

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 (e) is redesignated as paragraph (d) and is revised to read as follows:

§ 622.7 Fishing years.

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(d) South Atlantic black sea bass--(1) The fishing year for the commercial harvest of black sea bass is July 1 through June 30.

(2) The fishing year for the recreational harvest of black sea bass is April 1 through March 31.

3. In § 622.191, paragraph (a) (7) is revised to read as follows:

§ 611.191 Commercial trip limits.

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(7) Gag. (i) Until 75 percent of the quota specified in § 622.190(a) (7) is reached--1,000 lb (454 kg).

(ii) After 75 percent of the quota specified in §

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Comment [1]: Action 1, preferred alternative 2. Amberjack fishing year, both sectors, changes to the "default" fishing year of January 1 through December 31. The amberjack fishing year is currently paragraph (d).

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Comment [2]: If in Action 4, Alt 2 is selected for black sea bass commercial fishing year. No preferred is yet selected.

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Comment [3]: Action 2, Alt 3 selected as preferred for the black sea bass recreational sector.

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Comment [4]: 1,000 lb is current gag trip limit. For Action 6 preferred before step down trip limit.

622.190(a)(7) is reached--300 lb (136 kg). The Assistant Administrator, by filing a notification of trip limit change with the Office of the Federal Register, will effect a trip limit change specified in this paragraph (a)(7)(ii), when the applicable conditions have been met.

(iii) See § 622.190(c)(1) for the limitations regarding gag after the quota is reached.

4. In § 622.193, paragraphs (e)(2) and (f)(2)(i) and (ii) are revised to read as follows:

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

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(e) * * *

(2) Recreational sector. (i) If recreational landings for black sea bass, as estimated by the SRD, are projected to reach the recreational ACL of 409,000 lb (185,519 kg), gutted weight; 482,620 lb (218,913 kg), round weight; the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such a notification, the bag and possession limit is zero. This bag and possession limit applies in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic

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Comment [5]: Action 6, Alt 2, Sub Alt 2c is selected as preferred for gag commercial trip limits.

snapper-grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, i.e. in state or Federal waters.

(ii) If recreational landings for black sea bass, as estimated by the SRD, exceed the ACL, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, to reduce the recreational ACL the following fishing year by the amount of the overage in the prior fishing year, unless the SRD determines that no overage is necessary based on the best scientific information available.

(f) * * *

(2) Recreational sector. (i) If recreational landings, as estimated by the SRD, reach or are projected to reach the applicable recreational ACL specified in paragraph (f) (2) (iv) of this section the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for vermilion snapper for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such notification, the bag and possession limit of vermilion snapper 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

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Comment [6]: Action 3. These are the current black sea bass recreational sector AMs put here as a reference. No preferred has been selected.

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Comment [7]: Action 7, Alt 4 selected as preferred for vermilion rec sector in-season AM. Inseason closure occurs regardless of stock status if ACL reached or projected to be.

waters.

(ii) If the combined vermilion snapper commercial and recreational landings exceed the combined vermilion snapper ACLs specified in paragraphs (f) (1) and (f) (2) (iv) of this section, and vermilion 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, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year to reduce the recreational ACL for that following year by the amount of the recreational overage in the prior fishing year.

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Comment [8]: Action 7, Alt 4 is preferred for a rec sector payback if in overfished status and total combined sector ACL is exceeded.