



FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management

HOT SHEET – November 2009

(Valid through November 30, 2009)

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Issues covered in this posting:

[Amberjack](#), [Grouper](#), [Snapper](#), [Season Updates](#)

Issue: AMBERJACK

→ Gulf of Mexico

Action: Recreational Closure for Greater Amberjack in Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

Information: Effective October 24, 2009, the recreational fishery for greater amberjack in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico (beyond 9 miles from shore) is closed. The recreational quota of 1.368 million pounds for greater amberjack harvested in the Gulf of Mexico has been met. The recreational harvest and possession of greater amberjack in or from federal waters will be prohibited through the end of the current fishing year, December 31, 2009.

Links for more information:

[NOAA Southeast Fishery Bulletin](#) [sero.nmfs.noaa.gov]

[Recreational Quota Closure for Gulf of Mexico Great Amberjack FAQ's](#) [sero.nmfs.noaa.gov]

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

[Back to top](#)

Issue: GROUPEE

→ South Atlantic

Action: Federal and Proposed State 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 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 hold a final public hearing regarding going consistent in state waters with these new federal regulations at the [December 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]

[Back to top](#)

FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management

Issue: VERMILION SNAPPER and RED SNAPPER

→ South Atlantic

Action: Federal and State Regulation Changes in the South Atlantic

Information: The following regulations took effect in state waters of the Atlantic October 16, 2009, and are consistent with current Atlantic federal regulations (that took effect July 29, 2009).

- A bag limit of five vermillion snapper (reduced from 10)
- A new closed season from November through March for recreational harvest of vermillion snapper

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: State vermillion snapper regulations are now consistent with federal regulations. A federal Atlantic red snapper closure is possible in late 2009.

Links for more information:

[South Atlantic Council September 2009 Meeting Information](http://www.safmc.net) [www.safmc.net]
[Snapper Fishery Information](http://www.myfwc.com) [www.myfwc.com]

[Back to top](#)

Issue: SEASON UPDATES

Action: Upcoming season openings and closures

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

- Spotted Seatrout: The recreational harvest of spotted seatrout will be closed from **November 1 through December 31** for all waters south of the Flager-Volusia County line 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 Pasco-Pinellas County line.
- Vermilion Snapper: The recreational harvest season for vermillion snapper will be **closed** from **November 1 through March 31 in state and federal waters of the Atlantic.**
- Snook: The recreational harvest of snook in state waters of the **Gulf of Mexico, Monroe County and Everglades National Park closes December 1** and reopens March 1. In state waters of the **Atlantic** the recreational harvest of snook is **closed December 15** through January 31.

Links for more information:

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

[Back to top](#)