

Table 2.6.2. Annual Recreational Red Snapper Regulatory Summary (Please fill out as appropriate)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Fishing Year</u>	<u>Size Limit</u>	<u>Bag Limit</u>	<u>Open Date</u>	<u>Close Date</u>	<u>Other</u>
1992	Calendar	20"	aggregate snapper bag limit – 10/person/day, excluding vermilion snapper and allowing no more than 2 red snappers	January 1		
1993	Calendar	20"	aggregate snapper bag limit – 10/person/day, excluding vermilion snapper and allowing no more than 2 red snappers	January 1		
1994	Calendar	20"	2	January 1		
1995	Calendar	20"	2	January 1		
1996	Calendar	20"	2	January 1		
1997	Calendar	20"	2	January 1		
1998	Calendar	20"	2	January 1		
1999	Calendar	20"	2	January 1		
2000	Calendar	20"	2	January 1		
2001	Calendar	20"	2	January 1		
2002	Calendar	20"	2	January 1		
2003	Calendar	20"	2	January 1		
2004	Calendar	20"	2	January 1		
2005	Calendar	20"	2	January 1		
2006	Calendar	20"	2	January 1		
2007	Calendar	20"	2	January 1		
2008	Calendar	20"	2	January 1		
2009	Calendar	20"	2	January 1		
2010	Calendar	20"	2	January 1	December 3	** see note below
2011	Calendar	No harvest				
2012	Calendar	No min size limit	1	Sept 14-17, and Sept 21-24	Sept 17; Sept 24	Two 3-day weekends
2013	Calendar	No min size limit	1	August 23	August 26	One 3-day weekend
2014	Calendar	No Min size limit	1	Jul 11-14, Jul 18- 21, Jul 25-27	Jul 14; Jul 21; Jul 27	Two 3-day weekends and 1 two-day weekend

**Red snapper interim rule prohibited harvest and possession of red snapper from January 4, 2010 to June 2, 2010 and was extended for 186 days. Existing size and bag limits were not changed in the interim rule, but the prohibition of harvest trumped these regulations.

2.6.3 Closures due to Meeting Commercial Quota or Commercial/Recreational ACL

Commercial: See Table 2.6.1

Recreational: See Table 2.6.2

Table 7. State Regulatory History

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.

South Carolina:

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

“Unless otherwise provided by law, any regulations promulgated by the federal government under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act (PL94-265) 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.”

As such, South Carolina red snapper regulations are (and have been) pulled directly from the federal regulations as promulgated under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. There are no know separate red snapper regulations that have been codified in the South Carolina Code.

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.

Florida:

Florida Atlantic Red Snapper Regulatory History

<u>Year</u>	<u>Size Limit</u>	<u>Possession Limit</u>	<u>Other Regulation Changes</u>
1985	12" TL		
1986	12" TL	10 per person per day aggregate snapper bag limit; off-the-water possession limit of 20 per person	Commercial longline gear prohibited; stab or sink nets prohibited off Monroe county; 5% of grouper in possession may be smaller than minimum size; all snappers must be landed in whole condition.
1987	12" TL	"	
1988	12" TL	"	
1989	12" TL	"	
1990	13" TL	2 per person per day within the 10 snapper aggregate; off-the-water possession limit of 4 red snapper	Red snapper designated as a protected species; Hook and line, black sea bass trap, spear, gig, or lance defined as allowable gear; off the water possession limit of 4 red snapper per recreational angler; commercial harvest of any species of snapper is prohibited in state waters if harvest of that species is prohibited in adjacent federal waters.
1991	13" TL	"	
1992	20" TL	"	
1993	20" TL	"	
1994	20" TL	"	Allows a two-day possession limit for reef fish statewide for persons aboard charter and headboats on trips exceeding 24 hours provided the vessel has a permanent berth for each passenger and each passenger has a receipt verifying the length of the trip.

1995	20" TL	"	
1996	20" TL	"	
1997	20" TL	"	
1998	20" TL	"	
1999	20" TL	"	
2000	20" TL	"	
2001	20" TL	"	
2002	20" TL	"	
2003	20" TL	"	Imported reef fish must comply with Florida's minimum size limits; red snapper removed as a protected species.
2004	20" TL	"	
2005	20" TL	"	
2006	20" TL	"	
2007	20" TL	"	Sets commercial trip limits in Florida's Atlantic state waters to be the same as commercial trip limits in adjacent federal waters.
2008	20" TL	"	
2009	20" TL	"	
2010	20" TL	"	Requires use of dehooking tools for all Atlantic reef fish.
2011	20" TL	"	
2012	20" TL	"	
2013	20" TL	"	
2014	20" TL	"	

[1985]**SNAPPER, CH 46-14, F.A.C. (Effective July 29, 1985)**

- Implements 12 inch minimum size limits for red snapper, mutton snapper, and yellowtail snapper

[1986]**REEF FISH, CH 46-14, F.A.C. (Effective December 11, 1986)**

- Establishes snapper bag limit: 10 per person daily, with an off-the-water possession limit of 20 per person, for any combination of snapper, excluding lane, vermillion, and yelloweye

- Prohibits the use of long line gear in state waters for harvesting snapper, but allowed a 5% bycatch allowance under specific circumstances
- Prohibits use of stab nets (or sink nets) to take snapper in Atlantic waters of Monroe County
- Allows 5% of snapper in possession of harvester to be smaller than the minimum size limit
- Must be landed in whole condition (head and tail intact)

[1990]**REEF FISH, CH 46-14, F.A.C. (Effective February 1, 1990)**

- Designates all **snapper** as "restricted species"
- Designates **red snapper** as protected species
- Establishes minimum size limits:
 - Red snapper - 13 inches
- Recreational bag limits: 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)
- Off-the-water recreational possession limits: 20 per person for any combination of snapper, not including lane and vermillion (no more than 10 may be gray/mangrove snapper and no more than 4 may be red snapper)
- Establishes the following allowable gear: Hook and line, black sea bass trap, spear, gig, or lance (except powerheads, bangsticks, or explosive devices) for snapper
- Prohibits all commercial harvest of any species of snapper in state waters whenever harvest of that species is prohibited in adjacent federal waters
- Requires snapper to be landed in whole condition

[1992]**REEF FISH, CH 46-14, F.A.C. (Effective December 31, 1992)**

- Requires the appropriate federal permit in order to exceed **snapper/grouper** bag limits and to purchase or sell snapper/grouper on the state's Gulf coast
- Establishes a minimum size limit of 20 inches for **red snapper** on the state's Atlantic coast

[1994]**REEF FISH, CH 46-14, F.A.C. (Effective March 1, 1994)**

- Allows 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

[2003]**REEF FISH, CH 68B-14, F.A.C. (Effective January 1, 2003)**

- Clarifies that imported reef fishes must comply with Florida's legal minimum size limits
- Deletes the rule designation of **red snapper** as protected species

[2007]**REEF FISH, CH 68B-14, F.A.C. (Effective July 1, 2007)**

- Sets commercial trip limits in the Atlantic that are the same as trip limits in federal waters

[2010]**REEF FISH, CH 68B-14, F.A.C. (Effective January 19, 2010)**

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

References

None provided.

3. Assessment History and Review

In the early 1990s, a series of reports were prepared by the SAFMC Plan Development Team (in 1990) and by the NOAA-Beaufort Reef Fish Team (in 1991 and 1992), intended for prioritizing stocks for assessment. Those reports described “snapshot” analyses conducted on several snapper-grouper species, including red snapper. The analyses included the estimation of SPR (spawning potential ratio) based on a single year of data.

The first formal assessment of red snapper in the U.S. Atlantic was conducted by Manooch et al. (1998; abstract below). In that assessment, two age-structured models were used: an uncalibrated separable VPA and FADAPT. The results from FADAPT were downplayed because the model was calibrated to an abundance index derived from MARMAP chevron trap data, which had very low sample sizes. Manooch et al. (1998) concluded that “the status is less than desirable, but does appear to be responsive to recent management actions.” They found that the fishing mortality rate (F) should be reduced by 33% to 68%, depending on the natural mortality rate and desired SPR. Prior to publication, a report of that assessment was submitted to the SAFMC. After publication, the results were revisited by Potts and Brennan (2001) in a trends report, also prepared for the SAFMC. Potts and Brennan (2001) repeated the findings of Manooch et al. (1998), but suggested a broader range of reduction in F, from 30% to 80%.

This stock of red snapper was first assessed through the SEDAR process in 2007 (SEDAR review held Jan. 28 – Feb. 1, 2008). That assessment applied a statistical catch-age model

using data through 2006 (SEDAR 15, 2008). Because the spawner-recruit parameter of steepness was not estimable (hit its upper bound), the SEDAR review panel recommended using proxies for MSY-related benchmarks based on $SPR_{40\%}$. Relative to those benchmarks, the assessment found that since the 1960s, overfishing had been occurring and the stock had been overfished. In the terminal year, the assessment estimated $F_{2006}/F_{40\%}=7.7$ and $SSB_{2006}/SSB_{F40\%}=0.03$. Although quantitative results varied, these qualitative results of overfishing a depleted stock were consistent across all catch-age model configurations examined during and after the assessment process (~40 sensitivity runs), as well as with an alternative model formulation (surplus-production model). SEDAR24–AW–012.

SEDAR 24 (concluded October, 2010) was a benchmark assessment using the Beaufort Assessment Model (BAM) with data through 2009. BAM is a statistical catch-age model developed by the analysts at the Beaufort, NC NMFS laboratory, and is customizable to the data available. A surplus production model called ASPIC (Prager 1994, Prager 2004) was used as a complement for comparison purposes. Based on the assessment provided from the BAM, the Review Panel concluded that the stock was overfished with overfishing occurring. The SSB in the terminal year was estimate to be about 9% of MSST ($SSB_{2009}/MSST = 0.09$) and the fishing level at more than four times F_{MSY} ($F_{2007-2009}/F_{MSY} = 4.12$). Similar to SEDAR 15, more than 40 sensitivities were run, all of which resulted in the same status determinations.

References

- Manooch, C.S., III, J.C. Potts, D.S. Vaughan, and M.L. Burton. 1998. Population assessment of the red snapper from the southeastern United States. *Fisheries Research* 38:19–32.
- Potts, J.C. and K. Brennan. 2001. Trends in catch data and estimated static SPR values for fifteen species of reef fish landed along the southeastern United States. Report prepared for SAFMC.
- Prager, M. H. 1994. A suite of extensions to a nonequilibrium surplus–production model. *Fishery Bulletin* 92: 374–389.
- Prager, M. H., 2004. User’s Manual for ASPIC: A Stock-Production Model Incorporating Covariates (ver.5) And Auxiliary Programs. National Marine Fisheries Service Beaufort Laboratory Document BL-2004-01, 1-25.
- SEDAR. 2008. SEDAR 15 - Stock assessment report (SAR 1) South Atlantic red snapper. SEDAR, North Charleston, SC. 511 p. Available online at <http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/download/S15%20SAR%201%20Revised%203-09.pdf?id=DOCUMENT>
- SEDAR. 2010. SEDAR 24 - Stock assessment report South Atlantic Red Snapper. 524 p. Available at http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/download/SEDAR%2024_SAR_October%202010_26.pdf?id=DOCUMENT