



# PUBLIC HEARING GUIDE

7/27/12



## Modifications to Federally-Permitted Seafood Dealer Reporting Requirements





## Table of Contents

What is a Public Hearing?	1
How does a public hearing affect fisheries management?	1
How else can I get involved?	1
Introduction to the Seafood Dealer Reporting Amendment	2
<u>Summary of Actions:</u>	
Action 1 - Dealer Permits Required	2
Action 2 - Frequency and Method of Reporting	5
Action 3 - Requirements to maintain a Dealer Permit	6
Public Hearing Dates	7

### What is a Public Hearing?

A public hearing gives you an opportunity to comment on a fishery management plan or amendment that the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is developing. Public hearings are conducted after the Council has selected a preferred alternative for each proposed action, and comments should focus on possible benefits and drawbacks of the alternatives contained in each action. Suggestions, issues, and concerns expressed during the public hearings will be presented to the Council for review and consideration before final action is taken.

### How does a public hearing affect fisheries management?

Comments provided during the public hearing process are witnessed by at least one Council member and are reported to the full Council prior to final action. Your input is considered as the Council deliberates and chooses the most appropriate management measures to address the issue(s) at hand.

### How else can I get involved?

There are many ways you can help the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council identify fishery management needs and develop reasonable management alternatives. There are a number of opportunities to participate in fisheries management, each dependent on how actively involved you want to become. The first step to becoming involved is to educate yourself about the management process by visiting our website at [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org), signing up to receive our communications, and contacting council members and staff to discuss management. You can attend meetings, serve on panels and committees that advise the Council on fishery issues, and even apply to become a Council member.

Introduction to Modifications to Federally-Permitted Seafood Dealer Permit and Reporting Requirements

The Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils are considering changing federal seafood dealer permit and reporting requirements. Improving the accuracy, consistency, and timeliness of data reported by seafood dealers will reduce the likelihood that Annual Catch Limits will be exceeded. Making improvements to dealer reported data would help decrease the amount of uncertainty built into management decisions that aim to balance the largest annual harvest with the future success of the fish stocks.



**Purpose of this Amendment:** To change the current dealer permit and reporting requirements for purchasing species managed by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils.

**Need for Action:** To ensure landings of managed fish are recorded accurately and in a timely manner so Annual Catch Limits are not exceeded.

Summary of Actions

**Action 1. Dealer Permits Required**

Currently, dealers must have a separate permit to purchase species in the following fishery management plans:

Atlantic	South Atlantic	Gulf of Mexico
Dolphin-Wahoo	Golden Crab	Reef Fish
	Rock Shrimp	
	Snapper/Grouper	
	Wreckfish	

The Councils are considering streamlining dealer permits to simplify reporting requirements and reduce the administrative burden caused by multiple permits.

**Alternative 1:** No action – Do not change the current federal dealer permits.

**Alternative 2 (Gulf Council Preferred):** Establish one universal federal dealer permit.

**Option a:** Require a universal permit to purchase species in the following fishery management plans:

Atlantic	South Atlantic	Gulf of Mexico	Joint Gulf & South Atlantic
Dolphin-Wahoo	Golden Crab	Reef Fish	Coastal Migratory Pelagics*
	Rock Shrimp	Red Drum*	Spiny Lobster*
	Snapper/Grouper	Shrimp*	
	Wreckfish		
	Shrimp*		

\*Additional species that would require a permit to purchase.

**Option b (Gulf Council Preferred):** Require a universal permit to purchase species in the following fishery management plans:

Atlantic	South Atlantic	Gulf of Mexico	Joint Gulf & South Atlantic
Dolphin-Wahoo	Golden Crab	Reef Fish	Coastal Migratory Pelagics*
	Rock Shrimp	Red Drum*	Spiny Lobster*
	Snapper/Grouper		
	Wreckfish		

\*Additional species that would require a permit to purchase.

**Alternative 3 (South Atlantic Council Preferred):** Establish separate Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic federal dealer permits.

**Option a:** Require separate permits to purchase species in the following Gulf and South Atlantic fishery management plans:

South Atlantic	Gulf of Mexico
Dolphin/Wahoo	Reef Fish
Golden Crab	Red Drum*
Rock Shrimp	Coastal Migratory Pelagics*
Snapper/Grouper (including wreckfish)	Spiny Lobster*
Coastal Migratory Pelagics*	Shrimp*
Spiny Lobster*	
Shrimp*	

\*Additional species that would require a permit to purchase.

**Option b (South Atlantic Council Preferred).** Require separate permits to purchase species in the following Gulf and South Atlantic fishery management plans:

South Atlantic	Gulf of Mexico
Dolphin/Wahoo	Reef Fish
Golden Crab	Red Drum*
Rock Shrimp	Coastal Migratory Pelagics*
Snapper/Grouper (including wreckfish)	Spiny Lobster*
Coastal Migratory Pelagics*	
Spiny Lobster*	

\*Additional species that would require a permit to purchase.



## Action 2. Frequency and Method of Reporting

Currently, dealers with federal permits must report all seafood purchases no later than five days after the end of a reporting period. Dealers must report purchases of species included in the South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper and Gulf Reef Fish permits twice a month, and all other species purchases must be reported once a month. Dealers can submit reports electronically, by mail, or by fax. The Councils are considering changing reporting requirements to increase the timeliness and accuracy of dealer reported data.

**Alternative 1:** No action – Do not change current reporting requirements.

**Alternative 2:** Require forms to be submitted by fax or electronically.

**Alternative 3 (*Gulf and South Atlantic Councils Preferred*):** Require forms to be submitted electronically.

**Alternative 4:** If separate Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic permits are created in Action 1, then Gulf of Mexico dealers must submit using fax or electronically in the first year following implementation. In year 2 and beyond, forms must be submitted electronically.

**Note:** An Option a-e must be selected for Alternatives 2-4.

*Alternative 5 can be selected in addition to Alternatives 2-4.*

**Option a:** Daily reporting required.

**Option b (*Gulf and South Atlantic Councils Preferred*):** Weekly reporting required.

**Option c:** Weekly reporting unless the Regional Administrator determines that daily reporting is needed.

**Option d:** Once every two weeks reporting required.

**Option e:** Once every two weeks unless the Science and Research Director determines that weekly reporting is needed.

**Alternative 5:** During catastrophic conditions (as determined by the Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries), paper-based reporting will be used as a backup.

**Note:** All alternatives require dealers purchasing king mackerel landed by the gillnet sector for the Gulf West Coast Florida Southern Sub-Zone must continue to submit forms daily by 6:00 a.m.

### **Action 3: Requirements to Maintain a Dealer Permit**

Currently, dealers purchasing Gulf of Mexico reef fish or South Atlantic snapper and grouper must report regardless of whether purchases are made during the reporting period (wreckfish excluded during spawning closure). For all other species, dealers have to report only if they purchase fish during a reporting period.

**Alternative 1:** No action – Maintain current requirements.

**Alternative 2:** Require dealers to report regardless of whether purchase is made. Dealers would only be authorized to receive commercially harvested species if previous reports have been submitted in a timely manner.



The Council is collecting input on this amendment both online and through a series of meetings across the Gulf coast. Each of the following meetings will begin at 6 p.m. local time and conclude no later than 9:00 p.m.

**August 6, 2012**

Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore Hotel  
2225 N. Lois Ave.  
Tampa, FL 33607  
(813) 877-6688

Lady Anderson/  
Captain Anderson Marina  
5550 N. Lagoon Dr.  
Panama City Beach, FL 32408  
(850) 234-3435

**August 7, 2012**

Courtyard Marriott  
3955 N. Expressway 77/83  
Brownsville, TX 78520  
(956) 350-4600

Courtyard Marriott  
1000 W. I-65 Service Road S.  
Mobile, AL 36609  
(251) 344-5200

**August 8, 2012**

Harvey Government Center  
1200 Truman Avenue  
Key West, FL 33040  
(305) 295-5000

Courtyard Marriott D'Iberville  
11471 Cinema Dr.  
D'Iberville, MS 39540  
(228) 392-1200

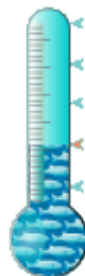
Omni Corpus Christi  
900 N. Shoreline Blvd.  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401  
(361) 887-1600

**August 9, 2012**

Hilton Galveston  
5400 Seawall Blvd.  
Galveston Island, TX 77551  
(409) 744-5000

Courtyard Marriott  
142 Library Dr.  
Houma, LA 70360  
(985) 223-8996

If you are unable to attend a public hearing, your input is still important. A virtual presentation is also available. To view, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wLwR4yr8GI>. Comments can be submitted online at: [http://www.gulfcouncil.org/council\\_meetings/comment\\_forms/Dealer%20Reporting.php](http://www.gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/comment_forms/Dealer%20Reporting.php), or by clicking on the thermometer icon on our home page at [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org).



# NOTES



# NOTES





## **Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council**

2203 N. Lois Avenue  
Suite 1100  
Tampa, FL 33607

Tel: 888-833-1844

Fax: 813-348-1711

Email: [gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org)

Web site: [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org)

