

**Commercial and Recreational 2015 Landings for stocks managed by the South Atlantic
Fisheries Management Council
Southeast Regional Office
St. Petersburg, FL
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2015 Commercial Landings

Commercial landings were provided from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center on September 14, 2016. These landings include final landings for 2015. Landings come from dealer reported landings, and landings are assigned by fisher reported catch area rather than dealer location. The final 2015 commercial landings for each stock managed by the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (SA Council) are provided in Tables 1 and 2. The annual catch limit (ACL), percent of ACL reached by the landings, and closure dates are also provided in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. South Atlantic commercial landings, ACLs, landings units, percent of ACL and closure dates for 2015. This table lists stocks that have a January through December fishing year, however, the fishing year for gray triggerfish and vermilion snapper are split into two 6 month periods (January through June and July through December). When the percent of landings that exceeded the ACL is 100% or greater the cell was highlighted in yellow.

Species Complex	Landings (lbs)	ACL	Units	Percent of ACL	Closure Date
Atlantic spadefish	20,853	150,552	ww	14%	None
Bar Jack	2,456	13,228	ww	19%	None
Black Grouper	81,630	96,844	ww	84%	None
Blueline tilefish	78,303	17,841	ww	439%	4/7/15
Cobia NY to GA	71,790	60,000	ww	120%	None
Cobia East Florida	62,040	70,000	ww	89%	None
Deepwater complex ^a	69,992	131,634	ww	53%	None
Dolphin ^b	1,109,333	1,157,001	ww	96%	6/30/2015
Gag	274,478	295,459	gw	93%	None
Golden tilefish (Hook & Line)	149,707	135,324	gw	111%	12/8/15
Golden tilefish (Longline)	390,623	405,971	gw	96%	2/19/15
Gray triggerfish (Jan-Jun)	223,411	272,880	ww	82%	5/8/2015
Gray triggerfish (Jul-Dec)	87,879	63,918	ww	137%	9/8/2015
Grunts ^c	25,506	217,903	ww	12%	None
Hogfish	35,659	49,469	ww	72%	None

Jacks ^d	187,310	189,422	ww	99%	6/23/2015
Mutton snapper	92,723	157,743	ww	59%	None
Porgies ^c	32,784	36,348	ww	90%	None
Red Grouper	102,929	343,200	ww	30%	None
Red Porgy	145,880	164,000	ww	89%	None
Red Snapper	3,030	0	gw	NA	None
Scamp	136,882	219,375	ww	62%	None
Shallow water grouper ^f	13,044	55,542	ww	23%	None
Snappers ^g	143,236	344,884	ww	42%	None
Snowy grouper	126,691	115,451	gw	110%	9/22/15
Vermilion snapper (Jan-Jun)	431,761	438,260	ww	99%	4/15/2015
Vermilion snapper (Jul-Dec)	452,520	438,260	ww	103%	9/22/2015
Wahoo ^h	60,994	70,542	ww	86%	None
Yellowtail snapper	1,184,859	1,596,510	ww	74%	10/31/2015

- a. Deepwater complex - Yellowedge grouper, silk snapper, misty grouper, queen snapper, sand tilefish, black snapper, blackfin snapper
- b. Dolphin - landings are from North, Mid, and South Atlantic regions
- c. Grunts - White grunt, margate, sailor's choice, tomtate
- d. Jacks - Almaco jack, banded rudderfish, lesser amberjack
- e. Porgies - Jolthead, knobbed, saucereye, whitebone, scup
- f. Shallow water grouper - Red hind, rock hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper
- g. Snappers - Gray, lane, cubera, dog, mahogany
- h. Wahoo - landings are from North, Mid, and South Atlantic regions

Table 2. South Atlantic commercial landings, ACLs, landings units, percent of ACL and closure dates for 2015. This table lists stocks that don't have a January through December fishing year.

Species Complex	Fishing Year	Landings (lbs)	ACL	Units	Percent of ACL	Closure Date
Greater Amberjack	May 1, 2014-Feb 28, 2015	765,612	769,388	gw	99%	None
Black Sea Bass	June 1, 2014-Dec 31, 2015	347,599	780,020	ww	45%	None
King Mackerel	Mar 1, 2014-Feb 28,2015	1,324,957	3,880,000	ww	34%	None
Spanish Mackerel	Mar 1, 2014-Feb 28,2015	1,758,630	3,330,000	ww	53%	None

Accountability Measures Implemented on Commercial Stocks in 2015

The 2015 commercial landings resulted in six of the ACLs being exceeded (Table 1). The cobia stock exceeded the commercial ACL but was not closed in 2015. This stock has an accountability measures (AM) that require the commercial sector to be closed in-season when the landings exceed the ACL or are expected to exceed the ACL. However, it was not determined that the commercial cobia landings exceeded the ACL until after 2015 was over.

The commercial ACLs for blueline tilefish, golden tilefish hook and line gear, gray triggerfish July through December, snowy grouper, and vermilion snapper July through December were exceeded. The AM for the commercial sector for these stocks requires the commercial sector to be closed if the landings exceed the ACL or are predicted to exceed the ACL. During 2015 it was determined that the commercial ACL for these stocks was exceeded or predicted to be exceeded, and the commercial sector was closed in-season.

The commercial ACLs for dolphin, golden tilefish longline gear, gray triggerfish January through June, jacks complex, vermilion snapper January through June, and yellowtail snapper were not exceeded with the 2015 landings but still experienced a closure. This is because the commercial AM for these stocks requires the commercial sector to close if the ACL is met or predicted to be met. For these stocks the predictions had the commercial ACL being exceeded which is why these stocks experienced in-season closures in 2015.

2015 Recreational Landings

Recreational landings were provided from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center on July 11, 2016. These landings include final landings for 2015. The landings are comprised of landings from the Southeast Region Headboat Survey and Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). If the recreational ACL was defined with landings from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) then the MRIP landings were calibrated to MRFSS. Landings were also post-stratified, if needed, depending on how the ACL is monitored. For example, the South Atlantic's gag ACL included MRIP landings from Monroe County, Florida. Therefore, the gag MRIP landings were post-stratified to include the MRIP landings from Monroe County, Florida. The final 2015 recreational landings for each stock managed by the SA council are provided in Tables 3 and 4. The ACL, percent of ACL reached by the landings, and closure dates are also provided in Tables 3 and 4.

Table 3. South Atlantic recreational landings, ACLs, landings units, percent of ACL and closure dates for 2015. This table lists stocks that have a January through December fishing year. When the percent of landings that exceeded the ACL is 100% or greater the cell was highlighted in yellow.

Species Complex	Landings (lbs)	ACL	Units	Percent of ACL	Closure Date
Atlantic spadefish	225,861	661,926	ww	34%	None
Bar Jack	4,612	49,021	ww	9%	None
Black Grouper	128,557	165,750	ww	78%	None
Blueline tilefish	45,323	17,791	ww	255%	6/10/2015
Cobia NY to GA	1,565,186	630,000	ww	248%	None
Deepwater complex ^a	16,271	38,644	ww	42%	None
Dolphin	7,586,553	14,187,845	ww	53%	None
Gag	58,348	310,023	gw	19%	None
Golden tilefish	3,595	3,019	numbers	119%	8/11/2015
Gray triggerfish	354,237	404,675	ww	88%	None
Grunts ^b	282,552	618,122	ww	46%	None
Hogfish	291,765	85,355	ww	342%	8/24/2015
Jacks ^c	125,212	267,799	ww	47%	None
Mutton snapper	707,119	768,857	ww	92%	None
Porgies ^d	111,577	106,914	ww	104%	None
Red Grouper	128,213	436,800	ww	29%	None
Red Pogy	97,503	164,000	ww	59%	None
Red Snapper ^e	2,293	0	numbers	NA	None
Scamp	18,639	116,369	ww	16%	None
Shallow water grouper ^f	20,571	48,648	ww	42%	None
Snappers ^g	558,583	1,172,832	ww	48%	None
Snowy grouper	1,621	4,152	numbers	39%	9/1/2015
Vermilion snapper	331,570	412,480	ww	80%	None
Wahoo	1,020,882	1,724,418	ww	59%	None
Wreckfish	0	21,650	ww	0%	None
Yellowtail snapper	791,157	1,440,990	ww	55%	None

- a. Deepwater complex - Yellowedge grouper, silk snapper, misty grouper, queen snapper, sand tilefish, black snapper, blackfin snapper
- b. Dolphin - landings are from North, Mid, and South Atlantic regions
- c. Grunts - White grunt, margate, sailor's choice, tomtate
- d. Jacks - Almaco jack, banded rudderfish, lesser amberjack

- e. Porgies - Jolthead, knobbed, saucereye, whitebone, scup
- f. Shallow water grouper - Red hind, rock hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper
- g. Snappers - Gray, lane, cubera, dog, mahogany
- h. Wahoo - landings are from North, Mid, and South Atlantic regions

Table 4. South Atlantic recreational landings, ACLs, landings units, percent of ACL and closure dates for 2015. This table lists stocks that don't have a January through December fishing year.

Species Complex	Fishing Year	Landings (lbs)	ACL	Units	Percent of ACL	Closure Date
Greater Amberjack	May 1,2014-Feb 28,2015	868,743	1,167,837	ww	74%	None
Black Sea Bass	Jun 1,2014-Mar 31,2015	406,825	1,033,980	ww	39%	None
King Mackerel	Mar 1,2014-Feb 28,2015	1,303,838	6,580,000	ww	20%	None
Spanish Mackerel	Mar 1,2014-Feb 28,2015	862,003	2,727,000	ww	32%	None

Accountability Measures Implemented on Recreational Stocks in 2015

Four of the stocks had the recreational sectors closed in-season in 2015. The stocks were blueline tilefish, golden tilefish, hogfish, and snowy grouper. The AM for blueline and golden tilefish requires the recreational sector to close when the recreational ACL is met or predicted to be met. For both blueline and golden tilefish once it was determined the recreational ACL was exceeded or predicted to be exceeded in 2015, the AM was triggered, and the recreational sector was closed immediately. The AM for hogfish states that if recreational hogfish landings exceed the recreational ACL, then recreational landings in the following year will be monitored for persistence in increased landings and, if necessary, the season length will be reduced by the amount necessary to ensure recreational landings do not exceed the recreational ACL. In 2014 the recreational hogfish landings exceeded the ACL, the AM was triggered, and the 2015 recreational landings were monitored closely. The 2015 recreational hogfish landings exceeded the ACL early in the year and the recreational sector was closed. The AM for snowy grouper is triggered if a three year running average of annual landings exceeds the ACL. Once triggered the snowy grouper AM reduces the fishing season the following year by the amount necessary to ensure recreational landings do not exceed the ACL. The snowy grouper three year average annual landings of 2012-2014 exceeded the ACL which lead to the closure of the snowy grouper recreational sector in 2015.

The cobia stock had the 2015 recreational landings exceed the ACL. However, the stock has a post-season AM where if the recreational sector ACL and total ACL (commercial and

recreational ACL) are exceeded the recreational sector will be closed the following year when the ACT is met or expected to be met. This resulted in a closure of the recreational sector in the following year (June 20, 2016).

The AM for the porgies complex states that if recreational porgies complex landings exceed the recreational ACL, then recreational landings in the following year will be monitored for persistence in increased landings and, if necessary, the season length will be reduced by the amount necessary to ensure recreational landings do not exceed the recreational ACL. In 2014 the recreational porgies complex landings exceeded the ACL, and the AM was triggered and the 2015 recreational landings were monitored closely. The porgies complex recreational landings in 2015 did exceed the ACL but the recreational sector was not closed in this year because it was determined that the recreational landings exceeded the ACL until after 2015 was over.

Acceptable Biological Catch was Exceeded

In 2015 the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) was exceeded by four stocks. Table 5 provides the landings and the corresponding ABC for the four stocks that exceeded their ABC in 2015.

Table 5. Stocks managed by the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council which had the 2015 landings exceeded their ABC. Landings and discards were included for the red snapper stock because the ABC includes both landings and discards.

Stock	Commercial Landings	Recreational Landings	Total Landings (lbs ww)	ABC	% of ABC
Blueline Tilefish	78,303	45,323	123,626	36,359	340%
Cobia	71,790	1,565,186	1,636,976	690,000	237%
Hogfish	35,659	291,765	327,424	147638	222%
Stock	Commercial Landings and Discards	Recreational Landings and Discards	Total Landings (numbers)	ABC	% of ABC
Red Snapper	23,334	253,395	276,729	114,000	243%