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 § 622.183, paragraph (b)(7) is added to read as follows:

§ 622.183 Area and seasonal closures.

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) \* \* \*

(7) Snowy grouper recreational sector closure. The recreational sector for snowy grouper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is closed from January 1 through April 30, and September 1 through December 31, each year. During a closure, the bag and possession limit for snowy grouper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is zero.

3. In § 622.190, the last sentence in introductory paragraph (a) and paragraph (a)(1) are revised to read as follows:

§ 622.190 Quotas.

\* \* \* \* \*

(a) \* \* \* The quotas are in gutted weight, that is eviscerated but otherwise whole, except for the quotas in paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(4), (a)(5), and (a)(6) of this section which are in both gutted weight and round weight.

(1) Snowy grouper--(i) For the 2015 fishing year--115,451 lb (52,368 kg), gutted weight; 136,233 lb (61,794 kg), round weight.

(ii) For the 2016 fishing year--125,760 lb (57,044 kg), gutted weight; 148,397 lb (67,312 kg), round weight.

(iii) For the 2017 fishing year--135,380 lb (61,407 kg), gutted weight; 159,749 lb (72,461 kg), round weight.

(iv) For the 2018 fishing year--144,315 lb (65,460 kg), gutted weight; 170,291 lb (77,243 kg), round weight.

(v) For the 2019 and subsequent fishing years--153,935 lb (69,824 kg), gutted weight; 181,644 lb (82,392 kg), round weight.

\* \* \* \* \*

4. In § 622.191, the first sentence in paragraph (a)(3) is revised to read as follows:

§ 622.191 Commercial trip limits.

\* \* \* \* \*

(a) \* \* \*

(3) Snowy grouper. Until the quota specified in § 622.190(a)(1) is reached--200 lb (91 kg), gutted weight; 236 lb (107 kg), round weight. \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

5. In § 622.193, paragraph (b)(2) is revised to read as follows:

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

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) \* \* \*

(2) Recreational sector. (i) If recreational landings, as estimated by the SRD, exceed the recreational ACL specified in paragraph (b)(2)(ii) of this section, 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 length of the following recreational fishing season by the amount necessary to ensure recreational landings do not exceed the recreational ACL in the following fishing year. When NMFS reduces the length of the following recreational fishing season, the following closure provisions apply: the bag and possession limit for snowy grouper 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 waters. Recreational landings will be evaluated relative to the ACL based on a moving multi-year average of landings, as described in the FMP.

(ii) The recreational ACL for snowy grouper is 4,152 fish for 2015; 4,483 fish for 2016; 4,819 fish for 2017, 4,983 fish for 2018; 5,315 fish for 2019 and subsequent fishing years.

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