



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

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006703JUN2018

Dear Alan Risenhoover:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide suggestions on current federal regulations in the southeast region that meet the requirements of Executive Order 13771 and Executive Order 13777. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) reviewed and discussed these orders and reviewed regulations that staff identified as old and outdated and/or in need of cleanup. During this exercise, the Council discussed proposed regulations at the April and June 2018 Council meetings and the public had the opportunity to provide comments at both meetings.

Overall, the Council found this exercise useful, but identified very few regulations in the Council's jurisdiction in need of possible removal. Thus, we feel overall the Council is doing an admirable job of maintaining useful regulations that are necessary to manage sustainable resources throughout the Gulf of Mexico. Two items that were identified for possible removal are outlined below:

1) §600.725 General Prohibitions – Gulf of Mexico: Remove “trap” from the list below

Fishery	Authorized gear types
8. Golden Crab Fishery (Non-FMP)	Trap .
11. Octopus Fishery (Non-FMP)	Trap , pot.
12. Marine Life Aquarium Fishery (Non-FMP)	Dip net, slurp gun, barrier net, drop net, allowable chemical, trap , pot, trawl

Rationale: Fish traps are prohibited gear according to §622.9(c) (see also definition of fish traps in §622.2) which supersedes §600.725.

2) §622.20 Permits and endorsements.

(i) *Transfer of permits—(A) Permits without a historical captain endorsement.* A charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf reef fish that does not have a historical captain endorsement is fully transferable, with or without sale of the permitted vessel.

(B) *Permits with a historical captain endorsement.* A charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf reef fish that has a historical captain endorsement may only be transferred to a vessel operated by the historical captain and is not otherwise transferable.

§622.373 Limited access system for charter vessel/headboat permits for Gulf coastal migratory pelagic fish.

622.373(b)(2) *Permits with a historical captain endorsement.* A charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf coastal migratory pelagic fish that has a historical captain endorsement may only be transferred to a vessel operated by the historical captain and is not otherwise transferable.

Rationale: The number of for-hire permits has decreased over time, and captains in the fishery could be granted full transferability.

Additionally, the Council is working to clean up the spiny lobster regulations *Subpart R – Spiny Lobster Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic* through Joint Amendment 13 with the South Atlantic Council. New regulations would more closely follow Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission regulations.

The Council is working on the appropriate action to explore removing these regulations and cleaning up others. We appreciate your assistance and we look forward to continuing to work with you. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leann Bosarge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leann Bosarge
Gulf Council Chair

cc: Gulf Council
Council Executive Directors
Council Staff
Susan Gerhart
Jack McGovern, Ph.D.