

Consent Agenda Item #3: Commercial Yellowtail Snapper Gear – Draft Rule

**CHAPTER 68B-14
REEF FISH**

68B-14.005 Regulation and Prohibition of Certain Harvesting Gear: Allowable Gear, Incidental Bycatch, Violation.

(1) through (2) No change.

(3) Required gear in the Gulf reef fish fishery. Beginning June 1, 2008, for a person on board a vessel harvesting any of the species listed in subsection 68B-14.001(2), F.A.C., the vessel must possess on board and such person must use the gear specified in paragraphs (a) and (b).

(a) Non-stainless steel circle hooks. Non-stainless steel circle hooks are required to be used on hook and line gear when fishing with natural baits. "Circle hook" means a fishing hook designed and manufactured so that the point is not offset and is turned perpendicularly back to the shank to form a general circular or oval shape. Non-stainless steel J-hooks may be used instead of circle hooks when harvesting yellowtail snapper for commercial purposes with natural baits in the Gulf of Mexico south of Latitude 25°09' North (consistent with the Federal Standard established in 50 C.F.R. § 622.30(a) as of ~~XXXX XX, XXXX~~).

(b) No change.

(4) through (5) No change.

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 12-11-86, Amended 2-1-90, 3-1-94, 10-4-95, 7-15-96, 1-1-98, 12-31-98, 6-1-99, Formerly 46-14.005, Amended 1-1-03, 3-1-05, 7-17-05, 7-1-07, 3-12-08, 4-1-08, 1-19-10, 6-10-13, 1-24-14, _____.

Commented [BM1]: Effective date will be added and rule would be filed following approval of federal rule change. If possible, state and federal rule changes will take effect on the same date.

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