

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 § 622.190, the last sentence in introductory paragraph (a) and paragraph (a)(1) are revised to read as follows:

§ 622.190 Quotas.

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(a) * * * The quotas are in gutted weight, that is eviscerated but otherwise whole, except for the quotas in paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(4), (a)(5), and (a)(6) of this section which are in both gutted weight and round weight.

(1) Snowy grouper. (i) For the period January through April each year.

(A) For the 2015 fishing year--57,726 lb (26,184 kg), gutted weight; 68,117 lb (30,897 kg), round weight.

(B) For the 2016 fishing year--62,880 lb (28,522 kg), gutted weight; 74,199 lb (33,656 kg), round weight.

(C) For the 2017 fishing year--67,690 lb (30,704 kg),

Comment [SS1]: Action 3: NO PREFERRED. Placeholder. This is Alt 2, Jan-Apr and May-Dec.

Comment [SS2]: Action 2, pref Alt 2 based on total commercial sector ACL. Action 3: NO PREFERRED. Placeholder. These ACLs represent the 50% total commercial ACL split for each season as described in Action 3, Alternative 2. 50 percent ACL for Jan through April and 50% May through December.

gutted weight; 79,875 lb (36,231 kg), round weight.

(D) For the 2018 fishing year--72,158 lb (32,730 kg), gutted weight; 85,146 lb (38,622 kg), round weight.

(E) For the 2019 and subsequent fishing years--76,968 lb (34,912 kg), gutted weight; 90,822 lb (41,196 kg), round weight.

(ii) For the period May through December each year.

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(E) For the 2019 and subsequent fishing years--76,968 lb (34,912 kg), gutted weight; 90,822 lb (41,196 kg), round weight.

(iii) Any unused portion of the quota specified in paragraph (a)(1)(i) of this section will be added to the quota specified in paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section. Any unused portion of the quota specified in paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section, including any addition of quota specified in paragraph (a)(1)(i) of this section that was unused, will become void and will not be added to any subsequent quota.

Comment [SS3]: Action 3: NO PREFERRED. Placeholder. This is Alt 2, Jan-Apr and May-Dec.

Comment [SS4]: Action 2: Pref Alt 2 based on total commercial sector ACL. Action 3: NO PREFERRED. Placeholder. These ACLs represent the 50% total commercial ACL split for each season as described in Action 3, Alternative 2. 50 percent ACL for Jan through April and 50% May through December.

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3. In § 622.191, the first sentence in paragraph (a)(3) is revised to read as follows:

§ 622.191 Commercial trip limits.

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(3) Snowy grouper. Until the quota specified in § 622.190(a)(1) is reached--100 lb (45 kg). * * *

Comment [SS5]: Action3: NO PREFERRED. Placeholder. 100 lb, Alternative 1 is current trip limit all year.

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4. In § 622.193, paragraph (b)(2) is revised to read as follows:

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

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(b) * * *

Comment [SS6]: Snowy grouper

(2) Recreational sector. (i) If recreational landings, as estimated by the SRD, exceed the recreational ACL specified in paragraph (b)(2)(ii) of this section, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year, to reduce the length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to ensure recreational landings do not exceed the recreational ACL in the following fishing year. When NMFS reduces the length of the following recreational fishing season,

the following closure provisions apply: the bag and possession limit for snowy grouper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is zero. This bag and possession limit also applies in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial or 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. Recreational landings will be evaluated relative to the ACL based on a moving multi-year average of landings, as described in the FMP.

(ii) The recreational ACL for snowy grouper is 4,152 fish for 2015; 4,483 fish for 2016; 4,819 fish for 2017, 4,983 fish for 2018; 5,315 fish for 2019 and subsequent fishing years.

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Comment [SS7]: Action 2, Preferred Alt 2.
Recreational ACLs for snowy grouper.