

Control Dates Established by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and U.S. Caribbean Fishery Management Councils

What is a Control Date?

A control date is a date that may be used by a fishery management council or by NOAA Fisheries Service in establishing eligibility criteria for determining levels of future access to fisheries, or sectors of fisheries. **The establishment or revision of control dates does not commit the Council or NOAA Fisheries Service to any particular management regime.** The Council may or may not make use of these control dates as part of the qualifying criteria for participation in any management program. Fishermen are not guaranteed future participation in the fishery, regardless of their entry date or intensity of participation in the fishery before or after the control dates under consideration. The Council also may choose to take no further action to control entry or access to the fishery, and rescind the control dates.

Publication of the control dates informs the commercial fishing sector that the Council is considering management measures in its jurisdictional area that could limit eligibility in the fishery. Implementation of any program would require preparation of an amendment to the fishery management plan and publication of a notice of availability and proposed rule with pertinent public comment periods.

The control dates are summarized below with a reference to their publication in the *Federal Register* (FR). If no date of publication is listed behind the FR citation, then the date is identical to the bolded date.

March 28, 1990 - Control date for eligibility of catch histories for participation in the limited entry wreckfish component of the South Atlantic snapper grouper fishery. [55 FR 39039, September 24, 1990]

July 30, 1991 - Control date for the commercial fishery for snapper-grouper in the South Atlantic (excluding wreckfish). [56 FR 36052]

April 7, 1995 - Control date for the commercial fishery for golden crab in the South Atlantic. [60 FR 17770]

October 16, 1995 - Control date for the commercial fishery for king and Spanish mackerel in the Gulf. [60 FR 53576]

November 18, 1998 - Control date for the for-hire (charter and headboats) in the South Atlantic. [63 FR 64031]

May 21, 1999 - Control date for the commercial fisheries for dolphin and wahoo in the South Atlantic. [64 FR 27750]

May 24, 1999 - Control date for the commercial gillnet sector of Atlantic group king mackerel in the Coastal Migratory Pelagic (CMP) fishery north of Cape Lookout, North Carolina. [64 FR 27951]

July 12, 2000 - Control date for participation by gear type in the commercial reef fish fishery in the Gulf. [65 FR 42978]

September 8, 2000 - Control date for the South Atlantic commercial penaeid shrimp fishery. [65 FR 54474]

March 29, 2001 - Control date for the for-hire (charter and headboats) in the Gulf reef fish and CMP fisheries. [66 FR 32312, June 14, 2001]

December 6, 2003 - Control date for the Gulf commercial penaeid shrimp fishery. [69 FR 10189, March 4, 2004]

December 10, 2003 - Control date for the South Atlantic commercial penaeid shrimp fishery. [69 FR 10189, March 4, 2004]

June 15, 2004 - Control date for the commercial Spanish mackerel component of the CMP fishery in the South Atlantic. [70 FR 67985, November 9, 2005]

June 15, 2004 - Control date for the commercial king mackerel components of the CMP fishery in the South Atlantic. [71 FR 70492, December 5, 2006]

October 15, 2004 - Control date for eligibility of catch histories for the individual fishing quota program for Gulf grouper and tilefish. [69 FR 67106, November 16, 2004]

October 14, 2005 - Control date for an additional limited access program for the commercial snapper-grouper fishery (excluding wreckfish) in the EEZ off the southern Atlantic states. [70 FR 60058]

March 8, 2007 – Control date for the for-hire (charter and headboat) components of South Atlantic fisheries. [72 FR 60794, October 26, 2007]

December 5, 2007 - Control date for the commercial fisheries for dolphin and wahoo in the South Atlantic. [72 FR 68551]

December 4, 2008 - Control date for the commercial black sea bass pot segment of the snapper-grouper fishery in the South Atlantic. [74 FR 7848, February 20, 2009]

December 4, 2008 - Control date for the commercial golden tilefish segment of the snapper-grouper fishery in the South Atlantic. [74 FR 7849, February 20, 2009]

December 31, 2008 - Control date for the commercial reef fish fishery in the Gulf. [74 FR 11577, March 18, 2009]

March 24, 2009 – Control date for the reef fish, queen conch, and spiny lobster fisheries of the U.S. Caribbean. [74 FR 32528, July 8, 2009]

June 30, 2009 - Control date for eligibility of catch histories for limitations on participation in the king mackerel component of the Gulf CMP fishery. [75 FR 12169, March 15, 2010]

March 31, 2010 - Control date for eligibility of catch histories for limitations on participation in the Spanish mackerel component of the Gulf CMP fishery. [75 FR 12169, March 15, 2010]

September 17, 2010 - Control date for the snapper-grouper fishery in the South Atlantic. [75 FR 5325, January 31, 2011]

September 17, 2010 - Control date for the commercial fishery for the CMP fishery in the South Atlantic. [75 FR 5326, January 31, 2011]

December 7, 2010 - Control date for the commercial fishery for golden crab in the South Atlantic. [76 FR 15275, March 21, 2011]