



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:MV

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

NOV 25 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 November 20, 2015.

Sincerely,

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Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
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	Closure Date 2015
Atlantic spadefish	January 1 - December 31	November 20, 2015	18,571	150,552	ww	12.34	OPEN	
Bar Jack			2,616	13,228	ww	19.78	OPEN	
Black Grouper ^(a)			77,979	96,844	ww	80.52	OPEN	
Black Sea Bass ^(b)			327,484	780,020	ww	41.98	OPEN	
Blueline Tilefish ^(c)			83,066	17,841*	ww	465.59	CLOSED	04/07/15
Cobia			32,753	60,000	as reported	54.59	OPEN	
Cobia - East Coast Florida Zone			52,181	70,000	as reported	74.54	OPEN	
Deep-water complex ^(e)			73,828	131,634	ww	56.09	OPEN	
Dolphin			1,120,154	1,157,001	ww	96.82	CLOSED	06/30/15
Gag ^(a)			246,232	295,459	gw	83.34	OPEN	Trip Limit Reduction (500lbs gw) 10/18/15
Golden crab			295,534	2,000,000	ww	14.78	OPEN	
Golden tilefish (Hook-n-Line)			130,258	135,324	gw	96.26	OPEN	
Golden tilefish (Longline)			386,167	405,971	gw	95.12	CLOSED	02/19/15
Goliath grouper			0	0	ww	-	CLOSED	
Grunts ^(f)			85,138	217,903	ww	39.07	OPEN	
Hogfish			29,212	49,469	ww	59.05	OPEN	
Jacks ^(g)			252,780	189,422	ww	133.45	CLOSED	06/23/15
Mutton snapper ^(h)			89,450	157,743	ww	56.71	OPEN	
Nassau grouper			0	0	ww	-	CLOSED	
Porgies ⁽ⁱ⁾			31,083	36,348	ww	85.52	OPEN	
Red Grouper ^(a)			72,807	343,200	ww	21.21	OPEN	
Red Porgy ^(a)	131,610	164,000	ww	80.25	OPEN			
Red Snapper	0	0	gw	0.00	CLOSED			
Scamp ^(a)	129,974	219,375	ww	59.25	OPEN			
Shallow water grouper ^{(a) (i)}	13,861	55,542	ww	24.96	OPEN			
Snappers ^(k)	163,189	344,884	ww	47.32	OPEN			
Snowy grouper	136,632	115,451	gw	118.35	CLOSED	09/22/15		
Speckled Hind	0	0	ww	-	CLOSED			
Wahoo	56,127	70,542	ww	79.57	OPEN			
Warsaw grouper	0	0	ww	-	CLOSED			
Yellowtail snapper	1,784,497	1,596,510	ww	111.77	CLOSED	10/31/2015		

(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 74.03% 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, tomate
- (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

Preliminary 2015 – 2016 Commercial South Atlantic Landings								
Species Complex	Fishing Year	Date Landings Available Through	Current Landings (lb)	ACL (lb)	Units	ACL (%)	Current Status	Closure Date 2014-2015 Fishing Year
Gray triggerfish	01/01/15 – 06/30/15	November 20, 2015	251,312	272,880	ww	92.10	CLOSED	5/8/2015
	07/01/15 – 12/31/15	November 20, 2015	96,743	63,918	ww	151.35	CLOSED	9/8/2015
Greater amberjack*	03/01/15 – 02/28/16	November 20, 2015	685,071	769,388	ww	89.04	OPEN	
Vermilion snapper*	01/01/15 – 06/30/15	November 20, 2015	446,195	438,260	ww	101.81	CLOSED	4/15/2015
	07/01/15 – 12/31/15	November 20, 2015	522,424	438,260		119.20		9/22/2015
Wreckfish	04/16/14 – 01/14/15	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 2015 – 2016 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 – February 28, 2016	November 20, 2015	104,155	as reported	1,292,040	8.06	3,880,000	24.64	OPEN	
King Mackerel - Southern Zone			851,944	(a)	2,587,960	32.92			OPEN	
Spanish Mackerel - Northern Zone	March 1, 2015 – February 28, 2016	November 20, 2015	595,438	as reported	662,670	89.85	3,330,000	31.15	OPEN	
Spanish Mackerel - Southern Zone			442,008	(a)	2,667,330	16.57			OPEN	
					2,417,330 (b)	18.28				

- (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.