

SEDAR Review Workshop Panels consist of a chair, three reviewers appointed by the Center for Independent Experts (CIE), and one or more SSC representatives appointed by each council having jurisdiction over the stocks assessed. The Review Workshop Chair is appointed by the council having jurisdiction over the stocks assessed and is a member of that council's SSC. Participating councils may appoint representatives of their SSC, Advisory, and other panels as observers.

## 2. Management Overview

### 2.1 Fishery Management Plan and Amendments

The following summary describes only those management actions that likely affect red grouper fisheries and harvest.

#### *Original SAFMC Fishery Management Plan*

The Fishery Management Plan (FMP), Regulatory Impact Review, and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region, approved in 1983 and implemented in August of 1983, establishes a management regime for the fishery for snappers, groupers and related demersal species of the Continental Shelf of the southeastern United States in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) under the area of authority of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the territorial seas of the states, extending from the North Carolina/Virginia border through the Atlantic side of the Florida Keys to 83° W longitude. Regulations apply only to federal waters.

#### *SAFMC FMP Amendments affecting red grouper*

Description of Action	FMP/Amendment	Effective Date
Establish a 12" total length minimum size limit for red grouper. Established a 4" trawl mesh size.	Original FMP	8/31/83
Prohibit trawls to harvest fish south of Cape Hatteras, NC and north of Cape Canaveral, FL; directed fishery as vessel with trawl gear and $\geq 200$ lb snapper grouper species on board	Amendment 1 (SAFMC 1988)	1/12/89
Prohibit fish traps, entanglement nets & longlines within 50 fathoms; defined overfishing/overfished and established rebuilding timeframe: groupers $\leq 15$ years (year 1 = 1991); aggregate bag limit of 5 groupers per person per day excluding Nassau and goliath grouper <sup>1</sup> ;	Amendment 4 (SAFMC 1991)	1/1/92

Red grouper 20" TL commercial and recreational minimum size limit		
Included golden tilefish in grouper recreational aggregate bag limit; created <i>Oculina</i> Experimental Closed Area	Amendment 6 (SAFMC 1993)	7/27/94
Required dealer, charter and headboat federal permits; allowed sale under specified conditions; specified allowable gear and made allowance for experimental gear; allowed multi-gear trips in NC; added localized overfishing to list of problems and objectives; adjusted bag limit and crew specs. for charter and head boats	Amendment 7 (1994)	1/23/95
Limited entry program: transferable permits and 225-lb non-transferable permits	Amendment 8 (SAFMC 1997)	12/14/98
Within the 5 fish aggregate grouper bag limit, no more than 2 fish may be gag or black grouper (individually or in combination); black grouper (recreational and commercial): no harvest or possession > bag limit, and no purchase or sale during March and April; vessels with longlines may only possess deepwater species, Specified 20 " minimum size limit for red grouper.	Amendment 9 (SAFMC 1998a)	2/24/99
Identified essential fish habitat (EFH) and established habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC) for species in the snapper grouper FMU	Amendment 10 (SAFMC 1998b)	7/14/00
MSY proxy for red grouper is 30% static SPR; OY proxy is 45% static SPR; Overfishing level = $F > F_{30\% \text{ static SPR}}$ . Approved definitions for overfished and overfishing. $MSST = [(1-M) \text{ or } 0.5 \text{ whichever is greater}] * B_{MSY}$ . $MFMT = F_{MSY}$ .	Amendment 11 (SAFMC 1998c)	12/2/99

Extended for an indefinite period the regulation prohibiting fishing for and possessing snapper grouper species within the <i>Oculina</i> Experimental Closed Area.	Amendment 13A (SAFMC 2003)	4/26/04
Established eight deepwater Type II marine protected areas to protect a portion of the population and habitat of long-lived deepwater snapper grouper species	Amendment 14 (SAFMC 2007)	2/12/09
Prohibited the sale of bag-limit caught snapper grouper species	Amendment 15B (SAFMC 2008)	2/15/10
Reduced the 5 aggregate grouper bag limit to 3; recreational and commercial shallow water grouper spawning closure January through April; captain and crew on for-hire trips cannot retain the bag limit of vermilion snapper and species within the 3-fish grouper aggregate; Reduce the 2 gag/black bag (individually or in combination) bag limit from 2 to 1; when gag quota met, prohibit harvest of, possession, and retention of shallow water groupers (which includes red grouper)	Amendment 16 (SAFMC 2009)	7/29/09
Required use of non-stainless steel circle hooks when fishing for snapper grouper species with hook-and-line gear north of 28 deg. N latitude in the South Atlantic EEZ	Amendment 17A (SAFMC 2010a)	3/3/11
Specified AMs for red grouper: of overfished and sector ACL is met or projected to be met, prohibit harvest and retention. If ACL exceeded, independent of stock status, reduce sector ACL in the following fishing season by amount of overage. Rec ACL compared to rec landings using only 2010 landings for	Amendment 17B (SAFMC 2010b)	1/30/11

2010, an average of 2010 and 2011 for 2011, and a 3-year running average for 2012 and beyond; established aggregate ACLs (commercial and recreational) for gag, black grouper and red grouper; prohibited commercial possession of shallow water groupers (incl. red grouper) when gag ACL or aggregate (gag, black and red) is met or projected to be met.		
Established ABC control rules, establish ABCs, ACLs, and AMs for species not undergoing overfishing; removed some species from South Atlantic FMU and designate others as ecosystem component species; specified allocations between the commercial and, recreational sectors for species not undergoing overfishing; limited the total mortality for federally managed species in the South Atlantic to the ACLs.	Amendment 25 (Comprehensive ACL Amendment) (SAFMC 2011a)	4/16/12
Implemented benchmarks from SEDAR 19, established rebuilding plan (including ACLs, rec ACT, OY, and allocations – 44% comm and 56% rec) for red grouper; modified AMs; eliminated commercial and recreational aggregate ACLs (gag, black and red) and corresponding AMs. Changed MSST to equal 75% of $SSB_{MSY}$ .	Amendment 24 (SAFMC 2011b)	7/11/12
Modified the crew member limit on dual-permitted snapper grouper vessels; modified the restriction on retention of bag limit quantities of some snapper grouper species by captain and crew of for-hire vessels; minimized regulatory delay when adjustments to snapper grouper species' ABC, ACLs, and ACTs are needed as a result of new stock assessments.	Amendment 27 (SAFMC 2014)	1/27/14
Modified AMs for snapper grouper species, incl. red grouper	Amendment 34 (SAFMC 2015)	2/22/16

*SAFMC Regulatory Amendments affecting red grouper*

Description of Action	Amendment	Effective Date
Modified the existing gag commercial ACL and AM for gag that requires a closure of all other shallow water groupers (incl. red grouper) in the South Atlantic when the gag commercial ACL is met or projected to be met.	Regulatory Amendment 15 (SAFMC 2013)	9/12/13

**2.2 Emergency and Interim Rules (if any)**

None

**2.3 Secretarial Amendments (if any)**

None

**2.4 Control Date Notices (if any)**

**Notice of Control Date effective July 30, 1991:** Anyone entering federal snapper grouper fishery (other than for wreckfish) in the EEZ off S. Atlantic states after 07/30/91 was not assured of future access if limited entry program developed.

**Notice of Control Date effective October 14, 2005:** The Council is considering management measures to further limit participation or effort in the commercial fishery for snapper grouper species (excluding Wreckfish).

**Notice of Control Date effective March 8, 2007:** The Council may consider measures to limit participation in the snapper grouper for-hire fishery.

**Notice of Control Date effective January 31, 2011:** Anyone entering federal snapper grouper fishery off S. Atlantic states after 09/17/10 was not assured of future access if limited entry program is developed.