



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**  
Southeast Regional Office  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505  
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/southeast>

F/SER24:KO

Mr. Tyler M. Bosworth, Secretary  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
PO Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

Dear Mr. Bosworth,

This letter acknowledges your letter, requesting to extend Louisiana State recreational and commercial fishing regulations for wahoo into federal waters.

Under section 306(a)(3) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1856(a)(3)), states may regulate a fishing vessel in federal waters under certain specified circumstances. Your letter refers to one of the circumstances specified in 306(a)(3)(A): the fishing vessel is registered under the law of that State and there is no federal fishery management plan or other applicable federal fishing regulations for the fishery in which the vessel is operating. Currently, there is no federal fishery management plan or other federal fishing regulations for wahoo in the Gulf of America (Gulf). Therefore, Louisiana may regulate those vessels that are registered with the state and are fishing for wahoo in federal waters.

It is my understanding that the Gulf Council does not have imminent plans to recommend federal management measures for wahoo. If NOAA Fisheries implements federal regulations for wahoo in the Gulf at a future date, then the state could only regulate Louisiana-registered vessels fishing for wahoo in federal waters if the state's regulations are consistent with the federal fishery management plan and applicable regulations.

NOAA Fisheries commends your office for its commitment to conserving this resource.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Strelcheck  
Regional Administrator

