



FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management

HOT SHEET – NOVEMBER 2008

(Valid through November 30, 2008)

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Issues covered in this posting:

[Grouper & Snapper](#), [Amberjack & Triggerfish](#), [Red Snapper](#), [Spotted Seatrout](#)

Issue: GROUPEL and SNAPPER

Action: Pending Federal and Proposed State Regulations

Information: Regulation changes are pending or being proposed for snapper and grouper fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic. In the Gulf of Mexico, new regulations in federal waters are scheduled to take effect in January 2009 that primarily affects the harvest of Gag Grouper. In the South Atlantic, new regulations for federal waters have been adopted for Gag, Black, and Red Grouper that would reduce harvest by all fishers. Potential regulation changes for Red and Vermilion Snapper in federal waters of the Atlantic will be discussed at the next South Atlantic Council meeting. Also in the South Atlantic, new rules are pending final implementation that would affect federal snapper and grouper permit holders and all sales of snapper and grouper species.

→ At the September FWC meeting in Jacksonville, draft rules were adopted for grouper regulations in the Gulf based on the federal regulations. A final public hearing is scheduled for the December FWC meeting where final action of grouper regulations in Gulf state waters is expected. Atlantic federal regulations for grouper and snapper will also be discussed at the December FWC meeting.

For further details on these snapper and grouper regulation changes:

Gulf of Mexico regulation changes

South Atlantic regulation changes

Timeline: FWC meeting December 3-4 in Key West

South Atlantic meeting: November 30 to December 5 in Wilmington, NC

New rules to take effect January 1, 2009 for federal waters on both coasts

Links for more information:

[DMFM Background Report for September FWC Meeting](http://www.myfwc.com/commission) [www.myfwc.com/commission]

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

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

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Issue: GREATER AMBERJACK and GRAY TRIGGERFISH

Action: Proposed Regulation Changes in State Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

Information: New regulations for Greater Amberjack and Gray Triggerfish took effect in August 2008 in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico . The most recent stock assessments for these species indicate that there is excessive fishing pressure and that reductions in harvest are needed. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council adopted these regulations in early 2008. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission adopted draft rules for Gulf of Mexico state waters that are consistent with federal rules at their September 2008 meeting and will take final action in December 2008.

New Federal Regulations and Proposed State Regulations

Greater Amberjack

- Increase the **recreational** minimum size limit to **30 inches** fork length
- Zero bag limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels
- Set Annual Catch Limits – allows for in-season adjustments if the limits are exceeded
 - possible seasonal closure if ACL is exceeded
- Quotas set: 0.503 million pounds for commercial, 1.386 mp for recreational

Gray Triggerfish

- Increase **recreational and commercial** minimum size to **14 inches** fork length
- Set Annual Catch Limits – allows for in-season adjustments if the limits are exceeded
 - possible seasonal closure if ACL is exceeded
- Commercial quota set at 80,000 pounds in 2008, increasing in 2009 and 2010

Timeline: FWC meeting December 3-4 in Key West

Links for more information:

[Southeast Fishery Bulletin – New Federal Regs](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov) [http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov]

[FWC News Release – Proposed State Rules](http://www.myfwc.com) [www.myfwc.com]

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Issue: RED SNAPPER

Action: Recreational Harvest Closed in All Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

Information: Recreational harvest of Red Snapper is now closed in all waters of the Gulf of Mexico and will re-open in state waters (out to 9 nautical miles) on April 15, 2009 and in federal waters (beyond 9 nautical miles) on June 1, 2009.

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Links for more information:

[FWC News Release - Snapper and Seatrout Closed](http://www.myfwc.com) [http://www.myfwc.com]

[Southeast Fishery Bulletin – Red Snapper Closed](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov) [http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov]

Issue: SPOTTED SEATROUT

Action: Recreational Season Closed as of November 1 in South Florida

Information: Recreational harvest of Spotted Seatrout in the southern Florida closed on November 1, 2008 and will re-open January 1, 2009. The closed area includes all waters south of the Flagler-Volusia counties line in the Atlantic and south of a line running due west from the westernmost point of Fred Howard Park Causeway, which is about 1.17 miles south of the Pinellas/Pasco counties line in the Gulf.

Links for more information:

[FWC News Release - Snapper and Seatrout Closed](http://www.myfwc.com) [http://www.myfwc.com]

[68B-37, F.A.C. – Spotted Seatrout Rule](https://www.flrules.org) [https://www.flrules.org]

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