

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, revise paragraph (b) to read as follows:

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

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(b) *Seasonal closures of the recreational sector for red snapper.*

Commented [SS2]: Revised paragraph heading to plural

(1) *Seasonal closure of the Federal charter vessel/headboat component.* The Federal charter vessel/headboat component for red snapper in or from the Gulf EEZ is closed from January 1 through the Thursday immediately preceding the Memorial Day Federal holiday, each year. During the closure, the bag and possession limits for red snapper by the Federal charter vessel/headboat component in or from the Gulf EEZ are zero.

Commented [SS3]: Split out paragraph (b) to account for different recreational component season start dates.

(2) *Seasonal closure of the Federal private angling component.* The Federal private angling component for red

Commented [SS4]: Action 1. Preferred Alternative 2. Opens the Friday of the Memorial Day weekend.

Commented [SS5]: Note that paragraph (b) (2) is the same season measures as the current sector seasonal closure regulations except it now just applies to the private angling component vs the whole recreational sector.

snapper in or from the Gulf EEZ is closed from January 1 through May 31, each year. During the closure, the bag and possession limits for red snapper by the Federal private angling component in or from the Gulf EEZ are zero. See § 622.23(a)(1) regarding the fishing season for states with an active delegation of state management of the red snapper private angling component. A person subject to the private angling component bag limit under an active delegation of state management must be in compliance with the fishing license (permit) requirements of the state in which they intend to land the fish and may not possess red snapper in the Gulf EEZ when that state season is closed.

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