



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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Commercial Harvest of Vermilion Snapper in South Atlantic Waters Will Close on September 12, 2014

Commercial harvest of vermilion snapper in South Atlantic waters will **close at 12:01 a.m. (local time) September 12, 2014**. The 2014 July-December commercial catch limit is 446,080 pounds whole weight. Reports indicate the catch limit will be met by September 12, 2014. Commercial harvest will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on January 1, 2015.

The operator of a vessel that has been issued a federal commercial permit for snapper-grouper and that is landing vermilion snapper for sale must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such vermilion snapper prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, September 12, 2014. The prohibition on sale does not apply to sale or purchase of vermilion snapper that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m. (local time) September 12, 2014, and held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

During the closure:

- Harvest or possession of vermilion snapper in or from federal waters is limited to the recreational bag and possession limits.
- Sale and purchase of vermilion snapper in or from federal waters is prohibited.
- The closure applies in both state and federal waters for a person onboard a vessel with a federal snapper-grouper permit.

This closure is necessary to protect the snapper-grouper resource.