



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Snapper Grouper Commercial SG 2 (225-lb) Permit Discussion

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SG 2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Amendment 8 (1997)

- Established limited entry for the snapper grouper commercial sector
- Intended to reduce commercial effort; characterized at the time as ‘overcapitalized’
- 2 Permits
 - SG 1 – Unlimited overall snapper grouper trip limit (species-specific trip limits still apply)
 - Given to vessels with at least 1,000 lbs of SG species in any year from 1993-1996 and that had a valid SG permit at any time between 2/11/96 and 2/11/97
 - Transferable via the 2-for-1 policy
 - SG 2 – Total snapper grouper trip limit of 225 lbs
 - Given to permit holders that did not have 1,000 lbs in any year from 1993-1996



SG 2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Amendment 8 (1997)

- SG 2 – Total snapper grouper trip limit of 225 lbs
 - Non-transferable
 - Owner may transfer a permit to a replacement vessel with the same owner, provided the replacement vessel is equal to or less than the size (length and gross tonnage) of the replaced vessel
 - Can not be sold to a new owner
 - Can not be transferred to immediate family
 - *Previous discussions have noted that SG 2 permits that are owned by business entities have effectively changed ownership as the owning businesses have been sold



SG 2 BY THE NUMBERS

- Several reports have described the commercial sector over time

[Dec 2018 Socio-Economic Profile \(Buck\)](#)

- Multiple permit breakdowns through 2016 (Chapter 3)

[Dec 2021 Commercial SG Permit White Paper](#)

- Council staff presented a white paper in 2021 that discussed several aspects of commercial permits, including summaries of changes in permit numbers over time



SG 2 BY THE NUMBERS

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Vessels that qualified for SG 1 in Amendment 8 (1998)	1,075
Vessels that qualified for SG 2 in Amendment 8 (1998)	448
Vessels with SG 1 Permits in 2019 ¹	543
Vessels with SG 2 Permits in 2019 ¹	148
Change in SG 1 permitted vessels between 1998 and 2019	-532
Change in SG 2 permitted vessels between 1998 and 2019	-300
Percent change in SG 1 permitted vessels between 1998 and 2019	-49%
Percent change in SG 2 permitted vessels between 1998 and 2019	-67%

¹ Source: NMFS SERO for permit numbers (October 15, 2020)



SG 2 BY THE NUMBERS

Dec 2021 Commercial SG Permit White Paper

- Council staff presented a white paper in 2021 that discussed several aspects of commercial permits, including summaries of changes in permit numbers over time

Year	Vessels with SG 1 (Unlimited) permit	Vessels with SG 2 (225-lbs Limited) permit
2015	571	121
2016	565	116
2017	554	114
2018	549	110
2019	543	108
Average	556	114

Source: NMFS SERO for permit numbers (October 15, 2020).



SG 2 BY THE NUMBERS

March 2026 Presentation

- Jessica Stephen (NMFS SERO LAPP/DM Branch Chief) presented more recent permit information as part of Amendment 60 discussions

SG 2 Permits by Vessel Homeport State

Year	FL	GA	SC	NC	Non-SA	Total
2020	89	0	0	13	2	104
2021	84	0	0	12	2	98
2022	81	0	0	11	2	94
2023	76	0	0	11	2	89
2024	74	0	0	11	1	86
2025	71	0	0	11	1	83



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SG 2 Permits Ownership

Year	Individuals	Business	Ind. %	Bus. %
2020	81	23	78%	22%
2021	75	23	77%	23%
2022	72	22	77%	23%
2023	66	23	74%	26%
2024	63	23	73%	27%
2025	60	23	72%	28%



SG 2 BY THE NUMBERS

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SG 2 Latent (without landings) Permits

Year	Permits	Landings	Latent	% Active	% Latent
2020	104	44	60	42%	58%
2021	98	36	62	37%	63%
2022	94	37	57	39%	61%
2023	89	31	58	35%	65%
2024	86	36	50	42%	58%

DISCUSSION



- Given the Council is considering removal of the 2-for-1 policy through Amendment 60, the Council has requested AP input on the future of the SG 2 permit:
 - If the 2-for-1 policy for SG 1 permits is removed, should the SG 2 permit continue to exist in its current form?
 - If not, what changes should the Council consider?
 - Poundage limit?
 - Transferability/accessibility?
 - Number of permits?



PC: Swanson