



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kate Michie, or Kate.Michie@noaa.gov
727-824-5305, FAX 727-824-5308

December 29, 2010
FB10-112

NOAA Will Publish a Final Rule to Establish Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures for Nine South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Species

Publication Date: December 30, 2010

NOAA Fisheries Service will publish a final rule implementing Amendment 17B to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Amendment 17B) on December 30, 2010. This final rule, establishes annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs) for nine snapper-grouper species (golden tilefish, snowy grouper, speckled hind, warsaw grouper, gag, red grouper, black grouper, black sea bass, and vermilion snapper) as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. ACLs are set at levels that prevent overfishing (when the rate of removals is too high). AMs are management controls established to ensure that ACLs are not exceeded, or they may correct for overages if ACLs are exceeded during a fishing season.

In addition to specifying ACLs and AMs for nine snapper-grouper species, Amendment 17B allocates 97 percent of the golden tilefish ACL to the commercial sector and 3 percent of the ACL to the recreational sector, and specifies management measures intended to address overfishing, including:

- A prohibition on harvest and retention of speckled hind and warsaw grouper in federal waters of the South Atlantic.
- A prohibition on harvest and retention of snowy grouper, blueline tilefish, yellowedge grouper, misty grouper, queen snapper, and silk snapper, beyond 240 feet (73 m) in federal waters of the South Atlantic.

This species prohibition is intended to reduce incidental catch of speckled hind and warsaw grouper.

- And a bag limit reduction for snowy grouper from one fish per person per day, to one fish per vessel per day.

Effective Date:

All measures in Amendment 17B will be effective January 31, 2011.

Addresses

Electronic copies of the final rule may be obtained from the e-Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>, or:

NOAA Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
Sustainable Fisheries Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

More information:

Information on these and other actions contained in Amendment 17B can be found on the Council's web site at <http://www.safmc.net>, in the [Amendment 17B Frequently Asked Questions](#), and at the following NOAA Fisheries Service Southeast Region web site <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SASnapperGrouperHomepage.htm>.