

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

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

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

2. In § 622.39, revise paragraph (a)(1)(ii) to read as follows:

§ 622.39 Quotas.

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(a) * * *

Commented [SS1]: Gulf reef fish

(1) * * *

Commented [SS2]: Commercial quotas

(ii) Deep-water groupers (DWG) combined (including yellowedge grouper, warsaw grouper, snowy grouper, and speckled hind) - 478,424 lb (217,009 kg), gutted weight.

Commented [SS3]: Action 2, Preferred alternative 3. Commercial quota.

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3. In § 622.41, revise paragraph (f) to read as follows:

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

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(f) *Deep-water grouper (DWG) combined (including yellowedge grouper, warsaw grouper, snowy grouper, and*

speckled hind) –

(1) *Commercial sector.* The IFQ program for groupers and tilefishes in the Gulf of Mexico serves as the accountability measure for commercial DWG. The commercial ACT for DWG is equal to the applicable quota specified in § 622.39(a) (1) (ii). The commercial ACL for DWG is 498,358 lb (226,051 kg), gutted weight.

Commented [SS4]: Action 2, Preferred alternative 3. Commercial ACL.

(2) *Recreational sector.* As described in the FMP, if over a moving 3-year period, the average DWG recreational landings exceed the recreational ACL specified in this paragraph and the average DWG total landings exceed the stock complex ACL specified in paragraph (f) (3) of this section, then during the following fishing year, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the length of the recreational fishing season to ensure that the recreational ACL is not exceeded, unless the best scientific information available determines that no fishing season reduction is necessary. The recreational ACL for DWG is 56,668 lb (25,704 kg), gutted weight.

Commented [SS5]: Action 3, Preferred Alternative 4. Recreational AMs.

(3) The stock complex ACL for DWG is 555,026 lb (251,756 kg), gutted weight.

Commented [SS6]: Action 2, Preferred alternative 3. Recreational ACL.

Commented [SS7]: Action 1, Preferred Alternative 2. Stock ACL.

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