



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kate Michie, or Kate.Michie@noaa.gov
727/824-5305, FAX 727/824-5308
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

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NOAA Fisheries Requests Public Comments on a Proposed Rule to Streamline the Closure Process for the Penaeid Shrimp Fishery During Cold Weather Events (Comment Period Ends April 19, 2013)

NOAA Fisheries requests public comments on proposed regulations for Amendment 9 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region. The proposed rule for Amendment 9 published in the *Federal Register* on March 20, 2013, (78 FR 17178).

The proposed rule for Amendment 9 would:

- Allow a state's request to close federal waters to penaeid shrimp (white, brown, and pink shrimp) fishing after cold weather events to be approved by the Regional Administrator, rather than first being reviewed and approved by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Shrimp Review Panel. This would speed up the closure process during periods of time when cold weather can negatively affect shrimp survival.
- Add a 9° 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.

Request for Comments

Comments on the proposed rule must be received no later than April 19, 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 the proposed rule 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>.