



South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Complex Recreational Regulations

(Updated June 3, 2011 - Updates in red)

List of Species in the South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Complex:

Snappers Dog Snapper Lane Snapper Yellowtail Snapper Gray Snapper Mutton Snapper Vermilion Snapper Red Snapper Black Snapper Queen Snapper Schoolmaster Blackfin Snapper Cubera Snapper Mahogany Snapper	Grouper 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 Tiger Grouper Yellowfin Grouper Porgys Red Sheepshead Grass	Jolthead Saucereye Whitebone Knobbed Longspine Scup Triggerfish Gray Queen Ocean Jacks Greater Amberjack Yellow Jack	Blue Runner Crevalle Jack Bar Jack Almaco Jack Lesser Amberjack Banded Rudderfish Tilefishes Golden Tilefish Blueline Tilefish Sand Tilefish Grunts White Grunt Black Margate	Porkfish Margate Tomtate Smallmouth Grunt French Grunt Spanish Grunt Cottonwick Sailors Choice Bluestriped Grunt Spadefishes Spadefish Wrasses Hogfish	Puttlingwife Sea Basses Black Sea Bass Bank Sea Bass Rock Sea Bass
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NOTE: This listing is published for informational purposes and has no legal force or effect.

Recreational Regulations Summary for South Atlantic Federal Waters (see summary table next page)

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

Circle hooks are now required for the snapper grouper fishery, effective March 3, 2011.

The use of non-stainless steel circle hooks (offset or non-offset) is required on any commercial or recreational vessel using hook-and-line gear with natural baits to fish for snapper grouper species north of 28 degrees N. latitude.

Black sea bass bag limit reduced to 5 fish per person/day, effective June 22, 2011.

The harvest and retention of some deepwater species is prohibited in waters greater than 240' in depth

In waters greater than 240 feet (73 m), there is a prohibition on the harvest and retention of snowy grouper, blueline tilefish, yellowedge grouper, misty grouper, queen snapper and silk snapper.

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, tiger, +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 trip, no harvest in depths > 240'**

*** Maximum of 1 golden tilefish per person/day

+ may not be harvested in depths > 240'

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

Wreckfish - Only ITQ shareholders or their designees may harvest or possess wreckfish

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. **Harvest and possession of queen snapper and silk snapper is prohibited in waters deeper than 240'.**

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**)

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.

- Recreational and commercial fishermen are required to use **dehooking tools** when fishing for snapper grouper species.

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



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.

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	5 per person/day, effective June 22, 2011.	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	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Mahogany Snapper		12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Mutton Snapper	Muttonfish	16" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Nassau Grouper			Closed to possession or harvest	
Queen Snapper		12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person; prohibited in depths beyond 240'	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Red Grouper	Grouper	20" TL	Included in 3 grouper per person	*Closed January 1 to 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	*Closed January 1 to April 30 See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Schoolmaster		12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Silk Snapper	Yelloweye Snapper	12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person; prohibited in depths beyond 240'	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Snowy Grouper	Snowflake	None	1 per vessel/trip; prohibited in depths beyond 240'	Included in 3 grouper bag limit
Speckled Hind	Strawberry Grouper, Kitty Mitchell, Calico Grouper		Closed to possession or harvest	
Golden, Blueline, Sand Tilefish	Golden - Rainbow Tilefish; Blueline - Gray Tilefish	None	Included in 3 grouper bag limit. Golden Tilefish limited to 1 per person per day. Blueline Tilefish prohibited in depths beyond 240' .	
Vermilion Snapper	Beeliner, Night Snapper	12" TL	5 (in addition to the snapper bag limit)	Closed November 1 to March 31
Warsaw Grouper	Jewfish (Miscalled), Grouper		Closed to possession or harvest	
Wreckfish	No recreational harvest allowed. Individual Transfer Quota (ITQ) Program in place. <i>No one other than shareholders or their designees may possess Wreckfish.</i>			
Yellowfin Grouper		20" TL	Included in 3 grouper per person	*Closed January 1 to April 30 See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Yellowtail Snapper		12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Yellowmouth Grouper	Yellowtail	20" TL	Included in 3 grouper per person	*Closed January 1 to April 30 See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net

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