

Table 7. State Regulatory History***North Carolina:***

There are currently no North Carolina state-specific regulations for red grouper. 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. Specific to red grouper, this rule was amended effective March 1, 1996 to include the following Sub-item: (f) It is unlawful to possess red grouper less than 20 inches total length.

In 2002, North Carolina adopted its Inter-Jurisdictional Fishery Management Plan (IJ FMP), which incorporates all ASMFC 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. An information update to the IJ FMP was completed and approved in November 2015 and contained no additional regulatory changes. Since the 2008 IJ FMP update, all snapper grouper regulations were contained in a single proclamation, which was updated anytime an opening/closing of a particular species in the complex occurred, as well as any changes in allowable gear, required permits, etc. Beginning in 2015, commercial and recreational regulations have been 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.