

**Amendment 35 to the Fishery Management Plan for the
Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region
(Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35)**

*Frequently Asked Questions
February 2016*

What is the purpose of Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35?

Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35 would:

- Remove dog snapper, black snapper, mahogany snapper, and schoolmaster from the Snapper-Grouper Fishery Management Plan to create regulatory consistency across jurisdictional boundaries. These species have extremely low landings in state and federal waters, and regulations governing their harvest differ among the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and Florida state jurisdictional management areas. The State of Florida has indicated it intends to extend Florida regulations for these species into federal waters if the species are removed from the Fishery Management Plan, to create a consistent regulatory environment.
- Revise regulations for the use of golden tilefish longline endorsements. Specifically, Amendment 35 would clarify regulations for the use of longline endorsements to ensure that fishery participants holding longline endorsements are not allowed to fish under both the hook-and-line quota and the longline quota within the same fishing year. This was the original intent of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council when it implemented the longline endorsement program for golden tilefish under Amendment 18B to the Snapper-Grouper Fishery Management Plan (78 FR 23858, April 23, 2013).

Why is Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35 necessary?

- Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35 is necessary to simplify federal management of the snapper-grouper fishery without reducing protection for species rarely caught in states other than Florida, make regulations consistent across jurisdictional boundaries, and clarify regulations for commercially harvested golden tilefish; while minimizing, to the extent practicable, adverse socioeconomic impacts.

Who would be affected by Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35?

- Commercial and recreational fishers who fish for snapper-grouper species in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) off Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

When might Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35 be effective?

- Following the comment period on the notice of availability and proposed rule; and depending on the public comments received, a final rule may be published. If implemented, regulations could be effective by Summer 2016.

How can I comment on the Notice of Availability for Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35?

- NOAA Fisheries is accepting comments on the notice of availability for Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35 from February 5, 2016, to April 5, 2016.
- Comments on Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35 can be submitted electronically via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-

[2015-0076](#), click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. Written comments can be submitted to the address below.

Where can I get more information on Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35?

- Contact NOAA Fisheries
By Mail: Southeast Regional Office, c/o Nikhil Mehta
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
By FAX: (727) 824-5308
By Phone: (727) 824-5305
- Snapper-Grouper Amendment 35 can be found online at the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Web site at:
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2014/am35/index.html
or the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>.