

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 622 is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 622--FISHERIES OF THE CARIBBEAN, GULF OF MEXICO, AND SOUTH ATLANTIC

1. The authority citation for part 622 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

2. In § 622.34, paragraph (e) is revised to read as follows:

§ 622.34 Seasonal and area closures designed to protect Gulf reef fish.

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(e) *Seasonal closure of the recreational sector for gag.*

The recreational sector for gag, in or from the Gulf EEZ, is closed from January 1 through June 30. During the closure, the bag and possession limits for gag in or from the Gulf EEZ are zero.

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3. In § 622.37, paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(5)(ii) are revised to read as follows:

§ 622.37 Size limits.

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(b) * * *

(1) *Gag--(i)* For a person not subject to the bag limit

Comment [SS1]: Action 3, Preferred Alt 2. This removes the current December 3 through December 31 closed period. The Jan through June gag closure remains but is contained in Alts 3 and 4 for Action 3. Note, the SWG closure (Feb 1-March 31), which also includes gag, is located at 622.34(d).

specified in § 622.38 (b)(2)--22 inches (55.9 cm), TL.

Comment [SS2]: Current commercial gag size limit. No change, only a paragraph restructure.

(ii) For a person subject to the bag limit specified in § 622.38(b)(2)--24 inches (61.0 cm), TL.

Comment [SS3]: Action 1, Preferred Alt 2. Gag recreational minimum size limit.

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(5) * * *

(ii) For a person subject to the bag limit specified in § 622.38(b)(2)--24 inches (61.0 cm), TL.

Comment [SS4]: Action 2, Preferred Alt 2. Black grouper recreational minimum size limit. Commercial remains at 24 inches

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