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 § 622.41, revise paragraphs (n) and (o) to read as follows:

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

* * * * *

(n) *Yellowtail snapper*. If the sum of the commercial and recreational landings, as estimated by the SRD, exceeds the stock ACL, then during the following fishing year, if the sum of commercial and recreational landings reaches or is projected to reach the stock ACL, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial and recreational sectors for the remainder of that fishing year. The stock ACL for yellowtail snapper, in round weight, is 667,255 lb (302,662 kg) for the 2026-2027 fishing year, 665,282 lb (301,767 kg) for the 2027-2028 fishing year, and 666,168 lb (302,169 kg) for the 2028-2029 and subsequent fishing years.

Commented [SS1]: Gulf yellowtail snapper stock ACL.

Action 2, Preferred Alt 4b.

(o) *Mutton snapper*. If the sum of the commercial and recreational landings, as estimated by the SRD, exceeds the stock ACL, then during the following fishing year, if the sum of commercial and recreational landings reaches or is projected to reach the stock ACL, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial and recreational sectors for the remainder of that fishing year. The stock ACL for mutton snapper, in round weight, is 412,857 lb (187,269 kg) for the 2027 fishing year and 415,892 lb (188,645 kg) for 2028 and subsequent fishing years.

Commented [SS2]: Gulf mutton snapper stock ACL.

Action 1, Preferred Alt 3, Preferred Option 3b

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3. In § 622.193, revise paragraphs (n), (o)(1)(iii), (o)(2)(iii), and (o)(3) to read as follows:

§ 622.193 Annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs).

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(n) *Yellowtail snapper*—(1) *Commercial sector*. (i) If commercial landings for yellowtail snapper, as estimated by the SRD, reach or are projected to reach the commercial ACL, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the commercial sector for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such a notification, all sale or purchase of

yellowtail snapper is prohibited and harvest or possession of yellowtail snapper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is limited to the bag and possession limits. These bag and possession limits apply in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, *i.e.*, in state or Federal waters. The commercial ACL, in round weight, is 1,712,287 lb (776,680 kg) for the 2026-2027 fishing year, 1,707,224 lb (774,384 kg) for the 2027-2028 fishing year, and 1,709,496 lb (775,414 kg) for the 2028-2029 and subsequent fishing years.

Commented [SS3]: SA yellowtail commercial ACLs

Action 4, Preferred Alt 1. Based on Preferred Alt 4b in Action 2 (from table 2.4.1)

(ii) If commercial landings for yellowtail snapper, as estimated by the SRD, exceed both the commercial ACL and the combined commercial and recreational ACL specified in paragraph (n)(3) of this section, during the same fishing year, and yellowtail snapper are overfished based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the commercial ACL for that following fishing year by the amount of the commercial ACL overage in the prior fishing year.

(2) *Recreational sector*. (i) If recreational landings for yellowtail snapper, as estimated by the SRD, reach or

are projected to reach the recreational ACL, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year regardless if the stock is overfished, unless NMFS determines that no closure is necessary based on the best scientific information available. On and after the effective date of such a notification, the bag and possession limits for yellowtail snapper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ are zero. The recreational ACL is 1,545,489 fish for the 2026-2027 fishing year, 1,540,919 fish for the 2027-2028 fishing year, and 1,542,970 fish for the 2028-2029 and subsequent fishing years.

Commented [SS4]: SA yellowtail recreational ACLs.

Action 4, Preferred Alt 1. Based on Preferred Alt 4b in Action 2 (from table 2.4.1)

(ii) If recreational landings for yellowtail snapper, as estimated by the SRD, exceed the recreational ACL, then during the following fishing year recreational landings will be monitored for a persistence in increased landings, and if necessary, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the length of the recreational fishing season and the recreational ACL by the amount of the recreational ACL overage, if the species is overfished based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, and if the combined commercial and recreational ACL specified in paragraph (n)(3) of this section, is exceeded during the same fishing

year. The AA will use the best scientific information available to determine if reducing the length of the recreational fishing season and recreational ACL is necessary. When the recreational sector is closed as a result of NMFS reducing the length of the recreational fishing season and ACL, the bag and possession limits for yellowtail snapper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ are zero.

(3) *Combined commercial and recreational ACL*. The combined commercial and recreational ACL, in round weight, is 3,257,776 lb (1,477,702 kg) for the 2026-2027 fishing year, 3,248,144 lb (1,473,333 kg) for the 2027-2028 fishing year, and 3,252,466 lb (1,475,294 kg) for the 2028-2029 and subsequent fishing years.

(o) * * *

(1) * * *

(iii) The commercial ACL, in round weight, is 394,278 lb (178,841 kg) for the 2026 fishing year, 398,186 lb (180,614 kg) for the 2027 fishing year, and 401,114 lb (181,942 kg) for the 2028 and subsequent fishing years.

(2) * * *

(iii) The recreational ACL is 371,021 fish for the 2026 fishing year, 364,028 fish for the 2027 fishing year, and 359,617 fish for the 2028 and subsequent fishing years.

Commented [SS5]: SA yellowtail combined ACLs.

Action 4, Preferred Alt 1. Based on Preferred Alt 4b in Action 2 (from table 2.4.1)

Commented [SS6]: SA mutton snapper

Commented [SS7]: Commercial sector

Commented [SS8]: SA mutton snapper commercial ACLs

Action 3, Preferred Alt 1. Based on Preferred Alt 3b in Action 1 (from table 2.3.1)

Commented [SS9]: Recreational sector

Commented [SS10]: SA mutton snapper recreational ACLs

Action 3, Preferred Alt 1. Based on Preferred Alt 3b in Action 1 (from table 2.3.1)

(3) *Combined commercial and recreational ACL.* The combined commercial and recreational ACL, in round weight, is 2,316,555 lb (1,050,772 kg) for the 2026 fishing year, 2,339,520 lb (1,061,188 kg) for the 2027 fishing year, and 2,356,723 lb (1,068,992 kg) for the 2028 and subsequent fishing years.

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Commented [SS11]: SA mutton snapper combined ACLs

Action 3, Preferred Alt 1. Based on Preferred Alt 3b in Action 1 (from table 2.3.1)