

NOAA FISHERIES

Southeast Regional Office

Part 622 Regulation Reorganization

Summary Presentation to Councils

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Part 622 Regulation Reorganization

Currently:

- 50 CFR Part 622 contains Federal regulations for the Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic.
- 50 CFR Part 640 contains Federal regulations for the Spiny Lobster Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic.

These regulations are primarily organized by fishery management measure; such as size limits, bag limits, and closures.

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- The Southeast Regional Office is currently in the process of reorganizing the regulations.
- This reorganization will reorganize the Part 622 regulations by fishery, for example the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Fishery, the South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Fishery, and the Caribbean Reef Fish Fishery.
- The Part 640 Spiny Lobster regulations will be combined into the reorganized Part 622 regulations.
- The regulations are being reorganized in a more cohesive, less complex, and more focused manner. This will allow for greater ease of reference to all users, particularly the public.





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- In the spring of 2013, NOAA Fisheries will publish in the <u>Federal</u> <u>Register</u> an Interim Final Rule for the reorganization. This interim final rule will be effective upon publication and comments will be solicited from the public for 30 days on the overall approach.
- After the public comment period, NOAA Fisheries will publish in the <u>Federal Register</u> a Final Rule making the reorganization effective permanently.
- The actual regulations themselves will not be changing through these rulemakings, only the specific format and organization of the Southeast Region's regulations.

