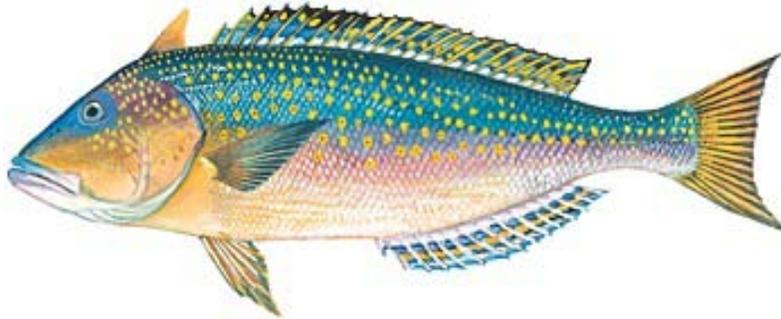


**Frequently Asked Questions
for
Regulatory Amendment 12 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper
Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Regulatory Amendment 12)**



What does the regulatory amendment do?

Regulatory Amendment 12 modifies the annual catch limit for commercial and recreational harvest of golden tilefish in the South Atlantic. The annual catch limit is 541,295 pounds gutted weight for the commercial sector and 3,019 fish for the recreational sector.

	Previous Annual Catch Limit	Modified Annual Catch Limit
Commercial	282,819 pounds gutted weight	541,295 pounds gutted weight
Recreational	1,578 fish	3,091 fish

Why is there an increase in the catch limit?

The stock assessment for golden tilefish indicates that the South Atlantic population is not overfished nor undergoing overfishing and the current catch limits can be increased.

How does this affect the commercial sector?

The regulatory amendment increases the commercial annual catch limit from 282,819 pounds gutted weight to 541,295 pounds gutted weight.

How does this affect the recreational sector?

The regulatory amendment increases the recreational annual catch limit from 1,578 fish to 3,091 fish.

What does the modification to the accountability measures do?

The recreational sector will close when the annual catch limit is projected to be met, and recreational landings will be monitored in the year following an overage. If high landings persist, the fishing season will be shortened as necessary.

What does this mean for fishing in 2012?

Once the rule is effective, the commercial sector for golden tilefish will re-open under a 300 pound gutted weight trip limit until the annual catch limit is reached. The recreational sector will not re-open in 2012 but will open in 2013 under the increased catch limit.

Where can I find more information about Regulatory Amendment 12?

- Contact NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office

By Mail: Southeast Regional Office, c/o Karla Gore

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

By FAX: (727) 824-5308

By Phone: (727) 824-5305

- The final rule to increase the ACL of golden tilefish can be found on the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Web site:

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SASnapperGrouperHomepage.htm>

- Regulatory Amendment 12 and the final rule are available on line at: NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Web site:

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SASnapperGrouperHomepage.htm>

or, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Web site: www.safmc.net