

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 § 622.7, paragraph (f) is added to read as follows:

**§ 622.7 Fishing years.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(f) *South Atlantic yellowtail snapper*--(i) For a fish taken by a person subject to the bag limit specified in § 622.187(b)(4)--MonthA 1 through MonthB 31.

**Comment [SS1]:** Action 4. Yellowtail fishing year. Current fishing year for both sectors is Jan1-Dec31. No Preferreds

(ii) For a fish taken by a person not subject to the bag limit specified in § 622.187(b)(4)--MonthA 1 through MonthB 31

**Comment [SS2]:** Action 4, Alt 3 Yellowtail Recreational Fishing Year. No Preferred.

3. In § 622.187, paragraphs (b)(2)(iv) and (b)(7) are revised to read as follows:

**§ 622.187 Bag and possession limits.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) \* \* \*

(2) \* \* \*

(iv) No more than one fish per vessel may be a

**Comment [SS3]:** Action 4, Alt 2 Yellowtail Commercial Fishing Year. No Preferred.

**Comment [SS4]:** Action 3. Blueline tilefish Recreational Bag Limit. No Preferred. Current bag limit in text.

blueline tilefish; and

\* \* \* \* \*

(7) *Black sea bass*--5.

\* \* \* \* \*

4. In § 622.191, paragraphs (a)(10) is revised to read as follows:

**§ 622.191 Commercial trip limits.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(a) \* \* \*

(10) *Blueline tilefish*. Until the applicable ACL specified in § 622.193(z)(1)(iii) is reached or projected to be reached, 100 lb (45 kg), gutted weight; 112 lb (51 kg), round weight. See § 622.193(z)(1)(i) for the limitations regarding blueline tilefish after the commercial ACL is reached.

\* \* \* \* \*

5. In § 622.193, paragraphs (n)(1), (z)(1)(iii), (z)(2)(iii), and (z)(3) are revised to read as follows:

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

\* \* \* \* \*

(n) \* \* \*

(1) *Commercial sector*--(i) If commercial landings for yellowtail snapper, as estimated by the SRD, reach or are

**Comment [SS5]:** Action 5. Black sea bass recreational bag limit. No preferred. Current bag limit in text.

**Comment [SS6]:** Action 2. Blueline tilefish commercial trip limit. No Preferred. Current trip limit in text.

**Comment [SS7]:** Possible Action 6. Yellowtail snapper commercial AMs. Current yellowtail commercial AMs for the South Atlantic in the text. No preferred.

projected to reach the commercial ACL of 1,596,510 lb (724,165 kg), round weight, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such a notification, all sale or purchase of yellowtail snapper is prohibited and harvest or possession of this species in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is limited to the bag and possession limits. These bag and possession limits apply in the 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.

(ii) If commercial landings for yellowtail snapper, as estimated by the SRD, exceed the commercial ACL, and the combined commercial and recreational ACL of 3,037,500 lb (1,377,787 kg), round weight, is exceeded during the same fishing year, and yellowtail snapper 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.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Comment [SS8]:** AM text listed is based on revisions being made in the Generic AMs final rule currently in clearance.

(z) \* \* \*

(1) \* \* \*

(iii) The applicable commercial ACLs, in round weight, are 17,841 lb (8,093 kg) for 2015, 26,766 lb (12,141 kg) for 2016, 35,785 lb (16,232 kg) for 2017, and 44,048 lb (19,980 kg) for 2018 and subsequent fishing years. The commercial ACL will not increase automatically in a subsequent fishing year if landings exceed or are projected to exceed the total ACL in the prior fishing year, as specified in paragraph (z)(3) of this section.

**Comment [SS9]:** Action 1, blueline tilefish commercial ACLs. No preferred. Current commercial ACLs in text.

(2) \* \* \*

(iii) The applicable recreational ACLs, in round weight, are 17,791 lb (8,070 kg) for 2015, 26,691 lb (12,107 kg) for 2016, 35,685 lb (16,186 kg) for 2017, and 43,925 lb (19,924 kg) for 2018 and subsequent fishing years. The recreational ACL will not increase automatically in a subsequent fishing year if landings exceed or are projected to exceed the total ACL in the prior fishing year, as specified in paragraph (z)(3) of this section.

**Comment [SS10]:** Action 1, blueline tilefish recreational ACLs. No preferred. Current recreational ACLs in text.

(3) Without regard to overfished status, if the combined commercial and recreational ACL (total ACL), as estimated by the SRD, is exceeded in a fishing year, then during the following fishing year, an automatic increase will not be applied to the commercial and recreational

ACLs. The RA will evaluate the landings data, using the best scientific information available, to determine whether or not an increase in the commercial and recreational ACLs will be applied. The applicable combined commercial and recreational sector ACLs (total ACLs), in round weight are 35,632 lb (16,162 kg) for 2015, 53,457 lb (24,248 kg) for 2016, 71,469 lb (32,418 kg) for 2017, and 87,974 lb (39,904 kg) for 2018 and subsequent fishing years.

**Comment [SS11]:** Action 1, blueline tilefish total ACLs, No preferred. Current total ACLs in text.