

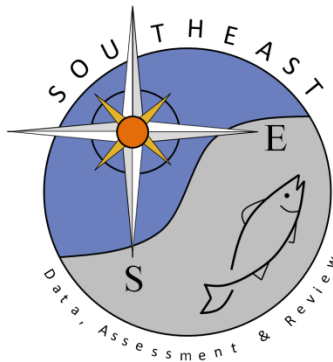
South Atlantic Red Snapper Management History

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1. Management Overview

1.1 Management Overview SAFMC Fishery Management Plan and Amendments

The following summary describes only those management actions that likely affect the red snapper portion of the snapper-grouper fishery.

Original Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan

The Fishery Management Plan (FMP), Regulatory Impact Review, and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region, approved in 1983 and implemented in August 1983, established a management regime for the fishery for snappers, groupers and related demersal species of the continental shelf of the southeastern United States in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) under the area of authority of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the territorial seas of the states, extending from the North Carolina/Virginia border through the Atlantic side of the Florida Keys to 83° W longitude. In the case of the sea basses and scup, the management regime applies only to south of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Regulations apply only to federal waters.

FMP Amendments Affecting Red Snapper

Description of Actions	FMP/Amendment	Effective Date
4" Trawl mesh size and a 12" TL minimum size limit for red snapper.	Snapper Grouper FMP	8/31/1983
Prohibit trawls.	Amendment 1	1/12/1989
Required permit to fish for, land or sell snapper grouper species.	Amendment 3	1/31/1991
Prohibited gear: fish traps except black sea bass 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. Established 20" TL minimum size limit for red snapper and a 10 snapper/person/day bag limit, excluding vermilion snapper, and allowing no more than 2 red snapper. Defined overfishing/overfished and established rebuilding timeframe: red snapper and groupers ≤ 15 years (year 1 = 1991).	Amendment 4	1/1/1992
<i>Oculina</i> Experimental Closed Area.	Amendment 6	6/27/1994

Limited entry program; transferable permits and 225 lbs non-transferable permits.	Amendment 8	12/14/1998
-Identified essential fish habitat (EFH) and established habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC) for species in the snapper grouper FMU.	Amendment 10 (included in Comprehensive Essential Fish Habitat Amendment)	7/4/2000
Approved definitions for overfished and overfishing. $MSST = [(1-M) \text{ or } 0.5 \text{ whichever is greater}] * BMSY$.	Amendment 11	12/2/1999
Extended for an indefinite period the regulation prohibiting fishing for and possessing snapper grouper species within the Oculina Experimental Closed Area.	Amendment 13A	4/26/2004
Established eight deep-water Type II marine protected areas to protect a portion of the population and habitat of long-lived deep-water snapper grouper species. Also protected known spawning areas of many snapper grouper species including red snapper.	Amendment 14	2/12/2009

Prohibited the sale of snapper-grouper harvested or possessed in the EEZ under the bag limits and prohibited the sale of snapper-grouper harvested or possessed under the bag limits by vessels with a Federal charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper regardless of where harvested	Amendment 15B	12/16/2009
Specified an ACL=0 for red snapper. Specified a rebuilding plan for red snapper. Specified status determination criteria for red snapper. Specified a monitoring program for red snapper. Required use of non-stainless steel circle hooks when fishing for snapper grouper species with hook-and-line gear and natural baits north of 28 deg. N latitude in the South Atlantic EEZ. Implemented an area closure for South Atlantic snapper grouper extending from southern Georgia to northern Florida where harvest and possession of all snapper grouper species was prohibited (except when fishing with black sea bass pots or spearfishing gear for species other than red snapper).	Amendment 17A	red snapper closure effective 12/3/2010 circle hook requirement effective 3/3/2011

<p>Established regulations to allow limited harvest of red snapper on an annual basis. Also specified the commercial and recreational annual catch limits for red snapper in 2013. The commercial and recreational annual catch limits were 21,447 pounds gutted weight and 9,585 fish, respectively. During the open season, the commercial trip limit was 75 pounds gutted weight, the recreational bag limit was 1 fish per person per day, and no minimum size limit for red snapper for either sector. The fishing seasons in 2013 for the commercial and recreational sectors were 44 and 3 days, respectively.</p>	Amendment 28	8/23/2013
<p>Revised red snapper commercial and recreational ACLs and noticed the red snapper commercial season opening date and the opening and closing dates for the recreational season in the South Atlantic for the 2018 fishing year. The commercial ACL was set at 124,815 lbs ww and the recreational ACL was set at 29,656 fish. The fishing seasons in 2018 for the commercial and recreational sectors were 116 and 6 days, respectively.</p>	Amendment 43	7/26/2018

Regulatory Amendments Affecting Red Snapper

Description of Action	FMP/Amendment	Effective Date
Prohibited fishing in SMZs except with hand-held hook-and-line and spearfishing gear.	Regulatory Amendment 1	3/27/1987
Established 2 artificial reefs off Ft. Pierce, FL as SMZs.	Regulatory Amendment 2	3/30/1989
Established artificial reef at Key Biscayne, FL as SMZ.	Regulatory Amendment 3	11/02/1990
Established 8 SMZs off S. Carolina, where only hand-held, hook-and-line gear and spearfishing (excluding powerheads) was allowed.	Regulatory Amendment 5	7/31/1993
Established 10 SMZs at artificial reefs off South Carolina,	Regulatory Amendment 7	1/29/1999
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.	Regulatory Amendment 8	11/15/2000
Eliminated closed area for snapper grouper species approved in Amendment 17A.	Regulatory Amendment 10	5/31/2011
Modified the definition of the overfished threshold (MSST) for red snapper, blueline tilefish, gag, black grouper, yellowtail snapper, vermilion snapper, red porgy, and greater amberjack. MSST changed from $(1-M)*SSBMSY$ to $MSST = 75\%SSBMSY$	Regulatory Amendment 21	11/6/2014
Required descending devices be <i>on board</i> and readily available for use on commercial, for-hire, and private recreational vessels while fishing for or possessing snapper-grouper species; required the use of <i>non-offset</i> , non-stainless steel circle hooks when fishing for snapper-grouper species with hook-and-line gear and natural baits north of 28° north latitude; required all hooks be non-stainless steel when fishing for snapper-grouper species with hook-and-line gear and natural baits south of 28° north latitude; and allowed the use of powerheads in federal waters off South Carolina.	Regulatory Amendment 29	7/15/2020

Removed the requirement for the recreational and commercial red snapper seasons in the South Atlantic to be at least three days.	Regulatory Amendment 33	11/13/2020
Established 34 artificial reefs off North Carolina and South Carolina as special management zones, where only handline, rod and reel, and spearfishing are allowed.	Regulatory Amendment 34	5/3/2021

1.1.1 Emergency and Interim Rules (if any)

Emergency Rule effective 9/3/1999: Reopened the Amendment 8 permit application process.

Interim Rule effective 12/4/2009: Prohibited harvest and possession of red snapper from January 4, 2010 to June 2, 2010. Was extended for 186 days.

Emergency Rule effective 12/3/2010: Delay the effective date of the area closure for snapper grouper species implemented through Amendment 17A.

Emergency Rule effective 8/28/2012: Established red snapper seasons for the commercial and recreational sectors in South Atlantic federal waters. The commercial and recreational annual catch limits for 2012 were 20,818 pounds gutted weight and 9,399 fish, respectively. During the open season, the commercial trip limit was 50 pounds gutted weight, the recreational bag limit was 1 fish per person per day, and there was no minimum size limit for red snapper for either sector. The fishing seasons in 2012 for the commercial and recreational sectors were 24 and six days, respectively.

Emergency Rule effective 11/2/2017: Modified the process used to set the red snapper ACL and announced the opening and closing dates of the 2017 recreational fishing season and the opening date for the 2017 commercial fishing season for red snapper. The 2017 commercial ACL was set at 124,815 lbs ww, and the 2017 recreational ACL was set at 29,656 fish. The commercial and recreational fishing seasons in 2017 were 60 days and 9 days, respectively.

Secretarial Amendments (if any)

Amendment 59 (2025): Revised the F_{MSY} proxy for red snapper to the fishing mortality rate that reflects the best scientific information available at the time an overfishing determination is made. The F_{MSY} proxy specified in this amendment was the F that maintains the existing rebuilding plan, equivalent to $F_{2021-2023}$. Also revised the OFL, ABC, total ACL, and sector commercial and recreational annual catch limits.

Control Date Notices (if any)

Notice of Control Date effective 7/30/1991: Anyone entering federal snapper grouper fishery (other than for wreckfish) in the EEZ off S. Atlantic states after 7/30/91 was not assured of future access if limited entry program developed.

Notice of Control Date effective 10/14/2005: The Council is considering management measures to further limit participation or effort in the commercial fishery for snapper grouper species (excluding Wreckfish).

Notice of Control Date effective 3/8/2007: The Council may consider measures to limit participation in the snapper grouper for-hire fishery.

Notice of Control Date effective 1/31/2011: Anyone entering federal snapper grouper fishery off South Atlantic states after 9/17/10 was not assured of future access if limited entry program is developed.

Notice of Control Date effective 6/15/2016: Fishermen entering the federal for-hire recreational sector for the Snapper Grouper fishery after June 15, 2016, will not be assured of future access should a management regime that limits participation in the sector be prepared and implemented.

Notice of Control Date effective 12/8/2023: Federal permit holders that have not reported catch from the for-hire component of the recreational sectors of these fisheries, to the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) program in the Atlantic on or prior to December 5, 2023, will not be assured of future access if the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council decides to limit future participation in these fisheries.

1.1.2 Management Program Specifications

General Management Information

Species	Red Snapper
Management Unit	South Atlantic
Management Unit Definition	All waters within South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Boundaries
Management Entity	South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Management Contacts SERO / Council	SAFMC: Michael Schmidtke SERO: Rick DeVactor
Current stock exploitation status	Not Overfishing
Current stock biomass status	Not Overfished; Under Rebuilding Plan

1.1.3 Management Parameters

Estimated status indicators, benchmarks, and related quantities from the base run of the Beaufort catch-age model in the SEDAR 73 Update (2024) and management specified through Snapper Grouper Amendment 59 (2025), conditional on estimated current selectivities averaged across fleets. Also presented are median values from the Monte Carlo/Bootstrap analysis. Rate estimates (F) are in units of y^{-1} ; status indicators are dimensionless; and biomass estimates are in units of metric tons or pounds, as indicated. Spawning stock biomass (SSB) is measured as population fecundity (number of eggs)

Criteria	Definition	Units	Estimate	Median
F_{MSY}	$F_{2021-2023}^1$	per year	0.34	NA ¹
F_{OY}	$F_{30\%}$	per year	0.18	0.19
F_{OY}	$F_{40\%}$	per year	0.14	0.14
F_{OY}	85% $F_{2021-2023}$	per year	.289	NA
F_{OY}	75% $F_{2021-2023}$	per year	.255	NA
F_{OY}	65% $F_{2021-2023}$	per year	.221	NA
B_{MSY}	Biomass at $F_{30\%SPR}$	metric tons	7308.63	7073.66
SSB_{MSY}	Spawning stock biomass at $F_{30\%SPR}$	eggs (1E8)	702270.70	632894.00
MSST	75% SSB_{MSY}	eggs (1E8)	526703.00	474670.50
R_{MSY}	recruits at $F_{30\%SPR}$	number	482756.80	496637.30
$F_{2021-2023}/F_{MSY}$	exploitation status	--	1	NA ¹
$SSB_{2023}/MSST$		--	1.01	1.19

SSB ₂₀₂₃ /SSB _{MSY}	biomass status	--	0.76	0.89
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¹ NOAA Fisheries defined the F_{MSY} proxy as $F_{2021-2023}$ through Snapper Grouper Amendment 59 (2025), following the SEDAR 73 assessment update (2024). This proxy was selected as a point estimate and did not have an associated median from Monte Carlo Bootstrap Estimation.

Stock Rebuilding Information

Amendment 17A to the FMP specified a 35-year rebuilding schedule with the rebuilding time period ending in 2044. The rebuilding schedule is based on $T_{MIN} +$ one generation time; SEDAR 15 2008 was the source of the generation time.

1.1.4 General Projection Specifications

Requested Information	Value
First Year of Management	Assume management begins in 2028.
Interim basis	ABC, if average landings for the most recent 5 years of data are within 10% of the ABC; average landings for the most recent 5 years of data otherwise.
Current Acceptable Biological Catch	509,000 fish (71,000 fish landed and 438,000 dead discards)
Projection Outputs	
Total Removals	Pounds and numbers
Exploitation	F & Probability $F > MFMT$
Biomass (total or SSB, as appropriate)	B & Probability $B > MSST$ (and Prob. $B > B_{MSY}$ if under rebuilding plan)
Recruits	Number

Base Run Projections Specifications. Long Term and Equilibrium conditions.

Red snapper is currently in a rebuilding plan, implemented in Snapper Grouper Amendment 17A. The rebuilding period is 35 years, ending in 2044. Rebuilding is based on fixed exploitation at $F=98\%$ of $F_{30\%SPR}$.

Criteria	Definition	If not rebuilt	If rebuilt
Projection Span	Years	to 2044	10
Projection Values	$F_{CURRENT}$	X	X
	F_{MSY}	X	X
	$75\% F_{MSY}$	X	X
	$F_{REBUILD} = 98\%F_{30\%SPR}$	X	

NOTE: Exploitation rates for projections may be based upon point estimates from the base run (current process) or upon the median of such values from the MCBs evaluation of uncertainty. The critical point is that the projections be based on the same criteria as the management specifications.

Short term projections (P* or exploitation based)

Short term specifications for OFL and ABC recommendations. Additional P-star projections may be requested by the SSC once the ABC control rule is applied. Projections based on exploitation rates should provide probabilities of both overfishing and overfished conditions.

Basis	Value	Years to Project	P* applies to
P*	50%	Interim + 3, Interim + 5	Probability of overfishing
If not overfished, P* from ABC Control Rule; Stock Risk Rating: High Risk	If $B > B_{MSY}$, 40%; If $B > \text{midpoint between } B_{MSY} \text{ and MSST}$, 30%; If $B < \text{midpoint between } B_{MSY} \text{ and MSST}$, 20%	Interim + 3, Interim + 5	Probability of overfishing
Exploitation	98% of F30%SPR	Interim + 3, Interim + 5	NA

1.1.5 Quota Calculation Details

Amendment 59 (2025) implemented a total ACL for red snapper equal to the ABC (509,000 fish). Based on SEDAR 73 Update projections of current discarding levels, this supports a landed portion of the ACL equal to 34,000 fish and 475,000 dead discards. To calculate sector ACLs, the landed portion of the total ACL was converted to pounds using 10.79 as the average weight estimate (Amendment 59; average weight from 2021-2023), resulting in a landed of portion of the total ACL of 366,766 pounds whole weight. The commercial allocation percentage (28.07%) was applied to the landed total ACL weight, resulting in a commercial ACL of 102,951 pounds whole weight. To calculate the recreational ACL, the commercial ACL was converted back to number of fish using 9.19 pounds whole weight as the average weight (Amendment 59; average weight of commercial fish from 2021-2023), resulting in a commercial ACL of 11,203 fish. The commercial ACL in number of fish was subtracted from the total ACL in number of fish, resulting in a recreational ACL of 22,797 fish. This corresponds to 71.93% of the total ACL, the recreational allocation percentage for red snapper in the South Atlantic.

Are there additional details of which the analysts should be aware to properly determine quotas for this stock?

1.2 Management and Regulatory Timeline

- See tables 2.2.1 and 2.2.2

. Closures Due to Meeting Commercial Quota or Commercial/Recreational ACL

- See tables 2.2.1 and 2.2.2

References

None provided.

July 2025

South Atlantic Red Snapper

Table 2.2.1. Commercial regulatory history. Prepared by Michael Schmidtke.

Year	ACL	ACL Unit	Days Open	Fishing Season	Reason for Closure	Season Start Date (first day implemented)	Season End Date (last day effective)	Min Size Limit (inches TL)	Min Size Limit Start Date	Min Size Limit End Date	Retention (Trip) Limit	Retention (Trip) Limit Unit	Retention Limit Start Date	Retention Limit End Date
1983 ^A	NA		123	open		31-Aug	31-Dec	12	31-Aug	31-Dec	None		NA	NA
1984-1991	NA		365	open		1-Jan	31-Dec	12	1-Jan	31-Dec	None		NA	NA
1992-2009	NA		365	open		1-Jan	31-Dec	20	1-Jan	31-Dec	None		NA	NA
2010	NA		3	open		1-Jan	3-Jan	20	1-Jan	3-Jan	None		NA	NA
	NA		333	closed	Interim Rule ¹	4-Jan	2-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
	NA		29	closed	Regulatory ²	3-Dec	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
2011	NA		365	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
2012	NA		260	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	16-Sep	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
	20,818	lbs gw	8	open	Emergency Rule ³	17-Sep	24-Sep	None	NA	NA	50	lbs gw	17-Sep	24-Sep
	NA		49	closed	ACL projected to be met	25-Sep	12-Nov	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
	20,818	lbs gw	9	open	NA	13-Nov	21-Nov	None	NA	NA	50	lbs gw	13-Nov	21-Nov
	NA		20	closed	ACL projected to be met	22-Nov	11-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
	20,818	lbs gw	8	open	NA	12-Dec	19-Dec	None	NA	NA	50	lbs gw	12-Dec	19-Dec
	NA		12	closed	ACL met	20-Dec	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
2013	NA		237	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	25-Aug	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
	21,447	lbs gw	44	open ⁴	NA	26-Aug	8-Oct	None	NA	NA	75	lbs gw	26-Aug	8-Oct
	NA		84	closed	ACL met	9-Oct	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
2014	NA		194	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	13-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
	50,994	lbs gw	58	open	NA	14-Jul	9-Sep	None	NA	NA	75	lbs gw	14-Jul	9-Sep
	NA		113	closed	ACL met	10-Sep	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
2015	NA		365	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
2016	NA		366	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
2017	NA		305	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	1-Nov	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
	124,815	lbs ww	60	open	NA	2-Nov	31-Dec	None	NA	NA	75	lbs gw	2-Nov	31-Dec
2018	NA		206	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	25-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA

July 2025

South Atlantic Red Snapper

	124,815	lbs ww	105	open	NA	26-Jul	7-Nov	None	NA	NA	75	lbs gw	26-Jul	7-Nov
	NA		27	closed	ACL projected to be met	8-Nov	4-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
	124,815	lbs ww	11	open	NA	5-Dec	15-Dec	None	NA	NA	75	lbs gw	5-Dec	15-Dec
	NA		16	closed	ACL met	16-Dec	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
2019	NA		188	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	7-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
	124,815	lbs ww	53	open	NA	8-Jul	29-Aug	None	NA	NA	75	lbs gw	8-Jul	29-Aug
	NA		124	closed	ACL met	30-Aug	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
2020	NA		194	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	12-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
	124,815	lbs ww	54	open	NA	13-Jul	4-Sep	None	NA	NA	75	lbs gw	13-Jul	4-Sep
	NA		118	closed	ACL met ⁵	5-Sep	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
2021	NA		192	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	11-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
	124,815	lbs ww	65	open	NA	12-Jul	14-Sep	None	NA	NA	75	lbs gw	12-Jul	14-Sep
	NA		48	closed	ACL projected to be met	15-Sep	1-Nov	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
	124,815	lbs ww	4	open	NA	2-Nov	5-Nov	None	NA	NA	75	lbs gw	2-Nov	5-Nov
	NA		56	closed	ACL met	6-Nov	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
2022	NA		191	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	10-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
	124,815	lbs ww	51	open	NA	11-Jul	30-Aug	None	NA	NA	75	lbs gw	11-Jul	30-Aug
	NA		123	closed	ACL met	31-Aug	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
2023	NA		190	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	9-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
	124,815	lbs ww	39	open	NA	10-Jul	17-Aug	None	NA	NA	75	lbs gw	10-Jul	17-Aug
	NA		49	closed	ACL projected to be met	18-Aug	5-Oct	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
	124,815	lbs ww	4	open	NA	6-Oct	9-Oct	None	NA	NA	75	lbs gw	6-Oct	9-Oct
	NA		83	closed	ACL met	10-Oct	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
2024	NA		189	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	7-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
	85,268	lbs ww	27	open ⁶	NA	10-Jul	5-Aug	None	NA	NA	75	lbs gw	10-Jul	5-Aug
	NA		148	closed	ACL projected to be met	6-Aug	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
2025	NA		194	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	13-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
	102,951	lbs ww	NA	open ⁷	NA	8-Jul	NA	None	NA	NA	75	lbs gw	8-Jul	NA

¹Interim rule to reduce overfishing of red snapper. Prohibited harvest and possession (both sectors) while Amendment 17A was being developed.

July 2025

South Atlantic Red Snapper

²Amendment 17A prohibited harvest and possession of red snapper in the South Atlantic. Staggered implementation, completely effective 3/3/2011

³Emergency rule established red snapper commercial and recreational ACLs, seasons and management measures. Effective 8/28/2012

⁴Amendment 28 implemented ACLs for 2013, management measures, and a process to allow for limited harvest in subsequent years. Effective 8/23/2013

⁵Regulatory Amendment 33 removed the 3-day minimum season length requirement. Effective 11/13/2020

⁶Temporary rule reduced the ACL for 2024.

⁷Amendment 59 revised the ACL. Effective 6/11/2025. As of the writing date for this summary, the season is still ongoing.

Table 2.2.2. Recreational regulatory history. Prepared by Michael Schmidtke.

Year	ACL (fish)	Days Open	Fishing Season	Reason for Closure	Season Start Date (first day implemented)	Season End Date (last day effective)	Minimum Size Limit (inches TL)	Minimum Size Limit Start Date	Minimum Size Limit End Date	Daily Retention Limit (fish/person/day)	Retention Limit Start Date	Retention Limit End Date	Daily Aggregate Retention Limit (fish/person/day)	Aggregate Retention Limit Start Date	Aggregate Retention Limit End Date
1983-1991	NA	365	open		1-Jan	31-Dec	12	1-Jan	31-Dec	None	NA	NA	None	NA	NA
1992-2009	NA	365	open ¹		1-Jan	31-Dec	20	1-Jan	31-Dec	2	1-Jan	31-Dec	10	1-Jan	31-Dec
2010	NA	336	open		1-Jan	2-Dec	20	1-Jan	2-Dec	2	1-Jan	2-Dec	10	1-Jan	2-Dec
	NA	29	closed	Regulatory	3-Dec	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2011	NA	365	closed		1-Jan	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2012	NA	257	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	13-Sep	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	9,399	3	open ²		14-Sep	16-Sep	None	NA	NA	1	14-Sep	16-Sep	None	NA	NA
	NA	4	closed	Regulatory	17-Sep	20-Sep	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	9,399	3	open		21-Sep	23-Sep	None	NA	NA	1	21-Sep	23-Sep	None	NA	NA
	NA	99	closed	Regulatory	24-Sep	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2013	NA	234	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	22-Aug	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	9,585	3	open ³		23-Aug	25-Aug	None	NA	NA	1	23-Aug	25-Aug	None	NA	NA
	NA	128	closed	Regulatory	26-Aug	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2014	NA	191	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	10-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	22,576	3	open ⁴		11-Jul	13-Jul	None	NA	NA	1	11-Jul	13-Jul	None	NA	NA
	NA	4	closed	Regulatory	14-Jul	17-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	22,576	3	open		18-Jul	20-Jul	None	NA	NA	1	18-Jul	20-Jul	None	NA	NA
	NA	4	closed	Regulatory	21-Jul	24-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	22,576	2	open		25-Jul	26-Jul	None	NA	NA	1	25-Jul	26-Jul	None	NA	NA
	NA	158	closed	Regulatory	27-Jul	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2015-2016	0	365	open		1-Jan	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2017	NA	306	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	2-Nov	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	29,656	3	open ⁵		3-Nov	5-Nov	None	NA	NA	1	3-Nov	5-Nov	None	NA	NA
	NA	4	closed	Regulatory	6-Nov	9-Nov	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	29,656	3	open		10-Nov	12-Nov	None	NA	NA	1	10-Nov	12-Nov	None	NA	NA
	NA	25	closed	Regulatory	13-Nov	7-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

	29,656	3	open		8-Dec	10-Dec	None	NA	NA	1	8-Dec	10-Dec	None	NA	NA
	NA	21	closed	Regulatory	11-Dec	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2018	NA	221	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	9-Aug	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	29,656	3	open ⁶		10-Aug	12-Aug	None	NA	NA	1	10-Aug	12-Aug	None	NA	NA
	NA	4	closed	Regulatory	13-Aug	16-Aug	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	29,656	3	open		17-Aug	19-Aug	None	NA	NA	1	17-Aug	19-Aug	None	NA	NA
	NA	134	closed	Regulatory	20-Aug	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2019	NA	192	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	11-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	29,656	3	open		12-Jul	14-Jul	None	NA	NA	1	12-Jul	14-Jul	None	NA	NA
	NA	4	closed	Regulatory	15-Jul	18-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	29,656	2	open		19-Jul	20-Jul	None	NA	NA	1	19-Jul	20-Jul	None	NA	NA
	NA	164	closed	Regulatory	21-Jul	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2020	NA	191	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	9-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	29,656	3	open		10-Jul	12-Jul	None	NA	NA	1	10-Jul	12-Jul	None	NA	NA
	NA	4	closed	Regulatory	13-Jul	16-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	29,656	1	open		17-Jul	17-Jul	None	NA	NA	1	17-Jul	17-Jul	None	NA	NA
	NA	167	closed	Regulatory	18-Jul	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2021	NA	189	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	8-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	29,656	3	open ⁷		9-Jul	11-Jul	None	NA	NA	1	9-Jul	11-Jul	None	NA	NA
	NA	173	closed	Regulatory	12-Jul	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2022	NA	188	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	7-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	29,656	2	open		8-Jul	9-Jul	None	NA	NA	1	8-Jul	9-Jul	None	NA	NA
	NA	175	closed	Regulatory	10-Jul	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2023	NA	194	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	13-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	29,656	2	open		14-Jul	15-Jul	None	NA	NA	1	14-Jul	15-Jul	None	NA	NA
	NA	169	closed	Regulatory	16-Jul	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2024	NA	193	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	11-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	21,167	1	open ⁸		12-Jul	12-Jul	None	NA	NA	1	12-Jul	12-Jul	None	NA	NA
	NA	172	closed	Regulatory	13-Jul	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2025	NA	191	closed	Regulatory	1-Jan	10-Jul	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	22,797	2	open ⁹		11-Jul	12-Jul	None	NA	NA	1	11-Jul	12-Jul	None	NA	NA
	NA	172	closed	Regulatory	13-Jul	31-Dec	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

¹Amendment 4 established a 10-snapper aggregate (excluding vermilion snapper) with a 2 fish/person/day bag limit for red snapper within the aggregate.

²Emergency rule established seasons and ACLs for 2012. Effective 8/28/2012

³Amendment 28 implemented the process to determine red snapper seasons and set ACLs for 2013. Effective 8/23/2013

⁴Interim rule effective 7/11/2014 established seasons and ACLs for 2014.

⁵Interim rule effective 11/2/2017 modified the process to set red snapper ACLs and announced the seasons and ACLs for 2017.

July 2025

South Atlantic Red Snapper

⁶Amendment 43 became effective on 8/26/2018 and set red snapper ACLs for 2018 and beyond.

⁷Regulatory Amendment 33 removed the 3-day minimum season length requirement. Effective 11/13/2020

⁸Temporary rule reduced the ACL for 2024.

⁹Amendment 59 revised the ACL. Effective 6/11/2025

1.3 . State Regulatory History

1.3.1 North Carolina:

There are currently no North Carolina state-specific regulations for red snapper. North Carolina has complemented federal regulations for all snapper grouper species via proclamation authority since 1991. Between 1992 and 2005, species-specific regulations were added to the proclamation authority contained in rule 15A NCAC 03M .0506. In 2002, North Carolina adopted its Inter-Jurisdictional Fishery Management Plan (IJ FMP), which incorporates all Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and Council-managed species by reference, and adopts all federal regulations as minimum standards for management. In completing the 2008 update to the IJ FMP, all species-specific regulations were removed from rule 15A NCAC 03M

.0506, and proclamation authority to implement changes in management was moved to rule 15A NCAC 03M .0512. Since this time, all snapper grouper regulations have been contained in a single proclamation, which is updated anytime an opening/closing of a particular species in the complex occurs, as well as any changes in allowable gear, required permits, etc.

Beginning in 2015, commercial and recreational regulations are contained in separate proclamations. The most current snapper grouper proclamations (and all previous versions) can be found using this link: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations>.

15A NCAC 03M .0506 SNAPPER-GROUPER COMPLEX

(a) In the Atlantic Ocean, it is unlawful for an individual fishing under a Recreational Commercial Gear License with seines, shrimp trawls, pots, trotlines or gill nets to take any species of the Snapper-Grouper complex.

(b) The species of the snapper-grouper complex listed in the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region are hereby incorporated by reference and copies are available via the Federal Register posted on the Internet at www.safmc.net and at the Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, North Carolina 28557 at no cost.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-221; 143B-289.52;

Eff. January 1, 1991;

Amended Eff. April 1, 1997; March 1, 1996; September 1, 1991;

Temporary Amendment Eff. December 23, 1996;

Amended Eff. August 1, 1998; April 1, 1997;

Temporary Amendment Eff. January 1, 2002; August 29, 2000; January 1, 2000; May 24, 1999;

Amended Eff. October 1, 2008; May 1, 2004; July 1, 2003; April 1, 2003; August 1, 2002.

15A NCAC 03M .0512 COMPLIANCE WITH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

(a) In order to comply with management requirements incorporated in Federal Fishery Management Council Management Plans or Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Management Plans or to implement state management measures, the Fisheries Director may, by proclamation, take any or all of the following actions for species listed in the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management Plan:

- (1) Specify size;
- (2) Specify seasons;
- (3) Specify areas;
- (4) Specify quantity;
- (5) Specify means and methods; and
- (6) Require submission of statistical and biological data.

(b) Proclamations issued under this Rule shall be subject to approval, cancellation, or modification by the Marine Fisheries Commission at its next regularly scheduled meeting or an emergency meeting held pursuant to G.S. 113-221.1.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-221; 113-221.1; 143B-289.4;

Eff. March 1, 1996;

Amended Eff. October 1, 2008.

1.3.2 South Carolina:

Sec. 50-5-2730 of the SC Code states:

(A) Unless otherwise provided by law, any regulations promulgated by the federal government under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act (PL 94-265) or the Atlantic Tuna Conservation Act (PL 94-70) which establishes seasons, fishing periods, gear restrictions, sales restrictions, or bag, catch, size, or possession limits on fish are declared to be the law of this State and apply statewide including in state waters.

(B) This provision does not apply to:

...

(2) red snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) whose lawful catch limit is two fish per person per day. The lawful minimum size for red snapper is twenty inches total length and there is no closed season.

As such, South Carolina red snapper regulations allow up to 2 fish of at least 20 inches total length caught in state waters per person per day.

1.3.3 Georgia:

Georgia state regulations for red snapper are currently:

- 2 fish per person daily creel limit
- 20 inch TL minimum size limit
- Season open year round

The law with these measures was originally enacted on July 1, 1989 with regulations following on September 13, 1989. The Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) and regulations sections have changed over time, but management measures have not. The current regulations are found in O.C.G.A 27-4-10 and DNR Rule 391-2-4-.04. Both documents are available upon request.

1.3.4 Florida Atlantic Red Snapper Regulation History

<u>Year</u>	<u>Minimum Size Limit</u>	<u>Recreational Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Commercial Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Regulation Changes</u>	<u>Rule Change Effective Date</u>
1980	None	None	None		
1981	None	None	None		
1982	None	None	None		
1983	None	None	None		
1984	None	None	None		
1985	12 inches	None	None	Established a 12-inch minimum size limit.	July 29, 1985

<u>Year</u>	<u>Minimum Size Limit</u>	<u>Recreational Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Commercial Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Regulation Changes</u>	<u>Rule Change Effective Date</u>
1986	12 inches	10 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None	<p>Established a ten-fish daily recreational bag limit for snapper (excluded lane, vermilion, and yelloweye).</p> <p>Prohibited commercial harvest of snapper and grouper by longline gear and established a bycatch allowance of 5% for harvesters using longline gear to target other species.</p> <p>Prohibited use of stab nets (or sink nets) to harvest snapper and grouper in Atlantic state waters of Monroe County.</p> <p>Allowed 5% of snapper and grouper in possession of harvester to be smaller than the minimum size limit.</p> <p>Required snapper and grouper to be landed in whole condition (head and tail intact).</p>	Dec. 11, 1986
1987	12 inches	10 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None		

<u>Year</u>	<u>Minimum Size Limit</u>	<u>Recreational Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Commercial Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Regulation Changes</u>	<u>Rule Change Effective Date</u>
1988	12 inches	10 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None		
1989	12 inches	10 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None		

<u>Year</u>	<u>Minimum Size Limit</u>	<u>Recreational Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Commercial Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Regulation Changes</u>	<u>Rule Change Effective Date</u>
1990	13 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None	<p>Designated all snapper and grouper “restricted species” and required commercial harvesters to possess a Restricted Species endorsement on their Saltwater Products License.</p> <p>Designated red snapper as protected species.</p> <p>Increased minimum size limit to 13 inches.</p> <p>Revised the daily recreational bag limit to be two per person within the ten-fish snapper aggregate.</p> <p>Set allowable gear as hook-and-line, black sea bass trap, spear, gig, or lance (except powerheads, bangsticks, or explosive devices) for snapper and grouper.</p> <p>Prohibited commercial harvest in state waters when harvest is prohibited in adjacent federal waters.</p> <p>Required snapper and grouper to be landed in whole condition.</p>	Feb. 1, 1990

<u>Year</u>	<u>Minimum Size Limit</u>	<u>Recreational Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Commercial Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Regulation Changes</u>	<u>Rule Change Effective Date</u>
1991	13 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None		
1992	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None	Increased the minimum size limit to 20 inches.	Dec. 31, 1992
1993	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None		
1994	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None	<p>Allowed a two-day possession limit for reef fish for persons aboard charter and headboats on trips exceeding 24 hours, provided the vessel is equipped with a permanent berth for each passenger, and each passenger has a receipt verifying the trip length.</p> <p>Modified rule language to provide the same state and federal definitions of Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean regions.</p>	March 1, 1994

<u>Year</u>	<u>Minimum Size Limit</u>	<u>Recreational Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Commercial Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Regulation Changes</u>	<u>Rule Change Effective Date</u>
1995	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None		
1996	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None		
1997	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None		
1998	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None		
1999	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None		
2000	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None		

<u>Year</u>	<u>Minimum Size Limit</u>	<u>Recreational Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Commercial Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Regulation Changes</u>	<u>Rule Change Effective Date</u>
2001	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None		
2002	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None		
2003	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None	Removed “protected species” designation for red snapper.	Jan. 1, 2003
2004	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None		
2005	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None		

<u>Year</u>	<u>Minimum Size Limit</u>	<u>Recreational Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Commercial Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Regulation Changes</u>	<u>Rule Change Effective Date</u>
2006	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	None	Specified that “total length” means the straight line distance from the most forward point of the head with the mouth closed, to the farthest tip of the tail with the tail compressed or squeezed, while the fish is lying on its side.	July 1, 2006
2007	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	Same as federal waters	Set commercial trip limits in the Atlantic to be the same as adjacent federal waters. Prohibited commercial fishermen from harvesting or possessing the recreational bag limit on commercial trips.	July 1, 2007
2008	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	Same as federal waters		
2009	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	Same as federal waters		

<u>Year</u>	<u>Minimum Size Limit</u>	<u>Recreational Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Commercial Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Regulation Changes</u>	<u>Rule Change Effective Date</u>
2010	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	Same as federal waters	Required dehooking tools be aboard commercial and recreational vessels for anglers to use as needed to remove hooks from Atlantic reef fish.	Jan. 9, 2010
2011	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	Same as federal waters		
2012	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	Same as federal waters		
2013	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	Same as federal waters		
2014	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	Same as federal waters		
2015	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	Same as federal waters		

<u>Year</u>	<u>Minimum Size Limit</u>	<u>Recreational Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Commercial Daily Harvest Limits</u>	<u>Regulation Changes</u>	<u>Rule Change Effective Date</u>
2016	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	Same as federal waters	Created an exception allowing recreational anglers to land reef fish as fillets instead of as whole fish, provided the reef fish were recreationally harvested in The Bahamas and specific conditions are met.	Sept. 13, 2016
2017	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	Same as federal waters		
2018	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	Same as federal waters		
2019	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	Same as federal waters		
2020	20 inches	2 per person within the 10-fish snapper aggregate bag limit	Same as federal waters		

Florida Atlantic Red Snapper Regulation Changes by Chapter and Date

SNAPPER, GROUPER, AND SEA BASS, CH 46-14, FAC (Effective July 29, 1985)

- Established a minimum size limit of 12 inches for red snapper

REEF FISH, CH 46-14, FAC (Effective Dec. 11, 1986)

- Established a snapper bag limit of ten fish per recreational fisherman daily, with off-the-water possession limit of 20 per recreational fisherman, for any combination of snapper, excluding lane, vermillion, and yelloweye.
- Prohibited use of longline gear by commercial fishermen; bycatch allowance of 5% is permitted harvesters of other species using this gear.
- Prohibited use of stab nets (or sink nets) to take snapper or grouper in Atlantic waters of Monroe County.
- Allowed 5% of snapper and grouper in possession of harvester to be smaller than the minimum size limit.
- Required reef fish to be landed in whole condition (head and tail intact).

REEF FISH, CH 46-14, FAC (Effective Feb. 1, 1990)

- Designated all snapper and grouper as “restricted species.”
- Designated red snapper and jewfish as protected species.
- Increased the red snapper minimum size limit to 13 inches.
- Revised the recreational bag limit for snappers to be 10 daily per person for any combination of snapper, not including lane and vermillion (no more than 5 may be gray/mangrove snapper and no more than 2 may be red snapper).
- Set the allowable gear to be hook and line, black sea bass trap, spear, gig, or lance (except powerheads, bangsticks, or explosive devices) for snapper and grouper.
- Prohibited all commercial harvest of any species of snapper, grouper, and sea bass in state waters whenever harvest of that species is prohibited in adjacent federal waters.
- Required snapper and grouper to be landed in whole condition.

REEF FISH, CH 46-14, FAC (Effective Dec. 31, 1992)

- Increased the Atlantic state waters minimum size limit for red snapper to 20 inches.

REEF FISH, CH 46-14, FAC (Effective March 1, 1994)

- Allowed a two-day possession limit for reef fish statewide for persons aboard charter and headboats on trips exceeding 24 hours provided that the vessel is equipped with a permanent berth for each passenger aboard, and each passenger has a receipt verifying the trip length.
- Modified rule language to provide the same state and federal definitions of Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean regions.

REEF FISH, CH 68B-14, FAC (Effective January 1, 2003)

- Removed the “protected species” designation for red snapper and goliath grouper (formerly jewfish).

REEF FISH, CH 68B-14, FAC (Effective July 1, 2006)

- Provided that, for purposes of determining the legal size of reef fish species, “total length” means the straight line distance from the most forward point of the head with the mouth closed, to the farthest tip of the tail with the tail compressed or squeezed, while the fish is lying on its side.

REEF FISH, CH 68B-14, FAC (Effective July 1, 2007)

- Set commercial trip limits in the Atlantic that are the same as trip limits in federal waters.
- Prohibited commercial fishermen from harvesting or possessing the recreational bag limit of reef fish species on commercial trips.

REEF FISH, CH 68B-14, FAC (Effective Jan. 19, 2010)

- Required dehooking tools to be aboard commercial and recreational vessels for anglers to use as needed to remove hooks from Atlantic reef fish.

REEF FISH - BAHAMAS, 68B-14.006, FAC (Effective Sept. 13, 2016)

- Created an exception allowing recreational anglers to land reef fish as fillets instead of as whole fish, provided the reef fish were recreationally harvested in The Bahamas and specific conditions are met.

2. Assessment History

3. Regional Maps

Figure 3.1: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and EEZ boundaries.

