



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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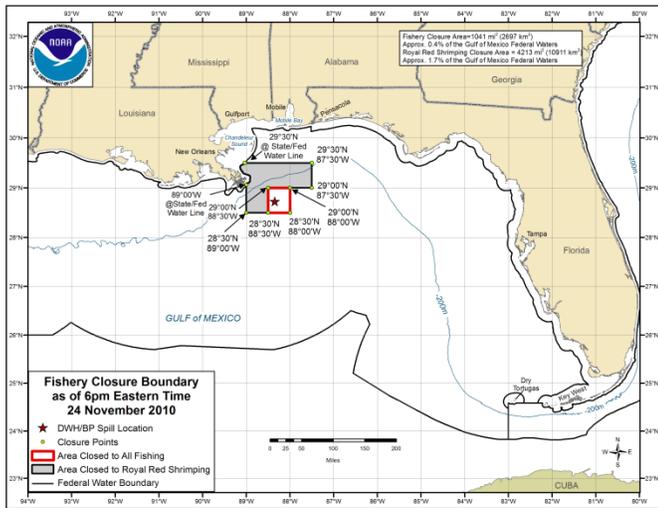
BP Oil Spill: NOAA Closes Federal Waters to Royal Red Shrimp Fishing

Effective **November 24, 2010 at 6 p.m. eastern time** (5 p.m. central time), NOAA will close 4,213 square miles (10,911 sq km) of area **to royal red shrimp fishing only**. This area had previously opened to all commercial and recreational fishing, and fishing for finfish or penaeid shrimp species is still allowed (see grey area of the map below).

On Saturday, November 20, 2010, NOAA received a report from a fisherman who caught tarballs while trawling for royal red shrimp. NOAA is taking this report seriously and is testing samples of his catch. Additionally, vessels will be sent out as soon as possible to collect more samples. Royal red shrimp are caught in waters deeper than 100 fathoms and are the only species targeted with shrimp trawls at this depth.

NOAA's primary concerns are public safety and ensuring the integrity of the Gulf's seafood supply. So far, no one has reported any oil- or dispersant-tainted seafood entering the market. Fishermen or consumers who encounter what they believe to be tainted seafood should immediately call FDA at 1-888-INFO-FDA, or the Unified Command headquarters at 713-323-1670.

The area closed to all fishing is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following coordinates:



Map Link:

http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/deepwater_horizon/BP_OilSpill_FisheryClosureMap_112410.pdf

On November 15, 2010, NOAA opened an 8,403 square mile (21,764 sq km) area previously closed to fishing due to the BP/Deepwater Horizon oil spill. This decision was based on analysis of 286 finfish samples for sensory analysis and 207 finfish samples in 33 composites for chemical analysis. NOAA also analyzed 55 shrimp samples (royal red and penaeid species) for sensory analysis and 50 shrimp samples in 9 composites for chemical analysis. Sensory testing showed no detectable oil or dispersant odors or flavors in the samples, and the results of chemical analysis were well below levels of concern for oil.

North latitude	West longitude
29° 00'	88° 30'
29° 00'	88° 00'
28° 30'	88° 00'
28° 30'	88° 30'

The area closed to royal red fishing only is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following coordinates:

North latitude	West longitude
29° 30'	At the state/federal line
29° 30'	87° 30'
29° 00'	87° 30'
29° 00'	88° 30'
28° 30'	88° 30'
28° 30'	89° 00'
At the state/federal line	89° 00'
Follow the state/federal water line easterly to beginning point	

Reminders

Modeling and mapping the actual and projected spill area is not an exact science. NOAA Fisheries Service strongly advises fishermen not to fish in areas where oil or oil sheens (very thin layers of floating oil) are present, even if those areas are not currently closed to fishing.

If state waters are closed to fishing due to the oil spill, all vessels must comply with that closure. If state waters

are not closed to fishing due to the oil spill, federally permitted vessels may fish in those waters while abiding by all other applicable regulations.

Permit holders are reminded to maintain their federal vessel permits by submitting timely reporting requirements and renewal applications, even if the vessel is not currently engaged in fishing activities.

Ways to Receive Closure Information:

- Sign up for Southeast Fishery Bulletins: send an email to: SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov
- Call 1-800-627-NOAA (1-800-627-6622) to hear a recording of the current coordinates (with messages in Spanish and Vietnamese)
- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio for updates
- Follow us on Twitter: usnoaagov to get a tweet when the closed area changes

Links for more information:

Southeast Regional Office's Web page:

http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/deepwater_horizon_oil_spill.htm

NOAA's National Ocean Service

<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov>

Deepwater Horizon Response

<http://www.restorethegulf.gov/>