

Southeast Fisheries Science Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, Florida 33149

December 17, 2002

Dear Sir/Madame:

Annual quotas for the catches of snowy grouper, golden tilefish and greater amberjack are established in the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Snapper-Grouper complex. In order to monitor these quotas, regulations authorize the National Marine Fisheries Service to require dealers, when selected, to report purchases of these species. Under authority of 50 CFR 622.5 (c) (5) (i), you have been selected to report the total pounds of these species that you purchase from fishermen during each calendar month until the quotas have been reached. These reporting requirements begin on January 1, 2003.

To avoid double counting, please report only fish that were purchased directly from fishermen. Do not report fish purchased from other dealers. Note, reporting for landings of only these species is required. Do not include landings of other species of grouper or tilefishes.

Complete the attached form (NOAA Form 88-12), and send it to the following mailing address or send it via FAX.

Linda Bernstein
National Marine Fisheries Service
Beaufort Laboratory
101 Pivers Island Road
Beaufort, North Carolina 28516-9722

FAX (252) 728-8772
Phone # (252) 728-8721

Enclosed are 12 monthly forms. Please report the purchases of these species for the months of January through December 2003. The purchases for an entire calendar month should be reported on a single form. Photocopies of the enclosed form can be used if additional copies are needed. The completed forms, which must be signed, must be received at the above address before 4:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time 5 working days from the end of each calendar month. You are responsible for the delivery of these forms.

If your company does not handle either of these species during a month, you are still required to submit a signed form that states no purchases were made during the month. Be sure to record the month on the form.

These data are critical for the management of these three species, and reporting will be closely

monitored. If you do not comply with these requirements, your firm is potentially liable for administrative sanctions.

We thank you for your anticipated compliance and hope that this system will allow you to efficiently provide the information that is required to monitor this fishery and comply with the regulations adopted by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy B. Thompson
Science and Research Director

Enclosures