



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

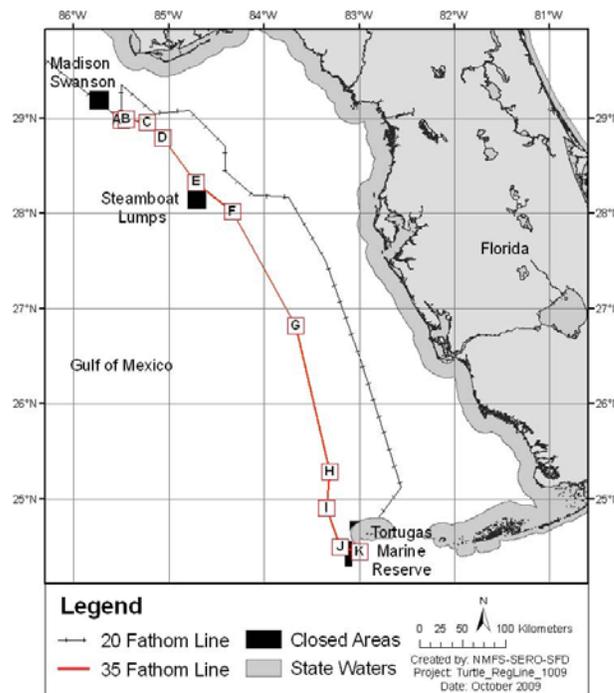
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REMINDER TO REEF FISH LONGLINE FISHERMEN ABOUT FISHING IN AND TRANSITING EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO WATERS

NOAA Fisheries Service would like to remind reef fish longline fishermen about rules regarding fishing in and transiting the Gulf of Mexico exclusive economic zone (EEZ) east of 85° 30' West longitude (eastern Gulf). Current regulations prohibit bottom longlining for reef fish in the eastern Gulf shoreward of the line approximating the 35-fathom depth contour (see map and table). In addition, a reef fish-permitted vessel in the eastern Gulf EEZ fishing bottom longline gear or with bottom longline gear on board cannot possess more than a total of 1,000 hooks of which no more than 750 hooks can be rigged for fishing at any given time. For the purpose of this paragraph, "hooks rigged for fishing" means hooks attached to a line or other device capable of attaching to the mainline of the longline. If the vessel has reef fish on board, the longline gear must be appropriately stowed when transiting EEZ waters of the eastern Gulf shoreward of 35 fathoms. For the purposes of this paragraph, "appropriately stowed" means that a longline may be left on the drum if all gangions and hooks are disconnected and stowed below deck; hooks cannot be baited; and all buoys must be disconnected from the gear but may remain on deck.



Need more information on these topics?
 Southeast Regional Office's Web page:
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

Waypoint	Longitude West	Latitude North
	Degree Decimal Minute	Degree Decimal Minute
A	85°30.00'	28°58.70'
B	85°26.70'	28°59.25'
C	85°13.80'	28°57.00'
D	85°03.90'	28°47.40'
E	84°43.00'	28°19.50'
F	84°20.00'	28°00.80'
G	83°40.00'	26°48.80'
H	83°19.00'	25°17.00'
I	83°21.00'	24°54.00'
J	83°12.30'	24°29.50'
K	83°00.00'	24°26.50'