

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR SNAPPER GROUPER COMPLEX

1) Minor spelling errors were recently discovered so the department needs to change the scientific names of two species.

Black margate — from *Anistotremus surinamensis* to *Anisotremus surinamensis*

Smallmouth grunt — from *Haemulon chrysargeryum* to *Haemulon chrysargyreum*

2) The department would like to add the ability to adjust size and possession limits by public notice so that Maryland may implement management measures of the National Marine Fisheries Service in a timely manner.

Most of the species in this complex are managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The current regulation allows a season to be modified, but not sizes or catch limits. Allowing changes by public notice will maintain consistency with federal rules and make it easier for everyone to know the rules. Having differences in state and federal waters can be confusing and could lead to unnecessary enforcement issues. The changes would be published on the department's website at least 48 hours in advance, stating the effective hour and date. The changes will also be distributed using various other sources to reach as many people as possible.