

2001			
2002			
2003			
2004			
2005			
2006			For the 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. (effective 7/1/2006)
2007		Sets commercial trip limits in the Atlantic that are the same as trip limits in federal waters (effective 7/1/2007)	Commercial fishermen are prohibited from harvesting or possessing the recreational bag limit of reef fish species on commercial trips (effective 7/1/2007)
2008			
2009			
2010			Harvest of shallow-water groupers ² is prohibited from Jan. 1 – April 30 in Atlantic and Monroe County state waters. Dehooking tools must be aboard commercial and recreational vessels for use as needed to remove hooks from Atlantic reef fish. (effective 1/19/2010).
2011			
2012			
2013			
2014			
2015			

¹ Measurement specified as “from the tip of the nose to the rear center edge of the tail (i.e., a fork length).”

² Shallow-water grouper includes gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, and tiger grouper.



Year	Minimum Size Limit	Bag and Possession Limit	Regulation Changes and Effective Date
1983	12 inches FL ¹		No more than 10% of individuals may be undersized (FL Statutes Chapter 370.11, effective ~7/1/1977)
1984			
1985	18 inches FL (effective 7/29/1985)		No more than 10% of individuals may be undersized (effective 7/29/1985)
1986		5 grouper per recreational angler daily, with off-the-water possession limit of 20 grouper per recreational angler, for any combination of groupers, excluding rock hind and red hind (effective 12/11/1986)	5% of snapper and grouper in possession of harvester may be smaller than the minimum size limit. Reef fish must be landed in whole condition. (effective 12/1//1986)
1987			
1988			
1989			
1990	20 inches TL (effective 2/1/1990)	5 grouper daily per person for any combination of grouper, with off-the-water possession limit of 10 grouper per person for any combination of grouper (effective 2/1/1990)	All snapper and grouper designated as “restricted species;” allowable gear for snappers and groupers are hook and line, black sea bass traps, spears, gigs, or lance (except powerheads, bangsticks, or explosive devices); snapper and grouper must be landed in whole condition (effective 2/1/1990)
1991			
1992			
1993			
1994			Persons aboard charter and headboats on trips exceeding 24 hours are allowed a 2-day possession limit for reef fish statewide provided the vessel is equipped with a permanent berth for each passenger aboard and each passenger has a receipt

			verifying the trip length. Modifies rule language to provide the same definitions of Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean regions. (effective 3/1/1994)
1995			
1996			
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1998			
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2005			
2006			Specifies total length (TL) measurement 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 (effective 7/1/2006)
2007			Commercial fishermen are prohibited from harvesting or possessing the recreational bag limit of reef fish species on commercial trips (effective 7/1/2007)
2008			
2009			
2010		3 fish per person aggregate daily bag limit for all grouper in Atlantic and Monroe County state waters (effective 1/19/2010)	Prohibited captain and crew of for-hire vessels from retaining any species in the aggregate grouper bag limit. Harvest of shallow-water groupers ² is prohibited from Jan. 1 – April 30 in Atlantic and Monroe County state waters. Dehooking tools must be aboard commercial and recreational vessels for use as needed to remove hooks from Atlantic reef fish. (effective 1/19/2010)
2011			
2012			

2013			
2014			Eliminated language that prohibited captain and crew of for-hire vessels from retaining recreational bag limits of vermilion snappers, groupers, and golden tilefish on for-hire trips in state waters of the Atlantic (including Monroe County for groupers and golden tilefish) (effective 3/13/2014).
2015			

¹ Measurement specified as “from the tip of the nose to the rear center edge of the tail (i.e., a fork length).”

² Shallow-water grouper includes gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, and tiger grouper.

References

None provided.

3. Assessment History

Prior to SEDAR-19, South Atlantic red grouper had been examined in a trends report using catch curve analysis and catch-per-unit-effort, with data through 1999 (Potts and Brennan, 2001). That report examined several constant, natural mortality rates ($M=0.15$, 0.20 , 0.25 , and 0.30), but considered $M=0.20$ to be the base level. For $M=0.20$, terminal static SPR was estimated at 16%, and full F relative to F_{MSY} proxies indicated that overfishing was occurring.

SEDAR-19 was the first formal stock assessment of South Atlantic red grouper, with data through 2008. That assessment applied Lorenzen’s age-based natural mortality, which was scaled to a constant value of $M=0.14$. SEDAR-19 estimated that overfishing was occurring ($F_{2008}/F_{MSY}=1.35$) and that the stock was overfished ($SSB_{2008}/MSST=0.92$). The overfished designation was based on the definition of $MSST=(1-M)SSB_{MSY}$. In 2012, Amendment 24 changed the definition to $MSST=75\%SSB_{MSY}$, and subsequently the stock was no longer considered to be overfished.

References

Potts, JC 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 the SAFMC.