

# South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Complex Recreational Regulations

Updated 12/21/09 (changes in red)

## List of Species in the South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Management Unit:

<b>Snappers</b>	Dog Snapper	Yellowedge Grouper	Jolthead	Blue Runner	Porkfish	Puddingwife
Lane Snapper	Silk Snapper	Coney	Saucereye	Crevalle Jack	Margate	<b>Sea Basses</b>
Yellowtail Snapper	<b>Groupers</b>	Red Hind	Whitebone	Bar Jack	Tomate	Black Sea Bass
Gray Snapper	Gag	Jewfish	Knobbed	Almaco Jack	Smallmouth Grunt	Bank Sea Bass
Mutton Snapper	Scamp	Misty Grouper	Longspine	Lesser Amberjack	French Grunt	Rock Sea Bass
Vermilion Snapper	Red Grouper	Nassau Grouper	Scup	Banded Rudderfish	Spanish Grunt	
Red Snapper	Black Grouper	Yellowmouth Grouper	<b>Triggerfish</b>	<b>Tilefishes</b>	Cottonwick	
Black Snapper	Speckled Hind	Tiger Grouper	Gray	Golden Tilefish	Sailors Choice	
Queen Snapper	Snowy Grouper	Yellowfin Grouper	Queen	Blueline Tilefish	Blue Stripe Grunt	
Schoolmaster	Warsaw Grouper	<b>Porgys</b>	Ocean	Sand Tilefish	<b>Spadefishes</b>	
Blackfin Snapper	Wreckfish	Red	<b>Jacks</b>	<b>Grunts</b>	Spadefish	
Cubera Snapper	Rock Hind	Sheepshead	Greater Amberjack	White Grunt	<b>Wrasses</b>	
Mahogany Snapper	Graysby	Grass	Yellow Jack	Black Margate	Hogfish	

**NOTE: This listing is published for informational purposes and has no legal force or effect.**

### Recreational Retention Limits (see summary table below)

For additional information, visit [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net) or call toll free 866/SAFMC-10

**NEW! Shallow-water Grouper Closure - January 1 through April 30th**, prohibition on recreational and commercial harvest of shallow-water grouper species including: gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, rock hind, red hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, and tiger grouper.

**NEW! Vermilion Snapper Recreational Closed Season - November 1 through March 31**, recreational harvest of vermilion snapper is prohibited.

### New! Aggregate bag limit of three (3) groupers per person/day include:

\*Black, \*Gag, Misty, Red, Scamp, \*\*\*Snowy, \*\*Speckled Hind, Tiger, \*\*Warsaw, Yellowedge, Yellowfin, Yellowmouth Groupers, and also includes Blueline Tilefish, \*\*\*Golden Tilefish, Sand Tilefish, Coney, Graysby, Red & Rock Hind.

\* **No more than 1 may be a gag or black grouper New!**

\*\* 1 per vessel per trip. May not be sold or traded; no transfer at sea

\*\*\* No more than 1 fish may be snowy grouper

\*\*\* No more that 1 fish may be golden tilefish

Goliath Grouper - Closed to harvest or possession

Nassau Grouper - Closed to harvest or possession

Wreckfish - Only ITQ shareholders or their designees may harvest or possess wreckfish

### Ten (10) snapper, excluding vermilion snapper, per person/day with the following exceptions:

**New! Beginning January 4, 2010, the red snapper fishery is closed** to both commercial and recreational harvest for a period of 180 days with a possible extension of 186 days (interim rule in effect).

Maximum of 2 cubera per person for fish 30" Total Length (TL) or larger off Florida. These are not included in the 10 snapper bag limit. Cubera less than 30" TL are included in the 10 fish bag limit.

### In addition, fishermen may retain:

One amberjack per person per day, (in April, limit 1 per person/day or 1 per vessel/trip, whichever is more restrictive)

A limit of 15 black sea bass per person per day

5 hogfish per person per day, off the coast of East Florida

3 red porgy per person per day or 3 per trip, whichever is more restrictive

**5 vermilion snapper per person per day New!**

**(November - March recreational closure for vermilion snapper) New!**

### Other snapper-grouper complex species:

There is an aggregate bag limit of 20 fish per person inclusive of all fish in the snapper-grouper management unit currently not under bag limit, excluding tomatoes and bluerunners. This means you may catch your bag limits and in addition retain up to 20 other fish for which there is no bag limit.

**NOTE: This summary is for informational purposes only and has no legal force or effect. Fishery regulations are subject to change.**

**Note:** All species in the Snapper/ Grouper management unit must be maintained with heads and fins intact. (Cobia, king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, dolphin, and wahoo must be landed with heads and fins intact.) Goliath and Nassau grouper must be released by cutting the line and **not** removing the fish from the water.

# South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Complex Recreational Regulations

(updates in red)

Common Name	Local Names	Size Limit	Daily Bag Limits	Other Regulations
Black Grouper	Blackfin Grouper	24" TL	<b>No more than one (1) Black or Gag Grouper (included in 3 grouper per person) - *Closed January - April</b>	
Black Seabass	Sea Bass, Blackfish	12" TL	15 per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Blackfin Snapper		12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person limit	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Cubera Snapper	Cuban Snapper	12" TL	2 per person (not to exceed 2 per boat) for fish 30" TL or larger off East Florida. See "Retention Limits".	
Dog Snapper		12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person limit	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Gag	Charcoal Belly	24" TL	<b>No more than one (1) Black or Gag Grouper (included in 3 grouper per person) - *Closed January - April</b>	
Gray Snapper	Mangrove Snapper	12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person limit	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Gray Triggerfish	Triggerfish	12" TL off East Florida only	Included in 20 fish snapper grouper aggregate	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Greater Amberjack	Amberjack, A.J.	28" FL; no coring	1 per person/day. In April, for-hire (charter) vessels limited to 1 per person/day or 1/per person/trip.	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Hogfish	Hog Snapper	12" FL	5 off East Florida only	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Goliath Grouper	Jewfish, Giant Seabass	<b>Closed to possession or harvest</b>		
Lane Snapper	Redtail Snapper, Candy Snapper	8" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Mahogany Snapper		12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Mutton Snapper	Muttonfish	16" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Nassau Grouper		<b>Closed to possession or harvest</b>		
Queen Snapper		12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Red Grouper	Grouper	20" TL	Included in <b>3 grouper per person</b>	<b>*Closed January - April</b> See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Red Porgy	Pink Porgy, Silver Snapper Pink Snapper	14" TL	3 per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Red Snapper	Mules, Sow Snapper, Spot Snapper, American Snapper	20" TL	2 red snapper (included in 10 snapper per person) <b>Closed beginning 1/4/10 for 180 days w/ possible extension</b>	
Scamp	Broomtail	20" TL	Included in <b>3 grouper per person</b>	<b>*Closed January - April</b> See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Schoolmaster		12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Silk Snapper	Yelloweye Snapper	12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Snowy Grouper	Snowflake	None	1 per person	Included in <b>3 grouper bag limit</b>
Speckled Hind	Strawberry Grouper, Kitty Mitchell, Calico Grouper	None	1 speckled hind per vessel per trip (included in <b>3 grouper per person</b> ). May not be sold or traded; no transfer at sea.	
Golden, Blueline, Sand Tilefish	Golden - Rainbow Tilefish; Blueline - Gray Tilefish	None	Included in <b>3 grouper bag limit</b> . Golden Tilefish limited to 1 per person per day.	
Vermilion Snapper	Beeliner, Night Snapper	12" TL	<b>5 (in addition to the snapper bag limit)</b>	<b>Closed Season November - March</b>
Warsaw Grouper	Jewfish (Miscalled), Grouper	None	1 per vessel per trip (included in <b>3 grouper per person</b> ). May not be sold or traded; no transfer at sea.	
Wreckfish	No recreational harvest allowed. Individual Transfer Quota (ITQ) Program in place. No one other than shareholders or their designees may possess wreckfish.			
Yellowfin Grouper		20" TL	Included in <b>3 grouper per person</b>	<b>*Closed January - April</b> See "Allowable Gear"
Yellowtail Snapper		12" TL	Included in 10 snapper per person	See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net
Yellowmouth Grouper	Yellowtail	20" TL	Included in <b>3 grouper per person</b>	<b>*Closed January - April</b> See "allowable gear" at www.safmc.net

**\*January - April Shallow Water Grouper Closure includes: gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, and tiger grouper**