



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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February 6, 2007
FB07-07

**RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL GAG, RED GROUPEL, AND
BLACK GROUPEL FISHERIES IN GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS
WILL CLOSE FEBRUARY 15 UNTIL MARCH 15, 2007**

NOAA Fisheries Service announces the prohibition on the possession, sale, or purchase of gag, red grouper, or black grouper harvested from the Gulf of Mexico exclusive economic zone (EEZ) from February 15 until March 15, 2007. No person may possess these species in the EEZ regardless of where harvested.

The operator of a vessel with a valid federal commercial Gulf reef fish permit having gag, red grouper, or black grouper aboard must have landed and sold said fish prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, February 15, 2007.

This prohibition on sale/purchase does not apply to gag, red grouper, or black grouper harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to February 15 and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

Additionally, during the closure, the recreational bag and possession limits of gag, red grouper, and black grouper is zero. This restriction also applies to persons aboard a vessel fishing as a charter vessel/headboat. These fisheries will reopen at 12:01 a.m., local time, on March 15, 2007.