



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southeast Regional Office  
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F/SER25:JCM

Mr. Duane Harris, Chairman  
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201  
North Charleston, SC 29405

*June 9, 2010*

Dear Mr. Harris:

NOAA Fisheries Service has determined, based upon best available scientific information, the South Atlantic red grouper stock is undergoing overfishing and is overfished according to the current definition of the minimum stock size threshold. This determination is based upon a review of the 2010 assessment of this species by the Southeast, Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) 19 panel and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) Scientific and Statistical Committee. A final report for SEDAR 19 can be obtained from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center's Web site at: [www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar](http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar).

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires the Council, within two years of notification that a stock is overfishing and overfished, to prepare and implement a plan amendment or propose regulations to end overfishing immediately and rebuild the affected stock. I look forward to working with the Council in developing a plan to end overfishing and rebuild the red grouper stock.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.  
Regional Administrator

cc: F/SER2 – Phil Steele  
F/SEC – Bonnie Ponwith

