

Regulatory Amendment 36 under the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region

Draft Regulatory Text

For the reasons set out in the preamble, NMFS proposes to amend 50 CFR part 622 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. Amend § 622.183 by:

**Commented [a1]:** Action 2. Preferred alternative 2.

- a. Revising paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(E);
- b. Adding paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(F);
- c. Revising paragraph (a)(2)(vii)(E); and
- d. Adding paragraph (a)(2)(vii)(F).

The revisions and additions would read as follows:

**§ 622.183 Area and seasonal closures.**

(a) \* \* \*

(1) \* \* \*

(ii) \* \* \*

(E) A crustacean trap or golden crab trap cannot be baited. All buoys must be disconnected from the gear, although buoys may remain on deck.

(F) A sea bass pot cannot be baited. For a sea bass pot fished with a deployed vertical line or rope connected to a buoy, the buoy must be disconnected from the gear, although the buoy may remain on deck. For a sea bass pot fished without a deployed vertical line connected to a buoy, referred to as an on-demand or ropeless sea bass pot, the buoy may remain connected to the gear.

(2) \* \* \*

(vii) \* \* \*

(E) A crustacean trap or golden crab trap cannot be baited. All buoys must be disconnected from the gear, although buoys may remain on deck.

(F) A sea bass pot cannot be baited. For a sea bass pot fished with a deployed vertical line or rope connected to a buoy, the buoy must be disconnected from the gear, although the buoy may remain on deck. For a sea bass pot fished without a deployed vertical line connected to a buoy, referred to as an on-demand or ropeless sea bass pot, the buoy may remain connected to the gear.

3. Amend § 622.187 by revising paragraph (b)(2)(i) to read as follows:

Commented [a2]: Action 1. Preferred alternatives 2 and 3.

**§ 622.187 Bag and possession limits.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) \* \* \*

(2) \* \* \*

(i) For gag or black grouper, combined--1. The bag limit for the captain or crew of a vessel operating as a charter vessel or headboat is zero. In addition to the bag limits specified in this paragraph (b)(2)(i), the provisions in paragraphs (b)(2)(i)(A) and (B) of this section also apply to gag and black grouper.

(A) The vessel limit for gag and black grouper on a vessel operating as a private recreational vessel is 2 fish per day in any combination.

(B) The vessel limit for gag and black grouper on a vessel operating as a charter vessel or headboat is 2 fish per trip in any combination.

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