

**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 would the regulatory amendment do?**

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

	<b>Current Annual Catch Limit</b>	<b>Proposed Annual Catch Limit</b>
<b>Commercial</b>	282,819 pounds gutted weight	541,295 pounds gutted weight
<b>Recreational</b>	1,578 fish	3,091 fish

**Why is the increase in the catch limit being proposed?**

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

**How would the regulatory amendment affect the commercial sector?**

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

### **How would the regulatory amendment affect the recreational sector?**

The regulatory amendment would increase the recreational annual catch limit from 1,578 fish to 3,091 fish. Accountability measures would also be modified to eliminate the three year running average.

### **What would the modification to the accountability measures do?**

Regulatory Amendment 12 proposes to modify the accountability measures for the golden tilefish recreational sector. The recreational sector would close when the catch limit is projected to be met, and recreational landings would be monitored in the year following an overage. If high landings persist, the fishing season would be shortened as necessary.

### **What is the status of the current action?**

The proposed rule published in the *Federal Register* on July 20, 2012 (77 FR 42688) and is subject to a 30-day public comment period until August 20, 2012.

If approved, the final rule is expected to be effective in Fall 2012.

### **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 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

*By FAX:* (727) 824-5308

*By Phone:* (727) 824-5305

- The proposed 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 proposed 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](http://www.safmc.net)

**How do I submit comments on the proposed rule?**

You may submit comments by either of the following methods. Comments received through other means may not be considered.

**Electronic Submissions:** Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)

Enter the following docket number into the “Search” box: **NOAA-NMFS-2012-0087**.

Select the appropriate title, and click “Submit a Comment.” This will display the comment webform. Attachments to electronic comments (up to 10 MB) will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

**Mail:** Karla Gore, NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505.