



WHAT THE PROPOSED RULES MEAN

A BREAKDOWN OF WHAT SALTWATER FISHERMEN COULD STILL CATCH

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, which sets fishing policies in southeast federal waters, has proposed rules to help save 10 imperiled species. While proposals would close some ocean areas to certain kinds of fishing and tighten annual catch limits and other fishing rules, they would not stop all snapper and grouper fishing. Many other popular species would still be available in areas closed to protect these vulnerable species.

● Eighty percent of the annual recreational catch in southeastern U.S. waters is dolphin, mackerel, tunas and other species not affected by any of the closures or restrictions under consideration in Amendments 17A and 17B to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan. Ninety percent of the annual commercial catch is composed of species that also would not be affected.

● Ocean areas that would be closed to protect red snapper (Amendment 17A) are limited and do not cover the entire southeast region. Fishing for 85 federally managed species, including 70 species in the snapper-grouper fishery, would still be allowed outside closed areas. Red snapper accounted for 4% of total recreational catch and 1% of commercial catch in state and federal waters in the region in 2008. Together, red snapper and other groupers and snappers that would be off limits in closed areas represent 20 percent of total recreational catch in 2008 and less than 10 percent of commercial catch.

● The deepwater area closed to protect the critically endangered warsaw grouper and speckled hind (Amendment 17B) would be limited. It would restrict fishing for only eight deepwater species: warsaw grouper, speckled hind, snowy grouper, blueline tilefish, yellowedge grouper, misty grouper, queen snapper and silk snapper. These fish make up less than 1 percent of recreational and commercial catch. Some of these fish also are found outside the closed area where their catch would still be permitted.

STILL ON THE HOOK

These popular fish would not be affected by the proposals and can still be caught under current rules.

- Dolphinfish
- King mackerel
- Little tunny
- Bonito
- Cero
- Cobia
- Blue crab
- Oysters
- Shrimp
- Croaker
- Spanish mackerel
- Wahoo
- Swordfish
- Yellowfin tuna
- Bigeye tuna
- Barracuda
- Filefish
- Spotted seatrout
- Bluefish
- Mullet
- Southern flounder
- Summer flounder
- Striped bass
- Florida pompano
- Spot
- Tautog

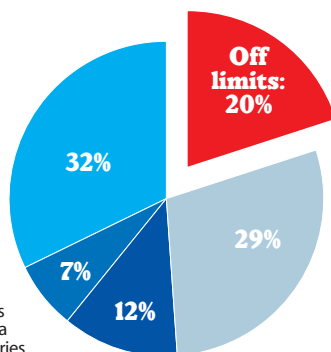
HOW RECREATIONAL CATCH WOULD BREAK DOWN BY SPECIES IN THE PROPOSED RED SNAPPER CLOSED AREAS.

AMENDMENT 17A

■ Species off limits

These species make up 80 percent of catch and would not be affected by rule changes:

- Dolphinfish
- King mackerel
- Other tunas/mackerels
- Other



Estimated future catch percentages are based on actual 2008 catch data from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS)

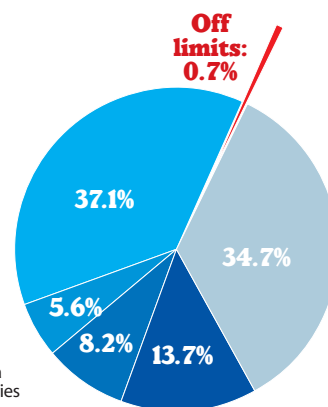
HOW RECREATIONAL CATCH WOULD BREAK DOWN BY SPECIES IN THE PROPOSED DEEPWATER CLOSED AREAS.

AMENDMENT 17B

■ Species off limits

These species make up about 99 percent of catch and would not be affected by rule changes.

- Dolphinfish
- King mackerel
- Other tunas/mackerels
- Greater Amberjack
- Other



Estimated future catch percentages are based on actual 2008 catch data from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS)