§ 622.37 Size limits.

All size limits in this section are minimum size limits unless specified otherwise. A fish not in compliance with its size limit, as specified in this section, in or from the Gulf EEZ, may not be possessed, sold, or purchased. A fish not in compliance with its size limit must be released immediately with a minimum of harm. The operator of a vessel that fishes in the EEZ is responsible for ensuring that fish on board are in compliance with the size limits specified in this section. See §622.10 regarding requirements for landing fish intact.

(a) **Snapper**—
   (1) **Red snapper**—16 inches (40.6 cm), TL, for a fish taken by a person subject to the bag limit specified in §622.38(b)(3) and 13 inches (33.0 cm), TL, for a fish taken by a person not subject to the bag limit.
   (2) **Lane snapper**—8 inches (20.3 cm), TL.
   (3) **Vermilion snapper**—10 inches (25.4 cm), TL.
   (4) **Cubera, gray, and yellowtail snappers**—12 inches (30.5 cm), TL.
   (5) **Mutton snapper**—16 inches (40.6 cm), TL.

(b) **Grouper**—
   (1) **Gag**—22 inches (55.9 cm), TL.
   (2) **Red grouper**—
      (i) For a person not subject to the bag limit specified in §622.38(b)(2)—18 inches (45.7 cm), TL.
      (ii) For a person subject to the bag limit specified in §622.38(b)(2)—20 inches (50.8 cm), TL.
   (3) **Scamp**—16 inches (40.6 cm), TL.
   (4) **Yellowfin grouper**—20 inches (50.8 cm), TL.
   (5) **Black grouper**—
      (i) For a person not subject to the bag limit specified in §622.38(b)(2)—24 inches (61.0 cm), TL.
      (ii) For a person subject to the bag limit specified in §622.38(b)(2)—22 inches (55.9 cm), TL.

(c) **Other Gulf reef fish species**—
   (1) **Gray triggerfish**—14 inches (35.6 cm), fork length.
   (2) **Hogfish**—12 inches (30.5 cm), fork length.
   (3) **Banded rudderfish and lesser amberjack**—14 inches (35.6 cm), fork length (minimum size); 22 inches (55.9 cm), fork length (maximum size).
   (4) **Greater amberjack**—30 inches (76 cm), fork length, for a fish taken by a person subject to the bag limit specified in §622.38(b)(1) and 36 inches (91.4 cm), fork length, for a fish taken by a person not subject to the bag limit.

(d) A person aboard a vessel that has a Federal commercial vessel permit for Gulf reef fish and commercial quantities of Gulf reef fish, i.e., Gulf reef fish in excess of applicable bag/possession limits, may not possess any Gulf reef fish that do not comply with the applicable commercial minimum size limit.

§ 622.38 Bag and possession limits.

(a) **Additional applicability provisions for Gulf reef fish.** (1) Section 622.11(a) provides the general applicability for bag and possession limits. However, §622.11(a) 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 §622.35(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,