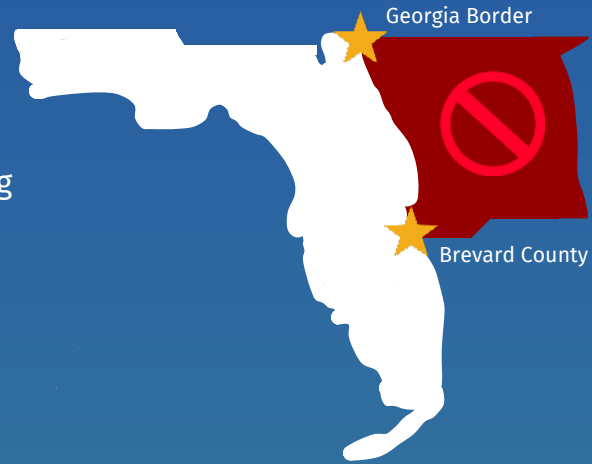


PROTECT SOUTH ATLANTIC BOTTOMFISHING ACCESS

NOAA's Amendment 59 would prohibit fishing for 55 species in a large area off Florida's east coast, which will unnecessarily harm coastal communities, the recreational fishing industry, and anglers.

WHAT IS AMENDMENT 59?

- Unilateral Secretarial Amendment proposed in response to a "sue and settle" agreement on Atlantic red snapper
- Recognizes red snapper as no longer overfished or undergoing overfishing
- Recreational fishing season may be extended to 5-9 days
- Increases commercial limits and season
- **Prohibits recreational bottomfishing for 55 species from December through February**



WHO IS AFFECTED?

The ban affects anglers in coastal Florida from southern Brevard County to the Georgia border. Saltwater fishing in Florida contributes \$9.2 billion to the economy and supports 88,000 jobs. Unnecessarily restricting access to fishing threatens coastal communities and small businesses as well as recreational fishing manufacturers and suppliers throughout the country.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE AMENDMENT?

BASED ON UNRELIABLE DATA

Amendment 59 is based on questionable Marine Recreational Information Program discard data that NOAA estimated to be off by 30-40% and previously recognized as unsuitable for management use.

NOT A FAIR TRADE

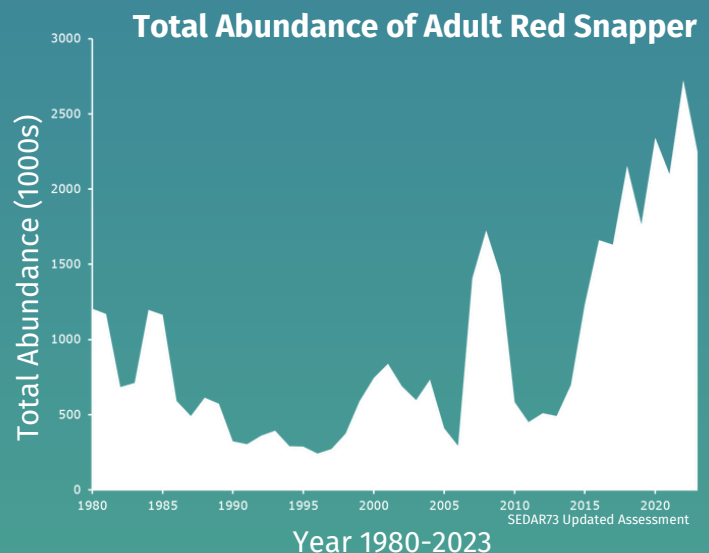
Restricting access 3 months of the year in exchange for a handful of red snapper fishing days hurts the recreational fishing community.

REMOVING OVERFISHING DESIGNATION WHILE PROHIBITING ACCESS IS COUNTERINTUITIVE

Red snapper have recovered ahead of schedule. This success should yield an increase in recreational fishing access rather than broad access restrictions.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Tell the Secretary of Commerce to reject the bottomfishing closure in Amendment 59. Provide your public comment online or at a public hearing near you.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [ASAFISHING.ORG/PROTECT-BOTTOMFISHING-ACCESS](https://www.asafishing.org/protect-bottomfishing-access)

