



South Atlantic Fishery Bulletin

Bringing Fishing News to You

FB17-056

FISHERY BULLETIN ISSUE DATE: October 12, 2017

CONTACT: Sustainable Fisheries (727) 824-5305

Commercial Closure for Vermilion Snapper in South Atlantic Federal Waters on October 17, 2017

WHAT/WHEN:

The commercial harvest of vermilion snapper in South Atlantic federal waters will close at **12:01 a.m. on October 17, 2017**. During the commercial closure, harvest or possession of vermilion snapper in or from federal waters is limited to the recreational bag and possession limits when the recreational fishery is open.

WHY THIS CLOSURE IS HAPPENING:

- The 2017 July-December commercial catch limit is 431,460 pounds whole weight. In addition, the unused portion of the January 1 through June 30, 2017, commercial catch limit was added to the July 1 through December 31, 2017, commercial catch limit. Commercial landings are projected to reach the July-December commercial catch limit by October 17, 2017. According to the accountability measure, harvest should close to prevent the catch limit from being exceeded.

AFTER THE CLOSURE:

- The closure applies in both state and federal waters for vessels that have a federal commercial permit for South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper.
- The prohibition on sale or purchase during a closure for vermilion snapper does not apply to fish that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to **12:01 a.m. on October 17, 2017**, and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

This bulletin provides only a summary of the existing regulations. Full regulations can be found in the *Federal Register* or at https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=383bc195ccbeab4fd6bec1c24905df34&node=sp50.12.622.i&rgn=div6#se50.12.622_1190.

SIGN UP FOR TEXT MESSAGE ALERTS - FIND OUT ABOUT IMMEDIATE OPENINGS AND CLOSURES

NOAA's Text Message Alert Program allows you to receive important fishery related alerts via text message (SMS). Standard message & data rates may apply. You may opt-out at any time. Text alerts you may receive include:

- Immediate fishery openings and closures
- Any significant changes to fishing regulations that happen quickly

Sign up for one or more of the following groups:

- **Gulf of Mexico Recreational Fisheries Related Alerts**
 - Text GULFRECFISH to 888777
- **Gulf of Mexico Commercial Fisheries Related Alerts**
 - Text GULFCOMMFISH to 888777
- **South Atlantic Recreational Fisheries Related Alerts**
 - Text SATLRECFISH to 888777
- **South Atlantic Commercial Fisheries Related Alerts**
 - Text SATLCOMMFISH to 888777
- **Caribbean Fisheries Related Alerts**
 - Text CARIBFISH to 888777

Other contacts:

Media: Kim Amendola, 727-551-5707

Allison Garrett, 727-551-5750