South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Complex Recreational Regulations

Updated 6/3/10 (changes in red)

List of Species in the South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Management Unit:

Snappers
Lane Snapper
Yellowtail Snapper
Gray Snapper
Mutton Snapper
Vermilion Snapper
Red Snapper
Black Snapper
Queen Snapper
Schoolmaster
Blackfin Snapper
Cubera Snapper
Mahogany Snapper
Dog Snapper
Silk Snapper

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

Porgys
Red
Sheepshead
Grass
Jolthead
Saucereye
Whitebone
Knobbed
Longspine
Scup

Triggerfish
Gray
Queen
Ocean

Jacks
Greater Amberjack
Yellow Jack
Blue Runner
Crevalle Jack
Bar Jack
Almaco Jack
Lesser Amberjack
Banded Rudderfish

Tilefishes
Golden Tilefish
Blueline Tilefish
Sand Tilefish

Grunts
White Grunt
Black Margate
Porkfish
Margate
Tomtate
Smallmouth Grunt
French Grunt
Spanish Grunt
Cottonwick
Sailors Choice
Blue Stripe Grunt

Spadefishes
Spadefish

Wrasses
Hogfish
Puddingwife

Sea Basses
Black Sea Bass
Bank Sea Bass
Rock Sea Bass

NOTE: This listing is published for informational purposes and has no legal force or effect.

Recreational Retention Limits (see summary table on back)

For additional information, visit www.safmc.net or call toll free 866/SAFMC-10

NEW! Annual Shallow-water Grouper Closure - January 1 through April 30th

Prohibition on recreational and commercial harvest of the following shallow-water grouper species: gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, rock hind, red hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, and tiger grouper.

NEW! Annual Vermilion Snapper Recreational Closed Season - November 1 through March 31

Recreational harvest of vermilion snapper is prohibited.

***New!* Aggregate bag limit of three (3) groupers per person/day** includes:

*Black, *Gag, **Speckled Hind, Misty, Red, Scamp, ***Snowy, , Tiger, **Warsaw, Yellowedge, Yellowfin, Yellowmouth Grouper, and also includes Blueline Tilefish, ***Golden Tilefish, Sand Tilefish, Coney, Graysby, Red & Rock Hind.

* **No more than 1 may be a gag or black grouper *New!***
** 1 per vessel per trip. May not be sold or traded; no transfer at sea
*** No more than 1 fish may be snowy grouper
*** No more than 1 fish may be golden tilefish



Goliath Grouper - Closed to harvest or possession
Nassau Grouper - Closed to harvest or possession
Wreckfish - Only ITQ shareholders or their designees may harvest or possess wreckfish

Ten (10) snapper, excluding vermilion snapper, per person/day with the following exceptions:

***New!* Beginning January 4th through December 5th, 2010 the red snapper fishery is closed** to both commercial and recreational harvest in order to help address overfishing (interim rule in effect).
Maximum of 2 **cubera** per person (not to exceed 2 per/vessel) for fish 30" Total Length (TL) or larger off Florida. These are not included in the 10 snapper bag limit. Cubera less than 30" TL are included in the 10 fish bag limit.

In addition, fishermen may retain:

One **amberjack** per person per day, (in **April**, for-hire/charter vessels limited to 1 per person/day or 1 per person/trip)
A limit of 15 **black sea bass** per person/day
5 **hogfish** per person/day, off the coast of East Florida
3 **red porgy** per person/day or 3 per/person/trip, whichever is more restrictive
5 vermilion snapper per person per day *New!*
(November - March recreational closure for vermilion snapper)

Note: All species in the Snapper/Grouper management unit 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.

Other snapper-grouper complex species:

There is an aggregate bag limit of 20 fish per person inclusive of all fish in the snapper-grouper management unit currently not under bag limit, excluding tomates and bluerunners. This means you may catch your bag limits and in addition retain up to 20 other fish for which there is no bag limit.

***NEW!* Recreational and commercial fishermen are required to use dehooking tools when necesary. The sale of snapper grouper species harvested under the bag limit is prohibited (except wreckfish) without a federal commercial South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Permit.**

NOTE: This summary is for informational purposes only and has no legal force or effect.
Fishery regulations are subject to change.

South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Complex Recreational Regulations

(updates in red)

Common Name	Local Names	Size Limit	Daily Bag Limits	Other Regulations
Black Grouper	Blackfin Grouper	24" TL	**No more than one (1) Black or Gag Grouper (included in 3 grouper per person) - *Closed January - April**	
Black Seabass	Sea Bass, Blackfish	12" TL	15 per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Blackfin Snapper		12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person limit	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Cubera Snapper	Cuban Snapper	12" TL	2 per person (not to exceed 2 per vessel) for fish 30" TL or larger off East Florida. See "Retention Limits".	
Dog Snapper		12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person limit	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Gag	Charcoal Belly	24" TL	**No more than one (1) Black or Gag Grouper (included in 3 grouper per person) - *Closed January - April**	
Gray Snapper	Mangrove Snapper	12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person limit	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Gray Triggerfish	Triggerfish	12" TL off East Florida only	Included in 20 fish snapper grouper aggregate	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Greater Amberjack	Amberjack, A.J.	28" FL; no coring	1 per person/day (In April, for-hire/charter vessels limited to 1 per person/day or 1/per person/trip.)	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Hogfish	Hog Snapper	12" FL	5 off East Florida only	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Goliath Grouper	Jewfish, Giant Seabass	Closed to possession or harvest		
Lane Snapper	Redtail Snapper, Candy Snapper	8" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Mahogany Snapper		12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Mutton Snapper	Muttonfish	16" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Nassau Grouper		Closed to possession or harvest		
Queen Snapper		12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Red Grouper	Grouper	20" TL	Included in **3 grouper per person**	***Closed January - April** See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Red Porgy	Pink Porgy, Silver Snapper Pink Snapper	14" TL	3 per person/day (or 3 per person/trip, whichever is more restrictive)	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Red Snapper	Mules, Sow Snapper, Spot Snapper, American Snapper	20" TL	**Closed beginning 1/4/10 through 12/5/10 with possible extension via proposed actions in Amendment 17A**	
Scamp	Broomtail	20" TL	Included in **3 grouper per person**	***Closed January - April** See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Schoolmaster		12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Silk Snapper	Yelloweye Snapper	12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Snowy Grouper	Snowflake	None	1 per person/day	Included in **3 grouper bag limit**
Speckled Hind	Strawberry Grouper, Kitty Mitchell, Calico Grouper	None	1 speckled hind per vessel per trip (included in **3 grouper per person**). May not be sold or traded; no transfer at sea.	
Golden, Blueline, Sand Tilefish	Golden - Rainbow Tilefish; Blueline - Gray Tilefish	None	Included in **3 grouper bag limit.** Golden Tilefish limited to 1 per person per day.	
Vermilion Snapper	Beeliner, Night Snapper	12" TL	**5 (in addition to the snapper bag limit)**	**Closed Season November - March**
Warsaw Grouper	Jewfish (Miscalled), Grouper	None	1 per vessel per trip (included in **3 grouper per person**). May not be sold or traded; no transfer at sea.	
Wreckfish	Individual Transfer Quota (ITQ) Program in place. No one other than shareholders or their designess may possess wreckfish.			
Yellowfin Grouper		20" TL	Included in **3 grouper per person**	***Closed January - April** See "Allowable Gear"
Yellowtail Snapper		12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.
Yellowmouth Grouper	Yellowtail	20" TL	Included in **3 grouper per person**	***Closed January - April** See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net

***January - April Shallow Water Grouper Closure includes:** gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, and tiger grouper