

**South Atlantic
Amendment 24
Red Grouper Rebuilding Plan
Frequently Asked Questions
June 2012**

What does Amendment 24 do?

- The primary purpose of Amendment 24 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Amendment 24) is to implement a rebuilding plan for red grouper in the South Atlantic.

What is a rebuilding plan?

- A rebuilding plan is a plan comprised of ways to increase a population of fish within a certain time frame.

Why have a rebuilding plan for red grouper?

- The red grouper stock in the South Atlantic is undergoing overfishing (rate of removal is too high) and overfished (the population is too low). This determination is based on a stock assessment completed in 2010.
- For fish populations that are too low, a rebuilding plan is required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

What other changes will result from the implementation of Amendment 24?

- Implementation of red grouper annual catch limits for the commercial and recreational sectors. The sector annual catch limits are based on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's allocations of 44 percent commercial and 56 percent recreational.
- Specification of a red grouper annual catch target for the recreational sector.
- Implementation of red grouper in-season accountability measures for the commercial and recreational sectors. The accountability measures will close each sector when the sector annual catch limit is projected to be met.
- Elimination of the commercial and recreational aggregate annual catch limits and accountability measures for black grouper, gag, and red grouper.

Who would be affected by Amendment 24?

- Commercial and recreational fishers who fish for red grouper and similar species snapper-grouper species in South Atlantic exclusive economic zone (3-200 miles offshore).

When is Amendment 24 effective?

- The final rule published in the Federal Register on June 11, 2012, and is effective on July 11, 2012.

Where can I get more information on actions in Amendment 24?

- Amendment 24 may be found online at the NOAA Fisheries Service Web site at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SASnapperGrouperHomepage.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.