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Puerto Rico Commercial Snapper Unit 2 Federal Permit Program

Scoping Document May 24, 2016



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Chapter 1. Introduction and Background

1.1 What is scoping?

Scoping is the method the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Caribbean Council) uses to obtain feedback from the public regarding actions they may undertake that will result in changes to the management of federal fisheries in the U.S. Caribbean. During scoping, fishery issues are identified, management options suggested, and potential impacts explored. Scoping is the first and best opportunity for the public to make suggestions or raise issues to the Caribbean Council before a fishery management plan (FMP) or an amendment to an existing plan is developed.

1.2 How does scoping affect fisheries management?

The Caribbean Council uses comments provided through scoping in the development of management options. Once options are developed, the public hearing process will begin, and the public will have the opportunity to comment on the management alternatives under consideration based on those options. The Caribbean Council will consider your input as it deliberates and chooses the most appropriate alternatives.

Caribbean Fishery Management Council

- Responsible for conservation and management of U.S. Caribbean fish stocks (except highly migratory species, which are managed directly by the National Marine Fisheries Service).
- Consists of seven voting members:
 - Four voting members appointed by the Secretary of Commerce
 - One voting member appointed by each of the Governors of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands
 - The Regional Administrator of NMFS for the Southeast Region
- Manages the area from 3 to 200 nautical miles (nm) off the coasts of the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 9 to 200 nm off the coast of Puerto Rico.
- Develops fishery management plans and recommends regulations to NMFS for implementation on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce.

1.3 How else can I get involved?

There are many ways you can help the Caribbean Council. One way is to identify fishery management needs and develop reasonable management alternatives, each dependent on how actively involved you want to become. The first step to getting involved is to become familiar with the management process by visiting <http://www.caribbeanfmc.com/>. Contact the Caribbean Council members and staff to discuss your questions or concerns. You could attend meetings and serve on panels and committees that advise the Caribbean Council on fishery issues. For more information on how to participate, please call 787-766-5926.

1.4 What action is being proposed?

The Caribbean Council is proposing to develop a permit for the Snapper Unit 2 (SU2) fishery occurring in exclusive economic zone (EEZ) waters surrounding Puerto Rico. The fishery targets queen (*Etelis oculatus*) and cardinal (*Pristipomoides macrophthalmus*) snappers that constitute the SU2 stock complex. The fishery occurs in both state and federal waters and is an important component of Puerto Rico's commercial fishing industry. Puerto Rico has a permit in place for this fishing sector. The actions considered here are designed to enhance management in federal waters by identifying all fishery participants and ensuring full compliance with landings data submission requirements.

A federal permit also would enhance communication between managers and constituents while facilitating enforcement of state and federal fishing regulations.

Purpose for Action

The purpose of establishing a federal permit for the commercial harvest and sale of species included in the Snapper Unit 2 complex (queen snapper [*Etelis oculatus*] and cardinal snapper [*Pristipomoides macrophthalmus*]) in the exclusive economic zone surrounding Puerto Rico is to ensure effective management of this sector in federal waters.

Need for Action

The need for the action is to provide timely, effective, and efficient means to report and monitor harvest from the commercial SU2 sector, and ensure overfishing does not occur.

1.5 Where is this Project Located?

The area under consideration for this project is the EEZ off the coast of Puerto Rico, defined as the marine waters located between 9-200 nautical miles (nm) as modified by the boundaries of other states, territories, or countries.

1.6 Why is the Council Considering this Permit Program?

Recent events in Puerto Rico have raised awareness regarding the benefits of establishing a permit program for the commercial SU2 fishery operating in Puerto Rico EEZ waters. In 2012, the Caribbean Council established a 145,916 pound annual catch limit (ACL) for SU2, based on combined total harvest from Puerto Rico state and federal waters (CFMC 2011). This ACL was exceeded by 132,063 pounds (90.5 percent) based on the average of 2010-2011 commercial landings. This outcome required application of an accountability measure (AM) to reduce the length of the 2013 fishing season for SU2 in Puerto Rico EEZ waters by 102 days. Much of this overage was attributed to the entry into the fishery of a new cohort of fishers with a one-year 'beginners' commercial fishing permit. The influx of temporary fishers, and the repercussions of the resultant AM-based reduction in the harvest season, brought considerable hardship to those commercial fishers historically dependent on this resource for income.

Excessive commercial harvest of Puerto Rico's SU2 complex continues to be a problem during some years, resulting in more closures and additional hardships for Puerto Rico's fishing communities. For the queen and cardinal snapper that comprise SU2, average annual landings for 2012-2014 (the most recent three years for which data are available) were 155,889

pounds. These landings exceeded the established ACL of 145,916 pounds by almost 10,000 pounds. Continually exceeding the established ACL potentially compromises the future health of the resource. To avoid overfishing the resource, it is essential to obtain accurate landings data from the universe of participating fishers in a timely manner, thereby allowing in-season adjustment of fishing rate to ensure the allowable annual catch is not exceeded.

Overharvest of SU2 and resultant harvest closures brought to light issues with data reporting, overcapacity of the fishery, lack of control on participation, and a general need to better manage the SU2 resource in state and federal waters surrounding Puerto Rico. The commercial SU2 fishery, particularly that component of the fishery executed along the west coast of Puerto Rico, historically involves a small number of dedicated fishers. The fishery characteristically targets patchy, deep-water habitats influenced by dynamic oceanographic conditions. As a result, only a dedicated cohort of commercial fishers maintains long-term participation and consistent success in the fishery. Those fishers, identified based on past licensing and landings data, have been specifically and solely permitted by Puerto Rico's Department of Natural and Environmental Resources to harvest species in the SU2 complex from Puerto Rico's state waters. However, the Puerto Rico SU2 harvest permit does not prevent these and other fishers from harvesting SU2 species from Puerto Rico EEZ waters. The present

document considers various options for developing a similar, though not necessarily identical, permit for commercial harvest of SU2 in EEZ waters surrounding Puerto Rico.

The absence of a federal permit system for the commercial SU2 sector in the EEZ surrounding Puerto Rico contributes to the lack of adequate harvest and fishing effort information with which to manage the fishery. Establishing a federal SU2 harvest permit would enhance federal management of this sector by identifying commercial fishermen participating in the SU2 sector and guiding their participation.

Additionally, a federal permit with defined reporting requirements would facilitate reporting compliance, timeliness, and accuracy, enable better understanding of temporal and spatial harvest patterns, facilitate enforcement, and potentially enable establishment of in-season data acquisition and verification to support in-season management. These outcomes would reduce scientific and management uncertainty, thus establishing a pathway to potentially increase allowable catch and reduce the likelihood of overfishing the resource while mitigating negative impacts of management to fishing communities.

A permit system for the commercial SU2 fishery of Puerto Rico also will establish a conduit for communications between managers and commercial SU2 fishers. This conduit will enable a better understanding of the fishery by all involved, for example by facilitating discussions of the effectiveness of regulations implemented to manage

fishing activities, by deescalating negative interactions among fishing sectors, by identifying trends in the health of the resource, and by increasing awareness among constituents of outreach and education opportunities and needs.

In summary, the goals to be achieved by establishing a permit for harvesting SU2 from federal waters surrounding Puerto Rico include:

- Establish and maintain consistency across state and federal waters surrounding Puerto Rico;
- Obtain accurate, timely landings data from the universe of participating fishers;
- Identify historical participants in the fishery and guide their future participation;
- Enable better understanding of temporal and spatial harvest patterns;
- Facilitate enforcement;
- Support in-season management, reducing the likelihood of overfishing the resource and mitigating negative impacts to fishing communities;
- Establish a conduit for communications between managers and fishers, thereby enhancing understanding of the fishery by all involved, facilitating discussions of

regulatory effectiveness, deescalating negative interactions among sectors, identifying trends in resource health, and increasing awareness among constituents of outreach and education opportunities and needs.

1.7 Background

A white paper discussing various aspects of fishing permits, as they might apply in the U.S. Caribbean, was presented to the Caribbean Council at their August 2014 meeting. That paper summarized general considerations regarding the establishment of fishing permits in U.S. Caribbean EEZ waters. Following a broad overview of permits and their potential applicability in U.S. Caribbean EEZ waters, the paper discussed two specific permit opportunities, including for the commercial trap fishery of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), and for the commercial SU2 fishery of Puerto Rico.

Based on the information contained in the white paper, the Council directed staff to develop a scoping document to evaluate general concepts regarding harvest permits in the U.S. Caribbean, and to conduct scoping hearings throughout the islands of the U.S. Caribbean. Scoping hearings were held at various locations throughout Puerto

Rico, and on both St. Thomas and St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, during March 2015. Public comments obtained during those scoping hearings were presented to the Council at their April 2015 meeting. Regarding the development of a permit program for Puerto Rico's commercial SU2 fishery, comments were generally positive. Suggestions included to make the federal permit completely independent of the present state permit and to include a provision to allow federally permitted fishers to transit state waters with their catch. However, the consensus was to move forward with development of a permit program for this fishing sector. This second-generation scoping paper uses the outcomes from the initial (March 2015) scoping hearings as a start point for developing a permit program for commercial SU2 harvest in Puerto Rico's EEZ. Those outcomes, in combination with general requirements common to all of NMFS' permit programs, inform alternative options for designing this permit program. Some possible options, distributed among various organizing Actions, are listed below. They serve as a start point for public discussion of the design and implementation of this permit program. However, all aspects of the program remain open to public input and discussion. That input will strongly influence the final form of the permit program.

Chapter 2. Establish and Define the Permit

2.1 Action 1: Establish a permit to commercially harvest and sell queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Option 1: Do not require a permit for commercial harvest and sale of queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Option 2: Require a permit for commercial harvest and sale of queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

2.2 Action 2: Establish whether the permit is open access or limited access.

Option 1: Establish an open access permit for commercial harvest and sale of queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters with no limit on the number of permits that may be issued, although eligibility requirements may limit participation.

Option 2: Establish a limited access permit for commercial harvest and sale of queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters in which, following some period of eligibility, no new permits are issued. If this option is chosen, guidelines for transferring permits will need to be established.

2.3 Action 3: Designate the permit required to participate in the commercial fishery for queen and cardinal snapper in Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Option 1: Do not designate a permit for the commercial harvest of queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Option 2: Designate Puerto Rico DNER's commercial Snapper Unit 2 harvest permit as the required permit for commercial harvest of queen and cardinal snapper in Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Option 3: Designate a federal permit as the required permit for commercial queen and cardinal snapper harvest activities in Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Sub-option A: The required federal permit will be assigned to the individual fisher or to their business, and therefore valid regardless of the vessel from which the fisher is operating.

Sub-option B: The required federal permit will be assigned to a vessel and therefore valid for all licensed fishers operating from that vessel.

Option 4: Designate that either the Puerto Rico Snapper Unit 2 permit, or a separate federal commercial queen and cardinal snapper harvest permit, will serve as the required permit for commercial queen and cardinal snapper harvest activities in Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

2.4 Action 4: Designate the length of time a permit required to participate in the commercial fishery for queen and cardinal snapper in Puerto Rico EEZ waters is valid.

Option 1: Do not designate a length of time a permit for the commercial harvest of queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters is valid.

Option 2: Designate one year from the next expiration date as the length of time a permit for the commercial harvest of queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters is valid.

Option 3: Designate two years between expiration dates as the length of time a permit for the commercial harvest of queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters is valid.

Chapter 3. Application Eligibility, Requirements and Costs

3.1 Action 5: Permit eligibility

Option 1: Do not establish specific eligibility requirements for obtaining a permit to commercially harvest queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Option 2: Require the applicant for a permit to commercially harvest queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters to hold a valid license to commercially fish in U.S. EEZ waters.

Option 3: Require the applicant for a permit to commercially harvest queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters to provide proof of previous queen or cardinal snapper harvest activity during a specific period of time.

Sub-option A: Use the most recent three years of reported commercial landings of queen and/or cardinal snapper to determine eligibility.

Sub-option B: Require the fisher to provide evidence of commercial queen and/or cardinal snapper landings for at least three of the most recent five years for which landings data are available.

Sub-option C: OTHER

Option 4: Require the applicant for a permit to commercially harvest queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters to provide proof of minimum average annual landings of queen and cardinal snapper during the specific period of time identified in Option 3.

Sub-option A: Minimum reported average annual landings of 1,000 pounds whole weight.

Sub-option B: Minimum reported average annual landings of 5,000 pounds whole weight.

Sub-option C: Minimum reported average annual landings of 10,000 pounds whole weight.

Sub-option D: Minimum reported average annual landings of x pounds whole weight.

Option 5: OTHER/ALTERNATE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS?

3.2 Action 6: Application submission obligation

Option 1: Do not require the individual or business applicant to submit a federal permit application in order to obtain a permit for the commercial harvest of queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Option 2: Require the individual or business applicant to submit a federal permit application in order to obtain a permit for the commercial harvest of queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Sub-option A: Do not establish an expiration date for the federal permit to commercially harvest queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters-a permit is valid until surrendered by the holder.

Sub-option B: Establish an expiration date for the federal permit to commercially harvest queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Sub-sub-option i: Establish the applicants birth date (incorporation date) as the expiration date of the individuals (business') permit to commercially harvest queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Sub-sub-option ii: Establish the last day of the applicants birth (incorporation) month as the expiration date of the individuals (business') permit to commercially harvest queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Sub-sub-options iii: Establish December 31 as the expiration date of the individual's (business') permit to commercially harvest queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

3.3 Action 7: Permit application contents.

Option 1: Do not define the information to be included on an application for a federal permit to commercially harvest queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Option 2: Require specific information to be provided on an application for a federal permit to commercially harvest queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Sub-option A: Require the applicant (business) to include their name (business name), social security number (tax identification number), and date of birth (date of incorporation).

Sub-option B: Require the applicant to designate whether the application is for an individual or for a business, and assign the permit accordingly.

Sub-option C: Require the applicant to submit a complete federal application for fishing in the U.S. EEZ, the first page of which is included in Appendix A.

3.4 Action 8: Permit application cost.

Option 1: Do not charge an administrative fee for processing an application for a federal permit to commercially harvest queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Option 2: Charge an administrative fee to recover the costs associated with processing an application for a federal permit to commercially harvest queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Chapter 4. Gear and Harvest Restrictions

4.1 Action 9: Gear restrictions.

Option 1: Do not define additional gear restrictions, beyond those already in place for conducting commercial fishing operations in Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Option 2: Define the allowable gear for harvest of queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters. Those allowable gear include and are limited to:

Sub-option A: Manual hook-and-line (no power retrieval).

Sub-option B: Bandit gear.

Sub-option C: OTHER.

4.2 Action 10: Trip limits.

Option 1: Do not specify a maximum number of allowable fishing trips per year for harvest of queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Option 2: Specify a maximum number of allowable fishing trips per year for harvest of queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Sub-option A: 80 trips.

Sub-option B: 120 trips.

Sub-option C: 200 trips.

Sub-option D: OTHER.

4.2 Action 11: Bag limits.

Option 1: Do not specify a maximum allowable harvest (in pounds) of queen and cardinal snapper on each fishing trip conducted in the Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Option 2: Specify a maximum allowable harvest (in pounds) of queen and cardinal snapper on each fishing trip conducted in the Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Sub-option A: 150 pounds whole weight.

Sub-option B: 300 pounds whole weight.

Sub-option C: 500 pounds whole weight.

Sub-option D: OTHER.

DRAFT

Chapter 5. Method and Frequency of Reporting

5.1 Action 12: Reporting method.

Option 1: Continue to use the Puerto Rico DNER commercial catch reporting forms as the reporting method for commercial fishers harvesting queen and cardinal snapper from the Puerto Rico EEZ.

Option 2: Require fishers to report landings of queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters using a form specifically designed for this purpose.

Option 3: Require fishers to report landings of queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters using an electronic reporting method.

Option 4: Allow fishers to choose between the Puerto Rico DNER commercial catch reporting form or the electronic reporting method.

5.2 Action 13: Method of submitting landings reports.

Option 1: Require reporting forms to be submitted in-person, by fax, or electronically (via computer or internet).

Option 2: Require reporting forms to be submitted electronically

Option 3: Require reporting forms to be submitted in-person or by fax until electronic reporting is in place, at which time electronic reporting is required.

5.3 Action 14: Frequency of reporting.

Option 1: Do not alter the presently established frequency (within 60 days of the fishing activity) with which landings reports must be submitted by commercial fishers harvesting queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Option 2: Require fishers permitted to harvest queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters to submit landings reports daily, regardless of fishing activity or lack thereof.

Option 3: Require fishers permitted to harvest queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters to submit landings reports within 24 hours following completion of a fishing trip for which queen and cardinal snapper were harvested from Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Option 4: Require fishers permitted to harvest queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters to submit landings reports weekly, regardless of fishing activity or lack thereof.

Option 5: Require fishers permitted to harvest queen and cardinal snapper from Puerto Rico EEZ waters to submit landings reports every two weeks, regardless of fishing activity or lack thereof.

DRAFT

Chapter 6. Failure to Comply

6.1 Action 15: Penalties for Failure to Comply with Gear and Harvest Requirements

Option 1: Establish no penalties for failing to comply with gear and harvest requirements.

Option 2: Provide penalties for failing to comply with gear and harvest requirements.

Sub-option A:

6.2 Action 16: Penalties for Failure to Comply with Reporting Requirements.

Option 1: Establish no penalties for failing to comply with landings reporting requirements.

Option 2: Provide penalties for failing to comply with landings reporting requirements.

Sub-option A:

Chapter 7. Program Administration and Revision

7.1 Action 17: Administration.

Option 1: Delegate Puerto Rico's DNER as the administrator of the Puerto Rico EEZ commercial queen and cardinal snapper permit.

Option 2: Administer the Puerto Rico EEZ commercial queen and cardinal snapper permit through the NOAA/NMFS/SERO permit office.

7.2 Action 18: Framework Measures.

Option 1: Do not establish framework measures applicable to the commercial queen and cardinal snapper permit program for Puerto Rico EEZ waters.

Option 2: Establish framework measures, including some or all of the following:

Sub-option A: Adjust the permit fee to reflect changes in the cost of administering the program.

Sub-option B: Adjust the open period for submitting a permit application.

Sub-option C: WHAT ELSE?

Sub-option D:

Appendix A. SERO Permit Application

U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA NMFS
PERMITS OFFICE, F/SER14
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5505
Toll free 877-376-4877 (8:00a.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET)
727-824-5326 (8:00a.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET)
sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/permits



OMB Control Number 0648-0205; Expiration Date 04/30/2017

FEDERAL PERMIT APPLICATION FOR VESSELS FISHING IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Application ID

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Reviewer's Initials and Date	
Permit Check or Money Order	
Floy Tag Check or Money Order	
Sanctioned Case Number if	
Non Compliance Hold Date	
Non Compliance Cleared Date	
Expiration Date(s)	

REMEMBER TO SEND A COPY of the current (not expired) United States Coast Guard (USCG) Certificate of Documentation or a copy of the State Vessel Registration. Do not send the original. If the vessel's state registration does not list all owners, also provide a copy of the vessel's title, or other documentation from the appropriate state agency, that identifies all vessel owners.

SECTION 1 - VESSEL INFORMATION

<p>Official Number From USCG Certificate Of Documentation (If the vessel is documented)</p> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> <p>State Registration Number (as applicable)</p> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> <p>Vessel Name</p> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> <p>Hull Identification Number (HIN)</p> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> <p>Hailing Port City</p> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> <p>Hailing Port County Or Parish Hailing Port State</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <input style="width: 45%; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 45%; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/> </div> <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">USCG DOCUMENTED VESSELS ONLY</p> <p>Gross Tons Net Tons</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <input style="width: 45%; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 45%; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/> </div> <p>International Maritime Organization (IMO) Number As applicable (see instructions)</p> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> <p>Passenger Capacity Data For Charter Vessels/Headboats Only</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> UNINSPECTED VESSEL - "6-PACK"</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> USCG INSPECTED VESSEL: Specify Passenger Capacity as listed on the USCG Certificate of Inspection, not including Capt. and Crew.</p> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<p>Year Built</p> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> <p>Length (ft)</p> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> <p>Total Horsepower</p> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> <p>Crew Size--Including the Captain, but not including passengers.</p> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> <p>HOLD or FISH BOX CAPACITY: How many pounds of product can you bring to the dock when full?</p> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Hull Material</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FIBERGLASS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> STEEL</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> WOOD</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CEMENT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER</p> <p>_____</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Fuel Data</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DIESEL</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> GASOLINE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Fuel Capacity - Total Gallons</p> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> </td> <td style="width: 33%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Product Storage (check all that apply)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ON ICE IN HOLD, FISH BOX, ICE CHEST, COOLER,</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FREEZER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> LIVE WELL</p> </td> </tr> </table> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>This vessel is used MOSTLY for</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Charter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Headboat</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>For Shark and Swordfish Directed and Incidental Permit Applicants Only: Does your vessel fish with, or carry onboard, either longline or gillnet gear?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Reminder: If yes, include a copy of your "Protected Species Release, Disentanglement, and Identification Workshop Certificate".</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Hull Material</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FIBERGLASS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> STEEL</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> WOOD</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CEMENT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Fuel Data</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DIESEL</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> GASOLINE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Fuel Capacity - Total Gallons</p> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<p>Product Storage (check all that apply)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ON ICE IN HOLD, FISH BOX, ICE CHEST, COOLER,</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FREEZER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> LIVE WELL</p>	<p>This vessel is used MOSTLY for</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Charter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Headboat</p>	<p>For Shark and Swordfish Directed and Incidental Permit Applicants Only: Does your vessel fish with, or carry onboard, either longline or gillnet gear?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Reminder: If yes, include a copy of your "Protected Species Release, Disentanglement, and Identification Workshop Certificate".</p>
<p>Hull Material</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FIBERGLASS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> STEEL</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> WOOD</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CEMENT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Fuel Data</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DIESEL</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> GASOLINE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Fuel Capacity - Total Gallons</p> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<p>Product Storage (check all that apply)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ON ICE IN HOLD, FISH BOX, ICE CHEST, COOLER,</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FREEZER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> LIVE WELL</p>					
<p>This vessel is used MOSTLY for</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Charter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Headboat</p>	<p>For Shark and Swordfish Directed and Incidental Permit Applicants Only: Does your vessel fish with, or carry onboard, either longline or gillnet gear?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Reminder: If yes, include a copy of your "Protected Species Release, Disentanglement, and Identification Workshop Certificate".</p>						

Form V2016.1 Revision 01/07/2016

SECTION 2 - OPEN ACCESS PERMITS AND ENDORSEMENTS

Payment Reminder: All applications must include payment of a non-refundable application fee in the form of a check or money order made payable to the U.S. Treasury. The fee is \$25.00 for the first permit and \$10.00 for each additional permit or endorsement requested on this application.

FEE SCHEDULE FOR PERMITS AND ENDORSEMENTS:

1 Permit: \$25 2: \$35 3: \$45 4: \$55 5: \$65 6: \$75 7: \$85 8: \$95 9: \$105 10: \$115 11: \$125 12: \$135

INSTRUCTIONS: Find the permits in the left column and mark the check box beside that fishery to indicate what transaction(s) you want.

OPEN ACCESS COMMERCIAL PERMITS	NEW	RENEW
ATLANTIC DOLPHIN/WAHOO (ADW)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SPINY LOBSTER (LC) (Not required for the EEZ off Florida)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SPINY LOBSTER TAILING (LT) You must have an LC permit OR provide your FL SPL information below.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SPANISH MACKEREL (SM)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ROCK SHRIMP - CAROLINAS ZONE (RSCZ)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOUTH ATLANTIC PENAEID SHRIMP (SPA)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GULF ROYAL RED SHRIMP ENDORSEMENT (GRRS) You must have a valid Gulf of Mexico Shrimp permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HMS COMMERCIAL CARIBBEAN SMALL BOAT PERMIT (CCSB) Valid only in the U.S. Caribbean (Puerto Rico and USVI)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SMOOTH HOUND SHARK (SHS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FOR LOBSTER TAILING PERMIT APPLICANTS ONLY

LOBSTER TAILING APPLICANTS: To obtain a lobster tailing permit you must possess a Florida Saltwater Products License (SPL) with Restricted Species and Crawfish endorsements. If you do not have a Florida SPL with Restricted Species and Crawfish Endorsements, you must possess or simultaneously obtain a valid Federal Spiny Lobster (LC) permit.

You must provide a copy of your Florida SPL if you do not have a Federal Spiny Lobster (LC) permit

Saltwater Products License Number Crawfish Endorsement Number

Saltwater Products License Expiration Date

OPEN ACCESS CHARTER/HEADBOAT PERMITS	NEW	RENEW
ATLANTIC CHARTER/HEADBOAT FOR DOLPHIN/WAHOO (CDW)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ATLANTIC CHARTER/HEADBOAT FOR COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS (CHS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOUTH ATLANTIC CHARTER/HEADBOAT FOR SNAPPER-GROUPER (SC)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 3 - LIMITED ACCESS/MORATORIUM PERMITS AND ENDORSEMENTS

Payment Reminder: All applications must include payment of a non-refundable application fee in the form of a check or money order made payable to the *U.S. Treasury*. Please refer to the fee schedule in section 2 of the application.

INSTRUCTIONS: Find the permits in the left column and mark the check box beside that fishery to indicate what transaction(s) you want.

LIMITED ACCESS COMMERCIAL PERMITS	PERMIT NUMBER	TRANSFER	RENEW
KING MACKEREL (KM)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GILLNET FOR KING MACKEREL (GN)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GULF OF MEXICO SHRIMP (SPGM)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GULF OF MEXICO COMMERCIAL REEF FISH (RR)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO REEF FISH BOTTOM LONG LINE ENDORSEMENT (RRLE)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ROCK SHRIMP (SOUTH ATLANTIC EEZ) (RSLA)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOUTH ATLANTIC GOLDEN CRAB (GC)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOUTH ATLANTIC UNLIMITED SNAPPER-GROUPER (EXCLUDING WRECKFISH) (SG1)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOUTH ATLANTIC 225 LB TRIP LIMIT SNAPPER-GROUPER (EXCLUDING WRECKFISH) (SG2)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOUTH ATLANTIC SEA BASS POT ENDORSEMENT (SBPE)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOUTH ATLANTIC GOLDEN TILEFISH ENDORSEMENT (GTFE)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SWORDFISH DIRECTED (SFD)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SWORDFISH HANDGEAR (SFH)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SWORDFISH INCIDENTAL (SFI)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SHARK DIRECTED (SKD)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SHARK INCIDENTAL (SKI)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ATLANTIC TUNA LONGLINE (ATL) Must have either SFI or SKI and either SFD or SKD		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

LIMITED ACCESS CHARTER/HEADBOAT PERMITS	PERMIT NUMBER	TRANSFER	RENEW
GULF CHARTER/HEADBOAT FOR COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGIC FISH (CHG)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GULF CHARTER/HEADBOAT FOR REEF FISH (RCG)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HISTORICAL CAPTAIN GULF CHARTER/HEADBOAT FOR COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGIC FISH (HCHG)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HISTORICAL CAPTAIN GULF CHARTER/HEADBOAT FOR REEF FISH (HRCG)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 4 - INDIVIDUAL VESSEL OWNER(S) AND LESSEE INFORMATION

Answer all of the following questions to see how to fill out this section. Copy this page as needed to provide the required information on all persons that own or lease the vessel.

Does your USCG Documentation or State Registration show the vessel owner as a person or persons?	YES - Use this page for the vessel owners	NO - Fill out vessel owner info in Section 5
Does your USCG Documentation or State Registration show more than one person as the vessel owner?	YES - Use Section 4a and 4b for the vessel owners	NO - Fill out Section 4b if vessel is leased
Is a person or persons leasing this vessel from the vessel owner?	YES - Use Section 4b for the lessee	NO - The lessee is a business Put lessee info in Section 5b
		NO - Skip Section 4b

SECTION 4a - Vessel Owner on the USCG Certificate of Documentation or State Registration for Undocumented Vessels

- 1) If the USCG Documentation or State Registration shows one person as sole vessel owner - list their information here.
- 2) If the USCG Documentation or State Registration shows more than one person as vessel owner - list their information in Sections 4a and 4b.
- 3) If there are more than two persons, photocopy this blank page as necessary to provide information for all the owners.

MAILING RECIPIENT - All mail about this permit will go to the person listed in Section 4a

Is this person a United States Citizen or permanent resident alien? YES NO

Mr/Mrs/Ms	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Suffix - Jr, Sr, etc.
<input type="text"/>				

If you are operating under a different name, what is your Doing Business As (DBA) name?

Tax Identification Number (SSN)	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	Area Code	Phone Number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Mailing Address	Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country
<input type="text"/>						

Check box if the street address is the same as the mailing address.

Street Address (PO Box not acceptable)	Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

SECTION 4b - Vessel Lessee OR Joint Vessel Owner on the USCG Certificate of Documentation or State Registration

- 1) If the USCG Documentation or State Registration shows more than one person as sole vessel owner - list their information here.
- 2) If this vessel is leased by a person(s), list the lessee's information here.
- 3) If there are more than two people, photocopy this blank page as necessary to provide information for all the owners and lessee's.

Lease start date: Lease end date:

MAILING RECIPIENT - All mail about this permit will go to the person listed in Section 4b

Is this person a United States Citizen or permanent resident alien? YES NO

Mr/Mrs/Ms	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Suffix - Jr, Sr, etc.
<input type="text"/>				

If you are operating under a different name, what is your Doing Business As (DBA) name?

Tax Identification Number (SSN)	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	Area Code	Phone Number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Mailing Address	Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country
<input type="text"/>						

Check box if the street address is the same as the mailing address.

Street Address (PO Box not acceptable)	Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

SECTION 5 - BUSINESS VESSEL OWNER(S) AND LESSEE INFORMATION			
Answer all of the following questions to see how to fill out this section. Copy this page as needed to provide the required information on all persons that own or lease the vessel.			
Does your USCG Documentation or State Registration show the vessel owner as a business?	YES - Use this page for the vessel owners	NO - Fill out previous page for vessel owners	
Does your USCG Documentation or State Registration show more than one business as the vessel owner?	YES - Use Sections 5a and 5b for the vessel owners	NO - Fill out Section 5b if vessel is leased	
Is a business or businesses leasing this vessel from the vessel owner?	YES - Use Section 5b for the lessee	NO - The lessee is a person Put lessee info in Section 4b	NO - Skip Section 5b

SECTION 5a - Vessel Owner on the USCG Certificate of Documentation or State Registration for Undocumented Vessels

1) If the USCG Documentation or State Registration shows one business as sole vessel owner - list their information in Section 5a.
 2) If the USCG Documentation or State Registration shows multiple businesses as vessel owner - list their information in Sections 5a and 5b.
 3) If there are more than two businesses, photocopy this blank page as necessary to provide information for all the owners.

MAILING RECIPIENT - All mail about this permit will go to the person listed in Section 5a

Is this business entity established under the laws of the United States or any State of the United States? YES NO

Registered Name of Business

If you are operating under a different name, what is your Doing Business As (DBA) name?

Tax Identification Number (FEIN)	Date Business Formed (MM/DD/YYYY)	Area Code	Phone Number
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%;"></div>			

Mailing Address	Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%;"></div>						

Check box if the street address is the same as the mailing address.

Street Address (PO Box not acceptable)	Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%;"></div>						

SECTION 5b - Vessel Lessee OR Joint Vessel Owner on the USCG Certificate of Documentation or State Registration

1) If the USCG Documentation or State Registration shows more than one business as sole vessel owner - list their information here.
 2) If this vessel is leased by a business(es), list the lessee's information here.
 3) If there are more than two businesses, photocopy this blank page as necessary to provide information for all owners and lessee's.

Lease start date: Lease end date:

MAILING RECIPIENT - All mail about this permit will go to the person listed in Section 5b

Is this business entity established under the laws of the United States or any State of the United States? YES NO

Registered Name of Business

If you are operating under a different name, what is your Doing Business As (DBA) name?

Tax Identification Number (FEIN)	Date Business Formed (MM/DD/YYYY)	Area Code	Phone Number
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%;"></div>			

Mailing Address	Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%;"></div>						

Check box if the street address is the same as the mailing address.

Street Address (PO Box not acceptable)	Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%;"></div>						

SECTION 6 - OFFICER/SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION FOR BUSINESS(ES) THAT OWN OR LEASE THE VESSEL

This page must be filled out if the owner or the lessee of the vessel is a business. Copy this page as necessary to provide information on all persons that are officers/shareholders of the business(es) shown in Section 5.

Owner or lessee of the vessel: Owner Lessee

Business name Federal Tax ID Number

Position Held - Check ALL That Apply
 President/CEO Vice President Secretary Treasurer Director/ Manager Shareholder Other

Percent of Corporation Held Is this person a United States citizen or permanent resident alien? YES NO

Mr/Mrs/Ms Last Name First Name Middle Name Suffix - Jr, Sr, etc.

Tax Identification Number (SSN) Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) Area Code Phone Number

Mailing Address Apt # City State County/Parish Zip Code Country

Check box if the street address is the same as the mailing address.

Street Address (PO Box not acceptable) Apt # City State County/Parish Zip Code Country

Position Held - Check ALL That Apply
 President/CEO Vice President Secretary Treasurer Director/ Manager Shareholder Other

Percent of Corporation Held Is this person a United States citizen or permanent resident alien? YES NO

Mr/Mrs/Ms Last Name First Name Middle Name Suffix - Jr, Sr, etc.

Tax Identification Number (SSN) Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) Area Code Phone Number

Mailing Address Apt # City State County/Parish Zip Code Country

Check box if the street address is the same as the mailing address.

Street Address (PO Box not acceptable) Apt # City State County/Parish Zip Code Country

Minor Shareholder Information

MINOR SHAREHOLDERS - Check here if one or more shareholders individually holds shares that is less than 1% of the total business shares.

TOTAL PERCENTAGE of the business shares held by minor shareholder(s)

SECTION 7 - HISTORICAL CAPTAIN OR DESIGNATED OPERATOR (INCOME QUALIFIER)

This person is a (check all that apply):

- Historical Captain for Gulf of Mexico Charter/Headboat for Reef fish
- Historical Captain for Gulf of Mexico Charter/Headboat for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fish
- Designated Operator (Income Qualifier other than the Permit Holder) for Commercial Spiny Lobster

A Historical Captain MUST sign Section 9 as the applicant.

A Designated Operator MUST sign Section 9 as the operator along with the applicant.

Mr/Mrs/Ms	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Suffix - Jr, Sr, etc.			
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>			
Tax Identification Number (SSN)		Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	Area Code	Phone Number			
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>			
Mailing Address		Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Check box if the street address is the same as the mailing address.							
Street Address (PO Box not acceptable)		Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

SECTION 8 - SEA BASS POTS OR GOLDEN CRAB TRAPS

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF YOU HAVE SEA BASS POTS OR IF YOU HAVE GOLDEN CRAB TRAPS. TAGS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL POTS/TRAPS

Tag cost is \$1.80 per tag made payable by check or money order to Floy Tag, Inc.

I need tags for: Sea Bass Pots Golden Crab Traps

What color are your Buoys for Sea Bass Pots or Golden Crab Traps?

List an existing buoy color code for ANY other trap or pot fishery?

South Atlantic Sea Bass Pot/Golden Crab Trap Information - You are allowed a MAXIMUM of 35 Sea Bass Pots

Number of Pots/Traps	Pot or Trap Height (inches)	Pot or Trap Length (inches)	Pot or Trap Width (inches)	Mesh Size Height (inches)	Mesh Size Width (inches)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

SECTION 9 - SIGNATURE FOR APPLICATION - REQUIRED

The undersigned certifies under penalty of perjury that the foregoing information is true and correct (28 USC 1746; 18 USC 1621; 18 USC 1001, 16 USC 1857). Further, the undersigned certifies that if a spiny lobster tailing permit is requested, the applicant routinely fishes commercially in Federal waters on trips of up to 48 hours or more and that such fishing activity requires the separation of the tail and carapace to maintain quality product.

Please note: If the vessel listed in Section 1 is leased, the applicant who signs below must be an individual named as a lessee in Section 4, or an officer or shareholder of the lessee as listed in Section 5 with information listed in section 6. If the vessel listed in Section 1 is not leased, the applicant must be an individual named as an owner in Section 4, or an officer or shareholder of the owner as listed in Section 6.

Applicant Signature	<input type="text"/>	Position in Business	<input type="text"/>	Date	<input type="text"/>
Print Name	<input type="text"/>	Designated Operator Signature	<input type="text"/>	Date	<input type="text"/>

SECTION 10 - INCOME QUALIFICATION AFFIDAVIT FOR SPINY LOBSTER PERMITS

An Income Qualification Affidavit is accepted as proof of meeting permit income qualification requirements. This signed Income Qualification Affidavit is required with every application to renew or transfer an income qualified permit (as listed below).

Knowingly supplying false information or willfully overvaluing any fishing income for the purpose of obtaining a permit is a violation of Federal law punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment.

Spiny Lobster

50CFR622.400 An applicant must provide the following information: (vi) A sworn statement by the applicant for a vessel permit certifying that at least 10 percent of his or her earned income was derived from commercial fishing, that is, sale of the catch, during the calendar year preceding the application.

The following information applies to my income qualification for the Spiny Lobster fishery:

I, _____, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing information is true and correct (28 USC 1746; 18 USC 1621; 18 USC 1001; 16 USC 1857). I agree to provide the necessary documentation to prove that I met the earned income requirement when so requested by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Executed on _____ (date signed).

Printed Name _____ Signature _____

Business Name (if Applicable) _____

Type of business (if Applicable) _____

Position In Business (if Applicable) _____

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to: PRA Officer, National Marine Fisheries Service, F/SER26, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

The National Marine Fisheries Service requires this information for the conservation and management of marine fishery resources. The data reported will be used to develop, implement, and monitor fishery management activities for a variety of other uses. Responses to this collection are required to obtain or retain a fisheries permit under the Magnuson - Stevens Act. Name and address information will be released via a NOAA website. All other data submitted will be handled as confidential material in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fishery Statistics. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.