Issued in Washington, DC, on April 6, 2009 under the authority delegated in part 1. Cynthia Douglass,

Acting Deputy Administrator. [FR Doc. E9–8376 Filed 4–13–09; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4910–60–P

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. 060525140-6221-02]

RIN 0648-XO46

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Temporary rule; trip limit reduction.

SUMMARY: NMFS reduces the commercial trip limit for golden tilefish in the South Atlantic to 300 lb (136 kg) per trip in or from the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). This trip limit reduction is necessary to protect the South Atlantic golden tilefish resource. DATES: This rule is effective 12:01 a.m., local time, April 21, 2009, through December 31, 2009, unless changed by further notification in the Federal Register.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Catherine Bruger, telephone 727–824–5305, fax 727–824–5308, e-mail *Catherine.Bruger@noaa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The snapper-grouper fishery of the South Atlantic is managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (FMP). The FMP was prepared by the South Atlantic Fishery

Management Council and is implemented under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) by regulations at 50 CFR part 622.

Under 50 CFR 622.44(c)(2)(ii), NMFS is required to reduce the trip limit in the commercial fishery for golden tilefish from 4,000 lb (1,814 kg) to 300 lb (136 kg) per trip when 75 percent of the fishing year quota is met, by filing a notification to that effect in the Federal Register. Based on current statistics, NMFS has determined that 75 percent of the available commercial quota of 295,000 lb (133,810 kg), gutted weight, for golden tilefish will be reached on or before April 10, 2009. To provide the commercial fishery participants adequate advance notice of the trip limit reduction, NMFS is reducing the commercial golden tilefish trip limit to 300 lb (136 kg) in the South Atlantic EEZ from 12:01 a.m., local time, April 21, 2009, until the quota is reached and the fishery closes or through December 31, 2009, whichever occurs first.

#### Classification

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, (AA), finds good cause to waive the requirement to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment pursuant to the authority set forth at 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) as such prior notice and opportunity for public comment is unnecessary and contrary to the public interest. Such procedures would be unnecessary because the rule itself has already been subject to notice and comment, and all that remains is to notify the public of the trip limit reduction. Allowing prior notice and opportunity for public comment is contrary to the public interest because of the need to implement this action in a timely manner to protect the fishery because the capacity of the fishing fleet allows for rapid harvest of the quota.

Prior notice and opportunity for public comment would require time and would potentially result in a harvest well in excess of the established quota.

For the aforementioned reasons, the AA also finds good cause to provide less than the 30-day delay in the effectiveness of this action under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3). However, to provide reasonable notice of the trip limit reduction to the commercial fishery participants and allow them to adjust fishing practices accordingly, NMFS is providing a 7-day delay in the effectiveness of this trip limit reduction.

This action is taken under 50 CFR 622.43(a) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.

Dated: April 8, 2009.

### Alan D. Risenhoover,

Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service. [FR Doc. E9–8530 Filed 4–13–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

# **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

### 50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No.090122047-9252-02]

RIN 0648-XM11

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; 2009 Georges Bank Cod Hook Sector Operations Plan and Agreement, and Allocation of Georges Bank Cod Total Allowable Catch

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This final rule implements the Georges Bank (GB) Cod Hook Sector