



Know Your Regulations:

January 1, 2018 brings changes to federal fishing regulations in the South Atlantic!



The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council reminds commercial and recreational fishermen about several fishery openings and closures in federal waters of the South Atlantic effective January 1, 2018.

Below is a summary of the changes to regulations on January 1, 2018. Other regulatory openings and closures not listed here will occur later in the year. For detailed regulatory information including trip limits, size limits, and bag limits, please visit the [Regulations & Fish ID](#) page of the Council's website.

Commercial:

Openings-

The following species REOPEN* to harvest on January 1, 2018:

- Golden tilefish
- Gray triggerfish
- Blueline tilefish
- Jacks complex (includes almaco jack, banded rudderfish, and lesser amberjack)
- Snowy grouper
- Vermilion snapper
- Hogfish (FL and FL Keys)
- Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia (GA-NY)

Closures-

The following species are CLOSED to harvest effective January 1 through April 30, 2018. These fisheries will reopen May 1, 2018.

- Shallow water grouper, spawning season closure (includes gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, yellowmouth grouper, yellowfin grouper, graysby, and coney)
- Red porgy

Recreational:

Openings-

The following species REOPEN* to harvest on January 1, 2018:

- Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia (GA-NY)

Closures-

The following species are CLOSED to harvest effective January 1 through April 30, 2018. These fisheries will reopen May 1, 2018.

- Shallow water grouper, spawning season closure (includes gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, yellowmouth grouper, yellowfin grouper, graysby, and coney)
- Snowy grouper
- Blueline tilefish
- Additionally, harvest of wreckfish is CLOSED January 1 through June 30, 2018 and will reopen July 1, 2018.

NOTES:

*Species will remain open to harvest until NOAA Fisheries determines the Annual Catch Limit has been met or is projected to be met.

- In the South Atlantic, federal waters start 3-nautical miles from shore.
- Red snapper, Nassau grouper, warsaw grouper, speckled hind, and goliath grouper remain closed to harvest or possession in South Atlantic federal waters.

Stay up to date on federal regulations in the South Atlantic with Fish Rules, a mobile app available to Android and Apple products. Simply download, check the app for updates before heading offshore, and access the regulations while fishing. No cell phone service needed to access the app offshore! Please note the app does not currently host commercial regulations. We are working with the app developer to include these in the future!



Fish Rules Mobile App