



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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REMINDER TO COMMERCIAL RED SNAPPER FISHERMEN REGARDING ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED INDIVIDUAL FISHING QUOTA (IFQ) PROGRAM

NOAA Fisheries Service would like to remind Class 1 and Class 2 Gulf red snapper license holders that if the Secretary of Commerce approves the IFQ program, initial eligibility determinations would be made upon publication of the final rule to implement the IFQ program. The IFQ program is proposed in Amendment 26 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico (Amendment 26). Public comment period on the proposed rule and on Amendment 26 has ended. The Secretary of Commerce must make a decision to approve, disapprove, or partially approve Amendment 26 by October 28, 2006. If Amendment 26 is approved, the final rule is expected to publish shortly after the Secretary's decision.

Eligibility for Initial IFQ Allocation:

To be eligible as an initial IFQ shareholder, a person must own a Class 1 or Class 2 license as of the date of publication of the final rule implementing Amendment 26. After that date, NOAA Fisheries Service will not transfer a Class 1 or Class 2 license.

Ownership:

An owner of a license is defined as the person who actually controls transfer of Class 1 or Class 2 license and is listed as the qualifier on the face of the license.

For a complete description of the proposed regulatory changes, please obtain a copy of the proposed rule from NOAA Fisheries Service at the above address. Electronic copies of the proposed rule may be obtained from the *Federal Register* web site at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>.

NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management, and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

In 2007 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, celebrates 200 years of science and service to the nation. From the establishment of the Survey of the Coast in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson to the formation of the Weather Bureau and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in the 1870s, much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 60 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.