



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

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Gulf of Mexico Commercial Grouper/Tilefish IFQ Program: Seeking Public Comment *Comment Period Ends August 18, 2008*

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) is seeking public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)/Amendment 29 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico. The DEIS evaluates the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's (Council) proposal to establish a regulatory program to reduce overcapacity and effort in the commercial grouper and tilefish fisheries. The Environmental Protection Agency announced the availability of the DEIS on July 3, 2008 (73 FR 38204).

Proposed management measures evaluated in the DEIS include implementing an individual fishing quota (IFQ) program or endorsement program. The Council's preferred alternative is to establish an IFQ program for these fisheries. IFQ program components are evaluated in the DEIS and include, but are not limited to: Initial eligibility, transferability, ownership caps, appeals, cost recovery plan, and enforcement measures. Details of the proposed IFQ program can be found in the DEIS.

Request for Comments

Written comments on this DEIS must be received no later than August 18, 2008, in order to be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service. See the **Addresses** section for information on where and how to submit comments.

Addresses

Electronic copies of the DEIS may be obtained from the NOAA Fisheries Service Web site at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>, the Council's Web site at <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>, or for a paper copy contact:

Sustainable Fisheries Division
Southeast Regional Office
NOAA Fisheries Service
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Electronic submissions: e-mail: 0648-AW85.DEIS@noaa.gov
- Fax: (727) 824-5308
- Mail: Sarah DeVido at address above

When submitting fax or e-mail comments, include the following document identifier in the comment subject line: 0648-AW85. All comments received are a part of the public record and will be posted to www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. Anonymous comments will be accepted. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

How Can We Improve These Fishery Bulletins?

If you have any suggestions on how we may improve future fishery bulletins, please contact:

Kim Amendola, Communication Specialist
Phone: 727-551-5707, FAX: 727-824-5320

E-mail: SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov

If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, please e-mail: SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov and include: (1) "Request for Electronic Fishery Bulletins" in the subject line and (2) your preferred e-mail address in the body of the e-mail.