

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 622 is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 622--FISHERIES OF THE CARIBBEAN, GULF OF MEXICO, AND SOUTH ATLANTIC

1. The authority citation for part 622 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

2. In § 622.183, add paragraph (b) (10) to read as follows:

§ 622.183 Area and seasonal closures.

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(b) * * *

(10) *Golden tilefish commercial longline component.*

The golden tilefish commercial longline component in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is closed from January 1 through January 14, each year. During a closure, no person may fish for, harvest or possess golden tilefish from the South Atlantic EEZ with longline gear on board.

3. In § 622.187, revise paragraph (b) (2) (iv) to read as follows:

§ 622.187 Bag and possession limits.

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(b) * * *

(2) * * *

Commented [SS1]: Note (b) (9) is being added in Am50 for red porgy.

Commented [SS2]: Action 3, Preferred Alternative 3/3a. Golden tilefish longline component start date of Jan 15th.

Commented [SS3]: Bag limits

(iv) No more than **two** fish may be blue-line tilefish. However, no blue-line tilefish may be retained by the captain or crew of a vessel operating as a charter vessel or headboat. The bag limit for such captain and crew is **zero**.

Commented [SS4]: Action 5, Pref Alt 2. 2 fish

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Commented [SS5]: Action 5, Pref Alt 4. no captain/crew retention

4. In § 622.190, revise paragraph (a) (2) to read as follows;

§ 622.190 Quotas.

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(a) * * *

(2) *Golden tilefish.* (i) *Commercial sector (hook-and-line and longline components **combined**).*

(A) For the 2023 fishing **year** - 420,645 lb (190,801 kg).

Commented [SS6]: Reviewers, note that the all the quota values in 622.190 were taken from the Ch2, in the table that is part of Preferred Alt 2 description.

Commented [SS7]: Action 2, Pref Alt 2. Commercial ACL(Quota)

(B) For the 2024 fishing year - 433,216 lb (196,503 kg).

(C) For the 2025 fishing year - 442,886 lb (200,890 kg).

(D) For the 2026 and subsequent fishing years - 450,622 lb (204,399 kg).

(ii) *Hook-and-line component.*

(A) For the **2023** fishing year - 105,161 lb (47,700 kg).

Commented [SS8]: Action 2, Pref Alt 2. HL component quotas.

(B) For the 2024 fishing year - 108,304 lb (49,126 kg).

(C) For the 2025 fishing year - 110,722 lb (50,223 kg).

(D) For the 2026 and subsequent fishing years - 112,656 lb (51,100 kg).

(iii) *Longline component.*

(A) For the 2023 fishing year - 315,484 lb (143,101 kg).

(B) For the 2024 fishing year - 324,912 lb (147,378 kg).

(C) For the 2025 fishing year - 332,165 lb (150,668 kg).

(D) For the 2026 and subsequent fishing years - 337,967 lb (153,299 kg).

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5. In § 622.193, revise paragraphs (a) (1) (iii), (a) (2), (z) (2) and add paragraph (a) (3) to read as follows:

§ 622.193 Annual catch limits (ACLs), annual catch targets (ACTs), and accountability measures (AMs).

(a) * * *

(1) * * *

(iii) If all commercial landings of golden tilefish, as estimated by the SRD, exceed the commercial ACL

Commented [SS9]: Action 2, Pref Alt 2. LL component quotas.

Commented [SS10]: Golden tilefish

Commented [SS11]: commercial

(including both the hook-and-line and longline component quotas) specified in § 622.190(a)(2)(i), and the combined commercial and recreational ACL specified in paragraph (a)(3) of this section is exceeded during the same fishing year, and golden tilefish are overfished based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the commercial ACL for that following fishing year by the amount of the commercial ACL overage in the prior fishing year.

(2) *Recreational sector.* The recreational ACL for golden tilefish is 2,559 fish for the 2023 fishing year; 2,635 fish for the 2024 fishing year; 2,694 for the 2025 fishing year; 2,741 fish for the 2026 and subsequent fishing years. NMFS will project the length of the recreational fishing season based on catch rates from the previous fishing year and when NMFS projects the recreational ACL specified in this paragraph is expected to be met, and annually announce the recreational fishing season end date in the **Federal Register**. On and after the effective date of the recreational closure notification, the bag and possession limit for golden tilefish in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is zero. This bag and possession limit applies in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for

Commented [SS12]: Action 2, Preferred Alternative 2

Commented [SS13]: Action 4, Preferred Alternative 3.

which a valid Federal charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, *i.e.* in state or Federal waters.

(3) *Combined commercial and recreational ACL.* The combined commercial and recreational ACL is 435,000 lb (197,313 kg), gutted weight, for the 2023 fishing year; 448,000 lb (203,209 kg), gutted weight, for the 2024 fishing year; 458,000 lb (207,745 kg), gutted weight, for the 2025 fishing year; and 466,000 lb (211,374 kg), gutted weight, for the 2026 and subsequent fishing years.

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(z) * * *

(2) *Recreational sector.* The recreational ACL for blueline tilefish is 116,820 lb (52,989 kg), round weight. NMFS will project the length of the recreational fishing season based on catch rates from the previous fishing year and when NMFS projects the recreational ACL specified in this paragraph is expected to be met, and annually announce the recreational fishing season end date in the **Federal Register**. On and after the effective date of the recreational closure notification, the bag and possession limit for blueline tilefish in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is zero. This bag and possession limit applies in the

Commented [SS14]: Action 1, Preferred Alt 2. Combined (total) comm and rec ACLs.

Commented [SS15]: Blueline tilefish Rec Am

Commented [SS16]: Action 7, Preferred Alternative 3

South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, *i.e.* in state or Federal waters.