

Abbreviated Framework Amendment 5 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 AMERICA, 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 § 622.193, by revising paragraph (z) to read as follows:

§ 622.193 Annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs).

* * * * *

(z) *Blueline tilefish--(1) Commercial sector.* (i) The commercial ACL is 157,249
lb (71,327 kg) in round weight.

(ii) If NMFS estimates that commercial landings will reach the commercial ACL
specified in paragraph (z)(1)(i) of this section during the fishing year, the AA will file a
notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for the
remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such a notification, all
sale or purchase of blueline tilefish is prohibited and harvest or possession of blueline
tilefish in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is limited to the bag and possession limits
while recreational harvest is allowed. If the recreational harvest of blueline tilefish is not

allowed during a period of the fishing year, then the bag and possession limits are zero during that period. These bag and possession limits apply 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 if such species were harvested in state or Federal waters.

(iii) If commercial landings exceed the commercial ACL in paragraph (z)(1)(i) of this section, and the total ACL specified in paragraph (z)(3) of this section is exceeded, and blueline tilefish is overfished based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, 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 commercial ACL for that following year by the amount of the commercial ACL overage in the prior fishing year.

(2) *Recreational sector.* (i) The recreational ACL is 156,809 lb (71,127 kg) in round weight.

(ii) NMFS will project the length of the recreational fishing season based on catch rates from the previous fishing year and when NMFS projects the recreational ACL specified in paragraph (z)(2)(i) will be met, and annually announce the recreational fishing season end date in the **Federal Register**. On and after the effective date of the recreational closure notification, the bag and possession limits for blueline tilefish in or from the South Atlantic EEZ are zero. The bag and possession limits of zero also apply in the South Atlantic on a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued, and applies to such species harvested in state or Federal waters.

(3) The total ACL for the commercial and recreational sectors combined is 314,058 lb (142,454 kg) in round weight.