

**Fishery Conservation and Management**

**§ 622.38**

- (1) \* \* \*
- (ii) Vermillion snapper—12 inches (30.5 cm), TL.

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- (3) \* \* \*
- (i) *Black sea bass*. (A) For a fish taken by a person subject to the bag limit specified in § 622.39(d)(1)(vii):
  - (1) Through May 31, 2007—11 inches (27.9 cm), TL; and
  - (2) On and after June 1, 2007—12 inches (30.5 cm), TL.
- (B) For a fish taken by a person not subject to the bag limit in § 622.39(d)(1)—10 inches (25.4 cm), TL.

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**§ 622.38 Landing fish intact.**

The operator of a vessel that fishes in the EEZ is responsible for ensuring that fish on that vessel in the EEZ are maintained intact and, if taken from the EEZ, are maintained intact through offloading ashore, as specified in this section.

(a) The following must be maintained with head and fins intact: cobia, king mackerel, and Spanish mackerel in or from the Gulf, Mid-Atlantic, or South Atlantic EEZ, except as specified for king mackerel in paragraph (g) of this section; dolphin and wahoo in or from the Atlantic EEZ; South Atlantic snapper-grouper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ, except as specified in paragraph (h) of this section; finfish in or from the Caribbean EEZ, except as specified in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section; and finfish in or from the Gulf EEZ, except as specified in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section. Such fish may be eviscerated, gilled, and scaled, but must otherwise be maintained in a whole condition.

(b) A Caribbean spiny lobster in or from the Caribbean EEZ must be maintained with head and carapace intact.

(c) Shark, swordfish, and tuna species are exempt from the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section.

(d) In the Gulf EEZ or Caribbean EEZ:

- (1) Bait is exempt from the requirement to be maintained with head and fins intact. See § 622.31(m) regarding a prohibition on the use of Gulf reef fish as bait.

- (i) For the purpose of this paragraph (d)(1), “bait” means--

(A) Packaged, headless fish fillets that have the skin attached and are frozen or refrigerated;

(B) Headless fish fillets that have the skin attached and are held in brine; or

(C) Small pieces no larger than 3 in3 (7.6 cm3) or strips no larger than 3 inches by 9 inches (7.6 cm by 22.9 cm) that have the skin attached and are frozen, refrigerated, or held in brine.

(ii) Paragraph (d)(1)(i) of this section notwithstanding, a finfish or part thereof possessed in or landed from the Gulf EEZ or Caribbean EEZ that is subsequently sold or purchased as a finfish species, rather than as bait, is not bait.

(2) Legal-sized finfish possessed for consumption at sea on the harvesting vessel are exempt from the requirement to have head and fins intact, provided—

(i) Such finfish do not exceed any applicable bag limit;

(ii) Such finfish do not exceed 1.5 lb (680 g) of finfish parts per person aboard; and

(iii) The vessel is equipped to cook such finfish on board.

(e) A golden crab in or from the South Atlantic EEZ must be maintained in whole condition through landing ashore. For the purposes of this paragraph, whole means a crab that is in its natural condition and that has not been gutted or separated into component pieces, e.g., clusters.

(f) Queen conch in or from the Caribbean EEZ must be maintained with meat and shell intact.

(g) Cut-off (damaged) king or Spanish mackerel that comply with the minimum size limits in § 622.37(c)(2) and (c)(3), respectively, and the trip limits in § 622.44(a) and (b), respectively, may be possessed in the Gulf, Mid-Atlantic, or South Atlantic EEZ on, and offloaded ashore from, a vessel that is operating under the respective trip limits. Such cut-off fish also may be sold. A maximum of five additional cut-off (damaged) king mackerel, not subject to the size limits or trip limits, may be possessed or offloaded ashore but may not be sold or purchased and are not counted against the trip limit.

## § 622.39

## 50 CFR Ch. VI (10–1–06 Edition)

(h) In the South Atlantic EEZ, snapper-grouper lawfully harvested in Bahamian waters are exempt from the requirement that they be maintained with head and fins intact, provided valid Bahamian fishing and cruising permits are on board the vessel and the vessel is in transit through the South Atlantic EEZ. For the purpose of this paragraph, a vessel is in transit through the South Atlantic EEZ when it is on a direct and continuous course through the South Atlantic EEZ and no one aboard the vessel fishes in the EEZ.

[61 FR 34934, July 3, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 43959, Aug. 27, 1996; 61 FR 65483, Dec. 13, 1996; 63 FR 10567, Mar. 4, 1998; 63 FR 38303, July 16, 1998; 64 FR 3628, Jan. 25, 1999; 65 FR 16340, Mar. 28, 2000; 67 FR 22362, May 3, 2002; 69 FR 30242, May 27, 2004; 70 FR 62081, Oct. 28, 2005; 71 FR 45436, Aug. 9, 2006]

### § 622.39 Bag and possession limits.

(a) *Applicability.* (1) The bag and possession limits apply for species/species groups listed in this section in or from the EEZ. Unless specified otherwise, bag limits apply to a person on a daily basis, regardless of the number of trips in a day. Unless specified otherwise, possession limits apply to a person on a trip after the first 24 hours of that trip. The bag and possession limits apply to a person who fishes in the EEZ in any manner, except a person aboard a vessel in the EEZ that has on board the commercial vessel permit required under § 622.4(a)(2) for the appropriate species/species group. However, see § 622.32 for limitations on taking prohibited and limited-harvest species. The limitations in § 622.32 apply without regard to whether the species is harvested by a vessel operating under a commercial vessel permit or by a person subject to the bag limits. The possession of a commercial vessel permit notwithstanding, the bag and possession limits apply when the vessel is operating as a charter vessel or headboat. A person who fishes in the EEZ may not combine a bag limit specified in this section with a bag or possession limit applicable to state waters. A species/species group subject to a bag limit specified in this section taken in the EEZ by a person subject to the bag limits may not be transferred at sea,

regardless of where such transfer takes place, and such fish may not be transferred in the EEZ. The operator of a vessel that fishes in the EEZ is responsible for ensuring that the bag and possession limits specified in this section are not exceeded.

(2) Paragraph (a)(1) of this section notwithstanding, bag and possession limits also apply for Gulf reef fish in or from the EEZ to a person aboard a vessel that has on board a commercial permit for Gulf reef fish—

(i) When trawl gear or entangling net gear is on board. A vessel is considered to have trawl gear on board when trawl doors and a net are on board. Removal from the vessel of all trawl doors or all nets constitutes removal of trawl gear.

(ii) When a longline or buoy gear is on board and the vessel is fishing or has fished on a trip in the reef fish longline and buoy gear restricted area specified in § 622.34(c). A vessel is considered to have a longline on board when a power-operated longline hauler, a cable of diameter and length suitable for use in the longline fishery, and gangions are on board. Removal of any one of these three elements, in its entirety, constitutes removal of a longline.

(iii) For a species/species group when its quota has been reached and closure has been effected, provided that no commercial quantities of Gulf reef fish, i.e., Gulf reef fish in excess of applicable bag/possession limits, are on board as specified in paragraph (a)(5) of this section.

(iv) When the vessel has on board or is tending any trap other than a fish trap authorized under § 622.40(a)(2), a stone crab trap, or a spiny lobster trap.

(3) Paragraph (a)(1) of this section notwithstanding, the bag and other limits specified in § 622.35(b) apply for South Atlantic snapper-grouper in or from the EEZ to a person aboard a vessel for which a commercial permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued that has on board a longline in the longline closed area.

(4) Paragraph (a)(1) of this section notwithstanding, a person aboard a vessel for which a commercial permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued must comply with the bag limits specified in paragraph (d)(1) of