



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter Hood Peter.Hood@noaa.gov  
727-824-5305, FAX 727-824-5308

May 18, 2010  
FB10-039

## Recreational Red Snapper Opening Date, Open Fishing Areas, and Increased Sampling of Gulf of Mexico Recreational Fisheries

**Open Seasons:** NOAA Fisheries Service reminds recreational fishermen that the 2010 Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) red snapper season opens at 12:01 a.m. on June 1. The season closes 12:01 a.m. on July 24. Other regulations for the recreational red snapper fishery such as the two-fish per person daily bag limit, prohibition of the bag limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels when under charter, and 16-inch total length minimum size limit remain unchanged.

Recreational fisheries for other reef fish species are open. These include gag, red grouper, other grouper species with the exceptions of goliath and Nassau grouper, other snappers, and gray triggerfish. Greater amberjack is also open; however, preliminary projections indicate that the fishery may close by late August. Coastal migratory species including king and Spanish mackerel, cobia, and dolphin (mahi mahi) are also open.

**Open Fishing Areas:** Although the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill has caused a closure of some

waters in the northern Gulf to recreational and commercial fishing, most of the federal waters are still open to fishing and all Gulf states have fishing areas that have not been affected by the spill. Recreational fishing opportunities continue to be available at ports from Texas to Florida and support productive fisheries and tourism. For more information on the current status of the closure, visit the Southeast Regional Office's Web page: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

**Increased Recreational Sampling:** NOAA Fisheries Service is proposing more timely and localized monitoring of changes in marine recreational fishing effort and catch in the Gulf of Mexico. The purpose of this increased sampling effort would be to better determine the effects of the oil spill on Gulf recreational fisheries. Results from the proposed sampling would also be used to evaluate fishery closures for species such as red snapper and greater amberjack. If sampling indicates quotas are not being met prior to each closure, NOAA Fisheries Service would increase the season length if warranted.