



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Regulatory Amendment 38 Overview

Headboat Vessel Limits, June 2026

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**WE SHOULD JUST BE ABLE TO CREATE A
HEADBOAT VESSEL LIMIT FOR GAG,
BLACK GROUPER, AND
SCAMP/YELLOWMOUTH, RIGHT?**

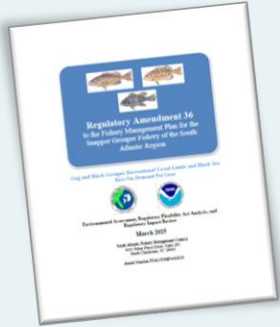


**NOT SO FAST! We need to consider several things,
including:**

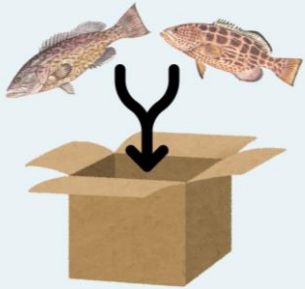
- **Current recreational retention limits**
- **What defines a headboat (because we do not have sector separation)**
- **How current regulations are written**
- **Amendments that are soon to be implemented but are not currently**



GAG AND BLACK GROUPER: Initial Considerations



Amendments not in place yet: For the purposes of this amendment, we are going to assume that Regulatory AM 36 is implemented. It is currently in the proposed rule phase (as of May 2026).



How the species are lumped: Gag and black grouper will be treated as a single species because the retention limits match.



Action verbiage: Because there is already a vessel limit in place for these species, the action pertaining to them will use the language “**revise**” instead of “establish”.

GAG AND BLACK GROUPEY: “Current” Recreational Retention Limits

Bag limit - 1 fish per person per day for gag and black grouper.

Private Recreational Vessel Limit - 2 fish, either gag or black grouper in any combination, per vessel per day

For-Hire* Vessel Limit - 2 fish, either gag or black grouper in any combination, per vessel per day. Captain and crew may not retain.
*For-hire refers to charter and headboat vessels

But Remember - The most restrictive limit is what applies!



So, if Herlinda goes fishing...



If Herlinda and Klein go fishing...



If Herlinda, Klein, and Dennis go fishing...



GAG AND BLACK GROUPE: “Current” Recreational Retention Limits



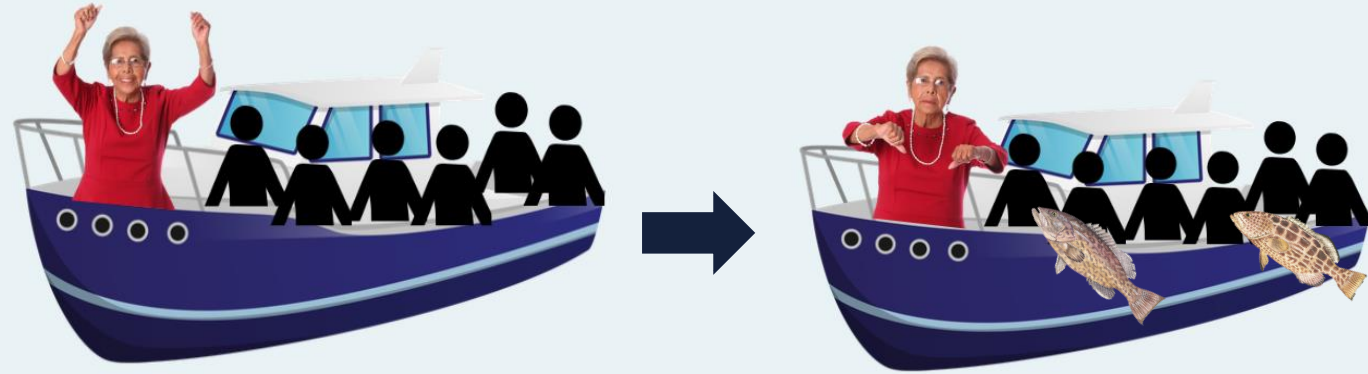
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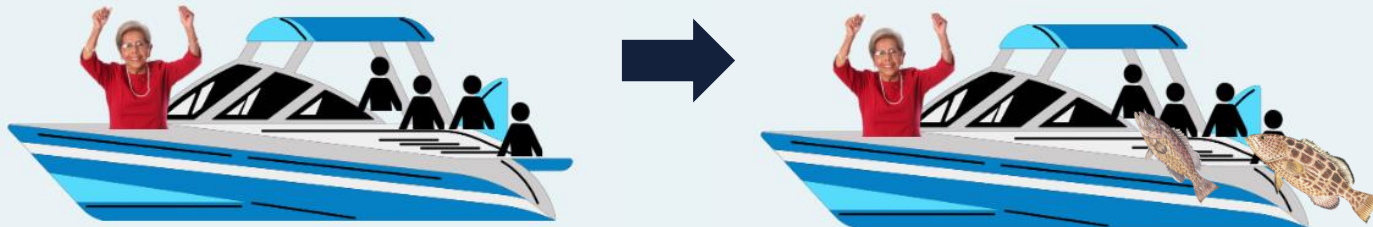
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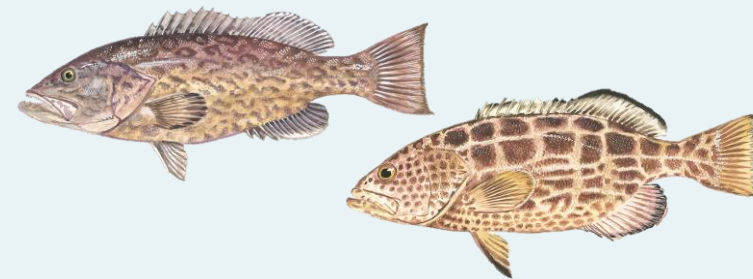
If Herlinda’s Fishing Adventures, her headboat operation goes fishing with 24 people



If Herlinda’s Famous Fishing Charters, her charter operation goes fishing with 5 people



GAG AND BLACK GROUPE: Proposed Retention Limits Under Regulatory Amendment 38



If Herlinda's Famous Fishing Charters, her charter operation goes fishing with 5 people



NO
CHANGE

CHARTER

So, if Herlinda goes fishing...



If Herlinda and Klein go fishing...



If Herlinda, Klein, and Dennis go fishing...



NO
CHANGE

PRIVATE REC

Now if the Herlinda's Fishing Adventures headboat goes fishing with 24 people, AND her vessel has a valid USCG issued COI...

Here Herlinda would be able to retain **1 fish per 6 passengers**, she has 24 passengers on board so they can retain 4 fish. If she had 30 passengers (the next largest group of 6) on board that would bump her up to 5 fish

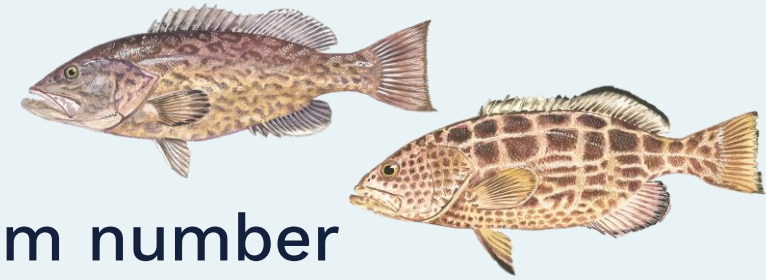


Here Herlinda would be able to retain **2 fish per 6 passengers**, she has 24 passengers on board so they can retain 8 fish. If she had 30 passengers (the next largest group of 6) that would bump her up to 10 fish.

OR



ONE MORE THING TO THINK ABOUT



UNDER REG AMENDMENT 38: Is there a maximum number of fish per vessel that the Council would like to put in place?

12 fish max, AP's recommendation

Number of passengers	1 fish per 6 passengers	2 fish per 6 passengers
6 people	1 fish	2 fish
12 people	2 fish	4 fish
18 people	3 fish	6 fish
24 people	4 fish	8 fish
30 people	5 fish	10 fish
36 people	6 fish	12 fish
42 people	7 fish	14 fish
48 people	8 fish	16 fish
54 people	9 fish	18 fish
60 people	10 fish	20 fish
66 people	11 fish	22 fish
72 people	12 fish	24 fish

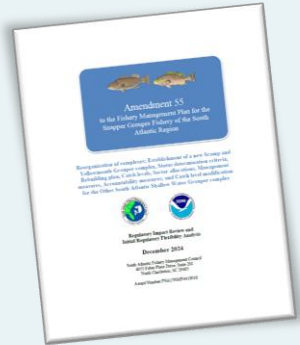
10 fish max

Number of passengers	1 fish per 6 passengers	2 fish per 6 passengers
6 people	1 fish	2 fish
12 people	2 fish	4 fish
18 people	3 fish	6 fish
24 people	4 fish	8 fish
30 people	5 fish	10 fish
36 people	6 fish	12 fish
42 people	7 fish	14 fish
48 people	8 fish	16 fish
54 people	9 fish	18 fish
60 people	10 fish	20 fish
66 people	11 fish	22 fish
72 people	12 fish	24 fish

8 fish max

Number of passengers	1 fish per 6 passengers	2 fish per 6 passengers
6 people	1 fish	2 fish
12 people	2 fish	4 fish
18 people	3 fish	6 fish
24 people	4 fish	8 fish
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66 people	11 fish	22 fish
72 people	12 fish	24 fish

SCAMP AND YELLOWMOUTH GROUPER: Initial Considerations



Amendments not in place yet: For the purposes of this amendment, we are going to assume that Amendment 55 is implemented. It is currently in the final rule phase (as of May 2026).



How the species are lumped: Scamp and yellowmouth grouper will be treated as a single species because Amendment 55 will now lump them together as a single species for management purposes.



Action verbiage: Because there is not a vessel limit in place for these species, the action pertaining to them will use the language “**establish**” instead of “revise”.

SCAMP AND YELLOWMOUTH GROUPER: Current Recreational Retention Limits



So, if Herlinda goes fishing...



Bag limit - 1 fish per person per day for scamp/yellowmouth grouper.

If Herlinda and Klein go fishing...



THERE IS NO VESSEL LIMIT

If Herlinda, Klein, and Dennis go fishing...



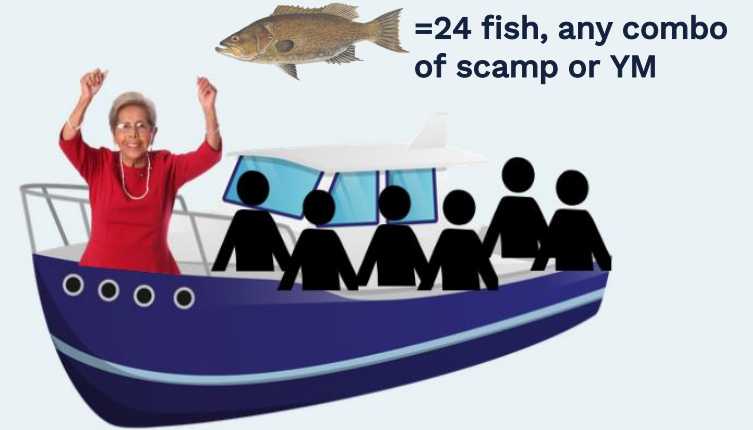
SCAMP AND YELLOWMOUTH GROUPER: Current Recreational Retention Limits



If Herlinda's Fishing Adventures, her headboat operation goes fishing with 24 people

Bag limit - 1 fish per person per day for scamp/yellowmouth grouper.

THERE IS NO VESSEL LIMIT



If Herlinda's Famous Fishing Charters, her charter operation goes fishing with 5 people



SCAMP AND YELLOWMOUTH GROUPER: Proposed Retention Limits Under Regulatory Amendment 38



If Herlinda's Famous Fishing Charters, her charter operation goes fishing with 5 people



NO
CHANGE

CHARTER

So, if Herlinda goes fishing...



If Herlinda and Klein go fishing...



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NO
CHANGE

PRIVATE REC

Now if the Herlinda's Fishing Adventures headboat goes fishing with 24 people, AND her vessel has a valid USCG issued COI...

Before, Herlinda could retain 24 fish but under a "per 6 passenger" vessel limit of 1 or 2 fish per 6 passengers, Herlinda can only retain 4 or 8 fish per vessel, respectively.



OR



QUESTIONS?

