



COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Complex (Updated August 3, 2019)

NOTE: This listing is published for informational purposes and has no legal force or effect. Fishery regulations are subject to change. For updated information, visit www.safmc.net, download our mobile app or call 843-571-4366

List of Species

SNAPPERS

Lane Snapper
Yellowtail Snapper
Gray Snapper
Mutton Snapper
Vermilion Snapper
Red Snapper
Queen Snapper
Blackfin Snapper
Cubera Snapper
Silk Snapper

TILEFISHES

Golden Tilefish
Blueline Tilefish
Sand Tilefish

PORGYS

Red
Jolthead
Saucereye
Whitebone
Knobbed
Longspine*
Scup

TRIGGERFISH

Gray
Ocean*

GRUNTS

White Grunt
Margate
Tomtate
Cottonwick*
Sailors Choice

GROUPEES

Gag
Scamp
Red Grouper
Black Grouper
Speckled Hind
Snowy Grouper
Warsaw Grouper
Wreckfish
Rock Hind
Graysby
Yellowedge Grouper
Coney
Red Hind
Goliath Grouper
Misty Grouper
Nassau Grouper
Yellowmouth Grouper
Yellowfin Grouper

JACKS

Greater Amberjack
Bar Jack
Almaco Jack
Lesser Amberjack
Banded Rudderfish

SEA BASSES

Black Sea Bass
Bank Sea Bass
Rock Sea Bass*

SPADEFISH

Spadefish

WRASSES

Hogfish

*denotes Ecosystem Species

Commercial Closures - CURRENT

Species	Effective Date of Closure	Harvest Reopens
Golden Tilefish (longline component)	March 14, 2019	January 1, 2020
Other Jacks Complex (almaco jack, banded rudderfish, lesser amberjack)	July 16, 2019	January 1, 2020
Golden Tilefish (hook & line component)	July 23, 2019	January 1, 2020
Blueline Tilefish	July 30, 2019	January 1, 2020
Snowy Grouper	August 3, 2019	January 1, 2020

-The following species are closed to harvest or possession in federal waters, unless otherwise specified: goliath grouper, Nassau grouper, speckled hind, and warsaw grouper.

- Wreckfish - Only ITQ shareholders or their designees may commercially harvest wreckfish.

Other Notes:

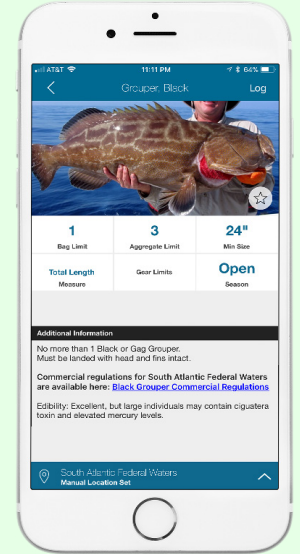
Endorsement Programs:

- Commercial golden tilefish longline fishery *effective 5/23/13*
- Commercial black sea bass pot fishery, *effective 7/1/12*

Know Before You Go!

Download the **FREE Fish Rules App** for federal regulations in the South Atlantic.

*commercial regs in additional information section



Additional Notes

- Circle hooks:** Required for the Snapper grouper fishery. *The use of non-stainless steel circle hooks (offset or non-offset) is required on any commercial or recreational vessel using hook-and-line gear with natural baits to fish for snapper grouper species north of 28 degrees N. latitude.*
- Landing Condition:** All species in the snapper grouper complex must be maintained with heads and fins intact. (Cobia, king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, dolphin, and wahoo must also be landed with heads and fins intact.)
- Goliath and Nassau grouper:** Must be released by cutting the line and **not** removing the fish from the water.
- Dehooking tools:** Recreational and commercial fishermen are required to use [dehooking tools](#) when fishing for snapper grouper species.

Commercial Trip Limits:

Species	Trip Limit	Harvest Status
Black sea bass -Hook & Line -Pot fishery	- 1000-lbs (gw) - 1,000-lbs (gw); <i>Seasonal prohibited areas in place</i>	OPEN OPEN
Golden tilefish -Longline -Hook & Line	4,000-lbs (gw) 500-lb (gw)	CLOSED CLOSED
Vermilion snapper	1,100-lbs (ww)	OPEN
Gray triggerfish	1,000-lbs (gw)	OPEN
Blueline tilefish	300-lbs (gw)	CLOSED
Snowy grouper	200-lbs (gw)	CLOSED
Greater amberjack	1,200-lbs (gw)	OPEN
Red porgy	120 fish	OPEN
Gag	1,000-lbs (gw)	OPEN

BLACK SEA BASS Commercial Fishery Information

FISHING YEAR =
January 1 - December 31, annually

**TRIP LIMITS -
Hook-and-line component:**

- January - April = 300-lbs (gw); 354 ww)
- May - December = 1,000-lbs (gw); 1,180 ww)

**TRIP LIMITS -
Pot fishery component:**

- May - October = 1,000-lbs (gw); 1,180 ww)
- November - April = Seasonal prohibited areas in effect

- After a commercial quota has been met, all purchase and sale is prohibited, and harvest and/or possession is limited to the recreational bag limit.** This prohibition does not apply to fish harvested, landed and sold prior to the quota being met and held in cold storage by a dealer.
- Sea turtle and smalltooth sawfish:** Commercial snapper grouper vessels must have onboard NMFS approved sea turtle release gear and follow smalltooth sawfish release protocol.
For more information visit: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_sa/turtle_sawfish_release/index.html

Summary of Commercial Regulations - Commonly Caught South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Species

Updated August 3, 2019

Check www.safmc.net for the latest updates or download the *SA Fishing Regulations* App.

Species - Common Name	Size Limit	Trip Limit	Harvest Status/ Other Regulations
Black Grouper*	24-in TL	None	OPEN
Black Sea Bass	11-in TL	Pot fishery: 1,000-lbs (gw) Hook-Line: 1,000-lbs (gw) 300-lbs (gw): Jan- April	Pot fishery: OPEN; Seasonal prohibited areas in place Hook-Line: OPEN Fishing year is Jan 1 - Dec 31 annually
Blackfin Snapper	12-in TL	None	OPEN
Cubera Snapper	12-in TL	None	OPEN
Gag*	24-in TL	1,000-lbs (gw)	OPEN
Gray Triggerfish	14-in FL (<i>off E. FL</i>) 12-in FL (<i>NC, SC, GA</i>)	1,000-lbs (ww)	OPEN; Split season (Jan-Jun; Jul-Dec) annually
Greater Amberjack	36-in FL (no coring)	1,200-lbs (gw)	OPEN
Hogfish	16-in FL (<i>E. FL & FL Keys</i>) 17-in FL (<i>NC, SC, GA</i>)	25 lbs (ww) in <i>E. FL</i> 500 lbs (ww) in <i>NC, SC, GA</i>	OPEN <i>in E FL & FL Keys</i> ; OPEN <i>in NC, SC, & GA</i>
Mutton Snapper	18-in TL	Jan-March: 500 lbs (ww) April-June: 5/ person/day or 5/person/trip July-Dec: 500 lbs (ww)	OPEN; Note: April-June spawning season: 5/person/day or 5/person/trip
Red Grouper*	20-in TL	None	OPEN
Red Porgy	14-in TL	120 fish	OPEN
Red Snapper	None	75-lbs (gw)	OPEN
Scamp*	20-in TL	None	OPEN
Snowy Grouper	None	200-lbs (gw)	CLOSED
Tilefish, Blueline	None	300-lbs (gw)	OPEN
Tilefish, Golden	None	Longline: 4,000-lbs (gw) Hook-Line: 500-lbs (gw)	Longline: CLOSED Hook-Line: CLOSED
Vermilion Snapper	12-in TL	1,100-lbs (ww)	OPEN
Yellowfin Grouper*	20-in TL	None	OPEN
Yellowmouth Grouper*	20-in TL	None	OPEN
Yellowtail Snapper	12-in TL	None	OPEN

*Indicates species in the Annual Shallow-water Grouper Spawning Season Closure Jan 1 through April 30. These fisheries reopen on May 1 annually.

The following species are closed to possession or harvest:

Goliath Grouper

Warsaw Grouper

Nassau Grouper

Speckled Hind