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**South Atlantic
Fishery Management Council**



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 824-5305; FAX (727) 824-53008
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>**

JUL 8 2008

F/SER25:JCM

Mr. George Geiger, Chairman
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, SC, 29405

George
Dear Mr. Geiger:

NOAA Fisheries Service has determined, based upon best available scientific information, the South Atlantic red snapper stock is undergoing overfishing and is overfished according to the current definition of the minimum stock size threshold. This determination was based upon a review of the 2008 assessment of this species by the Southeast, Data, Assessment, and Review panel and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) Scientific and Statistical Committee. A final report for the stock assessment can be obtained from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center's Web site at: www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires the Council to prepare a plan amendment or proposed regulations to end overfishing within one year of notification that a stock is overfished. I look forward to working with the Council in developing a plan to end overfishing and rebuild the red snapper stock.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

cc: F/SER2 – Phil Steele
F/SEC – Bonnie Ponwith
F/SER25 – Joe Kimmel

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