



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Amendment 60

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
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NMFS | Southeast Regional Office





# *Permits*

*New Permit System Update*  
*Permit language clarification*



# Permits Update

- New system went live on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>
- Voicemail message updates
  - The initial message has been shortened to be more concise to guide new or infrequent callers to the appropriate office/department
  - Option 1 is in the process of being removed, while the other options remain
  - Fishermen can press #6 during the message to immediately leave a voicemail
- Upcoming Enhancement: Viewing passwords
  - Request to unhide your password to see what you are typing. We are working with the software engineers to allow this feature



# Permits Updates

- Forgot Password
  - Click the “Forgot Password”
  - You will need to enter your user name.
  - An email will be sent to the email associated in the account.
- Usernames
  - User names were provided in your initial account registration email
  - The renewal reminders will provide the User ID for permits held by individuals. We are working on the same for permits held by businesses.
- FOIA page is now available and show current permits that are valid or renewable

# FOIA Page

## Frequent Freedom of Information Act Requests in the Southeast Region

This page lists Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests regarding permits, vessels, dealers, and operator card permit holders. Due to the nature of a permit lifecycle, the information presented on this page may be updated at any time.

Vessel			Dealer			Operator Card			Wreckfish				
Vessel Name	Hailing Port City	Hailing Port State	Hailing Port County	Passenger Capacity	Vessel Length	Vessel Description	Entity Name	Address	Suite	City	State	Zip Code	Permit Type
ENTERTAINER	MURRELLS INLET	MURRELLS INLET	GEORGETOWN	6	34ft 0in	COMMERCIAL FISHING	CHRISTOPHER COLLINS CONKLIN	917 MOUNT GILEAD RD	-	MURRELLS INLT	SC	29576-7721	LIMITE ACCES
WATER LADY	KEY WEST	KEY WEST	MONROE	6	43ft 0in	COMMERCIAL FISHING	BARA FISHERIES, INC.	24 VENTANA LN	-	KEY WEST	FL	33040-5429	LIMITE ACCES
TUFF-E-NUFF	SOUTHPORT	SOUTHPORT	BRUNSWICK	6	28ft 0in	COMMERCIAL FISHING	ROBERT JASON BREWER	4270 FLAGSHIP AVE SE	-	SOUTHPORT	NC	28461-8614	LIMITE ACCES



# FOIA Page

- <https://appsportal.fisheries.noaa.gov/FOIA-Southeast>
- Four main Search Tab: Vessel, Dealer, Operator Card, and Wreckfish
- Within a tab you can searches:
  - First search can take any information listed below
  - Filter by fishery, expiration dates, and termination dates
- Any concerns with operations in the new system should be sent to Chris Bohlman our application developer
  - Christopher.Bohlman@noaa.gov
- General permit questions can be sent to:
  - [nmfs.ser.permitssupport@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.ser.permitssupport@noaa.gov)
  - 877-376-4877, option 6 to leave a voicemail

# SG2 Vessel Lease Question

- If leasing is considered a 'transfer' and SG2 permits were not suppose to be transferable, how are there leased vessels under an SG2 permit?
- The regulations do not preclude all transfers of the SG2 permit
  - Transfers of the SG2 permit are allowed to another vessel 'owned' by the same entity per § 622.171(b)(2)
- Based on § 600.110 someone who leases or otherwise controls the vessel operation is considered the owner.
  - Any person who owns that vessel in whole or in part
  - Any charterer of the vessel
  - Any person who acts in the capacity of charterer including but not limited to management agreement, operating agreement, or any similar agreement that bestows control over the destination, function, or operation of the vessel
  - Any agent designated as such by a person described above

# SG2 Vessel Lease Question

- Therefore, using the owner definition under § 600.110 the vessel lessee is consider the owner of the vessel and can transfer the SG2 permit to that vessel via § 622.171(b)(2) as long as the lease is to the same entity that held the SG2 permit



# *Permit Questions*

An underwater scene looking up towards the surface of the water. Sunlight filters through the ripples on the surface, creating bright rays and a shimmering effect. The water is a deep blue color, and there are small white particles or bubbles visible in the water.

*Preliminary Data Analyses*

# Preliminary Analyses - Caveats

- Permit data is preliminary
- Preliminary match of logbook data to permits (2024)
  - Did not account for logbook typos, permit errors, matching errors
- Permit community and entity information is preliminary
  - Permit system is still being adjusted to correctly export community and entity information
  - Information generated is inline with previous values, therefore changes are expected to be modest



# Questions Around SG1 and SG2 permits

- How many leased vessels for SG1 and SG2 permits?
- How do leased vessels with SG1 and SG2 permits compare to other SERO permitted vessels?
- What proportion of trips and landings are completed by leased vessels for both SG1 and SG2 permits?
- How many vessels have been latent for multiple years?
- What other permits are held on vessels with SG1 permits?

## On Deck Analyses

- How many permits are held by the same entity?
- Number of leased and owned vessels by permit holder

# Leased Vessels

Year	Owned	Leased
2008	83%	17%
2012	78%	22%
2016	76%	24%
2020	78%	22%
2024	83%	17%
2026	78%	22%

**SG1 Permits  
(unlimited)**

Year	Owned	Leased
2008	89%	11%
2012	86%	14%
2016	83%	17%
2020	78%	22%
2024	89%	11%
2026	85%	15%

**SG2 Permits  
(225 lb trip limit)**

# Leased vs Owned Vessels

Fishery	Type	Access	Owned	Leased
SA Snapper-Grouper Unlimited (SG1)	Commercial	Limited	78%	22%
SA Snapper-Grouper Trip Limited (SG2)	Commercial	Limited	85%	15%
Gulf Reef Fish (RR)	Commercial	Limited	90%	10%
Atl. Tuna Longline (ATL)	Commercial	Limited	97%	3%
King Mackerel (KM)	Commercial	Limited	90%	10%
Spanish Mackerel (SM)	Commercial	Open	89%	11%
Atl. Dolphin/Wahoo (ADW)	Commercial	Open	89%	11%
Gulf Charter Reef Fish (RCG)	For-hire	Limited	89%	11%
Gulf Charter Coastal Migratory Pelagic (CHG)	For-hire	Limited	89%	11%
SA Charter Snapper-Grouper (SC)	For-hire	Open	95%	5%
Atl. Charter Dolphin/Wahoo (CDW)	For-hire	Open	95%	5%
SA Charter Coastal Migratory Pelagic (CHS)	For-hire	Open	95%	5%

# Landings by Vessel Lease Status

SG1	Trips	Pounds landed
Leased Vessel	13%	15%
Owned Vessel	87%	85%

SG2	Trips	Pounds landed
Leased Vessel	15%	19%
Owned Vessel	85%	81%

## SG1

- The majority of trips taken and landings are from vessels that the permit holder owns
- In 2024, 87 SG1 permits were for leased vessels. Of those vessels, 50 were fishing

## SG2

- Likewise, the majority of trips taken and landings come from vessels that the permit holder owns
- In 2024, 9 SG1 permits were for leased vessels. Of those vessels, 7 were fishing

# SG1 Co-occurring Permits

- Nearly all SG1 permitted vessels also hold permits in other fisheries
- The most common co-occurring permits are:

Fishery	Vessels
Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Comm.	460
Spanish Mackerel Comm.	378
King Mackerel Comm.	292
Shark Directed Comm.	44
Spiny Lobster Tailing Comm.	42
Black Sea Bass Pots Comm.	37
Shark Incidental Comm.	34
Spiny Lobster Comm.	31

Fishery	Vessels
Golden Tilefish Longline	30
Atlantic Bluefin Tuna	26
Swordfish Directed Comm.	23
Smooth hound Shark Comm.	22
SA Penaeid Shrimp	13
Swordfish Handgear	7
Swordfish Incidental	6
Caribbean Small Boat	6

# SG 1 Latent Permits

Year	Permits	Landings	Latent	% Active	% Latent
2020	536	380	156	71%	29%
2021	537	362	175	67%	33%
2022	518	340	178	66%	34%
2023	513	351	162	68%	32%
2024	512	336	176	66%	34%

Year	Permits	% 2024 Latent
Latent all 5 years	35	20%
Latent last 4 years	44	25%
Latent last 3 years	65	37%
Latent last 2 years	94	53%

# SG2 Latent Permits

Year	Permits	Landings	Latent	% Active	% Latent
2020	104	44	60	42%	58%
2021	98	36	62	37%	63%
2022	94	37	57	39%	61%
2023	89	31	58	35%	65%
2024	84	37	47	48%	56%

Year	Permits	% 2024 Latent
Latent all 5 years	28	56%
Latent last 4 years	30	60%
Latent last 3 years	36	72%
Latent last 2 years	45	90%

An underwater scene looking up towards the surface. Sunlight rays penetrate the water, creating a bright, shimmering effect at the top. The water is a deep blue color, and there are small white specks scattered throughout, possibly representing bubbles or particles. The overall atmosphere is serene and deep.

# *Gear Notification*



# Gear Notification Questions

- We were asked to clarify aspects of gear notification
  - Who would the captain contact?
  - What would be the method of contact?
  - Which gears/fisheries would be allowed and require notification?
  - When do you declare?
- Reminder of LEAP discussion points
  - Changes in gear need to primarily enforced at-sea
  - Upon landing, it is difficult to know which landings occurred under each gear
  - LEAP recommendations were to utilize Electronic Monitoring (EM) or Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) to report and complement gear changes



# Notification Submission

- At-sea notification provides law enforcement with the real-time and time-stamped information to verify that fishermen abided by regulations
- Prior to leaving notification does not provide the relevant information needed for at-sea interactions or enforcement actions.
  - Does not guarantee both gears will be used
  - Unable to link gear used to a date/time or area at sea
  - Does account or measure if multiple switches between gears



# At-sea Gear Notification Process

- Before switching gears on the vessel, captain will call a toll-free number to submit their notification.
  - The toll-free number will operate 24/7 by a call service center
  - The call service center will have a script to ask specific questions. They will not be able to advise fishermen.
- The call service will enter information into a web-based form that links to a SERO database.
  - Call service will provide the fishermen with a confirmation code.
- Once the notification has been entered, the database will e-mail appropriate law enforcement based on intended landing port.
- Fishermen will complete separate catch and effort by gear in the commercial electronic logbook.



# Gear Notification Data Fields

- Vessel name and registration number (USCG or State)
- Permit number (SG1 or SG2)
- Date and time (system generated)
- Area to fish longline gear
- Are they switching TO or FROM bottom longline gear?
- Target fishery for the bottom longline\*
- Landing port (determines which enforcement agents receive notifications)\*
- Estimated date and time of landing\*

\* Useful fields in order to inform the correct officers and meet the vessel at dock

# Gear Notification

- Gear Notification Grids
  - Coastal logbook grids are too large for accurate enforcement (1° grids)
  - Recommend 1' grids which are more effective especially in determining if the vessel is within a closed areas (e.g., Mid-Atlantic bottom longline closure)
- Additional questions raised
  - Will the switch always be from a gear to bottom longline or could be from bottom longline to another gear?
  - Can someone switch multiple times at sea between gears? If yes, a notification would be needed for each shift in gears.
  - Do we need to be specific about what permits for the longline gears and should that permit also be included on the notification?
  - When will notification need to occur? e.g., within x amount of time before switching gears

***Gear Notification Questions?***

