



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 Rule Changes to the South Atlantic Rock Shrimp Fishery *Small Entity Compliance Guide*

On August 19, 2009, NOAA Fisheries Service approved Amendment 7 addressing new commercial regulations for South Atlantic rock shrimp. A final rule implementing these regulations published in the *Federal Register* on October 1, 2009. The rule makes changes to the regulations for rock shrimp fishing in the South Atlantic including issuance of new permits.

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 South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council developed Amendment 7 to the South Atlantic Shrimp Fishery Management Plan and its implementing rule.

Elements of the rule:

- 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.
- Reissue all endorsements lost due to not meeting the landing requirement.
- Reissue 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, to allow NOAA Fisheries Service to conduct analyses and fully understand how proposed management measures will impact shrimp fishermen and dealers.

New permits for all rock shrimp fishers will be required beginning January 27, 2010.

In early January, a currently valid permit or endorsement will be replaced with the appropriate newly named permit without the necessity of an application from a vessel owner. However, if a permit will expire before January 26, 2010, an application for renewal must be submitted within 1 year of the expiration date in order to receive a replacement permit. For those vessel owners who renewed their open access permit in the year in which they failed to renew their limited access endorsement, a new application must be submitted for issuance of a Rock Shrimp Permit (South Atlantic EEZ).

No transfers of existing rock shrimp endorsements will be allowed between November 2, 2009, and January 27, 2010.

A complete transfer package, including the signed and notarized permit and supporting documents, must be received by the NOAA Fisheries Permits Office by November 1, 2009. After January 27, 2010, the old permits and endorsements will not be valid, and transfers of the new permit will be allowed according to the regulations.

NOAA Fisheries Service will collect economic data from a random sample of shrimpers each year.

The sample will be drawn from a combined group of Gulf moratorium shrimp permit holders, South Atlantic rock shrimp permit holders, and South Atlantic penaeid shrimp permit holders. Requested data will include, but not be limited to, vessel identification, gear, effort, amount of shrimp caught by species, shrimp condition (heads on/heads off), fishing areas and depths, and person to whom sold.

This bulletin serves as a Small Entity Compliance Guide, complying with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.

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> (use advanced search for final rules using "AW19" as a keyword).

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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