



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/SER29:CMH

Robert K. Mahood, Executive Director
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive Suite 201
North Charleston, South Carolina 29405

SEP 3 2015

RE: Preliminary 2015 Commercial Landings

Dear Mr. Mahood:

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 August 19, 2015.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.

for Regional Administrator



Preliminary 2015 Commercial South Atlantic Landings

Species Complex	Fishing Year	Date Landings Available Through	Current Landings Pounds (lb)	ACL (lb)	Units	ACL (%)	Current Status	Date Closed 2015
Atlantic spadefish	January 1 - December 31	August 19, 2015	11,013	150,552	ww	7.32	OPEN	
Bar Jack			2,408	13,228	ww	18.20	OPEN	
Black Grouper ^(a)			64,747	96,844	ww	66.86	OPEN	
Black Sea Bass ^(b)			252,985	780,020	ww	32.43	OPEN	
Blueline Tilefish ^(c)			76,738	17,841 ^(d)	ww	430.12	CLOSED	04/07/15
Cobia			22,433	60,000	as reported ^(l)	37.39	OPEN	
Cobia - East Coast Florida Zone			46,984	70,000		67.12	OPEN	
Deep-water complex ^(e)			54,253	131,634	ww	41.22	OPEN	
Dolphin			1,101,948	1,157,001	ww	95.24	CLOSED	6/30/15
Gag ^(a)			180,323	326,722	gw	55.19	OPEN	
Golden crab			235,344	2,000,000	ww	11.77	OPEN	
Golden tilefish (Hook-n-Line)			95,739	135,324	gw	70.75	OPEN	
Golden tilefish (Longline)			385,734	405,971	gw	95.02	CLOSED	02/19/15
Goliath grouper			-	0	ww	-	CLOSED	
Grunts ^(f)			58,778	217,903	ww	26.97	OPEN	
Hogfish			20,011	49,469	ww	40.45	OPEN	
Jacks ^(g)			232,386	189,422	ww	122.68	CLOSED	06/23/15
Mutton snapper ^(h)			67,091	157,743	ww	42.53	OPEN	
Nassau grouper			-	0	ww	-	CLOSED	
Porgies ⁽ⁱ⁾			24,320	36,348	ww	66.91	OPEN	
Red Grouper ^(a)			51,341	343,200	ww	14.96	OPEN	
Red Porgy ^(a)			81,088	164,000	ww	49.44	OPEN	
Red Snapper			0	0	gw	0.00	CLOSED	
Scamp ^(a)			93,754	219,375	ww	42.74	OPEN	
Shallow water grouper ^{(a) (j)}			10,783	55,542	ww	19.41	OPEN	
Snappers ^(k)			132,855	344,884	ww	38.52	OPEN	
Snowy grouper			82,643	115,451	gw	71.58	OPEN	
Speckled Hind			-	0	ww	-	CLOSED	
Wahoo			38,004	70,542	ww	53.87	OPEN	
Warsaw grouper			-	0	ww	-	CLOSED	
Yellowtail snapper	1,258,651	1,596,510	ww	78.84	OPEN			

(lb = Pounds, ww = whole weight, gw = gutted weight)

(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) The 2015 landings of blueline tilefish represent 68.39 % of the previous ACL of 112,207 lbs ww.

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

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

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

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

(i) Porgies: Jolthead, knobbed, saucereye, whitebone, scup

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

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

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

Preliminary 2014 – 2015 Commercial South Atlantic Landings								
Species Complex	Fishing Year	Date Landings Available Through	Current Landings (lb)	ACL (lb)	Units	ACL (%)	Current Status	Date Closed
Gray Triggerfish	January 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015	August 19, 2015	257,536	272,880	ww	94.38	OPEN	05/08/15
	July 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015	August 19, 2015	41,554	63,918		65.01		
Greater Amberjack ^(a)	March 1, 2015 – February 29, 2016	August 19, 2015	496,312	769,388	ww	64.51	OPEN	
Vermilion Snapper ^(b)	January 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015	August 19, 2015	450,863	438,260	ww	102.88	OPEN	04/15/15
	July 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015	August 19, 2015	230,238	438,260		52.53		
Wreckfish	April 16, 2014 – January 14, 2015	confidential landings	confidential landings	411,350	ww	confidential landings	OPEN	

(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.

Preliminary 2014 – 2015 Commercial South Atlantic Landings										
Species Complex	Fishing Year	Date Landings Available Through	Current Landings (lb)	Units	Quota (lb)	Quota %	ACL (lb)	ACL %	Current Status	Closure Date 2015-2016
King Mackerel - Northern Zone	March 1, 2015 –	August 19, 2015	25,542	as reported ^(a)	1,292,040	1.98	3,880,000	16.05	OPEN	
King Mackerel - Southern Zone	February 28, 2016		597,213		2,587,960	23.08			OPEN	
Spanish Mackerel - Northern Zone	March 1, 2015 –	August 19, 2015	304,816	as reported ^(a)	662,670	46.00	3,330,000	15.30	OPEN	
Spanish Mackerel - Southern Zone	February 28, 2016		204,776		2,667,330	7.68			OPEN	
					2,417,330 ^(b)	8.47				

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

(b) The adjusted quota (2,417,330 lbs ww) is used to determine trip limit reductions. At 75% of the adjusted quota (1,812,998 lbs ww), the trip limit is reduced to 1,500 lbs. At 100% of the adjusted quota, the trip limit is reduced to 500 lbs.