



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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

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FB09-041

NOAA Seeks Public Comment on a Proposed Interim Rule to Reduce Overfishing of Red Snapper in the South Atlantic

Comment Period Ends August 5, 2009

NOAA Fisheries Service is seeking public comment on a proposed rule (74 FR 31906) to implement interim management measures to reduce overfishing of red snapper in the South Atlantic until permanent management measures can be developed and implemented in Amendment 17A to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region.

The proposed rule would implement a prohibition on recreational and commercial harvest of red snapper for 180 days with the possibility of extending the interim measures for an additional 186 days. The proposed interim rule would apply in federal waters off Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia. However, provisions specified in the interim rule would also apply to a person on board a vessel for which a federal commercial or charter/headboat permit for the South Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery has been issued, regardless of whether the fish are harvested or possessed in state or federal waters.

NOAA Fisheries Service has developed a draft Environmental Assessment that discusses the proposed interim rule and its potential impacts.

Request for Comments

Written comments on this proposed rule must be received no later than August 5, 2009, in order to be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service. See the **Addresses** section for information on where and how to submit comments.

Addresses

Electronic copies of the proposed rule or draft Environmental Assessment 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

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA Fisheries Service will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only. Comments received through means not specified in this bulletin or the proposed rule may not be considered.
- **Mail:** Karla Gore
NOAA Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
Sustainable Fisheries Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
- **Fax:** 727-824-5308, Attention: Karla Gore

How Can We Improve These Fishery Bulletins?

If you have any suggestions on how we may improve the contents of future fishery bulletins, please contact:

Kim Amendola, Communications Specialist
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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: sero.communications.comments@noaa.gov.