

## History of Management for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic

Document	All Actions Effective By:	Proposed Rule Final Rule	Major Actions. Note that not all details are provided here. Please refer to Proposed and Final Rules for all impacts of listed documents.
FMP (1983)	08/31/83	PR: 48 FR 26843 FR: 48 FR 39463	-12" limit – red snapper, yellowtail snapper, red grouper, Nassau grouper, vermilion snapper -8" limit – black sea bass -4" trawl mesh size -Gear limitations – poisons, explosives, fish traps, trawls -Designated modified habitats or artificial reefs as Special Management Zones (SMZs)
Regulatory Amendment #1 (1986)	03/27/87	PR: 51 FR 43937 FR: 52 FR 9864	-Prohibited fishing in SMZs except with hand-held hook-and-line and spearfishing gear. -Prohibited harvest of goliath grouper in SMZs.
Amendment #1 (1988)	01/12/89	PR: 53 FR 42985 FR: 54 FR 1720	-Prohibited trawl gear to harvest fish south of Cape Hatteras, NC and north of Cape Canaveral, FL. -Directed fishery defined as vessel with trawl gear and ≥200 lbs s-g on board. -Established rebuttable assumption that vessel with s-g on board had harvested such fish in EEZ.
Regulatory Amendment #2 (1988)	03/30/89	PR: 53 FR 32412 FR: 54 FR 8342	-Established 2 artificial reefs off Ft. Pierce, FL as SMZs.
Notice of Control Date	09/24/90	55 FR 39039	-Anyone entering federal wreckfish fishery in the EEZ off S. Atlantic states after 09/24/90 was not assured of future access if limited entry program developed.
Regulatory Amendment #3 (1989)	11/02/90	PR: 55 FR 28066 FR: 55 FR 40394	-Established artificial reef at Key Biscayne, FL as SMZ. Fish trapping, bottom longlining, spear fishing, and harvesting of Goliath grouper prohibited in SMZ.
Amendment #2 (1990)	10/30/90	PR: 55 FR 31406 FR: 55 FR 46213	-Prohibited harvest/possession of goliath grouper in or from the EEZ -Defined overfishing for goliath grouper and other species
Amendment #3 (1990)	01/31/91	PR: 55 FR 39023 FR: 56 FR 2443	-Established management program for wreckfish: Added to FMU*; defined OY and overfishing; required permit to fish for, land or sell; collect data; established control date 03/28/90; fishing year beginning April 16*; process to set annual quota, with initial quota of 2 million lbs*; 10,000 lb. trip limit*; spawning season closure Jan 15-Apr 15. -Add wreckfish to the FMU; -Required permit to fish for wreckfish; -Required catch and effort reports from selected, permitted vessels; -Established a fishing year for wreckfish starting April 16;

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Established 10,000 lb. trip limit;</li> <li>-Established a spawning season closure for wreckfish from January 15 to April 15;</li> <li>-Established a wreckfish quota and provisions for closure of wreckfish fishery;</li> <li>-Provided for annual adjustments of wreckfish management measures;</li> </ul>
Notice of Control Date	07/30/91	56 FR 36052	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Anyone entering federal snapper grouper fishery (other than for wreckfish) in the EEZ off S. Atlantic states after 07/30/91 was not assured of future access if limited entry program developed.</li> </ul>
Amendment #4 (1991)	01/01/92	PR: 56 FR 29922 FR: 56 FR 56016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Prohibited gear: fish traps except bsb traps north of Cape Canaveral, FL; entanglement nets; longline gear inside 50 fathoms; bottom longlines to harvest wreckfish**; powerheads and bangsticks in designated SMZs off S. Carolina.</li> <li>-Permit, gear, and vessel id requirements specified for bsb traps.</li> <li>-No retention of S-G caught in other fisheries with gear prohibited in S-G fishery if captured S-G had no bag limit or harvest was prohibited. If had a bag limit, could retain only the bag limit.</li> <li>-8" limit – lane snapper and bsb</li> <li>-10" limit – vermilion snapper (recreational only)</li> <li>-12" limit – red porgy, vermilion snapper (commercial only), gray, yellowtail, mutton, schoolmaster, queen, blackfin, cubera, dog, mahogany, and silk snappers</li> <li>-20" limit – red snapper, gag, and red, black, scamp, yellowfin, and yellowmouth groupers.</li> <li>-28" FL limit – greater amberjack (recreational only)</li> <li>-36" FL or 28" core length – greater amberjack (commercial only)</li> <li>-bag limits – 10 vermilion snapper, 3 greater amberjack</li> <li>-aggregate snapper bag limit – 10/person/day, excluding vermilion snapper and allowing no more than 2 red snappers</li> <li>-aggregate grouper bag limit – 5/person/day, excluding Nassau and goliath grouper, for which no retention is allowed</li> <li>-spawning season closure – commercial harvest greater amberjack &gt; 3 fish bag prohibited in April south of Cape Canaveral, FL</li> <li>-spawning season closure – commercial harvest mutton snapper &gt; snapper aggregate prohibited during May and June</li> <li>-charter/headboats and excursion boat possession limits extended</li> <li>-commercial permit regulations established</li> </ul>

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Amendment #5 (1991)	04/06/92	PR: 56 FR 57302 FR: 57 FR 7886	-Wreckfish: established limited entry system with ITQs; required dealer to have permit; rescinded 10,000 lb. trip limit; required off-loading between 8 am and 5 pm; reduced occasions when 24-hour advance notice of offloading required for off-loading; established procedure for initial distribution of percentage shares of TAC
Regulatory Amendment #4 (1992)	07/06/93	FR: 58 FR 36155	-Black Sea Bass: modified definition of bsb pot***; allowed multi-gear trips for bsb***; allowed retention of incidentally-caught fish on bsb trips***
Regulatory Amendment #5 (1992)	07/31/93	PR: 58 FR 13732 FR: 58 FR 35895	-Established 8 SMZs off S. Carolina, where only hand-held, hook-and-line gear and spearfishing (excluding powerheads) was allowed.
Amendment #6 (1993)	07/27/94	PR: 59 FR 9721 FR: 59 FR 27242	-commercial quotas for snowy grouper, golden tilefish -commercial trip limits for snowy grouper, golden tilefish, speckled hind, and Warsaw grouper -include golden tilefish in grouper recreational aggregate bag limits -prohibited sale of Warsaw grouper and speckled hind -100% logbook coverage upon renewal of permit -creation of the <i>Oculina</i> Experimental Closed Area -data collection needs specified for evaluation of possible future IFQ system
Amendment #7 (1994)	01/23/95	PR: 59 FR 47833 FR: 59 FR 66270	-12" FL – hogfish -16" limit – mutton snapper -required dealer, charter and headboat federal permits -allowed sale under specified conditions -specified allowable gear and made allowance for experimental gear -allowed multi-gear trips in N. Carolina -added localized overfishing to list of problems and objectives -adjusted bag limit and crew specs. for charter and head boats -modified management unit for scup to apply south of Cape Hatteras, NC -modified framework procedure
Regulatory Amendment #6 (1994)	05/22/95	PR: 60 FR 8620 FR: 60 FR 19683	Established actions which applied only to EEZ off Atlantic coast of FL: Bag limits – 5 hogfish/person/day (recreational only), 2 cubera snapper/person/day > 30" TL; 12" TL – gray triggerfish
Notice of	04/23/97	62 FR 22995	-Anyone entering federal bsb pot fishery off S. Atlantic states after 04/23/97 was not assured of future

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Control Date			access if limited entry program developed.
Amendment #8 (1997)	12/14/98	PR: 63 FR 1813 FR: 63 FR 38298	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-established program to limit initial eligibility for s-g fishery: Must demonstrate landings of any species in S-G FMU in 1993, 1994, 1995 or 1996; AND have held valid s-g permit between 02/11/96 and 02/11/97.</li> <li>-granted transferable permit with unlimited landings if vessel landed ≥ 1,000 lbs. of S-G spp. in any of the years</li> <li>-granted non-transferable permit with 225 lb. trip limit to all other vessels</li> <li>-modified problems, objectives, OY, and overfishing definitions</li> <li>-expanded Council's habitat responsibility</li> <li>-allowed retention of S-G in excess of bag limit on permitted vessel with a single bait net or cast nets on board</li> <li>-allowed permitted vessels to possess filleted fish harvested in the Bahamas under certain conditions.</li> </ul>
Regulatory Amendment #7 (1998)	01/29/99	PR: 63 FR 43656 FR: 63 FR 71793	-Established 10 SMZs at artificial reefs off South Carolina.

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Amendment #9 (1998)	2/24/99	PR: 63 FR 63276 FR: 64 FR 3624	<p>-red porgy: 14" length (recreational and commercial); 5 fish rec. bag limit; no harvest or possession &gt; bag limit, and no purchase or sale, in March and April.</p> <p>-bsb: 10" length (recreational and commercial); 20 fish rec. bag limit; required escape vents and escape panels with degradable fasteners in bsb pots</p> <p>-greater amberjack: 1 fish rec. bag limit; no harvest or possession &gt; bag limit, and no purchase or sale, during March and April; quota = 1,169,931 lbs; began fishing year May 1; prohibited coring.</p> <p>Vermilion snapper: 11" length (recreational)</p> <p>Gag: 24" length (recreational); no harvest or possession &gt; bag limit, and no purchase or sale, during March and April</p> <p>Black grouper: 24" length (recreational and commercial); no harvest or possession &gt; bag limit, and no purchase or sale, during March and April.</p> <p>Gag and Black grouper: within 5 fish aggregate grouper bag limit, no more than 2 fish may be gag or black grouper (individually or in combination)</p> <p>All S-G without a bag limit: aggregate recreational bag limit 20 fish/person/day, excluding tomtate and blue runners</p> <p>Vessels with longline gear aboard may only possess snowy, Warsaw, yellowedge, and misty grouper, and golden, blueline and sand tilefish.</p>
Amendment #9 (1998) resubmitted	10/13/00	PR: 63 FR 63276 FR: 65 FR 55203	-Commercial trip limit for greater amberjack
Regulatory Amendment #8 (2000)	11/15/00	PR: 65 FR 41041 FR: 65 FR 61114	-Established 12 SMZs at artificial reefs off Georgia; revised boundaries of 7 existing SMZs off Georgia to meet CG permit specs; restricted fishing in new and revised SMZs
Emergency Interim Rule	09/08/99, expired 08/28/00	64 FR 48324 and 65 FR 10040	-Prohibited harvest or possession of red porgy.
Amendment #10 (1998)	07/14/00	PR: 64 FR 37082 and 64 FR 59152 FR: 65 FR 37292	-identified EFH and established HAPCs for species in the S-G FMU.

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Amendment #11 (1998)	12/02/99	PR: 64 FR 27952 FR: 64 FR 59126	<p>-MSY proxy: goliath and Nassau grouper = 40% static SPR all other species = 30% static SPR</p> <p>-OY: hermaphroditic groupers = 45% static SPR goliath and Nassau grouper = 50% static SPR all other species = 40% static SPR</p> <p>-Overfished/overfishing evaluations: BSB: overfished (MSST=3.72 mp, 1995 biomass=1.33 mp) undergoing overfishing (MFMT=0.72, F1991-1995=0.95) Vermilion snapper: overfished (static SPR = 21-27%). Red porgy: overfished (static SPR = 14-19%). Red snapper: overfished (static SPR = 24-32%) Gag: overfished (static SPR = 27%) Scamp: no longer overfished (static SPR = 35%) Speckled hind: overfished (static SPR = 8-13%) Warsaw grouper: overfished (static SPR = 6-14%) Snowy grouper: overfished (static SPR = 5=15%) White grunt: no longer overfished (static SPR = 29-39%) Golden tilefish: overfished (couldn't estimate static SPR) Nassau grouper: overfished (couldn't estimate static SPR) Goliath grouper: overfished (couldn't estimate static SPR)</p> <p>-rebuilding timeframe: red snapper and groupers ≤ 15 years (year 1 = 1991) other snappers, greater amberjack, bsb, red porgy ≤ 10 years (year 1 = 1991)</p> <p>-overfishing level: goliath and Nassau grouper = F&gt;F40% static SPR all other species: = F&gt;F30% static SPR</p>
Amendment #12 (2000)	09/22/00	PR: 65 FR 35877 FR: 65 FR 51248	<p>-Red porgy: MSY=4.38 mp; OY=45% static SPR; MFMT=0.43; MSST=7.34 mp; rebuilding timeframe=18 years (1991=year 1); no sale during Jan-April; 1 fish bag limit; 50 lb. bycatch comm. trip limit May-December; modified management options and list of possible framework actions.</p>
Amendment #13A (2003)	04/26/04	PR: 68 FR 66069 FR: 69 FR 15731	<p>-Extended for an indefinite period the regulation prohibiting fishing for and possessing S-G spp. within the <i>Oculina</i> Experimental Closed Area.</p>