



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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Reminder: Procedures for Transferring Federal Gulf of Mexico Charter/Headboat Reef Fish Permits

NOAA Fisheries wants to remind for-hire owners and operators about the procedures for transferring a federal Gulf of Mexico charter/headboat reef fish permit between vessels.

To initiate a permit transfer, the permit holder must sign the back of the original permit, remove the decal from the permitted vessel, and mail the original signed permit along with a complete application to NOAA Fisheries for processing. Applications are processed in the order in which they are received.

After the permit transfer application is mailed, there will be a time period where the vessel will not be able to fish for reef fish in either federal or state waters. The vessel cannot fish for reef fish in federal waters without a valid permit onboard, and

it cannot fish for reef fish in state waters until NOAA Fisheries' Permits Office receives and processes the transfer application.

Vessel owners or operators can track the status of their permit transfer request by checking the list of valid "Gulf of Mexico Charter / Headboat for Reef Fish" permits on the Web site at go.usa.gov/kqa4.

For more information, contact the Permits Office at 1-877-376-4877 or by visiting the Web site sero.nmfs.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*.