida, creating a more consistent regulatory environment.
- Revise regulations for the use of golden tilefish longline endorsements. Specifically, Amendment 35 would clarify regulations for the use of longline endorsements to ensure that fishery participants holding longline endorsements are not allowed to fish under both the hook-and-line quota and the longline quota within the same fishing year. This was the original intent of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council when it implemented the longline endorsement program for golden tilefish under Amendment 18B to the Snapper-Grouper Fishery Management Plan (78 FR 23858, April 23, 2013).

Request for Comments

Comments on the proposed rule must be received no later than **April 5, 2016**, 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 action may be obtained from:

- The NOAA Fisheries Web site:
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2014/am35/index.html.
- The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>.

You may submit comments by the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2015-0076, click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- **Mail:** Nikhil Mehta
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Sustainable Fisheries Division
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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 Amendment 35, please follow this link to the Frequently Asked Questions:

http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2014/am35/index.html.