



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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NOAA Reminds Fishermen of the “THE EDGES” Area Closure Prohibiting Fishing from January 1 through April 30, and Other Area Closures

NOAA Fisheries Service reminds fishermen that the area known as “The Edges” in the Gulf of Mexico is closed to all fishing from **January 1 through April 30** each year. All commercial and recreational fishing or possession of fish managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is prohibited in the closed area. Possession is allowed when transiting the area if gear is stowed in accordance with federal regulations. The intent of the closure is to protect gag and other groupers during their respective spawning seasons.

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

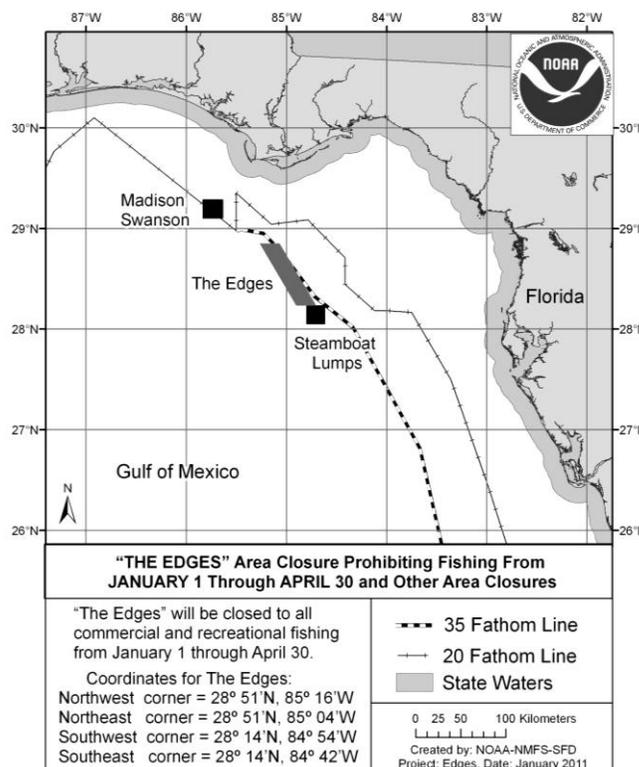
NOAA Fisheries Service also reminds fishermen of other closed areas in the same region as “The Edges.” These sites, Madison and Swanson and Steamboat Lumps marine reserves were implemented in 2000 to also protect gag and other grouper species. They are closed year round to reef fish fishing, but fishing for species other than reef fish is allowed in these areas from May through October. Possession of fish species prohibited from harvest in either area is only allowed aboard a vessel in transit with fishing gear stowed in accordance to federal regulations. The boundaries of the marine reserves are within lines drawn between the following coordinates:

Madison and Swanson

- Northwest corner = 29°17'N, 85°50'W
- Northeast corner = 29°17'N, 85°38'W
- Southwest corner = 29°06'N, 85°50'W
- Southeast corner = 29°06'N, 85°38'W

Steamboat Lumps

- Northwest corner = 28°14'N, 84°48'W
- Northeast corner = 28°14'N, 84°37'W
- Southwest corner = 28°03'N, 84°48'W
- Southeast corner = 28°03'N, 84°37'W



MapLink:

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/pdfs/TheEdges.pdf>

If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, please e-mail us at SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov.

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*.