



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5505

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NOAA Fisheries Service Reminds South Atlantic Rock Shrimp Fishery Participants of Dealer Permitting Requirements

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) would like to remind all South Atlantic rock shrimp fishery participants of permitting requirements for dealers in Gulf of Mexico or South Atlantic states wishing to purchase rock shrimp harvested from the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone (EEZ). A dealer is the person who first receives rock shrimp harvested from the EEZ (50 CFR 622.2). Between 2003 and 2006, approximately six percent of the rock shrimp landings were purchased by dealers lacking the required permit. Furthermore, only 58 percent of dealers who purchased South Atlantic rock shrimp in the past five years had the legally required federal South Atlantic rock shrimp dealer permit.

Illegally purchased rock shrimp cannot count toward a vessel's catch history, and cannot be counted towards meeting the current 15,000-pound landings requirement to retain a vessel's endorsement. As such, it is possible some vessels may not meet the landing requirement because some or all of their landings were sold through dealers lacking the federal permit.

In order to prevent the problem noted above as well as possible legal ramifications, all fishery participants should be aware of, and comply with, regulations currently in place at 50 CFR 622.4(a)(4), which state: "*For a dealer to receive Gulf reef fish harvested from the Gulf EEZ; golden crab, South Atlantic snapper-grouper, rock shrimp, or wreckfish harvested from the South Atlantic EEZ; or dolphin or wahoo harvested from the Atlantic EEZ; a dealer permit for Gulf reef fish, golden crab, South Atlantic snapper-grouper, rock shrimp, wreckfish, or Atlantic dolphin and wahoo, respectively, must be issued to the dealer.*"

Therefore, selling South Atlantic rock shrimp to a dealer who does not possess a dealer permit for rock shrimp is an illegal act. It is also considered unlawful for un-permitted dealers to purchase South Atlantic rock shrimp from any rock shrimp fishery participant.

Information on how to obtain a federal rock shrimp dealer permit may be obtained from the NOAA Fisheries Service Permits Office; contact information can be found in the addresses section of this bulletin. Rock shrimp fishery participants may also contact the Permits Office to determine if a dealer to whom rock shrimp is being sold holds the necessary permit.

Addresses:

- NOAA Fisheries Service Permits Office
South Atlantic Region
263 13th Ave., St. Petersburg, FL 33701
- <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/permits/permits.htm>
- 1-877-376-4877 (toll free)

How Can We Improve These Fishery Bulletins?

If you have any suggestions on how we may improve the contents of 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, 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 hard copy of these bulletins through the mail.