



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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## NOAA Requests Submission of Landing Locations for Current and Proposed Gulf of Mexico Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Programs

In January 2009, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council submitted Amendment 29 to the Fishery Management Plan for Reef Fish Resources in the Gulf of Mexico to establish an IFQ program for groupers and tilefishes in the Gulf of Mexico. If the amendment is approved, the new IFQ program would be implemented January 1, 2010. The rule implementing this new program would also make changes to the red snapper IFQ program. One change would be to require pre-approval by NOAA Fisheries Service's Office for Law Enforcement (OLE) of all landing locations for both IFQ programs.

In anticipation of this potential requirement, NOAA Fisheries Service is encouraging current and potential IFQ participants to submit additional landing locations now for pre-approval. Landing locations can be submitted by calling or e-mailing IFQ Customer Service at any time (see contact information above). A list of currently approved landing locations for the red snapper IFQ program can be found at the red snapper IFQ Web site ([ifq.sero.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://ifq.sero.nmfs.noaa.gov)); however, some landing locations currently in use may not meet the proposed requirements (see below).

### Additional Information

Pre-approval of landing locations would be required only if Amendment 29 is approved by the Secretary of Commerce and a final rule becomes effective. Currently, participants in the red snapper IFQ program may choose, but are not required, to submit landing locations to OLE for approval. Under the proposed regulations, only pre-approved landing locations would be legal for landing IFQ species.

If the requirement is implemented, starting January 1, 2010, new landing locations would be approved only at the end of each calendar-year quarter. To have a landing location approved by the end of the calendar-year quarter, it would have to be submitted at least 45 days before the end of the calendar-year quarter. Landing

locations could be submitted by the current methods, or in the future via the IFQ Web site.

Pre-approved landing locations would have to be publicly accessible by land and water and have a street address. If a particular landing location has no street address on record, global positioning system (GPS) coordinates for an identifiable geographic location must be provided. Other criteria may also be used by OLE when approving locations.

Landing locations that have been approved for use in the red snapper IFQ program will automatically be approved for use on January 1, 2010, if they meet these criteria. Some currently approved locations, for example those at private addresses, are not considered publicly accessible and would no longer be legal for landing IFQ species.

Updates to the landing notification screen on vessel monitoring system (VMS) units are constrained by programming requirements. Therefore, pre-approved landing locations may not appear on the VMS screen until some time after approval. The locations will be available when making a notification by phone or online.

For more information on the potential grouper and tilefish IFQ program and the proposed changes to the red snapper IFQ program, please read the frequently asked questions at the Southeast Regional Office Web site at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/Amendment29.htm>.

### 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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If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, e-mail us at: [SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov).