

## Reef Fish Atlantic Circle Hook Requirement Draft Rule Language

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

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

(1) through (3) No change.

(4) Required gear in the Atlantic Ocean reef fish fishery. 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) **(b), and (c).**

(a) Non-stainless-steel circle hooks north of 28° N. latitude. Non-stainless-steel circle hooks are required to be used on hook and line gear when fishing with natural baits in the Atlantic Ocean north of 28° N. latitude (consistent with the Federal Standard established in 50 C.F.R. §622.188(2) as of January 1, 2021). “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.

(b) Non-stainless-steel hooks south of the 28° N. latitude. Non-stainless-steel hooks are required to be used on hook and line gear when fishing with natural baits in the Atlantic Ocean south of the 28° N. latitude (consistent with the Federal Standard established in 50 C.F.R. §622.188(3) as of January 1, 2021).

(c) Dehooking devices. At least one dehooking device is required and must be used as needed to remove hooks embedded in Atlantic reef fish with minimum damage. The dehooking device must be constructed to allow the hook to be secured and the barb shielded without re-engaging during the removal process. The dehooking device must be blunt, and all edges rounded. The device must be of a size appropriate to secure the range of hook sizes and styles used in the Atlantic reef fish fishery.

(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, 3-15-17, 5-30-17, 1-1-21.*