



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER INDIVIDUAL FISHING QUOTA PROGRAM USEFUL INFORMATION

NOAA Fisheries Service has received many helpful comments on the Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program since its implementation in January 2007. We would like to thank you for that information and, as a result, we are actively addressing your suggestions to improve the program's efficiency and communication. Thus, this fishery bulletin will clarify:

- 3-Hour Landing Notification Requirement
- IFQ 3-Hour Notification Answering Service
- Required Elements of a 3-Hour Landing Notification
- Alternative Communication Methods for 3-Hour Notification
- Landing and Offloading Requirements
- Answers to IFQ Program Questions
- How to Register your 3-Hour Notification Landing Location
- 3-Hour Landing Notification Script

3-Hour Landing Notification Requirement

The 3-hour notification requirement is intended to provide law enforcement officers the opportunity to be present at the point of landing so they can monitor and enforce red snapper requirements dockside.

IFQ allocation holders must report a vessel landing notification at least 3 hours, but no more than twelve hours, prior to any landing. To make a 3-hour notification, the IFQ allocation holder must call **1-866-425-7627** and follow the prompts for IFQ 3-Hour notification.

If the fisher has already made a 3-hour notification and there is a change in the proposed **landing time** or **location**, the fisher must notify the IFQ 3-Hour Notification answering service and report a new landing notification.

IFQ 3-Hour Notification Answering Service

We understand that reporting the 3-hour notification has been challenging. We are working to resolve this issue.

As a result, we have revised the telephone script and reduced the number of questions that you will be asked by the operator. Please see the attached script on page 4 of this document. This script shows step by step the questions you will be asked and the information you will need to provide during your call. *This is the only information you will be asked when calling the 3-Hour Notification Answering Service.*

The sole responsibility of this answering service is to record your 3-hour vessel landing notifications and they can be reached at 1-866-425-7627.

Required Elements of a 3-Hour Landing Notification

The caller **MUST** have the following information available to complete a 3-hour notification. The operator cannot issue a confirmation number if the caller does not provide all of this information. To assist you in providing this information to the IFQ answering service, please see the attached script on page 4 of this document.

- 1) **Vessel identification** – The caller must provide the name of the vessel, the vessel's U.S. Coast Guard documentation number, or the state registration number. This information is on the commercial reef fish permit issued to the vessel.
- 2) **Dealer's business name** – The caller must provide the name of the business to whom the fisher (IFQ allocation holder) proposes to sell the red snapper.
- 3) **Physical location for the landing** – NOAA Fisheries Service has a list of registered landing locations, including the address, city, and state. If your landing location is on the registered list, please indicate this to the operator. The operator will be able to locate the landing location by city state, and location name. If the caller provides a landing location that is not identified on this registered list, the caller must provide as much detail as they can, including the address, city, and state of the landing. **This specific landing location information MUST be provided to receive a confirmation number.**

If the fisher intends to land at more than one location, the fisher must make a separate 3-hour notification for each landing location. The landing location information must be provided so that law enforcement officers have the opportunity to be present at the point of landing so they can monitor and enforce red snapper requirements dockside.

If you would like to add a landing location to the registered list, please see page 3 of this document for instructions. Registering your landing location will be beneficial to you because the operator should be able to record your 3-hour notification more efficiently.

- 4) **Time of Arrival** – The caller must provide an estimated time of arrival at the landing location including the time zone of the landing location.

Alternative Communication Methods for 3-Hour Notification

NOAA Fisheries Service is aware of the limitations to the current call-in requirements, and is evaluating alternative methods of communication. We are working to enable commercial red snapper fishermen to complete their 3-hour notification via the IFQ Program Web site and vessel monitoring system (VMS). Ultimately, the agency would like to automate notification in such a way that the data fishermen provide via any of these methods would be transmitted electronically into the IFQ program database. However, delays in developing an interactive voice recorder (IVR) system and a VMS/IFQ program interface have limited notification methods, necessitating the temporary use of a telephone answering service to provide 24-7 support for 3-hour notification calls.

If necessary, the fisher should consider alternative communication systems to make contact with IFQ 3-Hour Notification answering service, including satellite telephone or by placing the phone call through a marine operator via radio devices (e.g., VHF or SSB).

Landing and Offloading Requirements

Some program participants have noted that two landing and offloading requirements of the IFQ program are inconsistent with the intended regulatory effect.

First, the intent of the 3-hour landing notification is to provide law enforcement officers the opportunity to be present at the time of landing. However, the current definition of “landing” means - to land the vessel and offload IFQ red snapper. Therefore, when fishers report their time of landing, they also are reporting the time

they intend to offload. The time fishers can offload their catch was not intended to be restricted by the 3-hour notification requirement, but by the 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. time restriction. Therefore, we are working to modify the regulatory text so the term landing is redefined in a way that removes any reference to “offloading”.

Second, the regulations referring to the 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. time restriction include both the terms landing and offloading. This means that both landing and offloading can only occur between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. The intent of this requirement is to restrict only offloading of IFQ red snapper to the 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. time period, not to restrict landing the vessel to that time frame. Therefore, we are working to modify regulatory text to restrict only “offloading” to the hours of 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and to allow vessels to land anytime, provided the requirements for the 3-hour notification have been met. Offloading between 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. is required so that law enforcement officers can monitor and enforce red snapper requirements dockside.

These regulatory changes would provide program participants greater flexibility in their operations without substantially impacting the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts.

Please Note: These changes cannot be done without an official change to the regulation. We are currently working on changing these regulations. However, there is not a specific date when these changes will become effective, thus NOAA Fisheries Service will notify all red snapper IFQ participants when this change is effective via another fishery bulletin.

Answers to IFQ Program Questions

If you have a customer service inquiry, please call **1-866-425-7627** and follow the prompts for IFQ customer support. Customer service calls will be answered from 8:00a.m. to 4:30p.m., Eastern time, Monday to Friday, excluding federal holidays. Any message left after hours, on weekends, or holidays will be addressed during normal working hours. **Please do not leave a 3-hour notification on the answering machine.**

NOAA Fisheries Service has recently updated several items on the IFQ website, including the "Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the IFQ Program" and the IFQ User Manual. For more details regarding any of the information presented in this bulletin, please visit the IFQ web site, <https://ifq.sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>, or contact IFQ Customer Support at 1-866-425-7627 or email SER-IFQ.Support@noaa.gov.

How to Register Your 3-Hour Notification Landing Location:

If you would like to add your landing location to this list, please email SER-IFQ.Support@noaa.gov. Once the landing location has been approved by NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement, the location will be added to the list of registered landing locations. Registering your landing location will make the 3-hour notification process easier for you because the operator will be able to identify the location by city, state and landing name.

Again, thank you for the helpful comments and suggestions on the Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper IFQ program. Please continue to let us know of other suggestions in the future.

Registered Landing Locations

3-G Enterprises; Hwy 1; Leeville, LA
Allen C. Williams Seafood; 720 South C St; Pensacola, FL
Angelo's Seafood Restaurant; 9 Mashas Sands Rd; Panacea, FL
Caleb Haley & Co.; 1155 Marshall St; Cameron, FL
Captain Tom's Seafood; 5570 Holsworth Dr # 3; Palacios, FL
Capt. Mark's Seafood Dock; 603 W. 2nd St; Freeport, TX
Charlie's Fish House, 201 NW 5th St, Crystal River, FL
Clark Seafood Company Inc.; 4404 Clark St; Pascagoula, MS
Colorado River Seafood; FM 2031 #189; Matagorda, TX
Dean Blanchard Seafood; 195 Cypress Lane; Grand Isle, LA
Domino Seafood; 1311 4th St; Turning Basin #2; Palacios, TX
Dunedin marina; North Wall; 51 Main St; Dunedin, FL
Fisherman's Coop; Hwy 98; Destin, FL
Frenchy's Seafood; 419 East Shore Dr; Clearwater Beach, FL
Galveston Yacht Basin "A", "B", "C", "D", "Other" Dock; 715 N. Holiday Dr; Galveston, TX
Greg Abrams Seafood; 234 E Beach Dr; Panama City, FL
Griffin's; 24225 Hwy 1; Leeville, LA
Harbor Docks Inc.; 538 Highway 98; Destin, FL
JBS Shrimp Company; 420 Bigelow/Conn Brown Harbor; Aransas Pass, TX
Katie's Seafood Market; 1902 Wharf Rd/Pier 19; Galveston, TX
Kingfish International, Inc (Kingfish); 703 Champion St; Port Isabel, TX
Leonard Baggett Seafood; 315 Matagorda Dr - Dock "A12"; Port Mansfield, TX
Liberty Seafood Dock; 7th St and Wharf Rd - Pier 7; Galveston, TX
Light House Marina; 5325 N Lagoon Dr; Panama City Beach, FL
Miller and Son Seafood; 294 Marshall St; Cameron, LA
Milt's Seafood Plant Inc; 1414 7th St; Port Bolivar, TX
M L Seafood; 1014 Desoto Ave; Dauphin Island, AL
Northwest Seafood; 6615 Riverside Dr; Yankeetown, FL
Payco Marina; 501 Blume Dr; Galveston, TX
Pelican Point Seafood; 937 Dodecanese Blvd; Tarpon Springs, FL
Perdido Bay Seafood; 13506 Perido Key Dr; Pensacola, FL
Port of Hudson; 14333 Crabtrap Ct; Hudson, FL
Safe Harbour Seafood; 5822 Heritage Circle; Bon Secour, AL
Sampson & Sons Seafood; Pier 20 20th and Wharf Rd; Galveston, TX
Sharkco Seafood; 707 Jump Basin Rd; Venice, LA
St Andrews Marina, Pier 90; 3151 W 10th St; Panama City, FL
Texas Gulf Seafood Inc.; 7th St and Wharf Rd - Pier 7; Galveston, TX
The Moorings Marina; 1000 NW Ave A; Carrabelle, FL
Tommy's Gulf Seafood; 3939 Martin Luther King Jr. Pkwy; Port Arthur, TX
Triangle Fisheries; 13613 Gulf Blvd; St Petersburg, FL
USA Fish; 184 Davis Rd; Cameron, LA
Water Street Seafood; 391 Market St; Apalachicola, FL

GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER 3-HOUR LANDING NOTIFICATION SCRIPT

For your convenience we have provided the following script to assist you in completing your 3-hour vessel landing notification. You may use the completed worksheet to refer to when calling 1-866-425-7627 to report your landing notification. This is the only information you will be asked when calling the 3-Hour Notification Answering Service.

VESSEL NAME

Operator: What is your vessel's name?

Fisher: My vessel name is _____.

Fisher Instructions: If the operator is having trouble locating your vessel name, spell the name of your vessel. If you cannot give the operator your vessel name, you can give the operator the vessel's official number.

VESSEL OFFICIAL NUMBER (skip this step if you gave the operator your vessel name)

Operator: What is your vessel's official number?

Fisher: My vessel number is _____.

Fisher Instructions: This is the coast guard documentation or state registration number as listed on the side of your vessel.

DEALER BUSINESS NAME

Operator: What is the business name of the dealer to whom you will be selling your fish?

Fisher: The dealer to whom I will be selling my fish is _____.

Fisher Instructions: Please use the business name, not personal name. (For example: Use John's Fish House rather than John Doe.)

CITY AND STATE OF LANDING LOCATION

Operator: What is the city and state where you will be landing your vessel?

Fisher: I will be landing in _____.

Fisher Instructions: Please give the city and state where you will be tying your vessel to the dock.

NAME OF LANDING LOCATION (For example, the name of a marina, dealer facility, or dock)

Operator: Are you landing at _____?

Fisher: Yes or No

Fisher Instructions: If the place you are landing has been registered, the operator will be able to identify this location in the system. Please see if your landing location is on the list of registered locations identified on page 3 of this bulletin (the other side of this page). If the location you are landing at is not on the registered list, you will have to give the specific name and address of your location.

ADDRESS OF LANDING LOCATION (skip this step if your landing location is in the registered list)

Operator: What is the address of your landing location?

Fisher: The address where I will be landing is _____.

DATE AND TIME OF LANDING

Operator: What time will you be at the dock? Is this today or tomorrow? Is this Eastern or Central time?

Fisher Instructions: Please provide the operator with this information.