



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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

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FB13-015

NOAA Fisheries Requests Public Comments on Actions to Improve South Atlantic Penaeid Shrimp Management (Comment Period Ends May 3, 2013)

NOAA Fisheries requests public comments on Amendment 9 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Amendment 9). Amendment 9 was approved for review by the Secretary of Commerce during the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) September 2012 meeting. The Notice of Availability for Amendment 9 published in the *Federal Register* on March 4, 2013, (78 FR 14069).

Amendment 9 Contains the Following Actions:

- Streamlining the process for a South Atlantic state to request concurrent closure of federal waters to penaeid shrimp fishing when state waters close to protect overwintering white shrimp from directed fishing pressure during cold weather events. This type of management action may accelerate recovery of the stocks, which increases summer and fall production by protecting the few remaining spawners that survive a freeze.
- Adding a °C (48° F) or below temperature threshold that could be used as a triggering criterion for states to request closures of federal waters to shrimp harvest during cold weather events, in lieu of, or in addition to, the current 80% or greater reduction in abundance of white shrimp criterion.
- Establishing a new biomass at maximum sustainable yield (B_{MSY}) proxy for pink shrimp using the most recent catch per unit effort data available. B_{MSY} is a component of the definition for overfished (the population is too small) and overfishing (individuals are being removed from the population too quickly) status determination criteria.

Request for Comments

Comments on Amendment 9 must be received no later than May 3, 2013, to be considered by NOAA Fisheries. See the Addresses section for information on where and how to submit comments.

Addresses

Electronic or hardcopies of Amendment 9 may be obtained from:

- The NOAA Fisheries Web site <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SAShrimpHomepage.htm>
- The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>.

To request a CD of Amendment 9 contact:

NOAA Fisheries
Southeast Regional Office
Sustainable Fisheries Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
Phone: (727) 824-5305

You may submit comments by the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** The Federal e-Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> (select "Submit Comment", then type in "NOAA-NMFS-2012-0227" in the "Keyword or ID" box). All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change.
- **Mail:** NOAA Fisheries
Southeast Regional Office
Sustainable Fisheries Division
c/o Kate Michie
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

NOAA Fisheries will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

Comments received through means not specified in this bulletin may not be considered.

More Information

For more information on Amendment 9 please click on this link to the Amendment 9 Frequently Asked Questions found at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SAShrimpHomepage.htm>.