



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR RED PORGY, GOLDEN TILEFISH, AND SNOWY GROUPEL COMMERCIAL FISHERIES IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) announces seasonal closure of the red porgy commercial fishery in federal waters of the South Atlantic from 12:01 a.m. (local time) January 1 through April 30, 2008. Sale or purchase of red porgy is prohibited and possession is limited to three fish per person per day or three fish per person per trip, whichever is more restrictive. This fishery will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) May 1, 2008.

The prohibition on sale/purchase does not apply to red porgy harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to January 1 and held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

NOAA Fisheries Service also announces the opening of the 2008 commercial fishing year for golden tilefish in South Atlantic federal waters at 12:01 a.m. (local time) January 1, 2008. The commercial fishery for golden tilefish was closed, effective 12:00 noon (local time) October 3, 2007, through December 31, 2007.

For golden tilefish, the commercial quota for the 2008 fishing year is 295,000 pounds gutted weight (lbs gw) with a 4,000-lbs gw trip limit. These harvesting restrictions are expected to end overfishing.

The most recent stock assessment on snowy grouper indicates that this stock is overfished and undergoing overfishing. In response, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries Service developed and implemented Amendment 13C to the Fishery Management Plan

for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region. Actions in Amendment 13C include annual quotas and reduced trip limits for the commercial fisheries. For snowy grouper, harvesting restrictions are implemented in annual steps, with the intent of ending overfishing by 2009. For the 2007 fishing year, the quota for the snowy grouper commercial fishery was reduced to 118,000 lbs gw with a trip limit of 175 lbs gw. The quota in 2008 will be further reduced to 84,000 lbs gw with a trip limit of 100 lbs gw, beginning January 1.

How can we improve these fishery bulletins?

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

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SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov and include: (1) "Request for Electronic Fishery Bulletins" in the subject line; and (2) your preferred e-mail address in the body of the e-mail.

This bulletin provides only a summary of the information regarding the existing regulations. Any discrepancies between this bulletin and the regulations as published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.