Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Sustainable Fisheries
727-824-5305, FAX 727-824-5308

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Recreational Harvest of Golden Tilefish in the South Atlantic Waters is Closing on June 8, 2012

Recreational harvest of golden tilefish in the South Atlantic waters will **close, at 12:01 a.m. (local time) June 8, 2012.** Recreational harvest will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on January 1, 2013. The 2012 recreational catch limit is 1,578 fish. The accountability measure for golden tilefish requires that the 2012 fishing season be shortened if the average 2010 and 2011 recreational landings exceed the annual catch limit. Reports indicate the average 2010 and 2011 landings exceeded the annual catch limit; therefore, the recreational harvest of golden tilefish should close as soon as possible.

During the closure:

- Recreational harvest or possession of golden tilefish is prohibited.
- The closure applies in both state and federal waters for vessels which have a valid charter/headboat permit for South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper.

This closure is necessary to protect the golden tilefish resource. Currently, there is a regulatory amendment under review which could result in an increase to the annual catch limit for golden tilefish in coming years.

Commercial harvest of golden tilefish for the 2012 fishing year closed on February 17, 2012. Therefore, all harvest of golden tilefish is prohibited in South Atlantic waters until January 1, 2013.

This bulletin provides only a summary of the existing regulations. Full regulations can be found in the *Federal Register*.