

State Reef Fish Survey
DRAFT RULE LANGUAGE

Draft Rule Hearing
Agenda Item #5D

February 19, 2020

CHAPTER 68B-14
REEF FISH

68b-14.009 Reporting Requirement

68B-14.009 Reporting Requirement.

The purpose and intent of this rule is to improve recreational harvest data collection capabilities for certain reef fish species by identifying the population of anglers and vessels for hire fishing for these species.

(1) ~~From April 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020, recreational~~ Recreational harvesters are required to report their intention to harvest or attempt to harvest certain reef fish species annually in the upcoming year. A recreational harvester may not harvest, attempt to harvest, or possess the following reef fish species ~~red snapper, vermilion snapper, gag grouper, red grouper, black grouper, gray triggerfish, greater amberjack, lesser amberjack, banded rudderfish, or almaco jack~~ while aboard a vessel in or on Florida Waters of the Gulf of Mexico ~~excluding Monroe County~~, unless that person has reported their intention to do so to the Gulf State Reef Fish Survey. Under section 379.401(1), F.S., failure to file reports required of persons who hold recreational licenses is a non-criminal infraction.

(a) Amberjacks.

1. Almaco jack.
2. Banded rudderfish.
3. Greater amberjack.
4. Lesser amberjack.

(b) Gray triggerfish.

(c) Grouper.

1. Black grouper.
2. Gag grouper.
3. Red grouper.

(d) Hogfish.

(e) Snappers.

1. Mutton snapper.
2. Red snapper.
3. Vermilion snapper.
4. Yellowtail snapper.

(2) Proof of submission of the report required in subsection (1), must be in the personal possession of the recreational harvester while the recreational harvester is harvesting, attempting to harvest or possessing these species aboard a vessel in Florida Waters of ~~the Gulf of Mexico excluding Monroe County~~.

~~(3b)~~ Persons meeting the criteria outlined in paragraphs 379.353(2)(a), (i), (j), and (o), F.S., are exempt from the reporting requirement in subsection (1).

~~(2) In accordance with paragraph 379.354(7)(e), F.S., owners, operators, or custodians of vessels for hire are required to report their intention to harvest or attempt to harvest certain reef fish species during the years 2018 and 2019. A vessel for hire may not harvest, attempt to harvest, or possess red snapper, vermilion snapper, gag grouper, red grouper, black grouper, gray triggerfish, greater amberjack, lesser amberjack, banded rudderfish, or almaco jack in or on Florida Waters of the Gulf of Mexico excluding~~

~~Monroe County, unless the owner, operator, or custodian for the vessel for hire has reported their intention to do so to the Gulf Reef Fish State For Hire Pilot Program. Under section 379.401(1), F.S., failure to file reports required of persons who hold recreational vessel licenses is a non-criminal infraction.~~

~~(a) Proof of submission of the report required in subsection (2), must be aboard the vessel for hire while the vessel for hire is harvesting, attempting to harvest, or possessing these species in Florida Waters of the Gulf of Mexico excluding Monroe County.~~

~~(b) Vessels for hire that possess aboard the vessel a valid federal Gulf of Mexico Charter/Headboat Permit for Reef Fish pursuant to 50 C.F.R. §622.20(b) are exempt from the reporting requirement in subsection (2).~~

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 8-26-14, Amended 6-11-18, 7-1-20.

DRAFT