



## FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management

### HOT SHEET – September 2009

(Valid through September 30, 2009)

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Visit Hot Sheet [online!](#)

#### Issues covered in this posting:

[Grouper](#), [Snapper](#), [Season Updates](#), [Commission Meeting](#), [Permit Workshops](#), [Bonefish Workshops](#)

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#### Issue: GROUPER

##### → Gulf of Mexico

##### Action: STATE Regulation Changes in the Gulf of Mexico

**Information:** New regulations for the recreational harvest of grouper in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico took effect **August 27, 2009** and are now the same as current grouper regulations in Gulf federal waters. These changes were approved at the June 2009 Commission meeting and are as follows:

- Feb. 1 – March 31 closed spawning season for all recreational harvest of shallow-water groupers in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico, excluding Monroe County. Shallow-water groupers include gag, red, black, yellowfin, yellowmouth, rock hind, red hind and scamp groupers
- Decrease the daily recreational bag limit from five grouper to four grouper per person in Gulf state waters, excluding Monroe County
- Maximum of 2 red grouper and 2 gag grouper within the 4 grouper daily aggregate

**Information:** New state commercial regulation changes for grouper in the Gulf of Mexico were approved at the June 2009 Commission meeting. These changes took effect **August 27, 2009** and are as follows:

- Reduced the minimum size limit for Gulf red grouper from 20" to 18" total length
- Eliminated the existing commercial closed season of February 15 through March 14 for gag, red and black grouper in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico, excluding Monroe County

Links for more information:

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

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

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

##### → South Atlantic

##### Action: Federal Regulation Changes in the South Atlantic

**Information:** New regulations for all shallow-water grouper species in federal waters of the Atlantic took effect **July 29, 2009**. These regulations are:

- January through April closed to all commercial and recreational harvest of gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, rock hind, red hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper and tiger grouper
- The grouper aggregate bag limit reduced to 3 groupers
- Reduced bag limit to one gag or one black grouper (combined) within the three grouper aggregate bag limit
- A dehooking tool is required when necessary

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**Timeline:** New grouper regulations in federal waters of the Atlantic took effect on July 29, 2009. Other federal changes to Atlantic grouper regulations are anticipated for sometime in 2010. **The FWC will address potential rule changes to become consistent with federal regulations at the [September 2009 Commission Meeting](#).**

Links for more information:

[NOAA Southeast Fishery Bulletin](#) [www.safmc.net]

[FWC Atlantic Grouper Commission Agenda Document](#) [www.myfwc.com]

[FWC Dehooking Tool Commission Agenda Document](#) [www.myfwc.com]

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## Issue: VERMILION SNAPPER and RED SNAPPER

→ South Atlantic

**Action:** FEDERAL Regulation Changes in the South Atlantic

**Information:** The South Atlantic Council approved new regulations for vermilion snapper in federal waters effective July 29, 2009. These changes establish:

- A bag limit of five vermilion snapper (reduced from 10)
- A new closed season from November through March for recreational harvest for vermilion snapper
- Use of a dehooking tool is required when necessary
- A commercial quota that will reduce landings

Responding to a request from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, NOAA Fisheries Service has proposed an interim rule that would close all harvest of red snapper in south Atlantic federal waters (beyond 3 miles from shore). If implemented, a closure may take place in late 2009. The interim closure would remain in effect up to one year or until the South Atlantic Council proposes permanent regulations for red snapper harvest.

**Timeline:** Federal vermilion snapper regulation changes took effect July 29, 2009. A federal Atlantic red snapper closure is possible in late 2009. **The FWC will address potential changes in state waters to vermilion snapper regulations at the [September 2009 Commission Meeting](#).**

Links for more information:

[South Atlantic Council June 2009 Meeting Information](#) [www.safmc.net]

[Snapper Fishery Information](#) [www.myfwc.com]

[FWC Commission Meeting Agenda Documents](#) [myfwc.com]

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## Issue: SEASON UPDATES

**Action:** Upcoming season openings and closures

**Information:** The following species have upcoming season openings/closures:

- Snook: The recreational harvest season for snook reopens statewide on **September 1, 2009**
- Bay Scallops: The recreational harvest season for bay scallops closes **September 11, 2009**
- Blue Crab: From 3 to 9 nautical miles in the Gulf of Mexico, no traps may be placed in the water, fished, or soaked from **September 20 through October 4**

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Links for more information:

[FWC News Release – Snook Season](#) [www.myfwc.com]

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## Issue: COMMISSION MEETING

**Information:** The next Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission meeting will occur September 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup>, in Howey-in-the-Hills. Visit [www.myfwc.com/COMMISSION](http://www.myfwc.com/COMMISSION) for agenda items and additional information.

Links for more information:

[Commission Meeting Homepage](#) [www.myfwc.com]

[September Commission Meeting Agenda](#) [www.myfw.com]

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## Issue: PERMIT PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

**Information:** The purpose of these workshops is to examine possible options for rule changes for the permit fishery (Chapter 68B-35, F.A.C.). Specifically, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will be gathering comments on establishing a commercial trip limit, extending state regulations into federal waters, establishing a tagging program, eliminating commercial harvest and sale, and making permit a catch and release only fishery.

Dates, Times, and Locations

### Vero Beach

September 28, 2009 6:00 - 8:00pm  
Vero Beach City Hall Council Chambers  
1053 20th Place  
Vero Beach, Florida 32960

### Saint Petersburg

October 5, 2009 6:00 - 8:00pm  
FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute  
3rd Floor Conference Room  
100 Eighth Avenue S.E.  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

### Dania Beach

September 29, 2009 6:00 - 8:00pm  
IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum  
300 Gulf Stream Way  
Dania Beach, Florida 33004

### Fort Myers

October 6, 2009 6:00 - 8:00pm  
Joseph P. D'Alessandro Office Complex  
2295 Victoria Ave.  
Ft. Myers, Florida 33901

### Key Colony Beach

September 30, 2009 6:00 - 8:00pm  
City of Key Colony Beach-City Hall Building  
City Hall Auditorium  
Mile Marker 53.5  
600 W. Ocean Drive  
Key Colony Beach, Florida 33051-0141

Links for more information:

[FWC Upcoming Public Workshops](#) [www.myfwc.com]

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## Issue: BONEFISH PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

**Information:** The purpose of these workshops is to examine possible options for rule changes for the bonefish fishery (Chapter 68B-34, F.A.C.). Specifically, the Florida Fish and Wildlife  
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Conservation Commission will be gathering comments on extending state regulations into federal waters, establishing a tagging program, including all species of bonefish in the current rule, and making bonefish a catch and release only fishery.

## Dates, Times, and Locations

### **Key Colony Beach**

October 7, 2009, 6:00pm - 8:00pm

City of Key Colony Beach-City Hall Building,

City Hall Auditorium

Mile Marker 53.5

600 W. Ocean Drive

Key Colony Beach, FL 33051-0141

### **Dania Beach**

October 8, 2009, 6:00pm - 8:00pm

IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum

300 Gulf Stream Way

Dania Beach, Florida 33004

Links for more information:

[FWC Upcoming Public Workshops](http://www.myfwc.com) [www.myfwc.com]