



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:JCM

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

FEB 27 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 February 18, 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy E. Crabtree".

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.



Preliminary 2015 Commercial South Atlantic Landings

Species Complex	Fishing Year	Date Landings Available Through	Current Landings (lb)	ACL (lb)	Units	ACL (%)	Current Status	Date Closed 2015
Atlantic spadefish	January 1 - December 31	February 25, 2015	438	35,108	ww	1.25	OPEN	
Bar Jack			1,259	5,265	ww	23.91	OPEN	
Black Grouper ^(h)			49	96,844	ww	0.05	CLOSED	
Black Sea Bass ^(k)			43,692	780,020	ww	5.60	OPEN	
Cobia			8,420	125,712	ww	6.70	OPEN	
Deepwater complex ^(a)			n/a	376,469	ww	n/a	n/a	
Deep-water complex ^(j) (Temporary)			4,427	60,371	ww	7.33	OPEN	
Blueline Tilefish ^(k) (Temporary)			30,132	112,207	ww	26.85	OPEN	
Dolphin			27,720	1,157,001	ww	2.40	OPEN	
Gag ^(h)			0	326,722	gw	0.00	CLOSED	
Golden crab			48,290	2,000,000	ww	2.41	OPEN	
Golden tilefish (Hook-n-Line)			31,784	135,324	gw	23.49	OPEN	
Golden tilefish (Longline)			366,808	405,971	gw	90.35	CLOSED	February 19, 2015
Goliath grouper			-	0	ww	-	CLOSED	
Gray triggerfish			113,636	272,880	ww	41.64	OPEN	
Grunts ^(b)			9,889	218,539	ww	4.53	OPEN	
Hogfish			2,367	49,469	ww	4.78	OPEN	
Jacks ^(c)			20,232	189,422	ww	10.68	OPEN	
Mutton snapper ⁽ⁱ⁾			9,970	157,743	ww	6.32	OPEN	
Nassau grouper			-	0	ww	-	CLOSED	
Porgies ^(d)			11,806	36,348	ww	32.48	OPEN	
Red Grouper ^(h)			0	343,200	ww	0.00	CLOSED	
Red Porgy ^(h)			0	157,692	ww	0.00	CLOSED	
Red Snapper			0	50,994	gw	0.00	CLOSED	
Scamp ^(h)			0	333,100	ww	0.00	CLOSED	
Shallow water grouper ^(f) ^(h)			25	49,776	ww	0.05	CLOSED	
Snappers ^(g)			8,824	215,662	ww	4.09	OPEN	
Snowy grouper			25,083	82,900	gw	30.26	OPEN	
Speckled Hind	-	0	ww	-	CLOSED			
Wahoo	5,577	70,542	ww	7.91	OPEN			
Warsaw grouper	-	0	ww	-	CLOSED			
Yellowtail snapper	166,893	1,596,510	ww	10.45	OPEN			

(a) Deepwater Complex: Blueline tilefish, yellowedge grouper, silk snapper, misty grouper, queen snapper, sand tilefish, black snapper, blackfin snapper

(b) Grunts: White grunt, margate, sailor's choice, tomtate

(c) Jacks: Almaco jack, banded rudderfish, lesser amberjack

(d) Porgies: Jolthead, knobbed, saucereye, whitebone, scup

(e) Commercial red snapper harvest was open from September 17 - 24 with a 50 pound trip limit. Red snapper reopened for commercial harvest from November 13 - 21. Red snapper reopened for commercial harvest from December 12 - 19.

(f) Shallow Water Grouper: Red hind, rock hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper

(g) Snappers: Gray, lane, cubera, dog, mahogany

(h) Commercial harvest is prohibited during January-April of each year.

(i) During May and June, possession limited to 10 per person per day or per trip, whichever is more restrictive.

(j) NOAA Fisheries has temporarily removed blueline tilefish from the Deep-Water Complex. This temporary rule became effective on April 17, 2014, will be in place through October 14, 2014, and may be extended for an additional 186 days.

(k) The use of black sea bass pots is prohibited annually from November 1 through April 30.

Preliminary 2014 – 2015 Commercial South Atlantic Landings

Species Complex	Fishing Year	Date Landings Available Through	Current Landings (lb)	ACL (lb)	Units	ACL (%)	Current Status	Date Closed
Greater Amberjack ^(a)	May 1, 2014 – Feb 28, 2015	February 25, 2015	676,254	769,388	ww	87.90	OPEN	
Vermilion Snapper ^(b)	January 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015	February 25, 2015	280,908	438,260	ww	64.10	OPEN	
	July 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015	n/a	n/a	438,260		n/a		
Wreckfish	April 16, 2014 – January 14, 2015	confidential landings	confidential landings	223,250	ww	confidential landings	OPEN	
King Mackerel	March 1, 2014 - February 28, 2015	February 25, 2015	1,429,698	3,880,000	ww	36.85	OPEN	
Spanish Mackerel			2,719,832	3,330,000	ww	81.68	OPEN	
				2,880,000*	ww	94.44		

(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.

(c) The adjusted quota is used to determine trip limit reductions. At 75% of the adjusted quota (2,880,000 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.

