



FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management

HOT SHEET – October 2009

(Valid through October 31, 2009)

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Issues covered in this posting:

[Grouper](#), [Snapper](#), [Season Updates](#), [Permit Workshops](#), [Bonefish Workshops](#), [Lemon Shark](#)

Issue: GROUPER

→ 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 these regulation changes in state waters at the [December 2009 Commission meeting](#).**

Links for more information:

[NOAA Southeast Fishery Bulletin](http://www.safmc.net) [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 and State Regulation Changes in the South Atlantic

Information: The following regulations will take effect in state waters Oct. 16, 2009, and will be consistent with current federal regulations (that took effect July 29, 2009) in Florida's state waters of the Atlantic.

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

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Timeline: Federal vermilion snapper regulation changes took effect July 29, 2009. A federal Atlantic red snapper closure is possible in late 2009. **State vermilion snapper regulations will be consistent with federal regulations as of October 16, 2009.**

Links for more information:

[South Atlantic Council September 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:

- **Blue Crab:** From 3 to 9 nautical miles from shore in the Gulf of Mexico, no traps may be placed in the water, fished, or soaked from **September 20 through October 4.**
- **Stone Crab:** The recreational and commercial harvest season of stone crab opens **October 15.** Soaking permitted beginning October 5, but traps may not be pulled until the 15th.
- **Spotted Seatrout:** The recreational harvest season of spotted seatrout closes **November 1 through December 31** for the South Region (state waters lying south of the Flager-Volusia County line and the Pasco-Pinellas County line).
- **Vermilion Snapper:** The recreational harvest season for vermilion snapper will be **closed** from **November 1 through March 31 in state waters of the Atlantic.**

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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

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

Fort Myers

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

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 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]

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Issue: LEMON SHARK WORKSHOPS

Information: The purpose of these workshops is to gather public input regarding a proposal to prohibit the commercial and recreational harvest of lemon sharks in state waters of Florida.

Dates, Times, and Locations

Fort Myers

October 19, 2009 6:00 - 8:00pm
Joseph P. D'Alessandro Office Complex
2295 Victoria Ave.
Ft. Myers, Florida 33901

Dania Beach

October 20, 2009 6:00 - 8:00pm
IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum
300 Gulf Stream Way
Dania Beach, Florida 33004

Links for more information:

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