



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

NOAA/NMFS/SERO Permits Office
Toll-Free: (877) 376-4877
(727) 824-5326, FAX (727) 551-5747
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 14, 2008
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NEW TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER AND OTHER CHANGES ANNOUNCED FOR NOAA FISHERIES SOUTHEAST PERMITS OFFICE

New Toll-Free Telephone Number and Automatic Answering of Calls Received

The Southeast Regional Office (SERO) of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service advises constituents that a new TOLL-FREE telephone number and other changes are now effective for the Permits Office. The new toll-free telephone number for the Permits office is

Permits Toll-Free: (877) 376-4877

Please note, the regular business telephone number is still active and callers also may contact the Permits Office by dialing **(727) 824-5326**.

Incoming calls on both the toll-free and regular business lines will be greeted by an automatic answering system. By using the menu provided below, callers are directed to the appropriate party for a response. All calls are recorded for quality assurance purposes.

The menu selections for the new automated answering system are:

1. Find out the SERO Permits Office mailing address and operating hours.
2. Transfer to the red snapper IFQ customer support line to
 - Submit a 3-hour notification of landings;
 - Obtain assistance with IFQ account;
 - Obtain information about IFQ program;
 - Submit a VMS declaration; or
 - Obtain assistance with VMS Program requirements.
3. Speak with a Permits Office representative.
4. Access the staff directory or enter a permit staff extension.
5. Leave a message for later response by the Permits Office.

New Fees for Floy Tags

Beginning January 1, 2008, the cost for Floy tags will increase to \$1.50 for each tag. By federal regulations,

these tags are required for each sea bass pot deployed in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the South Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery. Tags may be ordered on the annual vessel application. Vessels deploying sea bass pots in the EEZ must have a valid commercial South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper permit issued for that vessel and possessed on board.

Check on Status of Applications for Permits and Renewals

Applicants can now check on the status of the processing of their applications for dealer and vessel permits on the SERO Web site. This information, including tables listing current holders of vessel and dealer permits, can be accessed from the SERO Web page for the "**Constituency Services Branch (Permits):**"

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/permits/permits.htm>

Three tables are listed at the bottom of that Web page under "**Additional Links:**"

List of Current Permit Holders Vessel Application Status Dealer Application Status

Names and addresses of current holders of dealer and vessel permits are listed specifically by Gulf, South Atlantic, and highly migratory species (HMS) fishery. Application status is listed by vessel number (U.S. Coast Guard Documentation or state registration) or dealer name, respectively. These tables are updated on a daily basis.

Landings and Catch History Data

Landings data for many vessels commercially fishing in the southeast EEZ that have submitted logbook data to the Science and Research Director (SRD) may be available and requested from NOAA Fisheries Service. A form requesting catch history data is available and can be downloaded from the Web site listed below:
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/permits/permits.htm>

Landings data are considered confidential under the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act and are made available only to the owner of the permit at the time of the catch. A permit holder or corporate officer specified in the articles of incorporation, or a court-appointed legal representative/guardian may request catch history data and, if desired, specify that the landings be released and sent to a new owner, prospective buyer, or another entity.

How Can We Improve These Fishery Bulletins?

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

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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 us at: 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. You will still receive a print copy of these bulletins through the mail.

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