



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

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FB09-038

NOAA Seeking Public Comment on Proposed Rule Changes to the South Atlantic Rock Shrimp Fishery

NOAA Fisheries Service is seeking public comment on a proposed rule for the South Atlantic rock shrimp fishery. The proposed rule published in the *Federal Register* on June 24, 2009 (74 FR 30034). The public comment period ends on **July 24, 2009**.

According to the Deepwater Shrimp Advisory Panel (AP), the rock shrimp fishery has changed since limited access endorsements were first required. The fleet dynamics have changed due to economic factors including fluctuating fuel prices and operating expenses, and imported shrimp products. To address issues raised by the AP, the Council developed Amendment 7 to the South Atlantic Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.

Amendment 7 proposes to:

- Remove the requirement for vessels with limited access rock shrimp endorsements to land 15,000 pounds of rock shrimp in one of four consecutive calendar years.
- Reinstate all endorsements lost due to not meeting the landing requirement.
- Reinstate all limited access endorsements for those vessel owners who renewed their open access permit in the year in which they failed to renew their limited access endorsement.
- Rename the limited access endorsement and the open access permit of the existing permit system to Rock Shrimp Permit (South Atlantic EEZ), and Rock Shrimp Permit (Carolinas Zone), respectively.
- Require all South Atlantic rock and penaeid shrimp permit holders to provide economic data if selected.

A currently valid permit or endorsement would be replaced with the appropriate new permit without the necessity of an application from a vessel owner. However, a renewal application would be required for a permit or endorsement that expired during the implementation period. Such renewal would be for the appropriate new permit. No transfers of existing endorsements would be allowed after the date that is 30 days after the effective date of the final rule implementing Amendment 7 for approximately two and one-half months. After implementation, the old permits and endorsements would not be valid, and transfers of the new permit would be allowed according to the regulations.

Request for Comments

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. To submit comments enter "NOAA-NMFS-2008-0319" in the keyword search and then check the box "send a comment or submission." Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

• Mail: Susan Gerhart, Southeast Regional Office, NOAA Fisheries Service, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701.

Amendment 7 can be found at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>. The proposed rule is also available via the Internet at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. Printed or electronic copies of the rule and Amendment 7 can be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office by contacting Susan Gerhart (see address above).

Comments must be received by July 24, 2009, to be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service in its decision on the final rule. All comments received by NOAA Fisheries Service specific to the proposed rule will be addressed in the final rule.

This bulletin provides only a summary of the information pertinent to the rule. Any discrepancies between this bulletin and the rule as 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
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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. You will still receive a hard copy of these bulletins through the mail.

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