Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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NOAA Fisheries Service Announces New Regulations for Snapper-Grouper, Golden Crab, and *Sargassum* Habitat in the South Atlantic Region; and Dolphin and Wahoo in the Atlantic

Small Entity Compliance Guide

NOAA Fisheries Service published a final rule implementing the Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit Amendment in the *Federal Register* on March 16, 2012 (77 FR 15916). **Regulations will be effective on April 16, 2012**. NOAA Fisheries Service approved the Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit Amendment on January 18, 2012.

The Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit Amendment addresses species in four Fishery Management Plans: Snapper-Grouper, Dolphin Wahoo, Golden Crab, and *Sargassum* habitat. Actions in the Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit Amendment fulfill new requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as well as other management changes.

The final rule makes the following changes:

- Removes 13 species, designates six ecosystem component species, and establishes six species groups within the snapper-grouper fishery management unit.
- Specifies an acceptable biological catch control rule and annual catch limits for species in the Fishery Management Plans for Snapper-Grouper, Dolphin Wahoo, Golden Crab, and *Sargassum* habitat.
- Allocates annual catch limits between the recreational and commercial sectors for species in the Snapper-Grouper, and Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plans.
- Allocates annual catch limits for three snapper-grouper species (black grouper, yellowtail snapper, and mutton snapper) across the jurisdictional boundaries of the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils.
- Establishes annual catch targets for the recreational sector (Snapper-Grouper, and Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plans); and accountability measures for recreational (Snapper-Grouper and Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plans), and commercial (Snapper-Grouper, Dolphin Wahoo, Golden Crab, and *Sargassum* Fishery Management Plans) sectors.

In addition, the final rule specifies the following management measures:

- Recreational sector for wreckfish (Snapper-Grouper Fishery Management Plan):
  - One wreckfish per vessel daily recreational bag limit.
  - A closed season of January 1 through June 30, and September 1 through December 31 each year.
- Dolphin (Dolphin Wahoo Fishery Management Plan):
  - Prohibit recreational bag limit sales of dolphin from for-hire vessels.
  - Establish a minimum size limit for dolphin of 20 inches (50.8 cm) fork length for South Carolina.

This bulletin serves as a Small Entity Compliance Guide, complying with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.

Electronic copies of the amendment and final rule may be obtained from the NOAA Fisheries Service Web site http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SAACLAmend.htm. For more information on the Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit Amendment please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions on the NOAA Fisheries Service Web site.

This bulletin provides only a summary of the information regarding the existing regulations. Any discrepancies between this bulletin and the regulations as published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

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