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South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Conserving and managing America's fisheries from three to 200 nautical miles off the coasts of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.



Red Snapper Regulatory Archives

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South Atlantic Red Snapper 2019 Fishing Season (<https://safmc.net/2019-red-snapper-season/>)

South Atlantic Red Snapper 2018 Fishing Season (<https://safmc.net/2018-red-snapper-season/>)

South Atlantic Red Snapper 2017 Fishing Season: Commercial Regulations for 2017 Season:

- Size Limit: None
- Trip Limit: 75 lbs (gw) daily
- Season: Opens November 2, 2017
- Regulatory Remarks:
 - Limited Access permit required.
 - All species must be landed with head and fins intact.
 - Recreational and commercial fishermen are required to use dehooking tools when fishing for snapper grouper species.
 - The use of non-stainless steel circle hooks (offset or non-offset) is required for all species in the snapper grouper complex when using hook-and-line gear with natural baits in waters North of 28 degrees N. latitude.
 - After the commercial quota is met, all purchase and sale is prohibited and harvest and/or

possession is limited to the recreational bag limit. This prohibition does not apply to fish harvested, landed, and sold prior to the quota being reached and held in cold storage by a dealer. Quotas are given in gutted weights.

- Commercial snapper grouper vessels must have onboard NMFS approved sea turtle release gear and follow smalltooth sawfish release protocol. See the Handling and Release Protocol (http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/compliance/workshops/protected_species_workshop/sawfish_sturgeon/smalltooth_sawfish_brochure.pdf) from NOAA Fisheries or call 727-824-5312.
- **Annual Catch Limit (ACL)** – This species is managed under an ACL. See current information on Commercial ACLs (quotas) (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/acl_monitoring/commercial_sa/index.html) from NOAA Fisheries.

Recreational Regulations for 2017 Mini Season:

- **Size Limit:** None
- **Bag Limit:** 1 fish per person per day
- **Season:** November 3-5, 2017 & November 10-12, 2017
- The season will reopen December 8-10, 2017.
- **Regulatory Remarks:**
 - *For information on how to report your catch, click here! (<https://safmc.net/electronic-reporting-projects/red-snapper-reporting/>)*
 - All species must be landed with head and fins intact.
 - Recreational and commercial fishermen are required to use dehooking tools when fishing for snapper grouper species.
 - The use of non-stainless steel circle hooks (offset or non-offset) is required for all species in the snapper grouper complex when using hook-and-line gear with natural baits in waters North of 28 degrees N. latitude.
 - The sale of bag-limit caught snapper grouper species is prohibited.
 - Annual Catch Limit (ACL) – This species is managed under an ACL. See current information on Recreational ACLs from NOAA Fisheries.

SOUTH ATLANTIC RED SNAPPER 2016 FISHING SEASON:

Red Snapper remained closed in the South Atlantic Federal waters in 2016.

SOUTH ATLANTIC RED SNAPPER 2015 FISHING SEASON:

Red snapper remained closed in South Atlantic Federal waters in 2015.

- See NOAA Fisheries 2015 South Atlantic Red Snapper Fishing Season (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2015/red_snapper/index.html) page.
- See NOAA Fisheries - Fishery Bulletin FB15-039 (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishery_bulletins/documents/pdfs/2015/fb15-039_sa_red_snapper_season.pdf).
- See South Atlantic: Frequently Asked Questions Red Snapper in the South Atlantic, May 2015 (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2015/red_snapper/documents/pdfs/2015_red_snapper_season_faqs.pdf)
- See Report: 2014 Estimates of Red Snapper Removal (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2015/red_snapper/documents/pdfs/2014_sa_rs_total_removals.pdf)
- Contact Sustainable Fisheries Division at (727) 824-5305.

NOTE: Red snapper stock assessment update

- Red snapper is currently undergoing a stock assessment through the SEDAR process under SEDAR 41 (also include gray triggerfish).
- More information about SEDAR 41 is available at the SEDAR website here: <http://sedarweb.org/sedar-41> (<http://sedarweb.org/sedar-41>)

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South Atlantic Federal Regulations -

Commercial:

Size Limit: Harvest/possession for the commercial and recreational fishery prohibited.

Trip Limit: Harvest/possession for the commercial and recreational fishery prohibited.

Regulatory Remarks:

- Red snapper will remain closed in South Atlantic Federal waters in 2015. There will not be commercial or recreational seasons in 2015 because the total number of red snapper removed from the population in 2014 exceeded the allowable level. For more information:
 - See NOAA Fisheries 2015 South Atlantic Red Snapper Fishing Season (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2015/red_snapper/index.html) page.
 - See NOAA Fisheries - Fishery Bulletin FB15-039 (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishery_bulletins/documents/pdfs/2015/fb15-039_sa_red_snapper_season.pdf).
 - See South Atlantic: Frequently Asked Questions Red Snapper in the South Atlantic, May 2015 (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2015/red_snapper/documents/pdfs/2015_red_snapper_season_faqs.pdf)
 - See Report: 2014 Estimates of Red Snapper Removal (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2015/red_snapper/documents/pdfs/2014_sa_rs_total_removals.pdf)
 - Contact Sustainable Fisheries Division at (727) 824-5305.
- Annual Catch Limit (ACL) -This species is managed under an ACL. See current information on Commercial ACLs (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/acl_monitoring/commercial_sa/index.html) (quotas) from NOAA Fisheries.
- Harvest/possession for the commercial and recreational fishery prohibited.

Additional Updates: *See summary of red snapper management action below.*

Recreational:

Size Limit: Harvest/possession for the commercial and recreational fishery prohibited.

Trip Limit: Harvest/possession for the commercial and recreational fishery prohibited.

Regulatory Remarks:

- Red snapper will remain closed in South Atlantic Federal waters in 2015. There will not be commercial or recreational seasons in 2015 because the total number of red snapper removed from the population in 2014 exceeded the allowable level. For more information:
 - See NOAA Fisheries 2015 South Atlantic Red Snapper Fishing Season (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2015/red_snapper/index.html)

page.

- See NOAA Fisheries - Fishery Bulletin FB15-039 (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishery_bulletins/documents/pdfs/2015/fb15-039_sa_red_snapper_season.pdf).
- See South Atlantic: **Frequently Asked Questions** Red Snapper in the South Atlantic, May 2015 (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2015/red_snapper/documents/pdfs/2015_red_snapper_season_faqs.pdf)
- See Report: 2014 Estimates of Red Snapper Removal (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2015/red_snapper/documents/pdfs/2014_sa_rs_total_removals.pdf)
- **Contact** Sustainable Fisheries Division at (727) 824-5305.
- **Annual Catch Limit (ACL)** - This species is managed under an ACL. See current information on Recreational ACLs (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/acl_monitoring/recreational_sa/index.html) from NOAA Fisheries.
- Harvest/possession for the commercial and recreational fishery prohibited.

Additional Updates: *See summary of red snapper management action below.*

Summary of Red Snapper Management Action:

Snapper Grouper Amendment 28 (implemented August 23, 2013) established the annual process to determine red snapper fishing seasons and harvest amounts. The amendment established:

1. a **process** to determine if a fishing season will occur each year, which would include specification of the allowable harvest for both sectors and season length for the recreational sector;
2. an **equation** to determine the annual catch limit amount for each sector; and
3. **management measures** if fishing is allowed.

See information about Amendment 28 here: <https://safmc.net/resoure-library/snapper-grouper/> (<https://safmc.net/resoure-library/snapper-grouper/>)

NOTE: The Council established the process for determining how a red snapper season would be carried out annually. NOAA Fisheries collects all data during the annual season and determines the amount of fish to be harvested based on commercial and recreational landings during the season and estimates of dead discards.

Overview of Commercial Management for Red Snapper - 2013 to present:

Below are the previous red snapper seasons based on the process established in Amendment 28:

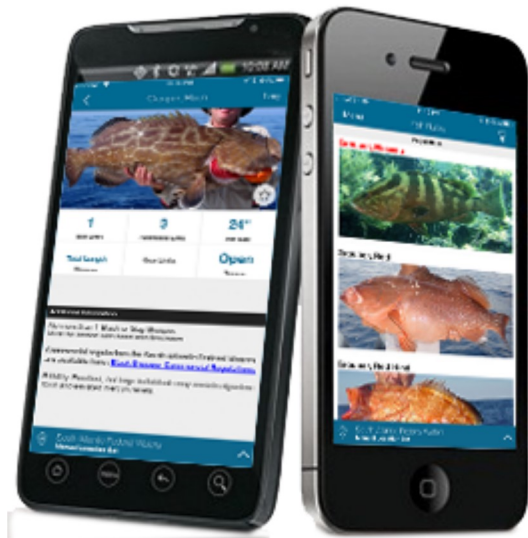
- **2015 - No harvest allowed;** There is no commercial or recreational season in 2015 because the total number of red snapper removed from the population in 2014 exceeded the allowable level. See Fishery Bulletin (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishery_bulletins/documents/pdfs/2015/fb15-039_sa_red_snapper_season.pdf).
- **2014 - Opened July 14, 2014 and closed September 9, 2014;** See details of the 2014 season here: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2014/red_snapper/index.html (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2014/red_snapper/index.html%E2%80%8B)
- **2013 - Opened August 23, 2013**

Overview of Recreational Management for Red Snapper - 2013 to present:

Below are the previous red snapper seasons based on the process established in Amendment 28:

- **2015 - No harvest allowed;** There is no commercial or recreational season in 2015 because the total number of red snapper removed from the population in 2014 exceeded the allowable level. See Fishery Bulletin (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishery_bulletins/documents/pdfs/2015/fb15-039_sa_red_snapper_season.pdf).
- **2014 -** See details of the 2014 season here: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2014/red_snapper/index.html (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2014/red_snapper/index.html%E2%80%8B)
 - Opened Friday, July 11 (12:01 a.m.) - Closed July 14 (12:01 a.m.);
 - Opened Friday, July 18 (12:01 a.m.) - Closed July 21 (12:01 a.m.);
 - Opened Friday, July 25 (12:01 a.m.) - Closed July 27 (12:01 a.m.)
- **2013 -**
 - Opened August 23, 2013 (12:01 a.m.) - Closed August 26, 2013 (12:01 a.m.)

Fish Rules Mobile App



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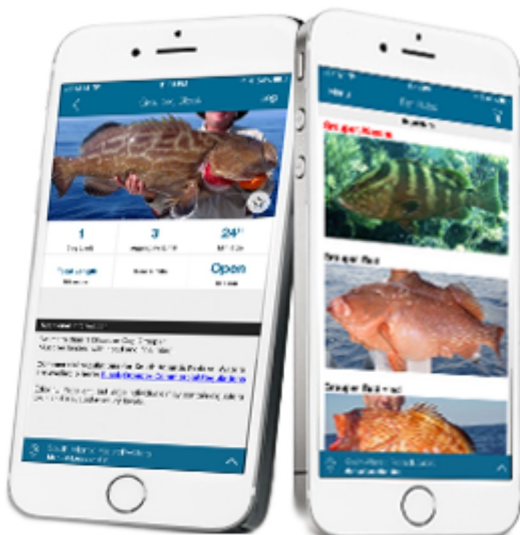
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South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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