



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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

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April 3, 2008
FB08-020

NOAA Fisheries Service Seeking Public Comments on Proposed Rule to Transfer Management Authority of Atlantic Red Drum

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) is seeking public comment on a proposed rule to withdraw the Atlantic Coast Red Drum Fishery Management Plan implemented under the Magnuson Steven Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and implement the management measures for Atlantic red drum under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (Atlantic Coastal Act). The purpose of this proposed action is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of managing Atlantic coast red drum. The proposed rule was published in the *Federal Register* on April 3, 2008, NOAA Fisheries Service is accepting comments through May 5, 2008.

Currently, the red drum fishery off the South Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic coastal states is managed under two separate Fishery Management Plans (FMP). The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) manages red drum in federal waters under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) manages red drum in state waters.

This proposed action is unrelated to the recent Executive Order designating red drum a game fish species in federal waters of the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Through this proposed rule the Council and the Commission seek to withdraw the Council's FMP and establish comparable regulations under the Atlantic Coastal Act.

The transfer of management authority is intended to reduce management costs and unnecessary duplication of management efforts. Under the Atlantic Coastal Act, the existing harvest and possession prohibition in federal waters will continue to be enforced by the NOAA Fisheries Service and the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Secretary of Commerce will continue to have regulatory authority over red drum in federal waters.

Request for Comments

Written comments on this proposed rule must be received no later than 5 p.m., Eastern time, on May 5,

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 proposed rule may be obtained from the Federal Register Web site at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. Copies of the Environmental Assessment and and/or the proposed rule may be found on the NOAA Fisheries Service Web site at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>, or obtained from:

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

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Electronic Submissions: Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://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 business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA Fisheries Service will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.
- Mail: Kate Michie
NOAA Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
Sustainable Fisheries Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
- Fax: 727-824-5308, Attention: Kate Michie

How Can We Improve These Fishery Bulletins?

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

Kim Amendola, Communications 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, **E-mail:** sero.communications.comments@noaa.gov and include: "Request for Electronic Fishery Bulletins" in the subject line and your preferred e-mail address in the body of the e-mail. You will still receive a hard copy of these bulletins through the mail.

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