

List of Subjects

50 CFR Part 600

Administrative practice and procedures, Confidential business information, Fisheries, Fishing, Fishing vessels, Foreign relations, Intergovernmental relations, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Statistics.

50 CFR Part 622

Fisheries, Fishing, Puerto Rico, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Virgin Islands.

Dated:

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR parts 600 and 622 are proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 600--MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT PROVISIONS

1. The authority citations for part 600 continue to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 561 and 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.

2. In § 600.725, in paragraph (v), in the table under heading "III. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council," entry 6.A. is revised to read as follows:

§ 600.725 General prohibitions.

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(v) * * *

Fishery

Authorized gear types

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III. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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6. * * *

A. Commercial fishery.

A. Longline, rod and reel, bandit gear, handline, spear, powerhead, buoy gear.

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PART 622--FISHERIES OF THE CARIBBEAN, GULF, AND SOUTH ATLANTIC

3. The authority citation for part 622 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq. 1.

4. In § 622.2, the definition of “buoy gear” is revised to read as follows:

§ 622.2 Definitions and acronyms.

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Buoy gear means fishing gear intended to fish vertically in the water column that consists of a single drop line suspended from a float, from which no more than 10 hooks can be connected between the buoy and the terminal end, and the terminal end contains a weight that is no more than 10 lb (4.5 kg). The drop line can be rope (hemp, manila,

cotton or other natural fibers; nylon, polypropylene, spectra or other synthetic material) or monofilament, but must not be cable or wire. The gear is free-floating and not connected to other gear or the vessel. The drop line must be no greater than 2 times the depth of the water being fished. All hooks must be attached to the drop line no more than 30 ft (9.1 m) from the weighted terminal end. These hooks may be attached directly to the drop line; attached as snoods (defined as an offshoot line that is directly spliced, tied or otherwise connected to the drop line), where each snood has a single terminal hook; or as gangions (defined as an offshoot line connected to the drop line with some type of detachable clip), where each gangion has a single terminal hook.

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5. In § 622.6, paragraph (b)(3) is added to read as follows:

§ 622.6 Vessel and gear identification.

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(b) * * *

(3) Buoy gear. In the Gulf or South Atlantic EEZ, if buoy gear is used or possessed, each buoy must display the official number of the vessel.

6. In § 622.34, paragraph (o) is added to read as follows:

§ 622.34 Gulf EEZ seasonal and/or area closures.

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(o) Seasonal closure of the recreational fishery for greater amberjack. The recreational fishery for greater amberjack, in or from the Gulf EEZ, is closed from MonthA 1 through MonthB 31, each year. During the closure, the bag and possession limit for greater amberjack in or from the Gulf EEZ is zero.

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7. In § 622.49, the second sentence of paragraph (a)(1)(ii) is revised to read as follows:

§ 622.49 Accountability measures.

(a) * * *

(1) * * *

(ii) * * * In addition, if despite such closure, recreational landings exceed the quota, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year, to reduce the quota for that following year by the amount of the overage in the prior fishing year, and to reduce the length of the recreational fishing season for the following fishing year by the amount necessary to recover the overage from the prior fishing year.

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