



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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

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NOAA ANNOUNCES THE FOUR MONTH CLOSURE OF “THE EDGES” TO PROTECT GAG AND OTHER GROUPERS DURING SPAWNING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

NOAA Fisheries Service published a final rule implementing new regulations closing the area known as “The Edges” in the Gulf of Mexico from January 1 through April 30. The final rule published in the *Federal Register* on June 24, 2009 (74 FR 30001).

All commercial and recreational fishing or possession of fish managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will be prohibited in the closed area. Possession will be allowed when transiting the area if gear is stowed in accordance with federal regulations. The boundaries of the closed area are within lines drawn between the following coordinates:

- Northwest corner = 28° 51’N, 85° 16’W
- Northeast corner = 28° 51’N, 85° 04’W
- Southwest corner = 28° 14’N, 84° 54’W
- Southeast corner = 28° 14’N, 84° 42’W

The intent of the closure is to protect gag and other groupers during their respective spawning seasons. This measure is outlined in Amendment 30B to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico submitted by the Council.

Copies of the final rule are available by contacting NOAA Fisheries Service’s Southeast Regional Office at 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701. The final rule can be obtained in electronic form from the *Federal Register* Web site:

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>

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. You will still receive a hard copy of these bulletins through the mail.

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

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