



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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December 10, 2009  
FB09-068

## Reminder of Seasonal Closure for Shallow Water Snapper-Grouper in the South Atlantic *Closure Begins January 1, 2010*

NOAA Fisheries Service published a final rule implementing Amendment 16 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region on June 29, 2009 [74 FR 30964]. The final rule became effective on July 29, 2009, and includes a seasonal prohibition on harvest of shallow water snapper-grouper species in federal waters of the South Atlantic.

The closure will be **effective 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2010, through April 30, 2010**, and applies to recreational and commercial harvest of shallow water snapper-grouper species. During this time, no gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, rock hind, red hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, and tiger grouper may be harvested, possessed, sold or purchased. The closure also applies to shallow water snapper-grouper taken in South Atlantic state waters by any person on board a vessel holding a federal South Atlantic Charter/Headboat permit for Snapper-Grouper. Fishermen should contact their state agencies to inquire about compatible regulations in state waters.

The prohibition on sale or purchase does not apply to shallow water snapper-grouper that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, January 1, 2010, and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

The shallow water snapper-grouper closure in the South Atlantic complies with regulations implementing the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region and is necessary to protect snapper-grouper species made more vulnerable during spawning season.

### How Can We Improve These Fishery Bulletins?

If you have any suggestions on how we may improve the contents of future fishery bulletins please contact:  
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FB09-068