

**Regulatory Amendment 14 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of  
the South Atlantic Region  
(Regulatory Amendment 14)**

*Frequently Asked Questions  
November 2014*

**What is the purpose of Regulatory Amendment 14?**

Regulatory Amendment 14 will:

- Change the current fishing year for both commercial and recreational sectors of greater amberjack from May 1 through April 30, to March 1 through the end of February.
- Change the current commercial fishing year for black sea bass from June 1 through May 31, to January 1 through December 31.
- Change the current recreational fishing year for black sea bass from June 1 through May 31, to April 1 through March 31.
- Change the commercial trip limit for black sea bass caught with hook-and-line gear during January 1 to April 30 to 300 pounds gutted weight. From May 1 to December 31, the trip limit is 1,000 pounds gutted weight for hook-and-line gear.
- Use of black sea bass pots is prohibited from November 1 through April 30. From May 1 to October 31, the trip limit for black sea bass caught with black sea bass pots is 1,000 pounds gutted weight.
- Revise the black sea bass recreational accountability measure to have NOAA Fisheries announce the length of the recreational season for black sea bass annually in the *Federal Register* prior to the April 1 recreational fishing year start date.
- Reduce the commercial trip limit for gag from the current 1,000 pounds gutted weight, to 500 pounds gutted weight, when 75 percent of the gag commercial quota is reached.
- Implement an in-season closure for vermillion snapper and annual catch limit overage adjustment (payback) in the event that the recreational catch limit is exceeded.

**Who will be affected by Regulatory Amendment 14?**

- Commercial and recreational fishers who fish for greater amberjack, black sea bass, gag, and vermillion snapper in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore), off North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

**When will Regulatory Amendment 14 be effective?**

- The final rule published on November 7, 2014. Regulations will be effective on December 8, 2014.

**Where can I get more information on Regulatory Amendment 14 and its Final Rule?**

- Contact NOAA Fisheries  
*By Mail:* Southeast Regional Office, c/o Nikhil Mehta  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505  
*By FAX:* (727) 824-5308  
*By Phone:* (727) 824-5305
- Regulatory Amendment 14 and its Final Rule 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/reg\\_am14/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2014/reg_am14/index.html)