



## FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management

### HOT SHEET – August 2009

(Valid through August 31, 2009)

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Visit Hot Sheet [online!](#)

#### Issues covered in this posting:

[Grouper](#), [Shoreline License](#), [Snapper](#), [Season Updates](#), [Blue Crab](#), [Commission Meeting](#)

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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 the Gulf of Mexico are effective **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 are effective **August 27, 2009** and are as follows:

- Reduce the minimum size limit for Gulf red grouper from 20" to 18" total length

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

**Timeline:** New grouper regulations effective in federal waters of the Atlantic on **July 29, 2009**. Other 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.

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Links for more information:

[NOAA Southeast Fishery Bulletin](http://www.safmc.net) [www.safmc.net]

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## Issue: SHORELINE LICENSE

**Action:** A shoreline license is now required for Florida anglers

**Information:** Beginning August 1, 2009, Florida residents fishing for saltwater species from the shore or from a structure fixed to shore will need a state fishing license. The annual resident shoreline fishing license will cost \$9.00. Additional fees may be applied when purchasing via phone or online. Resident anglers may consider purchasing a \$17.00 one-year saltwater license which covers both shoreline and watercraft recreational fishing. Some exemptions are listed below. For a complete list of exemptions, please visit the link below.

- The same exemptions as a regular one year saltwater license
- Anglers drawing food stamps, temporary cash assistance or Medicaid
- Anglers fishing with live or natural bait in their home counties who use cane poles or other gear that does not depend on mechanical retrieval

Links for more information:

[FWC News Release – Shoreline License Required](http://www.myfwc.com) [www.myfwc.com]

[FWC Shoreline Fishing FAQs](http://www.myfwc.com) [www.myfwc.com]

[FWC License Exemptions](http://www.myfwc.com) [www.myfwc.com]

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## Issue: RED SNAPPER and VERMILION SNAPPER

→ **Gulf of Mexico**

**Action:** Season Change in the Gulf of Mexico

**Information:** At the June 2009 meeting, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission voted to change the recreational harvest season for red snapper in Gulf of Mexico state waters to June 1 - Aug. 14. The red snapper season in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico is now consistent with the June 1 - Aug. 14 season in federal waters. NOAA Fisheries Service shortened the 2009 federal season because the recreational fishery went over its allowable quota by 1.2 million pounds last year. This overage needs to be accounted for in the current season by a reduction in the length of the season.

Links for more information:

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

[NOAA Southeast Fishery Bulletin](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/) [http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/]

[DMFM Background Report – Gulf Red Snapper Season FPH](http://www.myfwc.com) [www.myfwc.com]

→ **South Atlantic**

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

**Information:** Regulation changes for red and vermillion snapper in federal waters of the South Atlantic were further discussed at the June 2009 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council meeting. The South Atlantic Council approved new regulations for vermillion snapper in federal waters effective July 29, 2009. These changes establish:

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

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- Use of a dehooking tool is required when necessary

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). NOAA Fishery Service is currently seeking public comment on this proposed interim rule. The comment period is open until August 5, 2009. If implemented, a closure would likely take place in fall 2009.

**Timeline:** Vermilion snapper regulation changes are effective July 29, 2009. Federal Atlantic red snapper closure expected in fall 2009. The FWC may address potential changes in state waters after the federal rules are implemented.

Links for more information:

[NOAA Southeast Fishery Bulletin - Request for Red Snapper Public Comment](#) [www.safmc.net]

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

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

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## Issue: SEASON UPDATES

**Action: Upcoming season openings and closures**

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

- Red Snapper: The recreational harvest season for red snapper in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico closes **August 15, 2009**.
- Spiny Lobster: The recreational harvest and commercial season for spiny lobster opens **August 6, 2009**.

Links for more information:

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

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## Issue: BLUE CRAB

**Action: Approved Staggered Closed Seasons to Remove Abandoned Traps**

**Information:** New rules took effect on July 1, 2009 that established 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. Upcoming closed dates and areas are as follows:

- **Aug. 10-19**: All waters of Brevard through Palm Beach counties
- **Aug. 20-29**: All waters from the Georgia/Florida state line south through Volusia County
- Both closures exclude the St. John's River System including all associated lakes and tributaries.

**Link to map of closed areas and dates:**

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

Links for more information:

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