



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FB08-039

Extended Comment Period on Shrimp Bycatch Reduction Device Proposed Rule

On June 3, 2008, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) began accepting public comment on proposed changes regarding the use of bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery. In summary, NOAA Fisheries Service proposes to:

- Decertify the Expanded Mesh BRD.
- Decertify the Gulf Fisheye BRD.
- Establish a more restrictive placement for the Fisheye BRD.

The intent of this proposed rule is to improve bycatch reduction in the shrimp fishery and better meet the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

At the request of the shrimp industry, the comment period for this proposed rule has been extended through **August 6, 2008**.

Dates and Addresses

Written comments on these proposed changes must be received no later than 5 p.m., Eastern time, **August 6, 2008**. You may submit comments, identified by 0648-AV14, by any one of the following methods:

- Electronic Submissions: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>
- Fax: 727-824-5308, Attn: Steve Branstetter
- Mail: Steve Branstetter, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701.

Instructions: All comments received are a 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.

The proposed rule is available via the Internet at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html> (do an advanced search under proposed rules for "page 31669" or "0648-AV14"). Printed or electronic copies of the rule can be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office by contacting Steve Branstetter (see address above).

Comments received by **August 6, 2008**, will be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service in its decision to approve, disapprove, or partially approve the proposed actions. Comments received after that date will not be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service in this decision. All comments received by NOAA Fisheries Service will be addressed in the final rule.

This bulletin provides only a summary of the information regarding the proposed rule. Any discrepancies between this bulletin and the proposed rule published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

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, 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.