

South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Amendment 18

**Action 1 – Extend Snapper Grouper
FMU Northward**

Rationale

- ACL requirements necessitate accounting for all fish caught of a particular species.
- Concern about catches of blueline tilefish and groupers in northern areas. Virginia reports state records of recreationally caught blueline tilefish and snowy grouper. In response, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) has since established commercial and recreational limits on the harvest and landing of tilefish and grouper off the coast of Virginia.
- It has been suggested snapper grouper species are becoming more common in the northern part of their range in response to increases in average water temperature due to global warming.

Preferred Alternative

- **Preferred Alternative 3.** Extend the management boundaries for all species in the Snapper grouper FMU northward to include the Mid-Atlantic and New England Council's jurisdiction (except for black sea bass, golden tilefish, and scup). The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council will specify the MSY, ABC, MSST, OFL, ACL, and ACT for species in the fishery management unit. In addition, the South Atlantic Council will specify the allocation by sectors for each species and/or fishery and by Council area. A portion of the ACL/ACT for each species and/or fishery will be allocated to the northern zone with separate allocations for the Mid-Atlantic and New England Council areas.

Preferred Alternative (cont'd)

- The Mid-Atlantic Council will specify management measures to limit total mortality to the ACL/ACT specified for their area, and the New England Council will specify management measures to limit total mortality to the ACL/ACT specified for their area. The actions specified by the Mid-Atlantic and New England Councils will not have to be reviewed and/or approved by the South Atlantic Council. However, NOAA Fisheries Service (SERO and/or NERO) must ensure that the actions will keep total mortality at or below the ACL/ACT specified for each Council's area.

Commercially Caught Species in NE

Year	Species	Metric Tons	Pounds
2004	GROUPEL, YELLOWEDGE	0	2
2004	GROUPERS	1.4	3,194
2004	SHEEPSHEAD	0	8
2004	SNAPPER, RED	0	4
2004	SNAPPERS	0	75
2004	TILEFISH, BLUELINE	1	2,190
2004	TILEFISH, SAND	0	15
2004	TILEFISHES	70.2	154,753
2005	GROUPERS	0	49
2005	RUNNER, BLUE	0.1	165
2007	SNAPPERS	0.8	1,851
2007	TILEFISH, BLUELINE	0.9	1,924

Recreationally Caught Species in NE

Year	Species	Pounds	PSE
2004	Gray Triggerfish	5,013	100
2007	Gray Triggerfish	5,939	99