

South Atlantic
Amended Proposed Rule for Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit Amendment
Wreckfish Annual Catch Limit
Frequently Asked Questions
December 2011

What would the amended proposed rule do?

- The amended proposed rule would change the proposed annual catch limit (ACL) value for wreckfish to 235,000 pounds whole weight.
- The amended proposed rule would also change the commercial and recreational ACLs to 223,250 and 11,750 pounds whole weight, respectively.

Is the 250,000 pounds ACL for wreckfish currently in place?

- No. The ACL is being proposed through the Comprehensive ACL Amendment. The expected implementation of the actions in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment is January 2012.
- This change would occur before the implementation of the 250,000 pound whole weight ACL.

Why is this change being proposed?

- The change is being proposed based on a recent analysis of wreckfish data.
- The 250,000 pound whole weight recommendation for the acceptable biological catch (ABC) was developed at the August 2010 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) meeting. At the November 2011 SSC meeting, NOAA Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office staff presented a depletion-corrected average catch analysis of the wreckfish population. Based on the analysis, the SSC recommended an ABC value for wreckfish of 235,000 pounds whole weight.
- The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council reviewed the recommended ABC value in December 2011 and passed a motion to concur with the process of adjusting the wreckfish to reflect the ABC value of 235,000 pounds whole weight.

Who would be affected by the amended proposed rule?

- Commercial fishers with catch shares who fish for wreckfish in South Atlantic exclusive economic zone (3-200 miles offshore).

Where can I get more information on actions in the Amended Proposed Rule?

- The amended proposed rule may be found online at the NOAA Fisheries Service Web site at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SAACLAmend.htm> and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>.
- For more information, contact Rick DeVictor at (727) 824-5305.