



RECREATIONAL REGULATIONS South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Complex

(Updated January 1, 2018)

NOTE: This listing is published for informational purposes and has no legal force or effect. Fishery regulations are subject to change.

For updated information, visit www.safmc.net, download our mobile app or call 843-571-4366

List of Species

SNAPPERS

Lane Snapper
Yellowtail Snapper
Gray Snapper
Mutton Snapper
Vermilion Snapper
Red Snapper

Queen Snapper
Blackfin Snapper
Cubera Snapper

TILEFISHES

Golden Tilefish
Blueline Tilefish
Sand Tilefish

PORGYS

Red
Jolthead
Saucereye
Whitebone
Knobbed
Longspine*
Scup

TRIGGERFISH

Gray
Ocean*

GRUNTS

White Grunt
Margate
Tomtate
Cottonwick*
Sailors Choice

GROUPERS

Gag
Scamp
Red Grouper
Black Grouper
Speckled Hind
Snowy Grouper
Warsaw Grouper
Wreckfish
Rock Hind
Graysby
Yellowedge Grouper
Coney
Red Hind
Goliath Grouper
Misty Grouper
Nassau Grouper
Yellowmouth Grouper
Yellowfin Grouper

JACKS

Greater Amberjack
Bar Jack
Almaco Jack
Lesser Amberjack
Banded Rudderfish

SEA BASSES

Black Sea Bass
Bank Sea Bass
Rock Sea Bass*

SPADEFISH

Spadefish

WRASSES

Hogfish

*Ecosystem Species

Recreational Closures - CURRENT

Species	Effective Date of Closure	Harvest Reopens
Hogfish (E. FL)	Aug 24, 2017	May 1, 2018
Greater amberjack	October 31, 2017	March 1, 2018
Shallow-water grouper complex**	Jan 1, 2018	May 1, 2018
Blueline tilefish	Sept 1, 2017	May 1, 2018
Snowy grouper	Sept 1, 2017	May 1, 2018
Wreckfish	Sept 1, 2017	Jul 1, 2018

**This includes gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, yellowmouth grouper, yellowfin grouper, graysby, and coney.

The following species are closed to harvest or possession in federal waters, unless otherwise specified: red snapper, goliath grouper, Nassau grouper, speckled hind, and warsaw grouper.

Additional Notes:

- The sale of bag-limit caught snapper grouper species is prohibited.
- Recreational and commercial fishermen are required to use [dehooking tools](#) when fishing for snapper grouper species.
- The use of non-stainless steel [circle hooks](#) (offset or non-offset) is required for all species in the snapper grouper complex when using hook-and-line gear with natural baits in waters north of 28 degrees N. latitude.
- All species in the snapper grouper complex must be maintained with heads and fins intact. (*Cobia, king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, dolphin, and wahoo must also be landed with heads and fins intact.*)
- Goliath and Nassau grouper must be released by cutting the line and not removing the fish from the water.

Know Before You Go!

Download the **FREE Fish Rules App** for federal regulations in the South Atlantic!

Available for iPhone



Available for Android

Aggregate Grouper Bag Limit

Three (3) groupers per person/day includes:

Species:	Additional Notes:
Gag grouper Black grouper	Maximum of 1 gag or black grouper (BUT NOT BOTH) per person per day
Snowy grouper	Snowy grouper limited to 1 per VESSEL per day (Season is May through August only; closed September through April)
Golden Tilefish	Maximum of 1 golden tilefish per person per day
Blueline Tilefish	Maximum of 3 blueline tilefish per person (Season is May through August only; closed September through April)
Misty, Red, Scamp, Yellowedge, Yellowfin, Yellowmouth, Sand Tilefish, Coney, Graysby, Red Hind, and Rock Hind	All included in Aggregate Grouper Bag Limit under the 3 per person per day limit.

Aggregate Snapper Bag Limit

Ten (10) snapper per person/day (excluding vermilion snapper) with the following exceptions:

- Red Snapper:**
 - The fishery is closed to both commercial and recreational harvest.
- Cubera Snapper Regulations:**
 - Fish \geq 30-inches Total Length (TL) = Maximum of 2 cubera per person (not to exceed 2 per/vessel) off Florida. These are not included in the 10 snapper bag limit.
 - Fish < 30" TL = Included in the 10 fish bag limit.

Other Snapper Grouper Complex Species

20 Fish Aggregate Bag Limit

There is an aggregate bag limit of 20 fish per person inclusive of all fish in the snapper grouper complex currently *not under a bag limit*, excluding tomtate and blue runner.

This means you may catch your bag limits AND additionally retain up to 20 other fishes for which there is no bag limit.

See Next Page for **SUMMARY TABLE** of Commonly Caught Species

Additional Regulations for Specific Snapper Grouper Species

In addition to the aggregate snapper bag limits, fishermen may retain:

Species:	Bag Limit:
Greater Amberjack	1 per person/day (In April, for-hire limited to 1/person/day or 1/person/trip)
Hogfish	1/person/day, off of East Florida; 2/person/day off NC, SC, GA
Red Porgy	3 per person/day OR 3 per person/trip, whichever is more restrictive

Summary of Recreational Regulations - Commonly Caught South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Species

Updated January 1, 2018

Check www.safmc.net for the latest updates or download the *SA Fishing Regulations* App.

Species - Common Name	Size Limit	Harvest Status/Bag Limits/ Other Regulations
Black Grouper*	24-in TL	CLOSED (annual spawning season closure); Included in 3 Grouper Aggregate bag limit with 1 gag or black (not both) per person/day
Black Sea Bass	13-in TL	OPEN; 7 fish/person/day; Fishing year runs from April 1 - March 31 annually
Cubera Snapper	12-in TL	OPEN; 2 per person (not to exceed 2 per vessel) for fish 30" TL or larger off East Florida; Fish < 30" TL included in 10 Snapper Aggregate bag limit
Gag*	24-in TL	CLOSED (annual spawning season closure); Included in 3 Grouper Aggregate bag limit with 1 gag or black (not both) per person/day
Gray Snapper (Mangrove)	12-in TL	OPEN; Included in 10 Snapper Aggregate bag limit
Gray Triggerfish	14-in FL (<i>off E. FL</i>) 12-in FL (<i>NC, SC, GA</i>)	OPEN; Included in 20 Snapper Grouper Aggregate bag limit
Greater Amberjack	28-in FL (no coring)	CLOSED; Fishery will reopen 3/1/18; 1 per person/day; (In April, for-hire/charter vessels limited to 1 per person/day or 1 per person/trip.);
Hogfish	16-in FL (<i>off E. FL</i>) 17-in FL (<i>NC, SC, GA</i>)	CLOSED in FL, 1 fish/person/day off E. Florida; OPEN in NC, SC, GA, 2 fish/person/day in NC, SC, GA
Mutton Snapper	16-in TL	OPEN; Included in 10 Snapper Aggregate bag limit
Red Grouper*	20-in TL	CLOSED (annual spawning season closure); Included in 3 Grouper Aggregate bag limit
Red Porgy	14-in TL	OPEN; 3 per person/day OR 3 per person/trip, whichever is more restrictive
Scamp*	20-in TL	CLOSED (annual spawning season closure); Included in 3 Grouper Aggregate bag limit
Snowy Grouper	None	CLOSED (Seasonal closure Sept 1- Apr 30 annually); Included in the 3 Grouper Aggregate bag limit with a 1 fish/VESSEL/day limit
Tilefish, Blueline	None	CLOSED (Seasonal closure Sept 1- Apr 30 annually); Included in the 3 Grouper Aggregate bag limit with a 3 fish/person/day limit
Tilefish, Golden	None	OPEN; Included in the 3 Grouper Aggregate bag limit with a 1 fish/person/day limit
Vermilion Snapper	12-in TL	OPEN; 5 fish/person/day in addition to the 20 Snapper Grouper Aggregate bag limit
Yellowedge Grouper	None	OPEN; Included in the 3 Grouper Aggregate bag limit
Yellowfin Grouper*	20-in TL	CLOSED (annual spawning season closure); Included in 3 Grouper Aggregate bag limit
Yellowmouth Grouper*	20-in TL	CLOSED (annual spawning season closure); Included in 3 Grouper Aggregate bag limit
Yellowtail Snapper	12-in TL	OPEN; Included in 10 Snapper Aggregate bag limit

*Indicates species included in the Annual Shallow-water Grouper Spawning Season Closure January 1 through April 30.
These fisheries reopen on May 1 annually.

The following species are closed to possession or harvest:

Goliath Grouper
Nassau Grouper
Red Snapper
Speckled Hind
Warsaw Grouper

Sea Turtle Release Gear Requirements: For-hire vessels fishing for snapper grouper species and possessing a federal for-hire permit must have onboard NMFS approved sea turtle release gear and follow release protocols. **For more information, call 727-824-5312 or visit, http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_sa/turtle_sawfish_release/index.html**

Quota monitoring information for the recreational annual catch limits is available from NOAA Fisheries: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/acl_monitoring/recreational_sa/index.html