



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

F/SER25:JCM

Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, South Carolina 29405

FEB 26 2016

RE: Preliminary 2016 Commercial Landings

Dear Mr. Waugh:

The Southeast Fisheries Science Center has provided the following preliminary landings estimates for species in the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's area of jurisdiction subject to annual catch limits, which include electronically reported landings through February 19, 2016.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
FDC Regional Administrator



Preliminary 2016 Commercial South Atlantic Landings

Species Complex	Fishing Year	Date Landings Available Through	Current Landings (lb)	ACL (lb)	Units	ACL (%)	Current Status	Closure Date 2016
Atlantic spadefish	January 1 - December 31	February 19, 2016	1,193	150,552	ww	0.79	OPEN	
Bar Jack			323	13,228	ww	2.44	OPEN	
Black Grouper ^(a)			0	96,844	ww	0.00	CLOSED	
Black Sea Bass ^(b)			38,652	780,020	ww	4.96	OPEN	
Blueline Tilefish ^(c)			6,564	26,766	ww	24.52	OPEN	
Cobia			3,481	50,000	as reported	6.96	OPEN	
Cobia - East Coast Florida Zone			2,802	70,000	as reported	4.00	OPEN	
Deep-water complex ^(d)			2,944	131,634	ww	2.24	OPEN	
Dolphin			8,392	1,534,485	ww	0.55	OPEN	
Gag ^(a)			0	297,882	gw	0.00	CLOSED	
Golden crab			46,455	2,000,000	ww	2.32	OPEN	
Golden tilefish (Hook-n-Line)			17,752	135,324	gw	13.12	OPEN	
Golden tilefish (Longline)			226,843	405,971	gw	55.88	OPEN	
Goliath grouper			-	-	ww	-	CLOSED	
Grunts ^(e)			9,825	217,903	ww	4.51	OPEN	
Hogfish			1,033	49,469	ww	2.09	OPEN	
Jacks ^(f)			41,393	189,422	ww	21.85	OPEN	
Mutton snapper ^(g)			6,020	157,743	ww	3.82	OPEN	
Nassau grouper			-	-	ww	-	CLOSED	
Porgies ^(h)			3,914	36,348	ww	10.77	OPEN	
Red Grouper ^(a)			0	343,200	ww	0.00	CLOSED	
Red Porgy ^(a)			0	164,000	ww	0.00	CLOSED	
Red Snapper			0	0	gw	0.00	CLOSED	
Scamp ^(a)			0	219,375	ww	0.00	CLOSED	
Shallow water grouper ^{(a)(i)}			13	55,542	ww	0.02	CLOSED	
Snappers ^(j)			11,207	344,884	ww	3.25	OPEN	
Snowy grouper			25,217	125,760	gw	20.05	OPEN	
Speckled Hind			-	-	ww	-	CLOSED	
Wahoo	2,737	70,542	ww	3.88	OPEN			
Warsaw grouper	-	-	ww	-	CLOSED			
Yellowtail snapper	217,321	1,596,510	ww	13.61	OPEN			

(a) Commercial harvest is prohibited during January 1-April 30 of each year.

(b) The use of black sea bass pots is prohibited annually from November 1 through April 30.

(c) NOAA Fisheries has removed blueline tilefish from the Deep-water Complex. This rule became effective on March 30, 2015. Additionally, there is now a trip limit of 100 lbs gutted weight for commercial harvest of blueline tilefish.

(d) Deepwater Complex: yellowedge grouper, silk snapper, misty grouper, queen snapper, sand tilefish, black snapper, blackfin snapper

(e) Grunts: White grunt, margate, sailor's choice, tomtate

(f) Jacks: Almaco jack, banded rudderfish, lesser amberjack

(g) During May and June, possession limited to 10 per person per day or per trip, whichever is more restrictive.

(h) Porgies: Jolthead, knobbed, saucer eye, whitebone, scup

(i) Shallow Water Grouper: Red hind, rock hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper

(j) Snappers: Gray, lane, cubera, dog, mahogany

(k) Each cobia is reported in the unit in which it is landed (either gutted or whole).

Preliminary 2016 – 2017 Commercial South Atlantic Landings									
Species Complex	Fishing Year	Date Landings Available Through	Total Landings (lb)	ACL (lb)	Units	ACL (%)	Current Status	Closure Date 2016-2017 Fishing Year	
Gray Triggerfish	January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016	February 19, 2016	82,109	156,162	ww	52.58	OPEN		
	July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016	n/a	0	156,162		0.00			
	Greater Amberjack ^(a)	March 1, 2015 – February 29, 2016	February 19, 2016	782,012	769,388	gw	101.64	CLOSED	1/21/16
		January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016	February 19, 2016	305,543	431,460	ww	70.82	OPEN	
Vermilion Snapper ^(b)	July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016	n/a	0	431,460		0.00			
	Wreckfish	April 16, 2016 – January 14, 2017	confidential landings	402,515	ww	confidential landings	CLOSED		

(a) Commercial harvest of greater amberjack is prohibited during April.

(b) Any remaining quota from the Jan-June vermilion snapper ACL is rolled over into the July-Dec quota.

