



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Notice of Current Federal Data Collection Requirements in the For-Hire Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) is working to improve the quality of information used in managing the fisheries resources of the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Having appropriate and current data enable the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, and NOAA Fisheries Service to carry out responsive and timely fisheries management.

This bulletin serves as a reminder to operators participating in the for-hire fishery of the southeastern U.S. region that, if selected to report by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) Director, they are required to supply fishing reports of their fishing trips to an authorized statistical reporting agent or send reports in the mail postmarked not later than seven days after the end of each month. Recently, the SEFSC mailed selection letters to for-hire permit holders who operate headboats in the following fisheries: South Atlantic Snapper Grouper, South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Coastal Migratory Pelagics, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish, and South Atlantic Dolphin-Wahoo.

All operators selected to report to the headboat survey are required to report landings and effort data from all trips made. For each trip there must be an accurate record of the name and official number of the vessel; the operator's U.S. Coast Guard license number; the number of fish of each species taken; the estimated total weight of each species; the number of anglers aboard; the date(s), location and duration of fishing; number of anglers actually fishing; pay type of trip (charter vs. per-person); distance from shore; and condition of released fishes (released dead or released alive). Reporting is required for trips fishing in state waters as well as in the federal waters of the exclusive economic zone.

Accurate and timely reporting of logbooks in the headboat fishery is a requirement for obtaining and

renewing your charter vessel/headboat permits. If you have any questions about the requirement for logbook reporting, please contact Ken Brennan at the NOAA Fisheries Service Beaufort Laboratory, 252-728-8618. If you have any questions about the required permits you possess or need to possess to participate in these fisheries, please contact the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Region Permits Office at 727-824-5326, or go their Web site for more information:

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/permits/permits.htm>

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act provides penalties for violations of its regulations, including civil monetary penalties up to \$130,000, permit penalties that include sanctions and revocation, and forfeitures of catch and vessels.

Please join us in recognizing the urgent need for information on reef fishes; information that only you can provide. The decisions necessary to protect and enhance these fishery resources ultimately rest on the timely and accurate data you provide. Thank you for your past and future cooperation with these data collection efforts.

How Can We Improve These Fishery Bulletins?

If you have any suggestions on how we may improve future fishery bulletins, please contact:

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If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, please e-mail SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov and include (1) "Request for Electronic Fishery Bulletins" in the subject line; and (2) Your preferred e-mail address in the body of the e-mail. You will still receive a print copy of these bulletins through the mail.