

Public Reporting

The South Atlantic Fishery
Management Council

Public Comment Form



Amendment

Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 35

This amendment would address the number of fish that die after being caught and released across the fishery and revise red snapper catch levels.

Submit Date	Submitted By	Location	Affiliation	Comment	File Attachment
1/8/2023	First Name: Carl Last Name: Kirby Email: ckirbysr@ec.rr.com	City: Southport State: North Carolina	Private Recreational, Commercial	<p>I am both a recreational fisherman and a federal permit holder for snapper / grouper. I have worked as a part time commercial fisherman all my life and a recreational fisherman all my life. I strongly oppose the provision in Amendment 35 that bans the use of electric reels in the recreational fishing industry. This ban is both unnecessary and discriminatory.</p> <p>As a life long participant in both recreational fishing and commercial bandit fishing for snapper grouper, I have extensive experience using both recreational electric reels and commercial electric reels. Recreational electric reels do not have the power to force a fish up in the water column like commercial reels do. A fish caught on recreational electric reels must be played and fought just like a hand crank reel because these reels do not have the power to force the fish up in the water column. An experienced fisherman will know this. I believe misinformation is being used to unjustly support this unnecessary ban. I believe recreational electric reels are being portrayed as equivalent to commercial reels in power and use. This is wrong.</p> <p>This provision to ban recreational electric reels is also discriminatory. It unjustly discriminated against the elderly and the disabled. I fish with two elderly gentlemen and I know first hand they could not participate in this fishery without the use of electric reels. An elderly or disabled person could not hope to physically hand crank fish out of deep water where snapper and grouper are caught. We have all used recreational electric reels all our lives and to deny us the use of this equipment would directly eliminate the elderly and physically disabled from this fishery. I believe such discrimination would be found illegal if challenged in court. I would be willing to support such a challenge if this provision is included in this amendment.</p>	
1/31/2023	First Name: Allen Last Name: Rowe Email:	City: Orlando State: Florida	Other	The Red Snapper population is healthy and thriving in today's ocean. Passing an amendment that bans fishing lines with multiple hooks, not only will have a minor effect (if any), but you will harm other fisheries from sharking to deep drop fishing as well. Destroying the livelihoods of honest fishermen in a poor attempt to affect the red snapper population is an ignorant solution to a non-existent problem. If you would like a first hand observation of the Red Snapper population, any fisherman in Port Canaveral would be happy to show you how the Red Snapper are thriving.	
2/9/2023	First Name: Shasta Last Name: Sirju Email: Ssirju321@gmail.com	City: Melbourne State: Florida	Private Recreational	Banning Chicken rigs does not help the over population issue of Red Snapper. Where is the data collection coming from that says Red Snapper mortality is stemming from chicken rigs? Who owns that data collection company and are they in any way personally involved with the SAMFC? Red Snapper are over populated and are usually the first fish to attack our baits when bottom fishing, where is the data collection on that?	
2/9/2023	First Name: stephen Last Name: fitzpatrick Email: stephen.michele.fitzpatrick@gmail.com	City: cocoa State: Florida	Private Recreational	a ban on multiple hooks is not the answer - the citizens, taxpayers, and voters of Florida deserve better	
2/9/2023	First Name: Michael Last Name: Mathis Email: Michaelmathis2345@icloud.com	City: Orlando State: Florida	Private Recreational, For-Hire	I believe that we should not take away our rights to fish how we want! This will not help the fishery!! everything will remain the same! The only people it will hurt is the people trying to make a living of an affective way to fish!	
2/9/2023	First Name: Hosh Last Name: Centkowski Email: Joshcentkowski@yahoo.com	City: Palm Bay State: Florida	Private Recreational	Do not ban chicken rigs and open a season on red snapper and open your eyes while your at it.	
2/9/2023	First Name: Chris Last Name: McCaffity Email: freefish7@hotmail.com	City: morehead city State: North Carolina	Commercial	Please reward fishermen for following circle hook and descending device requirements by reducing discard mortality projections and allocations. Red Snapper are tough fish that survive most releases when done properly. Please do not create more regulatory discards as a way to address the overpopulation of Red Snapper. Please increase our Red Snapper quotas rather than decreasing so there are fewer discards while providing better data. Discard data is based on speculation while landings are based on math. Please consider options for stocking Red Snapper and creating Hatchery Supported Quotas if you think we need more of them. It seems as if there are already enough Red Snapper to negatively impact other species. It is time we started using the resource wisely rather than planning to waste it. I am happy to answer any questions and/or provide more detail. Thank you.	

2/9/2023	First Name: Carl Last Name: Kirby Email: ckirbysr@ec.rr.com	City: Southport State: North Carolina	Private Recreational, Commercial	<p>"I am both a recreational fisherman and a federal permit holder for snapper / grouper. I have worked as a part time commercial fisherman all my life and a recreational fisherman all my life. I strongly oppose the provision in Amendment 35 that bans the use of electric reels in the recreational fishing industry. This ban is both unnecessary and discriminatory.</p> <p>As a life long participant in both recreational fishing and commercial bandit fishing for snapper grouper, I have extensive experience using both recreational electric reels and commercial electric reels. Recreational electric reels do not have the power to force a fish up in the water column like commercial reels do. A fish caught on recreational electric reels must be played and fought just like a hand crank reel because these reels do not have the power to force the fish up in the water column. An experienced fisherman will know this. I believe misinformation is being used to unjustly support this unnecessary ban. I believe recreational electric reels are being portrayed as equivalent to commercial reels in power and use. This is wrong.</p> <p>This provision to ban recreational electric reels is also discriminatory. It unjustly discriminated against the elderly and the disabled. I fish with two elderly gentlemen and I know first hand they could not participate in this fishery without the use of electric reels. An elderly or disabled person could not hope to physically hand crank fish out of deep water where snapper and grouper are caught. We have all used recreational electric reels all our lives and to deny us the use of this equipment would directly eliminate the elderly and physically disabled from this fishery. I believe such discrimination would be found illegal if challenged in court. I would be willing to support such a challenge if this provision is included in this amendment."</p>	
2/9/2023	First Name: Dave Last Name: Persaud Email: Dpersaud0683@gmail.com	City: Titusville State: Florida	Private Recreational, For-Hire	Your data collection is crappy and the sharks are out of control. Do something about the sharks first before making any changes	
2/9/2023	First Name: James Last Name: Hull Email: hullsseafood@aol.com	City: Ponce Inlet State: Florida	Commercial, For-Hire, Wholesale/Dealer/Retail	<p>I have been a Red Snapper fisherman for over 55 years, It was my bread and butter until it was taken away.</p> <p>First comes Science then Management. All the SEDAR Stock assessments for Red Snapper have mis- characterized the age structure, Life History and Reproductive capabilities of Red Snapper. For the past 11 Years We have tried to better inform the Stock assessment scientist and the council appointed SSC to the realities of a fully rebuilt Red Snapper stock observed from the water. Why are you using an age based assessment/model for Atlantic Red Snapper? When clearly Abundance is the most important factor in Productivity and Recruitment Success of this stock. Most Red Snapper reach their maximum length at 8 to 10 years old or younger. Red Snapper are sexually mature at 2 years of age. The simulated age structure draw down of Red Snapper stock Biomass preceding 1978 is not supported by any empirical age - structure data. From a survey by Anderson et al. (1965) the authors report the average age of Red Snapper in the sport fishery from 1959 to 1962 was 8 lbs. or a 4 year old red snapper. During the SEDAR 73 assessment I asked how many Red Snapper over 20 years of age had been observed from the age readings. The response was that in the past 42 years 30,705 fisheries dependent samples have been taken. This resulted in only 141 Red Snapper over 20 years of age. This is a very small percentage that has nothing to stop this stock from rebuilding. The stock has all time record abundance and recruitment. It is clear that significant age classes into the population is that of an "r-strategist" population that is capable of significant recruitment events, with strong cohorts, irrespective of a older age Biomass. I believe it is inaccurate and a mistake to use age related spawning stock biomass as an indicator for stock status of this reproductively prolific Red Snapper stock. Clearly Abundance is much more important. I ask that you run a new assessment model based on abundance, recruitment and a more realistic maximum age of animals that contribute to the stocks success.</p> <p>But the Science has failed us.</p> <p>So now the council must deal with the results of SEDAR 73, Overfished and overfishing occurring. According to Best Scientific information available(BSIA) Over 85 percent of the available yield is dead discards fishing through out the year from the private Recreational sector. What should the council do and what can they do?</p> <p>They could start by appointing qualified Fisherman to the SSC and by vetting their other SSC appointments as to their use of common sense and an appreciation of reality. Hopefully you can have more accurate stock status thru assessments.</p> <p>Second You cannot have unlimited access to a limited resource. So the Snapper/Grouper (S/G) private recreational sector is overcapitalized There should be a limit on the number of Private Recreational S/G fisherman thru limited entry permits, just as was done to the S/G Commercial sector years ago when it was determined to be overcapitalized. You could close down year round access to Private Recreation S/G fishing by bottom or time closure. This could result in much more fish for harvest for the Private Recreational sector. You need to run the numbers and analyze these options. The fisherman might like what they see. Obviously Single hook rigs, venting and descending devises, along with education and public outreach is vital for turning dead discards into landings. If nothing is done to end overcapitalization and limit the Private Recreational S/G sector then all S/G fisheries will become DEAD DISCARD fisheries in the future.</p> <p>Thank You</p> <p>Captain James G. Hull Jr. Ponce Inlet Fl.</p>	
2/9/2023	First Name: Nicholas Last Name: Frazier Email: nfrazier@cfl.rr.com	City: Indialantic State: Florida	Private Recreational	<p>As an avid fisherman and life long resident of Florida, I adamantly oppose the proposed regulation.</p> <p>Red Snapper are not over fished. They're over caught because they are overwhelming reefs and other structure.</p> <p>Improving angler education for venting and descending devices would improve snapper and grouper survival rates.</p> <p>Changing season dates to allow more days that are spread out throughout the year would also improve populations. This would remove the excess pressure of two or three days during the year.</p> <p>This proposal is a government overreach, attempting to further infringe on opportunities for South Atlantic outdoorsman.</p>	
2/9/2023	First Name: Nick Last Name: Stanczyk Email: Bnmcharters@gmail.com	City: Islamorada State: Florida	Private Recreational, For-Hire	Deep dropping is not practical with one hook when fishing in 500-1000' of water. It will severely hurt our charter fishing industry as well as our recreational boating industry	

