Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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Commercial Fishery for Vermilion Snapper Closing to Vessels Fishing in the South Atlantic Federal Waters on March 19, 2010

The commercial fishery for vermilion snapper in the South Atlantic federal waters is **closed, effective 12:01 a.m. (local time) March 19, 2010,** through June 30, 2010. NOAA Fisheries Service has determined the 2010 January through June commercial quota of 315,523 pounds of vermilion snapper will be reached by this date.

During the closure period, no person aboard a vessel with a commercial snapper-grouper permit may commercially fish for vermilion snapper in federal waters of the South Atlantic. During the closure, all harvest or possession of vermilion snapper in or from South Atlantic federal waters is restricted to the bag and possession limits and the sale or purchase of such fish is prohibited.

In addition, for a person on board a vessel with a federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat snapper-grouper permit, these provisions of the closure for vermilion snapper would apply regardless of whether the fish are harvested in state or federal waters.

Closure of the commercial fishery for vermilion snapper in the South Atlantic complies with regulations implementing the Amendment 16 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region and is necessary to protect the snapper-grouper resource.

The operator of a vessel with vermilion snapper in excess of the bag or possession limit aboard must have landed such vermilion snapper prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, March 19, 2010, and all sale or purchase of vermilion snapper must occur prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, March 19, 2010. The prohibition on sale or purchase does not apply to sale or purchase of vermilion snapper that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, March 19, 2010, and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

How can we improve these fishery bulletins?
If you have any suggestions on how we may improve future fishery bulletins, please contact:
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If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, please e-mail us at SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov.

This bulletin provides only a summary of the information regarding the existing regulations. Any discrepancies between this bulletin and the regulations as published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.