



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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Reminder: Recreational Measures for Snowy Grouper, Golden Tilefish, and Black Sea Bass

NOAA Fisheries Service reminds fishermen of recreational measures for golden tilefish, snowy grouper, and black sea bass. These measures include annual catch limits (ACLs) on the amount of fish that can be caught in pounds or numbers, and possible adjustments to ACLs and fishing seasons if ACLs are exceeded.

Background

NOAA Fisheries Service published a final rule to implement Amendment 17B to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Amendment 17B) in the *Federal Register* on December 30, 2010 (75 FR 82280). These provisions were effective January 31, 2011.

Amendment 17B established ACLs and accountability measures (AMs) for nine snapper-grouper species as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. ACLs are set at levels that prevent overfishing. AMs are management controls established to ensure landings do not exceed the ACL, or they may correct for overages if ACLs are exceeded during a fishing season. During the 2010 fishing year, the recreational ACLs for golden tilefish, snowy grouper, and black sea bass were exceeded.

Golden Tilefish

Because the recreational ACL was exceeded for golden tilefish late in 2010, an adjustment to the length of the fishing year will be needed at the end of 2011.

Snowy Grouper

The recreational ACL was also exceeded for snowy grouper and an adjustment to the length of the 2011 fishing year may be needed. Data from 2011 will be examined to determine if new management measures in Amendment 17B, which include a reduction in the bag limit, will prevent the ACL from being exceeded in 2011.

Black Sea Bass

Accountability measures for black sea bass require the recreational fishing season to be closed when the ACL is met. The recreational ACL for black sea bass was reached on or before February 12, 2011, and the recreational sector was closed on that date. Additionally, an overage from the prior fishing season must be deducted from the ACL for the following fishing year. NOAA Fisheries Service is awaiting final landings data for the 2011 fishing year to determine the extent of the recreational black sea bass ACL overage. Final data will be available this summer, after which time NOAA Fisheries Service will adjust the black sea bass ACL for the 2011/2012 fishing year.

Recreational anglers will be notified as soon as possible regarding any adjustments to recreational fishing seasons or ACLs.

More Information

For more information please refer to [Amendment 17B](#), [Frequently Asked Questions](#), [Black Sea Bass Frequently Asked Questions](#), and or the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web page at: www.safmc.net.

Species	Recreational ACL	Recreational Landings	Recreational AM
Golden Tilefish	1,578 fish	4,391 fish	Following fishing season shortened if ACL is exceeded
Snowy Grouper	523 fish	2,215 fish	Following fishing season shortened if ACL is exceeded
Black Sea Bass	409,000 lbs gutted weight (482,620 lbs whole weight)	416,336 lbs gutted weight (491,276 lbs whole weight; through Dec. 31, 2010)	If black sea bass are overfished and the ACL is projected to be reached, the recreational fishery would be closed. If the ACL is exceeded, reduce the ACL in the following year by the amount of the overage.