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*Managing fish and wildlife
resources for their long-
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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: FWC Commissioners
FROM: Mark Robson, Director
DATE: June 12, 2009
SUBJECT: Gulf grouper floor amendment for June Commission meeting

A floor amendment is needed to modify the proposed language already published in the NPR for Gulf grouper in 68B-14.0039, F.A.C. The floor amendment would specify that Monroe County be included as part of the Atlantic Ocean and thus, excluded from these rule changes. There is a precedent in place within other portions of the reef fish rule that are proposed to be amended (68B-14.0036 and 68B-14.0045, F.A.C.) to exclude Monroe County from the Gulf of Mexico. Also, if these floor amendments are not made then the commercial season and recreational season for the shallow water groupers will not be consistent within Monroe County. This floor amendment would keep with the precedent for the other portions of the rule being modified, make the proposed rules easier for anglers to understand, and make the rule easier for FWC officers to enforce.

The additional change needed via floor amendment is incorporated into the proposed rule language below.

68B-14.0039 Recreational Grouper Season.

In all state waters of the Gulf of Mexico, **except in all waters of Monroe County**, the closed season for the recreational harvest and possession of gag grouper, red grouper, black grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, rock hind, red hind or scamp shall be from February 1 through March 31, each year.

Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History–New 1-6-09, _____.