South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Complex Recreational Regulations

(Updated June 1, 2012 - *Updates in red*)

List of Species in the South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Complex:

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
Goliath Grouper
Misty Grouper
Nassau Grouper
Yellowmouth Grouper
Yellowfin Grouper

Porgys
Red
Jolthead
Saucereye
Whitebone
Knobbed
Longspine
Scup

Triggerfish
Gray
Ocean

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

Tilefishes
Golden Tilefish
Blueline Tilefish
Sand Tilefish

Grunts
White Grunt
Margate
Tomtate
Cottonwick
Sailors Choice

Spadefishes
Spadefish

Wrasses
Hogfish

Sea Basses
Black Sea Bass
Bank Sea Bass
Rock Sea Bass

Recreational and commercial fishermen are required to use dehooking tools when fishing for snapper grouper species. The use of non-stainless steel circle hooks (offset or non-offset) is required for all species in the snapper grouper complex when using hook-and-line gear with natural baits in waters north of 28 degrees N. latitude.

Note: The minimum size limit for black sea bass will increase from 12" Total Length (TL) to 13" TL, effective July 1, 2012. The recreational annual catch limit (ACL) is 409,000 lbs. The bag limit will remain at 5 per person/day.

The prohibition on harvest and retention of some deepwater species (snowy grouper, blueline tilefish, yellowedge grouper, misty grouper, queen snapper and silk snapper) ***in waters greater than 240' in depth is no longer in effect, effective May 10, 2012.*** Recreational bag limits and size limits still apply.

Golden tilefish fishery closed, effective June 8, 2012.
Because the 2010 and 2011 recreational landings exceeded the 2012 recreational Annual Catch Limit (ACL) of 1,578 fish, the fishery will close until January 1, 2013.

Red snapper harvest prohibited. Prohibition on all harvest and possession of red snapper in federal waters off the South Atlantic and state waters for vessels holding federal snapper grouper permits.

Aggregate Grouper Bag Limit: three (3) groupers per person/day includes:
* gag, * black, **snowy, misty, red, scamp, yellowedge, yellowfin, yellowmouth,
blueline tilefish, sand tilefish, ***golden tilefish, coney, graysby, red hind & rock hind.

* Maximum of 1 gag *or* black grouper (*but not both*) per person/day
** **snowy grouper limited to 1 per *vessel* per day**
*** Maximum of 1 golden tilefish per person/day *(closed June 8, 2012 - January 1, 2013)*

Goliath grouper, **Nassau grouper**, ***speckled hind*, and *warsaw grouper*** - Closed to harvest or possession in federal waters.

Wreckfish - **Effective April 16, 2012** - recreational harvest allowed with **1 fish per vessel/day limit.** The recreational season is open July 1 - August 31.

Aggregate Snapper Bag Limit: Ten (10) snapper (excluding vermilion snapper) per person/day with the following exceptions:
The red snapper fishery is closed to both commercial and recreational harvest. 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:
- **1 amberjack** per person/day (in **April**, for-hire/charter vessels limited to 1 per person/day or 1 per person/trip)
- **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/day (Recreational harvest prohibited annually November 1 to March 31)

Note: All species in the snapper grouper complex 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.

The sale of bag-limit caught snapper grouper species is prohibited.

Other Snapper Grouper Complex Species: 20 Fish Aggregate Bag Limit
There is an aggregate bag limit of 20 fish per person inclusive of all fish in the snapper grouper complex currently *not under a bag limit*, excluding tomtate and blue runner. This means you may catch your bag limits and *additionally* retain up to 20 other fish for which there is no bag limit.

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

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

See Next Page for SUMMARY TABLE

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 1 to April 30	
Black Sea Bass	Sea Bass, Blackfish	12" TL **July 1, 2012: increase to 13" TL**	5 per person/day	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 1 to April 30	
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/day	See "allowable gear" at *www.safmc.net*
Mahogany Snapper		12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person/day	See "allowable gear" at *www.safmc.net*
Mutton Snapper	Muttonfish	16" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person/day	See "allowable gear" at *www.safmc.net*
Nassau Grouper		Closed to possession or harvest		
Queen Snapper		12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person/day	See "allowable gear" at *www.safmc.net*
Red Grouper	Grouper	20" TL	Included in 3 grouper per person/day grouper bag limit	*Closed January 1 - April 30 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	Closed to possession or harvest		
Scamp	Broomtail	20" TL	Included in 3 grouper per person/day	*Closed January 1 to April 30 See "allowable gear" at *www.safmc.net*
Silk Snapper	Yelloweye Snapper	12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person/day	See "allowable gear" at *www.safmc.net*
Snowy Grouper	Snowflake	None	**1 per *vessel* per day**	Included in 3 grouper per person/day bag limit
Speckled Hind	Strawberry Grouper, Kitty Mitchell, Calico Grouper	**Closed to possession or harvest**		
Golden, Blueline and Sand Tilefish	Golden - Rainbow Tilefish; Blueline - Gray Tilefish	None	Included in 3 grouper bag limit; **Golden closed June 8, 2012**	**Golden tilefish closed June 8, 2012- Jan 1, 2013**; See "allowable gear" at *www.safmc.net*
Vermilion Snapper	Beeliner, Night Snapper	12" TL	5 per person/day (in *addition* to the snapper bag limit)	Annual Closure November 1 - March 31
Warsaw Grouper	Jewfish (Miscalled), Grouper	**Closed to possession or harvest**		
Wreckfish		None	**1 per *vessel* per day**	**Season Open July 1 - August 31**
Yellowedge Grouper		None	Included in 3 grouper per person/day	See "allowable gear" at *www.safmc.net*
Yellowfin Grouper		20" TL	Included in 3 grouper per person/day	*Closed January 1 to April 30
Yellowtail Snapper	Yellowtail	12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person/day	See "allowable gear" at *www.safmc.net*
Yellowmouth Grouper		20" TL	Included in 3 grouper per person/day	*Closed January 1- April 30

* Annual January 1 to April 30 Shallow Water Grouper Spawning Season Closure includes: gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, and yellowmouth grouper.