

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.*

§ 622.34 [Amended]

2. § 622.34, remove and reserve paragraph (d).

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

§ 622.39 Quotas.

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(a) * * *

(1) * * *

(iii) * * *

(C) *Red grouper.*

(1) For fishing year 2026 – 4.28 million lb (1.94 million kg).

(2) For fishing year 2027 – 4.83 million lb (2.19 million kg).

(3) For fishing year 2028 and subsequent years – 5.37 million lb (2.44 million kg).

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4. In § 622.41, revise paragraph (e) (1) and (e) (2) (iv) to read as follows:

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

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(e) *Red grouper*—(1) *Commercial sector*. The IFQ program for groupers and tilefishes in the Gulf of America serves as the accountability measure for commercial red grouper. The commercial ACT for red grouper is equal to the applicable quota specified in § 622.39(a) (1) (iii) (C). The commercial ACL for red grouper, in gutted weight, is 4.51 million lb (2.05 million kg) for 2026, 5.08 million lb (2.30 million kg) for 2027, and 5.65 million lb (2.56 million kg) for 2028 and subsequent years.

(2) * * *

(iv) The recreational ACL for red grouper, in gutted weight, is 2.11 million lb (0.96 million kg) for 2026, 2.37 million lb (1.08 million kg) for 2027, and 2.63 million lb (1.19 million kg) for 2028 and subsequent years. The recreational ACT for red grouper, in gutted weight, is 1.92 million lb (0.87 million kg) for 2026, 2.16 million lb (0.98 million kg) for 2027, and 2.39 million lb (1.08 million kg) for 2028 and subsequent years.

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