



FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management

HOT SHEET – APRIL 2009

(Valid through April 30, 2009)

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Issues covered in this posting:

[Snapper](#), [Grouper](#), [Blue Crab](#), [Marine Life](#), [Boca Grande Pass](#), [Spiny Lobster](#)

Issue: RED SNAPPER and VERMILION SNAPPER

→ Gulf of Mexico

Action: Season Change in the Gulf of Mexico

Information: The recreational season for Red Snapper in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico has been changed from April 15 through October 31 to June 1 through September 30. The federal season is also currently open June 1 – September 30.

Links for more information:

[FWC News Release - Red Snapper Season](http://www.myfwc.com) [http://www.myfwc.com]

→ South Atlantic

Action: Pending Regulation Changes in the South Atlantic

Information: Potential regulation changes for Red and Vermilion Snapper in federal waters of the South Atlantic were discussed at the March 2009 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council meeting. The South Atlantic Council proposed new regulations for Vermilion Snapper that are expected to take effect sometime in 2009 pending final implementation. These changes would establish:

- A bag limit of five vermillion snapper
- A closed season from November through March

At their March 2009 meeting, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council also recommended an interim rule that would close all harvest of red snapper in south Atlantic federal waters (beyond 3 miles from shore). If this interim rule is approved by NOAA Fisheries Service (probably in June or July), it would be in effect for 180 days, and it could be extended for another 186 days.

Timeline: Vermilion Snapper regulation changes effective in 2009

Links for more information:

[South Atlantic Council March 2009 Meeting Information](http://www.safmc.net) [www.safmc.net]

[South Atlantic Council News Release](http://www.safmc.net) [www.safmc.net]

[Snapper Fishery Information](http://www.myfwc.com/marine) [www.myfwc.com/marine]

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Issue: GROUPER

→ Atlantic and Monroe County

Action: Clarification of Gag and Black Grouper Bag Limit for State Waters

Information: In state waters of the Atlantic and Monroe County, no more than two Gag or Black Grouper, either individually or in combination, may be harvested within the five grouper aggregate bag limit. The three allowable Gag/Black grouper combinations are:

- 1 Gag and 1 Black, or
- 2 Gag and 0 Black, or
- 0 Gag and 2 Black

→ South Atlantic

Action: Proposed Federal Regulation Changes in the South Atlantic

Information: The South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council has proposed new regulations for all shallow-water grouper species which would reduce harvest by all fishers. These regulations are expected to take effect sometime in 2009, pending final implementation by NOAA Fisheries Service. These proposed changes include:

- January through April closed to all harvest of these species
- The grouper aggregate bag limit reduced to 3 shallow-water groupers
- Reduced bag limit to one Gag or one Black Grouper (combined) within the three grouper aggregate bag limit

Timeline: Federal changes to Atlantic grouper regulations are anticipated for sometime in 2009. The FWC may address potential changes in state waters after the federal rules are implemented.

→ Gulf of Mexico

Action: Regulation Changes in the Gulf of Mexico

Information: Regulation changes took effect on January 1, 2009 for grouper fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico in both state and federal waters.

Gag

- The recreational season opens April 1st in state and federal waters
- Reduced the recreational bag limit to two within the five grouper aggregate bag limit in state and federal waters

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Red Grouper

- Increased the bag limit to two within the five grouper aggregate bag limit in state waters
- The recreational season opened March 15th in federal Gulf of Mexico waters

Black Grouper

- Recreational season opened March 15th in federal waters

Timeline: Other changes to Gulf grouper regulations are expected for later in 2009.

Links for more information:

[Grouper Fishery Information](http://www.myfwc.com/marine) [www.myfwc.com/marine]

[FWC News Release – Grouper Regulations](http://www.myfwc.com) [www.myfwc.com]

[Gulf Council News Release](http://www.gulfcouncil.org) [www.gulfcouncil.org]

[DMFM Background Report - Gulf Grouper FPH](http://www.myfwc.com/commission) [www.myfwc.com/commission]

[South Atlantic Council News Release](http://www.safmc.net) [www.safmc.net]

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Issue: BLUE CRAB

Action: Approved Staggered Closed Seasons to Remove Abandoned Traps

Information: New rules take effect on July 1, 2009 that will establish closed periods of up to 10 days in six regions in the state to identify and retrieve lost and abandoned blue crab traps from Florida waters.

Link to map of closed areas and dates:

[Blue Crab Trap Closure Map](http://www.myfwc.com) [http://www.myfwc.com]

Links for more information:

[FWC News Release – Blue Crab Trap Closed Seasons](http://www.myfwc.com) [http://www.myfwc.com]

[FWC Background Report - BC Trap Closed Seasons](http://www.myfwc.com/commission) [http://www.myfwc.com/commission]

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Issue: MARINE LIFE (Aquarium Trade)

Action: Approved Rules

Information: New rules for the marine life (aquarium species) fishery take effect on July 1, 2009, including changes to the size and bag limits of several species. Several species have been added to the marine life rule, which means that commercial harvesters of these species will need a marine life endorsement to collect them. These species will

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also be included in the marine life recreational bag limit. For specific details on the rule changes, review the top two links below.

Links for more information:

[FWC News Release - Marine Life](http://www.myfwc.com) [http://www.myfwc.com]

[FWC Report - Marine Life Final Rules](http://www.myfwc.com/commission) [http://www.myfwc.com/commission]

[68B-42, F.A.C. – Marine Life Rule](https://www.flrules.org) [https://www.flrules.org]

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Issue: BOCA GRANDE PASS TARPON FISHING RULES

Action: Gear Rules Take Effect

Information: Boca Grande Pass gear rules take effect April 1st, remain in effect through June 30th, and are as follows:

- A maximum of three fishing lines may be deployed from a vessel at any one time while fishing for all species.
- No person shall use, fish with, or place in the water any breakaway gear.

Breakaway gear is defined as any bob, float, weight, lure, or spoon that is affixed to a fishing line or hook with wire, line, rubber bands, plastic ties, or other fasteners designed to break off when a fish is caught.

Links for more information:

[FWC News Release – Boca Grande Pass Rules](http://www.myfwc.com) [http://www.myfwc.com]

[Brochure with Location Information](http://www.myfwc.com) [http://www.myfwc.com]

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Issue: SPINY LOBSTER

Action: Harvest Season Closes

Information: The recreational and commercial harvest for spiny lobster closes April 1st in Florida state and federal waters. The regular season will reopen Aug. 6.

The special 2-day recreational sport season occurs on July 29th and 30th.

Links for more information:

[FWC News Release](http://www.myfwc.com) - [http://www.myfwc.com]

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