

**68B-14.001 Purpose and Intent, Designation as Restricted Species.**

(1) Purpose and intent.

(a) – (b) No change.

(c) The regulations in this chapter apply in all state waters and, in the absence of any regulations for the following species in federal waters, apply in adjacent federal EEZ waters.

(a) Grouper.

1. Coney.

2. Graysby.

3. Misty grouper.

4. Red hind.

5. Rock hind.

(b) Snapper.

1. Black snapper.

2. Dog snapper.

3. Mahogany snapper.

4. Schoolmaster.

5. Wenchman.

(2) Designation as restricted species. The following species are hereby designated as restricted species pursuant to Section 379.101(32), F.S.:

(a) No change.

(b) Groupers and Sea Basses – Family Serranidae:

1. – 14. No change.

~~15. Tiger grouper – *Mycteroperca tigris*.~~

~~16. Warsaw grouper – *Epinephelus nigritus*.~~

~~17. Yellowedge grouper – *Epinephelus flavolimbatus*.~~

~~18. Yellowfin grouper – *Mycteroperca venenosa*.~~

~~19. Yellowmouth grouper – *Mycteroperca interstitialis*.~~

(c) – (g) No change.

*Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., Chapter 83-134, Laws of Fla., as amended by Chapter 84-121, Laws of Fla. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., Chapter 83-134, Laws of Fla., as amended by Chapter 84-121, Laws of Fla. History–New 7-29-85, Amended 12-11-86, 2-1-90, 12-31-92, 3-31-94, 12-31-98, Formerly 46-14.001, Amended 1-1-00, 1-1-03, 7-1-07, - - - .*

**68B-14.0035 Size Limits: Amberjacks, Black Sea Bass, Gray Triggerfish, Grouper, Hogfish, Red Porgy, Snapper.**

No person shall land, possess, unnecessarily destroy, purchase, exchange, sell or offer for sale any of the following species harvested in or from state waters, of a length less than set forth as follows:

(1) – (6) No change.

(7) Snapper (measured in terms of total length).

(a) – (b) No change.

(c) Dog snapper 12 inches within or without Florida waters.

(d) – (e) No change.

(f) Mahogany snapper 12 inches within or without Florida waters.

(g) – (k) No change.

(l) Schoolmaster ~~snapper~~ 10 inches within or without Florida waters.

(m) – (o) No change.

*Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History–New 12-31-98, Amended 3-1-99, Formerly 46-14.0035, Amended 1-1-00, 1-1-01, 1-1-01, 1-1-03, 9-16-05, 7-1-06, 7-1-07, 4-1-08, 1-6-09, 8-27-09, 3-23-12, 6-10-13, 7-9-15, 1-4-16, - - - .*

**68B-14.0036 Recreational Bag Limits: Snapper, Grouper, Hogfish, Black Sea Bass, Red Porgy, Amberjacks, Tilefish, Exception, Wholesale/Retail Purchase Exemption.**

(1) Snapper.

(a) Aggregate bag limit. Except as provided elsewhere in this rule, no recreational harvester shall harvest within or without Florida ~~in or from state~~ waters, nor possess within or without Florida ~~while in or on state~~ waters, more than a total of 10 snapper per day, in any combination of species.

(b) No change.

(c) Red snapper. Except as provided elsewhere in this rule, no recreational harvester shall harvest in or from state waters of the Atlantic Ocean, nor possess while in or on state waters of the Atlantic Ocean, more than 2 red snapper per day, nor shall a recreational harvester harvest in or from state waters of the Gulf of Mexico, nor possess while in or on state waters of the Gulf of Mexico, more than 2 red snapper per day. On any vessel licensed to carry customers wherein a fee is paid, either directly or indirectly, for the purpose of taking or attempting to take marine fish in the Gulf of Mexico, the applicable bag and possession limit specified in this rule shall not extend to the operator of such vessel or any person employed as a crewman of such vessel. Such bag and possession limit shall be counted for purposes of the aggregate snapper bag and possession limit prescribed in paragraph (a) only if harvested in or from state waters.

(d) – (f) No change.

(2) Grouper.

(a) Aggregate bag limit. Except as provided elsewhere in this rule, no recreational harvester shall harvest within or without Florida ~~in or from state~~ waters, nor possess within or without Florida ~~while in or on state~~ waters, more than a total of 4 grouper per day in the Gulf of Mexico excluding waters of Monroe County in any combination of species, or more than a total of 3 grouper per day in the Atlantic Ocean and all waters of Monroe County, in any combination of species.

(b) – (g) No change.

(3) – (10) No change.

*Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 12-31-98, Amended 3-1-99, Formerly 46-14.0036, Amended 10-22-99, 1-1-00, 3-6-00, 3-1-01, 1-1-03, 1-3-05, 9-16-05, 1-1-06, 7-1-06, 7-1-07, 4-1-08, 1-6-09, 8-27-09, 10-16-09, 1-19-10, 12-30-11, 7-1-12, 6-10-13(4), 6-10-13(8), 3-13-14, 5-7-15, - - - .*

**68B-14.0039 Recreational Grouper Seasons.**

(1) No change.

(2) In all state waters of the Atlantic Ocean, including all waters of Monroe County, the closed season for the recreational harvest and possession of gag grouper, black grouper, red grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, rock hind, red hind, scamp, coney, and graysby, ~~and tiger grouper~~ shall be from January 1 through April 30 each year.

*Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 1-6-09, Amended 8-27-09, 1-19-10, 6-17-11, 3-23-12, 5-9-13, 10-31-13, - - - .*

**68B-14.0045 Commercial Harvest Requirements; Licenses, Season Closures, Bag and Trip Limits.**

(1) Licenses.

(a) Each person harvesting any of the species listed in subsection 68B-14.001(2), F.A.C., for commercial purposes in state waters shall possess a valid saltwater products license with a restricted species endorsement and:

1. – 2. No change.

3. For a person aboard a vessel, for which a commercial vessel permit for Gulf reef fish has been issued, to fish for, possess, or land red snapper, red grouper, gag grouper, black grouper, scamp, yellowfin grouper, ~~red hind, rock hind,~~ yellowmouth grouper, yellowedge grouper, snowy grouper, ~~misty grouper,~~ goldface tilefish, ~~blackline tilefish, anchor tilefish,~~ blueline tilefish, and golden tilefish regardless where harvested or possessed, a Gulf IFQ vessel account, as defined in 50 C.F.R. § 622.4(a)(2)(ix), for the applicable species must be established as defined in 50 C.F.R. § 622.16(c)(1)(i) or 622.20(c)(1)(i) issued to and possessed aboard the vessel.

4. No change.

(b) The requirement of a valid transferable commercial permit or a trip-limited commercial permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper in subsection (1) shall not apply to the harvest of black snapper, dog snapper, mahogany snapper, schoolmaster, or wenchman for commercial purposes in the Atlantic Ocean.

(c) The requirement of a valid commercial vessel permit for Gulf reef fish in subsection (1) shall not apply to the harvest of bank sea bass, black sea bass, ~~coney, graysby, misty grouper, red hind, rock hind,~~ rock sea bass, ~~black snapper, dog snapper, mahogany snapper, schoolmaster,~~ or red porgy for commercial purposes in the Gulf of Mexico.

(d) Each person harvesting any of the species listed in subsection 68B-14.001(2), F.A.C., for commercial purposes in the Atlantic Ocean who is required to possess any of the federal permits listed in paragraph (a) is subject to any federal vessel possession limits that apply in the adjacent EEZ and shall not possess in or on state waters of the Atlantic Ocean more fish or pounds than specified in the federal regulations.

(e) No person harvesting for commercial purposes pursuant to this subsection shall sell or attempt to sell any of the indicated species, or any part of the indicated species, without possessing and presenting to the purchaser the state and federal licenses and permits specified in paragraph (a). No wholesale dealer, as defined in Section 379.362(1), F.S., shall purchase any of these species, or any part thereof, without confirming that the seller thereof possesses the state and federal licenses and permits specified in this rule.

(2) Season Closures.

(a) – (c) No change.

(d) During the months of January, February, March, and April each year, the harvest, possession, or landing for commercial purposes, and the purchase, sale, or exchange, of gag grouper, black grouper, red grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, rock hind, red hind, scamp, coney, and graysby, ~~and tiger~~ grouper harvested from state waters of the Atlantic Ocean and from all state waters of Monroe County, is prohibited.

(e) – (g) No change.

(3) No change.

*Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 2-1-90, Amended 12-31-92, 10-18-93, 3-1-94, 6-15-95, 1-1-96, 11-27-96, 12-31-98, 3-1-99, Formerly 46-14.0045, Amended 1-1-00, 3-6-00, 1-1-01, 3-1-01, 6-1-01, 1-1-03, 7-15-04, 5-20-05, 9-16-05, 3-10-06, 7-1-07, 4-1-08, 8-27-09, 1-19-10, 1-12-11, 6-10-13, 10-16-14, - - .*