



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

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APR 13 2010

F/SER25: NM

Dear Wreckfish Shareholder:

NOAA Fisheries Service has evaluated the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) March 23, 2010, request for an emergency rule to exempt wreckfish fishermen with wreckfish shares and a current wreckfish permit, for six months, from the requirement to have a federal commercial South Atlantic snapper-grouper permit. The Council's intent was to provide sufficient time for wreckfish fishermen to acquire a federal commercial South Atlantic snapper-grouper permit necessary to sell wreckfish. NOAA Fisheries Service has determined that an emergency rule is not needed.

Current regulations to fish for, possess, and sell wreckfish require that a person be a shareholder under the wreckfish individual quota program with coupons allocating annual pounds, have a wreckfish vessel permit, and possess a federal commercial South Atlantic snapper-grouper permit. If a shareholder has a wreckfish permit, but no federal commercial permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper species, that person cannot sell wreckfish and must adhere to the aggregate snapper-grouper bag limit, which includes wreckfish. Furthermore, there is a January 15 through April 15 spawning season closure.

If you have any questions, please contact Nikhil Mehta at 727-824-5305 or nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

For Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

