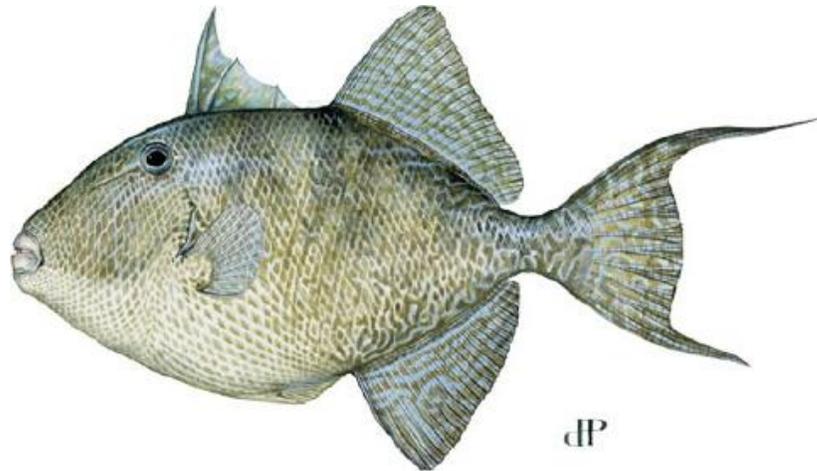


# RECREATIONAL FISHING CLOSURE FOR GRAY TRIGGERFISH IN GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*May 2012*



### **When will the recreational closure occur?**

- The recreational annual catch target (quota) is projected to be caught on June 11, 2012.
- After this date, fishing for gray triggerfish in federal waters is prohibited until January 1, 2013.

### **Why is there a recreational fishing closure?**

- A temporary 2012 regulation implemented on May 14, 2012, set the recreational annual catch target at 217,100 pounds whole weight.
- The temporary regulation also implemented an accountability measure that closes recreational gray triggerfish fishing when the annual catch target is projected to be caught.

### **Why is the closure needed?**

- An assessment of the gray triggerfish population indicated there were too few fish and that too many were being caught.
- To rebuild the gray triggerfish population, a rebuilding plan was implemented in 2008, but recent information shows the population is not recovering quick enough.
- The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) is working to revise the rebuilding plan and put in place long-term measures to control the gray triggerfish harvest.
- This long-term plan will not be in effect until late 2012 or early 2013.
- At the Council's request, NOAA Fisheries Service put in place temporary regulations, including this recreational fishing closure until the long-term plan is ready.

### **How are recreational landings projected?**

- Historical landings from 2000-2011 were used to predict the 2012 season length.
- Landings data came from:
  - Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS).
  - Southeast Fisheries Science Center Headboat survey.
  - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department charter and private/rental creel survey.
- 2010 data was adjusted to account for the Deepwater Horizon MC252 oil spill.
- A report detailing the projected landings and how the projections were made can be viewed at: [http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/bulletins/pdfs/2012/FB12-034\\_Gray\\_Triggerfish\\_Comment.pdf](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/bulletins/pdfs/2012/FB12-034_Gray_Triggerfish_Comment.pdf)

### **What if the projections are off and the annual catch target was not caught?**

- The temporary rule allows NOAA Fisheries Service to reopen gray triggerfish fishing at a later date in 2012? until the remainder of quota is caught.

### **When will commercial fishing for gray triggerfish close?**

- The commercial quota for gray triggerfish is 60,900 pounds whole weight.
- Commercial gray triggerfish fishing will close when the quota is projected to be caught.
- As of May 8, 2012, approximately 64 percent of the quota has been caught.

### **Related Links:**

- Fishery Bulletin FB12-040  
([http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/bulletins/pdfs/2012/Gray\\_Triggerfish\\_Recreational\\_Quota\\_Closure.pdf](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/bulletins/pdfs/2012/Gray_Triggerfish_Recreational_Quota_Closure.pdf))
- 2012 Gray triggerfish temporary rule  
([http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/pdfs/Gray\\_Triggerfish\\_Interim\\_Rule.pdf](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/pdfs/Gray_Triggerfish_Interim_Rule.pdf))
- Fishery Bulletin FB12-034  
([http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/bulletins/pdfs/2012/FB12-034\\_Gray\\_Triggerfish\\_Comment.pdf](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/bulletins/pdfs/2012/FB12-034_Gray_Triggerfish_Comment.pdf))
- Environmental assessment and regulatory impact review of the temporary measures  
([http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/pdfs/Gray\\_Triggerfish\\_Interim\\_Rule\\_EA.pdf](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/pdfs/Gray_Triggerfish_Interim_Rule_EA.pdf))
- 2012 Recreational Gulf Gray Triggerfish Quota Closure Analysis  
([http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/pdfs/Gray\\_Triggerfish\\_Quota\\_Closure\\_Analysis.pdf](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/pdfs/Gray_Triggerfish_Quota_Closure_Analysis.pdf))