

Recent Regulatory Changes under the South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan

Amendment	Effective Date	Actions Implemented
Amendment #31 Joint South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Generic Headboat Reporting Amendment	1/27/2014	The amendment required headboat vessels fishing in the South Atlantic for snapper grouper, dolphin and wahoo, and coastal migratory pelagics to submit weekly electronic fishing records to the Southeast Fisheries Science Center Science and Research Director, or at intervals shorter than a week, if notified by the Science and Research Director.
Regulatory Amendment #14	12/8/2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Changed the commercial and recreational fishing year for greater amberjack from May 1 through April 30, to March 1 through the end of February; -Changed the commercial fishing year for black sea bass from June 1 through May 31, to January 1 through December 31. -Changed the recreational fishing year for black sea bass from June 1 through May 31, to April 1 through March 31; -Specified a 300 pound gutted weight commercial trip limit for black sea bass using hook-and-line gear from January 1 to April 30. From May 1 to December 31, the trip limit is 1,000 pounds gutted weight for hook-and-line gear. -Revised 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. -Implemented a trip limit step down for gag from 1,000 pounds gutted weight, to 500 pounds gutted weight, when 75% of the gag commercial quota is reached. -Implemented an in-season closure for vermilion snapper if the recreational catch limit is reached, and an overage adjustment (payback) in the event that the recreational catch limit is exceeded.
Regulatory Amendment # 21	11/6/2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Modified the definition of the overfished threshold (MSST) for red snapper, blueline tilefish, gag, black grouper, yellowtail snapper, vermilion snapper, red porgy, and greater amberjack. <p>Old definition: $MSST = SSB_{MSY} * (1-M \text{ or } 0.5, \text{ whichever is greater})$</p> <p>New Definition: $MSST = 75\%SSB_{MSY}$</p>

Amendment #29	7/1/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Updated the ABC control rule to incorporate methodology for determining the ABC of unassessed species (ORCS approach based on landings only); -Adjusted the ABCs for fourteen unassessed snapper-grouper species; -Adjusted the ACLs and ACTs for three species complexes and four snapper-grouper species based on revised ABCs; -Established a 12-inch fork length minimum size limit for gray triggerfish in federal waters off NC, SC, and GA for both the commercial and recreational sectors. -Increased the commercial and recreational minimum size limit for gray triggerfish off the east coast of Florida from 12-inches to 14-inches fork length. -Established a commercial split season for gray triggerfish and 1,000 pound whole weight trip limit.
Regulatory Amendment #20	8/20/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Adjusted the recreational and commercial ACLs for snowy grouper based on latest stock assessment; -Adjusted the rebuilding strategy; -Increased the commercial trip limit for snowy grouper from 100 pounds gutted weight to 200 pounds gutted weight. -Modified the recreational fishing season for snowy grouper from 1 fish per vessel per day year-round to 1 fish per vessel per day from May through August with no recreational retention during the rest of the year.
Amendment #32	3/30/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Removed blueline tilefish from the deepwater complex; -Specified AMs, ACLs, recreational ACTs for blueline tilefish; -Specified a commercial trip limit of 100 pounds gutted weight for blueline tilefish; -Established a recreational vessel limit of one per vessel per day May through August each year; -Revised recreational and commercial AMs for blueline tilefish; -Specified ACLs and revised the recreational AMs for deepwater complex;
Regulatory Amendment #22	Effective 9/11/2015, except for wreckfish commercial ACL which was effective on 8/12/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Adjusted ACLs and OY for gag and wreckfish: <p>For 2017, wreckfish ACLs are: Commercial: 393,490 lbs ww Recreational: 20,710 lbs ww</p> <p>For 2017, Gag ACLs are: Commercial: 345,449; Quota: 318,231 lbs gw Recreational: 331,902 lbs gw</p>
Amendment # 33 Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper Grouper Amendment 33	12/28/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Allowed dolphin and wahoo fillets to enter the U.S. EEZ after lawful harvest in The Bahamas; -Specified the condition of any dolphin, wahoo, and snapper-grouper fillets; -Described how the recreational bag limit is determined for any fillets; -Prohibited the sale or purchase of any dolphin, wahoo, or snapper grouper recreationally harvested in

		<p>The Bahamas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Specified the required documentation to be onboard any vessels that have these fillets; -Specified transit and stowage provisions for any vessels with fillets.
<p>Amendment #34</p> <p>Generic Accountability Measures and Dolphin Allocation Amendment</p>	2/22/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Modified AMs for snapper-grouper species (golden tilefish, snowy grouper, gag, red grouper, black grouper, scamp, the other shallow-water grouper complex (SASWG: red hind, rock hind, yellowmouth grouper, yellowfin grouper, coney, and graysby), greater amberjack, the other jacks complex (lesser amberjack, almaco jack, and banded rudderfish), bar jack, yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper, the other snappers complex (cubera snapper, gray snapper, lane snapper, dog snapper, and mahogany snapper), gray triggerfish, wreckfish (recreational sector), Atlantic spadefish, hogfish, red porgy, the other porgies complex (jolthead porgy, knobbed porgy, whitebone porgy, scup, and saucereye porgy).
Amendment #35	6/22/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Removed black snapper, dog snapper, mahogany snapper, and schoolmaster from the Snapper Grouper FMP; -Clarified regulations governing the use of Golden Tilefish Longline Endorsements.
Regulatory Amendment #16	12/29/16 1/30/17 (gear marking)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Revised the prohibition of fishing with black sea bass pots from Nov.1-April 30. -Add additional gear marking requirements for black sea bass pot gear.
Regulatory Amendment #25	7/13/2016. 8/12/2016 for blueline tilefish actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increased the ACLs for blueline tilefish from 26,766 to 87,521 lbs ww (commercial sector) and 26,691 to 87,277 lbs ww (recreational sector); -Increased the commercial trip limit for blueline tilefish from 100 to 300 lbs gw; -Increased the recreational bag limit from one fish per vessel to three fish per person per day for the months of May through August within the aggregate bag limit; -Revised the recreational bag limit for black sea bass from 5 per person per day to 7 per person per day; -Revised the commercial and recreational fishing year for yellowtail snapper to begin August 1.
Amendment #37	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Modify the hogfish fishery management unit; -Specify fishing levels for the two South Atlantic hogfish stocks; -Establish a rebuilding plan for the Florida Keys/East Florida stock; -Establish/revised management measures for both hogfish stocks in the South Atlantic Region, such as size limits, recreational bag limits, and commercial trip limits.

Amendment #36	TBD	-Establish SMZs to enhance protection for snapper-grouper species in spawning condition including speckled hind and warsaw grouper.
Amendment #41	TBD	-Update biological benchmarks and fishing levels for mutton snapper, designate spawning months for regulatory purposes, and revise management measures for mutton snapper.