

For the reasons set out in the preamble, NMFS proposes to amend 50 CFR part 622 as follows:

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

**Commented [SS1]:** Note that this is GOA here now in anticipation of the upcoming rulemaking to change GOM to GOA per EO 14172.

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

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

2. In § 622.34, add paragraph (h) to read as follows:

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

\* \* \* \* \*

(h) *Seasonal closure of the recreational sector for Other shallow-water grouper (Other SWG) combined (including black grouper, scamp, yellowfin grouper, and yellowmouth grouper). The recreational sector for Other SWG in or from the Gulf EEZ is closed from January 1 through June 30, each year. During the closure, the bag and possession limits for Other SWG in or from the Gulf EEZ are zero.*

**Commented [SS2]:** Action 2, Preferred Alternative 2, ("subalternative" based on Action 1, Preferred Alternative 2: Closed Jan 1 through June 30.

3. In § 622.39, revise paragraph (a) (1) (iii) (A) to read as follows:

**§ 622.39 Quotas.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(a) \* \* \*

**Commented [SS3]:** Gulf reef fish

(1) \* \* \*

**Commented [SS4]:** Commercial quotas

(iii) \* \* \*

(A) Other SWG ~~combined~~ 245,410 lb (111,316 kg).

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4. In § 622.41, revise paragraph (c) to read as follows:

**§ 622.41 Annual catch limits (ACLs), annual catch targets (ACTs), and accountability measures (AMs).**

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) *Other shallow-water grouper (Other SWG) combined (including black grouper, scamp, yellowfin grouper, and yellowmouth grouper)-*

(1) *Commercial sector.* The IFQ program for groupers and tilefishes in the Gulf of America serves as the accountability measure for commercial Other SWG. The commercial ACT for Other SWG is equal to the applicable quota specified in § 622.39(a)(1)(iii)(A). The commercial ACL for Other SWG is 255,636 lb (115,955 kg), gutted weight.

(2) *Recreational sector.* If the sum of the commercial and recreational landings, as estimated by the SRD, exceeds the stock complex ACL specified in paragraph (c)(3) of this section, then during the following fishing year, if the sum of the commercial and recreational landings reaches or is projected to reach the applicable ACL specified in

**Commented [SS5]:** Shallow-water groupers. Note: All SWG weights are in gutted weight.

**Commented [SS6]:** Action 1, Preferred Alternative 2, commercial quota (ACT). (Other SWG species (including black grouper, scamp, yellowfin grouper, and yellowmouth grouper)

**Commented [SS7]:** Mara, please note I edited this to be Gulf of America from Gulf of Mexico consistent with the draft GOA final rule (Amendatory instruction #34).

**Commented [SS8]:** Action 1, Preferred Alternative 2, commercial ACL

paragraph (c) (3) of this section, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for the remainder of that fishing year.

(3) The stock complex ACL for Other SWG is 322,000 lb (146,057 kg), gutted weight.

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**Commented [SS9]:** Action 1, Preferred Alternative 2, stock ACL