



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## **Commercial Harvest of Vermilion Snapper in South Atlantic Waters Will Close on February 13, 2013**

Commercial harvest of vermilion snapper in South Atlantic waters will **close, at 12:01 a.m. (local time) February 13, 2013**. Commercial harvest will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on July 1, 2013. The 2013 January – June commercial catch limit is 315,523 pounds gutted weight. Reports indicate the catch limit will be met by February 13, 2013.

The operator of a vessel that has been issued a federal commercial permit for snapper-grouper and that is landing vermilion snapper for sale must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such vermilion snapper prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, February 13, 2013. The prohibition on sale does not apply to sale or purchase of vermilion snapper that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m. (local time) February 13, 2013, and held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

During the closure:

- Harvest or possession of vermilion snapper is limited to the recreational bag and possession limits.
- Sale and purchase of vermilion snapper is prohibited.
- The closure applies in both state and federal waters.
- The bag limit is zero for captain and crew on charter vessels and headboats.

Recreational harvest for vermilion snapper is prohibited from November-March.

This closure is necessary to protect the snapper-grouper resource.