Recreational Fishing Regulations for Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters

For Species Managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

July 22, 2016

This publication was prepared for general informational purposes and has no legal force or effect. Fishing regulations are subject to change. Check for updates by visiting www.gulfcouncil.org, or download our free regulations app - available for both iPhone and Android.

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For more information call 888-833-1844.

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Table of Contents

About Us 2
Recreational Regulations
Reef Fish 3
Coastal Migratory Pelagics 8
Shellfish, Coral, and Other Species 9
Recreational Permit Requirements 10
Additional Rules 11
Highly Migratory Species 12
Species Identification 14
Measurement Guidelines 16
Marine Sanctuaries & Closures 17
Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters 30
Important Phone Numbers 31
Regulation Changes and Updates 33

About the

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional Fishery Management Councils established by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Council prepares fishery management plans, which are designed to manage fishery resources within the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

The Council consists of 17 voting members: the Southeast Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southeast Regional Office (or his designee), the directors of the five Gulf state marine resource management agencies (or their designees), and 11 members who are nominated by the state governors and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. There are also four non-voting members representing the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of State, and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The Council meets five times a year at various locations around the Gulf coast. When reviewing potential rule changes, the Council draws upon the services of knowledgeable people from other state and federal agencies, universities, and the public to balance competing interests and achieve the greatest overall benefit to the nation.

Scoping workshops and public hearings are also held throughout the Gulf coast, and virtual meetings are available online. Testimony, oral or written, is considered by the Council before it takes final action on proposed rule changes. Public testimony is also heard during each Council meeting. Proposed rule changes are then submitted to National Marine Fisheries Service for further review and approval before implementation by the Secretary of Commerce.

Recreational Fishing Regulations

Reef Fish

Snappers

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Season	Daily Bag/Possession Limit
Red Snapper	16" total length	Private Angler Season June 1 - June 11 Federal For-hire Season June 1 - July 16	2 per person Captain & crew may not retain a bag limit.
Vermilion	10" total length	Year round	10 per person within the 20-reef fish combined total.
Lane	8" total length	Year round	20 per person within the 20-reef fish combined total.
Gray (Mangrove) Mutton Yellowtail & Cubera Queen Blackfin Silk Wenchman	12" total length 16" total length 12" total length none none none none	Year round Year round Year round Year round Year round Year round Year round	10 per person within the 10-snapper combined total. Includes all snappers except red, vermilion, and lane.

Reef Fish

Groupers

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Season	Daily Bag/Possession Limit
Shallow-water Groupers Black Yellowfin Scamp Yellowmouth	 24" total length 20" total length 16" total length none	All Shallow-water grouper closed 2/1 - 3/31 when fishing beyond the 20-fathom break. See pages 6 -7.	4 per person within the 4-grouper combined total.
Red	20" total length	NOTE: When fishing in state waters off Monroe County, South Atlantic regulations apply.	2 per person within the 4-grouper combined total.
Gag	24" total length	June 1 - Dec 31	2 per person within the 4-fish combined grouper total.
Deep-water Groupers Yellowedge Snowy	 none none	 Year round Year round	4 per person combined grouper total.
Speckled Hind Warsaw	none none	Year round Year round	1 per vessel, included in the 4-fish combined grouper total.

Protected Groupers: Goliath (Jewfish) harvest and possession is prohibited.

Other Reef Fish

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Season	Daily Bag/Possession Limit
Hogfish	12" fork length	Year round	5 per person
Gray Triggerfish	14" fork length	Closed June 1 - July 31 * **Closed through Dec. 31, 2016**	2 per person within the 20-reef fish combined total.
Greater Amberjack	34" fork length	Closed June 1 - July 31 * **Closed through Dec. 31, 2016**	1 per person Captain & crew may not retain a bag limit.
Lesser Amberjack Banded Rudderfish	14" - 22" fork length 14" - 22" fork length	Year round Year round	5-fish combined total
Almaco Jack	None	Year round	20 within the 20-reef fish combined total.

* Subject to in-season closure.

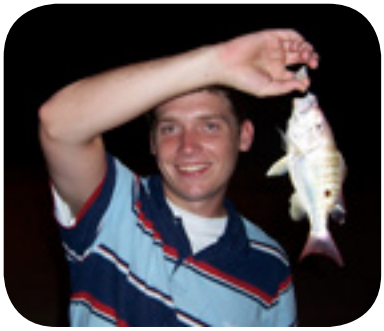
Species that are part of the 20-reef fish aggregate bag limit include:

Vermilion Snapper
Lane Snapper
Almaco Jack
Gray Triggerfish
Tilefish (Golden)
Goldface Tilefish
Blueline Tilefish

NOTES:

For-hire captains and crew are prohibited from retaining bag limits of any grouper, greater amberjack, or red snapper while under charter.

Federally permitted for-hire reef fish vessels must comply with the more restrictive of federal or state reef fish regulations when fishing for reef fish in state waters.



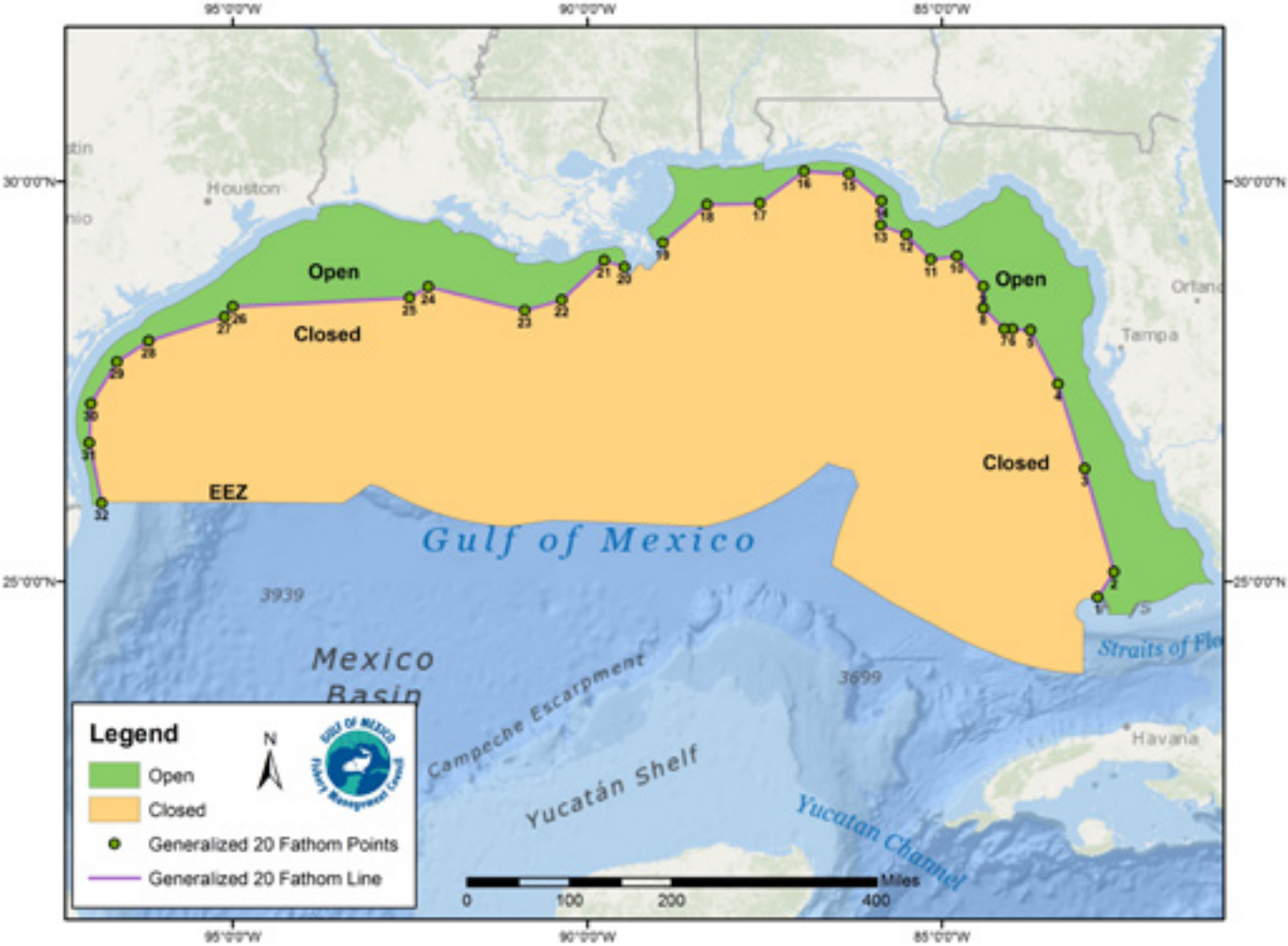
Shallow-water Grouper Closure (Map of the 20-fathom break)

Title 50 CFR: Wildlife and Fisheries - PART 622 FISHERIES OF THE CARIBBEAN, GULF OF MEXICO, AND SOUTH ATLANTIC
Subpart B – Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico - §622.34 Seasonal and area closures designed to protect Gulf reef fish

(d) Seasonal closure of the recreational sector for shallow-water grouper (SWG). The recreational sector for SWG, in or from the Gulf EEZ, is closed each year from February 1 through March 31, in the portion of the Gulf EEZ seaward of rhumb lines connecting, in order, the points in the following table. During the closure, the bag and possession limit for SWG in or from the Gulf EEZ seaward of the following rhumb lines is zero.

See coordinates next page.

Seasonal closure (Feb 1 - Mar 31) of the recreational sector for shallow-water grouper (SWG)



Coordinates for the Shallow-water Grouper Closure (20-fathom break)

Position	Latitude	Longitude
1	24°48.0′ N	82°48.0′W
2	25°07.5′ N	82°34.0′W
3	26°26.0′ N	82°59.0′W
4	27°30.0′ N	83°21.5′W
5	28°10.0′ N	83°45.0′W
6	28°11.0′ N	84°00.0′W
7	28°11.0′ N	84°07.0′W
8	28°26.6′ N	84°24.8′W
9	28°42.5′ N	84°24.8′W
10	29°05.0′ N	84°47.0′W
11	29°02.5′ N	85°09.0′W
12	29°21.0′ N	85°30.0′W
13	29°27.9′ N	85°51.7′W
14	29°45.8′ N	85°51.0′W
15	30°05.6′ N	86°18.5′W
16	30°07.5′ N	86°56.5′W
17	29°43.9′ N	87°33.8′W
18	29°43.0′ N	88°18.5′W
19	At State/EEZ line, follow State/EEZ line to point 20	88°56.0′W
20	At State/EEZ line	89°28.4′W
21	29°02.0′ N	89°45.5′W
22	28°32.7′ N	90°21.5′W
23	28°24.8′ N	90°52.7′W
24	28°42.3′ N	92°14.4′W
25	28°34.2′ N	92°30.4′W
26	28°27.6′ N	95°00.0′W
27	28°20.0′ N	95°06.9′W
28	28°02.2′ N	96°11.1′W
29	27°46.5′ N	96°38.1′W
30	27°15.0′ N	97°00.0′W
31	26°45.5′ N	97°01.4′W
32	At EEZ	96°51.0′W

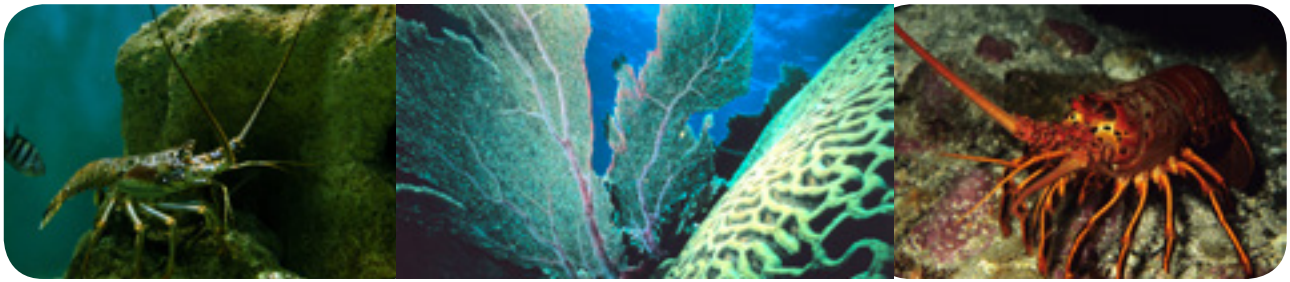
Coastal Migratory Pelagics

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Season	Daily Bag/Possession Limit
Cobia (ling)*	33" fork length	Year round	2 per person
King Mackerel	24" fork length	Year round	2 per person
Spanish Mackerel	12" fork length	Year round	15 per person

*The 2-day bag limit allowance for qualified charter vessels and headboats on a trip in excess of 24 hours **does not** apply to cobia.

Shellfish

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Season	Daily Bag/Possession Limit
Spiny Lobster	More than 3" carapace. Divers must measure in water. The carapace is measured beginning at the forward edge between the rostral horns, excluding and soft tissue, and proceeding along the middle to the rear edge of the carapace. See page 16.	8/6 - 3/31 A special 2-day, non-trap recreational season opens the last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday in July.	6 per person, no transfer at sea between boats. During the 2-day special season - 12 per person off Florida, except 6 per person for Monroe County, Florida Keys.



Coral and Other Species

Species	Notes
Live Rock	Harvest and possession of live rock is prohibited, except for permitted aquaculture operations. Call 727-824-5763.
Other Marine Life Organisms	Marine life organisms from the EEZ harvested or possessed by Florida residents or landed in Florida are subject to Florida's Marine Life Rule. Contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission for more information at 850-487-3122.
Other Species	
Red Drum	Illegal to harvest or possess in federal waters.

Recreational Permit Requirements

Permit	Required for:
Charter vessel/headboat coastal pelagics permit	Charter vessel and headboats fishing for mackerels, cobia, little tunny, cero, dolphin, bluefish. NOTE: Issuance of new permits is under a moratorium effective 6/16/2003.
Charter vessel/headboat reef fish permit	Charter vessels and headboats fishing for snappers, groupers, amberjack, tilefish, hogfish, and gray triggerfish. NOTE: Issuance of new permits is under a moratorium effective 6/16/2003.
Highly migratory species (HMS) charter/headboat permit	All charter or headboats that fish for or possess highly migratory species.
HMS recreational angling permit	Owners of vessels used to fish recreationally for Atlantic HMS - Atlantic tunas (other than blackfin), billfish, sharks, and swordfish.

Additional Rules

Two-Day Bag Limit	Persons on qualified charter vessels or headboats with two captains for trips in excess of 24 hours may possess a 2-day bag limit of reef fish, king mackerel, and Spanish mackerel. One-day bag limits apply to all other species and trips, regardless of length.
Head & Fins Attached	All fish, except for bait and oceanic migratory species, taken from federal waters must have heads and fins intact through landing. Up to 1.5 pounds of finfish per person is exempt from this rule for personal consumption, provided the vessel is equipped to cook such finfish.
For-Hire Captains and Crew	For-hire captains and crew are prohibited from retaining bag limits of any grouper, red snapper, or greater amberjack while under charter.
Federally Permitted For-Hire Reef Fish Vessels	Federally permitted for-hire reef fish vessels must comply with the more restrictive of federal or state reef fish regulations when fishing for reef fish in state waters.
Reef Fish as Bait	The use of federally managed reef fish as bait is prohibited.
Non-Stainless Steel Circle Hooks	Non-stainless steel circle hooks, along with dehooking devices, are required when angling for reef fish in federal waters.
Gear	Reef fish gear is limited to no more than 3 hooks in a special management zone off of Alabama. Nonconforming gear is restricted to bag limit. For reef fish without a bag limit, nonconforming gear is restricted to 5% by weight of all fish onboard.
Stressed Areas	Use of roller trawls and power heads is prohibited in designated stressed areas. Stressed areas for reef fish begin at the shoreward boundary of federal waters and generally follow the 10 fathom contour from the Dry Tortugas to Sanibel Island; the 20 fathom contour to Tarpon Springs; the 10 fathom contour to Cape San Blas; the 25 fathom contour to south of Mobile Bay; the 13 fathom contour to Ship Island, Mississippi; the 10 fathom contour off Louisiana; and the 30 fathom contour off Texas.
Sale of Recreationally Caught Reef Fish	Reef fish taken under the recreational bag limit may not be sold.
Care and Release of Incidental Catch of Smalltooth Sawfish and Sea Turtles	Operators of vessels with Gulf of Mexico reef fish commercial or charter vessel/head-boat permits must comply with guidelines for proper care and release of incidentally caught smalltooth sawfish and sea turtles and must possess onboard specific gear to ensure proper release of such species.

Highly Migratory Species

All HMS species, except blackfin tuna, require an HMS Angling Category permit from NOAA Fisheries. Permits are available by calling 888-872-8862, or by visiting www.nmfspermits.com. No sale permitted for HMS species caught under an angling permit. Additional recreational reporting requirements apply for swordfish, billfish, and Atlantic bluefin tuna. For complete HMS regulations contact NOAA Fisheries HMS Management Division at 301-713-2347, or visit www.nmfspermits.com.

For updates on tuna quota monitoring and tuna retention limit adjustments, anglers may call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at 888-872-8862 or visit www.nmfspermits.com. For more information on tunas, contact the HMS Management Division at 978-281-9260. Recreational swordfish and billfish landings should be reported to 800-984-5528.

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Season	Daily Bag/Possession Limit
Tuna			
Bluefin	27" curved fork length		Bag limits are subject to sub-quotas by size and permit categories, change seasonally, and are reduced to zero when subquotas are filled.
Bigeye	27" curved fork length	Year round	None
Yellowfin	27" curved fork length	Year round	3 per person
Albacore	None	Year round	None
Skipjack	None	Year round	None
Blackfin	None	Year round	None
Billfish	Minimum size lower jaw to fork		
Blue Marlin	99" lower jaw	Year round	None
White Marlin	66" fork length	Year round	None
Sailfish	63" fork length	Year round	None
Longbill Spearfish	HARVEST PROHIBITED		
Swordfish	Whole fish: 47" lower jaw to tail	Year round	1 per person; max 4 per vessel (6 per vessel for charter boats; 15 per vessel for headboats).

Highly Migratory Species *continued*

Species	Minimum Size Limit	Season	Daily Bag/Possession Limit
Sharks			
All regulated sharks*	54" fork length	Year round	1 per vessel per trip (any authorized species)
*Exceptions:			
Hammerhead (smooth, great, & scalloped)	78" fork length	Year round	1 per vessel per trip (any authorized species)
Atlantic sharpnose	None	Year round	1 per person
Bonnethead	None	Year round	1 per person
Prohibited Sharks-Recreational Harvest			
Atlantic angel Basking Bigeye sand tiger Bigeye sixgill Bigeye thresher	Bignose Caribbean reef Caribbean sharpnose Dusky Galapagos	Longfin mako Narrowtooth Night Sandbar Sand tiger	Sevengill Sixgill Smalltail Whale White

Species Identification

Artwork © Diane Rome Peebles

Red Snapper	Silk Snapper
Vermilion Snapper	Yellowtail Snapper
Lane Snapper	Blackfin Snapper
Gray (Mangrove) Snapper	Mutton Snapper
Cubera Snapper	Queen Snapper
Hogfish	

Species Identification *continued*

Artwork © Diane Rome Peebles

Black Grouper	Greater Amberjack
Gag Grouper	Lesser Amberjack
Red Grouper	Banded Rudderfish
Yellowmouth	Cobia (ling)
Yellowfin	Spanish Mackerel
Scamp	King Mackerel

Measurement Guidelines

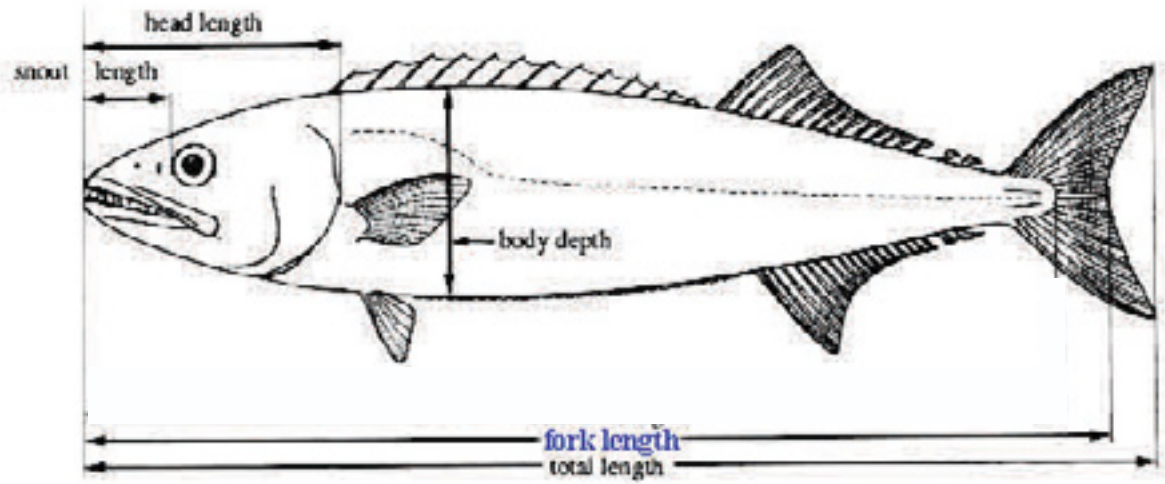
Fork length: the straight-line distance from the tip of the head (snout) to the rear center edge of the tail (caudal fin).

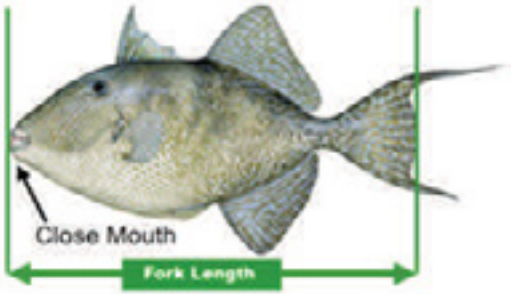
Total length: the straight-line distance from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail (caudal fin), excluding any caudal filament, while the fish is lying on its side. The mouth of the fish may be closed and/or the tail may be squeezed together to give the greatest overall measurement.

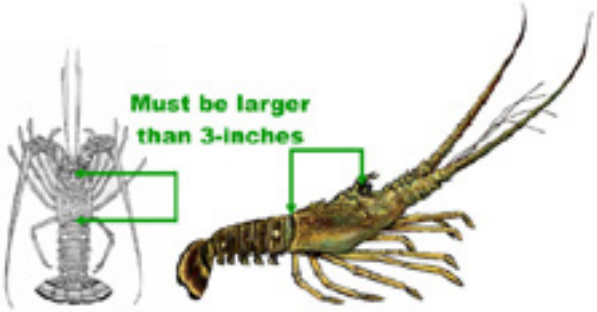
Curved fork length: the tip of the jaw to form of tail measured along the contour of the middle of the body.

Carcass length: the curved measure from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel.

Carapace length: The carapace is measured beginning at the forward edge between the rostral horns, excluding and soft tissue, and proceeding along the middle to the rear edge of the carapace.







Marine Sanctuaries and Area Closures

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (See pages 17-19)

Below is a summary of regulated activity within the FGBNMS. For the full text, contact the Sanctuary office at 409-621-5151 or visit www.flowergarden.noaa.gov.

Fishing and Related Activities

The following activities are generally prohibited:

- Injuring, catching, harvesting, collecting or feeding, or attempting to injure, catch, harvest, collect or feed, any fish within the sanctuary by use of any gear, device, equipment or means (e.g. spear guns, nets) except by use of conventional hook and line gear.
- Possessing (except while passing through the sanctuary without interruption) any fishing gear, device, equipment, or means except conventional hook and line gear.
- Possessing or using explosives or releasing electrical charges within the sanctuary.

Conventional hook and line gear means any fishing apparatus operated aboard a vessel and composed of a single line terminated by a combination of sinkers and hooks or lures and spooled upon a reel that may be hand or electrically operated, hand-held or mounted.

Anchoring and Mooring

The following activities are prohibited:

- Anchoring any vessel within the Sanctuary.
- Mooring a vessel over 100 feet in registered length on a Sanctuary mooring buoy.

Discharges

Discharging or depositing any material or other matter within the Sanctuary is prohibited, with the following exceptions:

- Fish, fish parts, chumming materials or bait used in or resulting from fishing with conventional hook and line gear in the sanctuary.
- Clean effluent from an operable Type I or Type II marine sanitation devise (MSD).
- Clean water generated by routine vessel operations (e.g. engine exhaust, cooling water, deck wash down, and gray water), excluding oily wastes from bilge pumping.

Injury to or Possession of Sanctuary Resources

The following activities are generally prohibited:

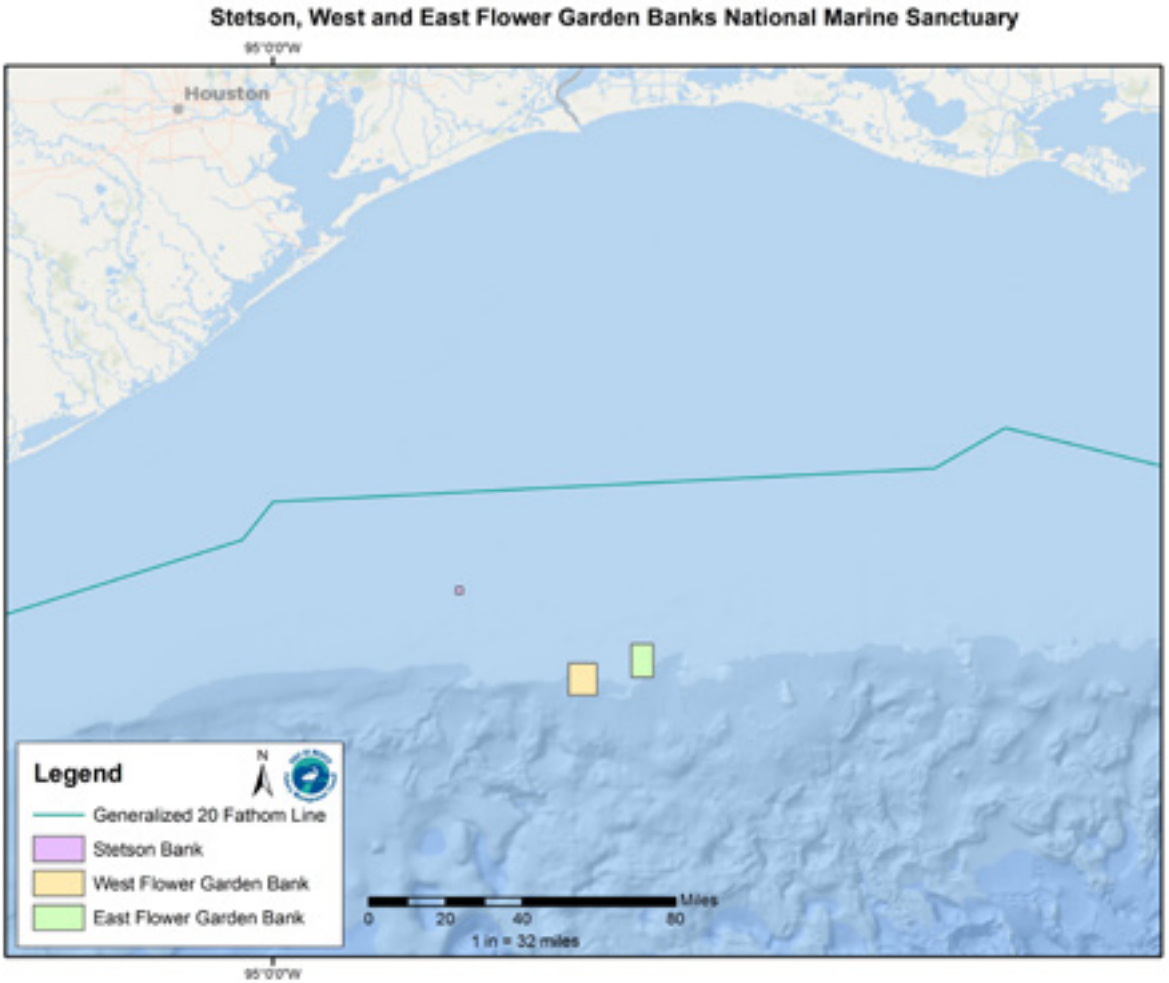
- Injuring or removing, or attempting to injure or remove, any coral or other bottom formation, coralline algae or other plant, marine invertebrate *(e.g., spiny lobster, queen conch, shell, sea urchin)* brine-seep biota or carbonate rock.
- Possessing within the Sanctuary (regardless of where collected), any coral or other bottom formation, coralline algae or other plant, or fish (except for fish caught by use of conventional hook and line gear).
- Drilling into, dredging, or otherwise altering the seabed of the sanctuary; or constructing, placing, or abandoning any structure, material, or other matter on the seabed of the Sanctuary.

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

50 CFR: Wildlife and Fisheries - PART 622 FISHERIES OF THE CARIBBEAN, GULF OF MEXICO, AND SOUTH ATLANTIC §622.34 - Gulf EEZ seasonal and/or area closures.

(j) West and East Flower Garden Banks HAPC. Fishing with a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, dredge, pot, or trap and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round.

(s) Stetson Bank HAPC. Fishing with a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, pot, or trap and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round.



Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

Stetson Bank		
Position	Latitude	Longitude
A	28°10′38.3″ N	94°18′36.5″ W
B	28°10′38.3″ N	94°17′06.3″ W
C	28°09′18.6″ N	94°17′06.3″ W
D	28°09′18.6″ N	94°18′36.5″ W
A	28°10′38.3″ N	94°18′36.5″ W

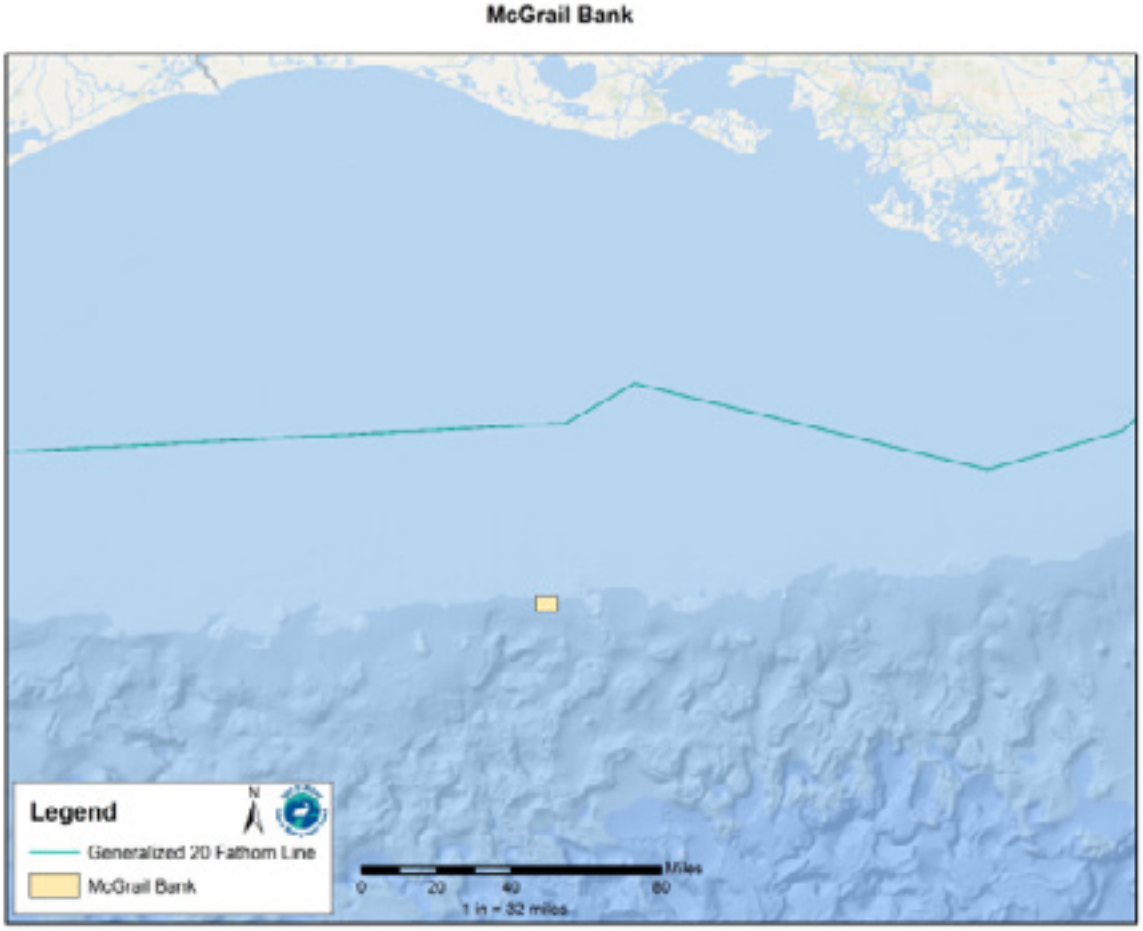
East Flower Garden Bank		
Position	Latitude	Longitude
A	27°59′14.4″ N	93°38′58.2″ W
B	27°59′14.4″ N	93°34′03.5″ W
C	27°52′36.5″ N	93°34′03.5″ W
D	27°52′36.5″ N	93°38′58.2″ W
A	27°59′14.4″ N	93°38′58.2″ W

West Flower Garden Bank		
Position	Latitude	Longitude
A	27°55′22.8″ N	93°53′09.6″ W
B	27°55′22.8″ N	93°46′46.0″ W
C	27°49′03.0″ N	93°46′46.0″ W
D	27°49′03.0″ N	93°53′09.6″ W
A	27°55′22.8″ N	93°53′09.6″ W

MCGrail Bank

50 CFR: Wildlife and Fisheries - PART 622 FISHERIES OF THE CARIBBEAN, GULF OF MEXICO, AND SOUTH ATLANTIC

(t) McGrail Bank HAPC. Fishing with a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, pot, or trap and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round.



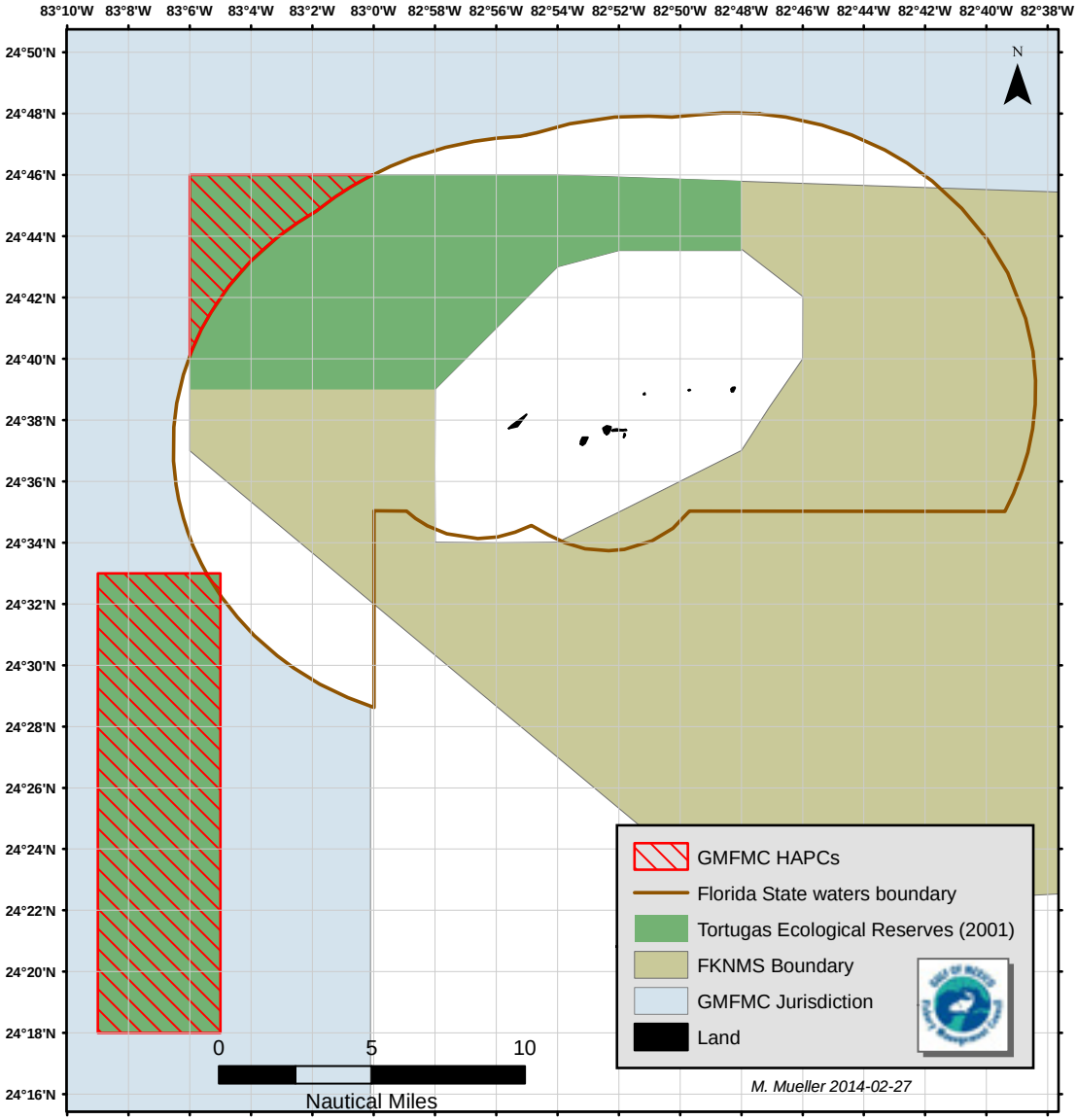
MCGrail Bank

Fishing with a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, pot, or trap and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round.

McGrail Bank		
Position	Latitude	Longitude
A	27°59′06.0″N	92°37′19.2″W
B	27°59′06.0″ N	92°32′17.4″W
C	27°55′55.5″ N	92°32′17.4″W
D	27°55′55.5″ N	92°37′19.2″W
A	27°59′06.0″ N	92°37′19.2″W

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) (See page22)

Tortugas North and South Ecological Reserves



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS)

Tortugas North and Tortugas South Ecological Reserves are closed to all fishing. Anchoring of fishing vessels is also not allowed. The boundaries of the areas are as follows:

Tortugas North Ecological Reserve		
Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	24°46′00″ N	83°06′00″ W
B	24°46′00″ N	82°54′00″ W
C	24°45′80″ N	82°48′00″ W
D	24°43′53″ N	82°48′00″ W
E	24°43′53″ N	82°52′00″ W
F	24°43′00″ N	82°54′00″ W
G	24°39′00″ N	82°58′00″ W
H	24°39′00″ N	83°06′00″ W
A	24°46′00″ N	83°06′00″ W

Tortugas South Ecological Reserve		
Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	24°33′00″ N	83°09′00 W
B	24°33′00″ N	83°05′00″ W
C	24°18′00″ N	83°05′00″ W
D	24°18′00″ N	83°09′00″ W
A	24°33′00″ N	83°09′00″ W

Madison Swanson, Steamboat Lumps, and the Edges (see pages 25-27)

50 CFR: Wildlife and Fisheries - PART 622 FISHERIES OF THE CARIBBEAN, GULF OF MEXICO, AND SOUTH ATLANTIC §622.34 - Gulf EEZ seasonal and/or area closures.

(k) Closure provisions applicable to the Madison and Swanson sites, Steamboat Lumps, and the Edges.

(2) Within the Madison and Swanson sites and Steamboat Lumps, possession of Gulf reef fish is prohibited, except for such possession aboard a vessel in transit with fishing gear stowed as specified in paragraph (k)(4) of this section.

(3) Within the Madison and Swanson sites and Steamboat Lumps during November through April, and within the Edges during January through April, all fishing is prohibited, and possession of any fish species is prohibited, except for such possession aboard a vessel in transit with fishing gear stowed as specified in paragraph (k)(4) of this section. The provisions of this paragraph, (k)(3), do not apply to highly migratory species.

(4) For the purpose of paragraph (k) of this section, transit means non-stop progression through the area; fishing gear appropriately stowed means -

(i) A longline may be left on the drum if all gangions and hooks are disconnected and stowed below deck. Hooks cannot be baited. All buoys must be disconnected from the gear; however, buoys may remain on deck.

(ii) A trawl net may remain on deck, but trawl doors must be disconnected from the trawl gear and must be secured.

(iii) A gillnet must be left on the drum. Any additional gillnets not attached to the drum must be stowed below deck.

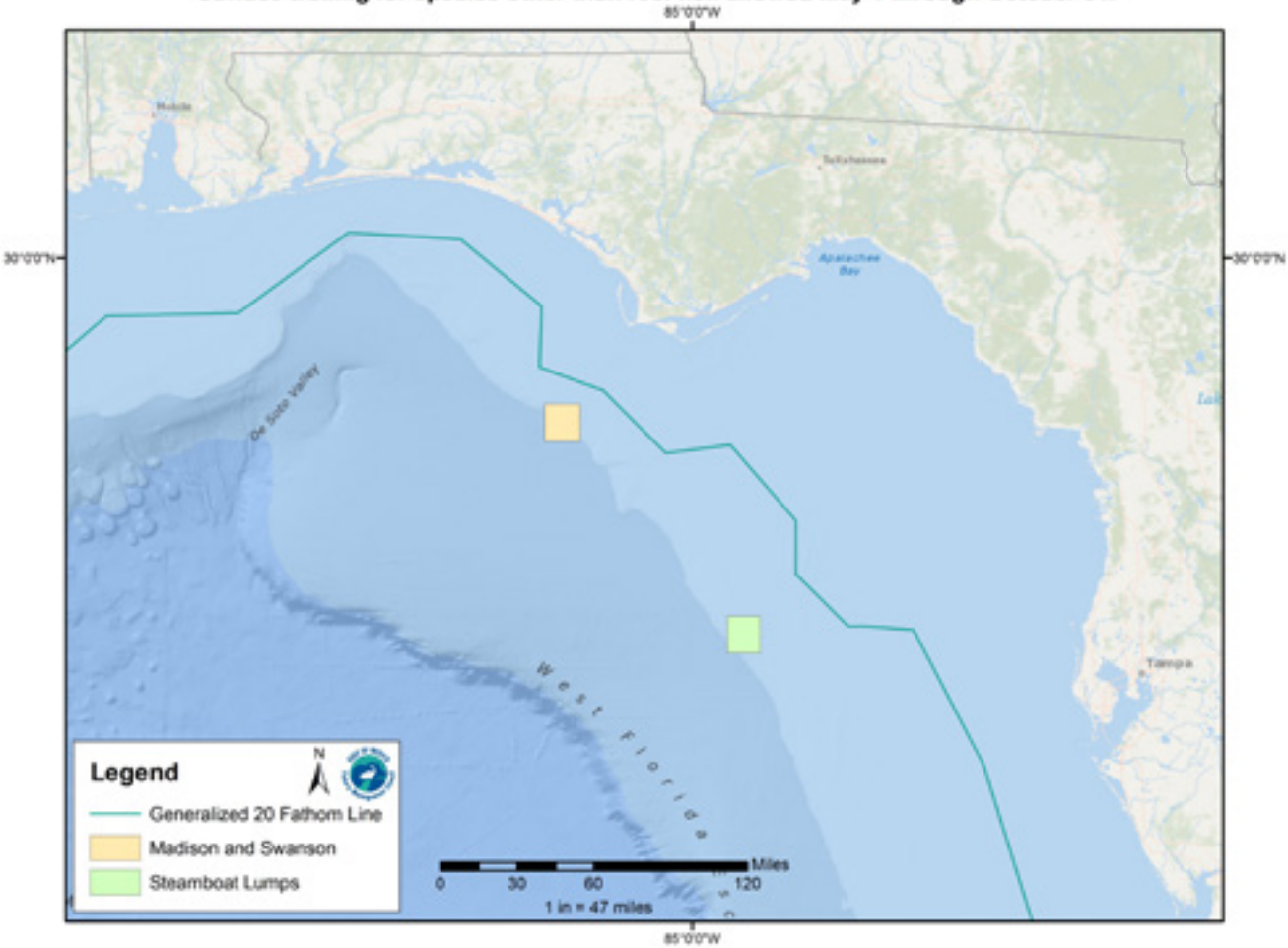
(iv) A rod and reel must be removed from the rod holder and stowed securely on or below deck. Terminal gear (i.e., hook, leader, sinker, flasher, or bait) must be disconnected and stowed separately from the rod and reel. Sinkers must be disconnected from the down rigger and stowed separately.

(5) Within the Madison and Swanson sites and Steamboat Lumps, during May through October, surface trolling is the only allowable fishing activity. For the purpose of this paragraph (k)(5), surface trolling is defined as fishing with lines trailing behind a vessel which is in constant motion at speeds in excess of four knots with a visible wake. Such trolling may not involve the use of down riggers, wire lines, planers, or similar devices.

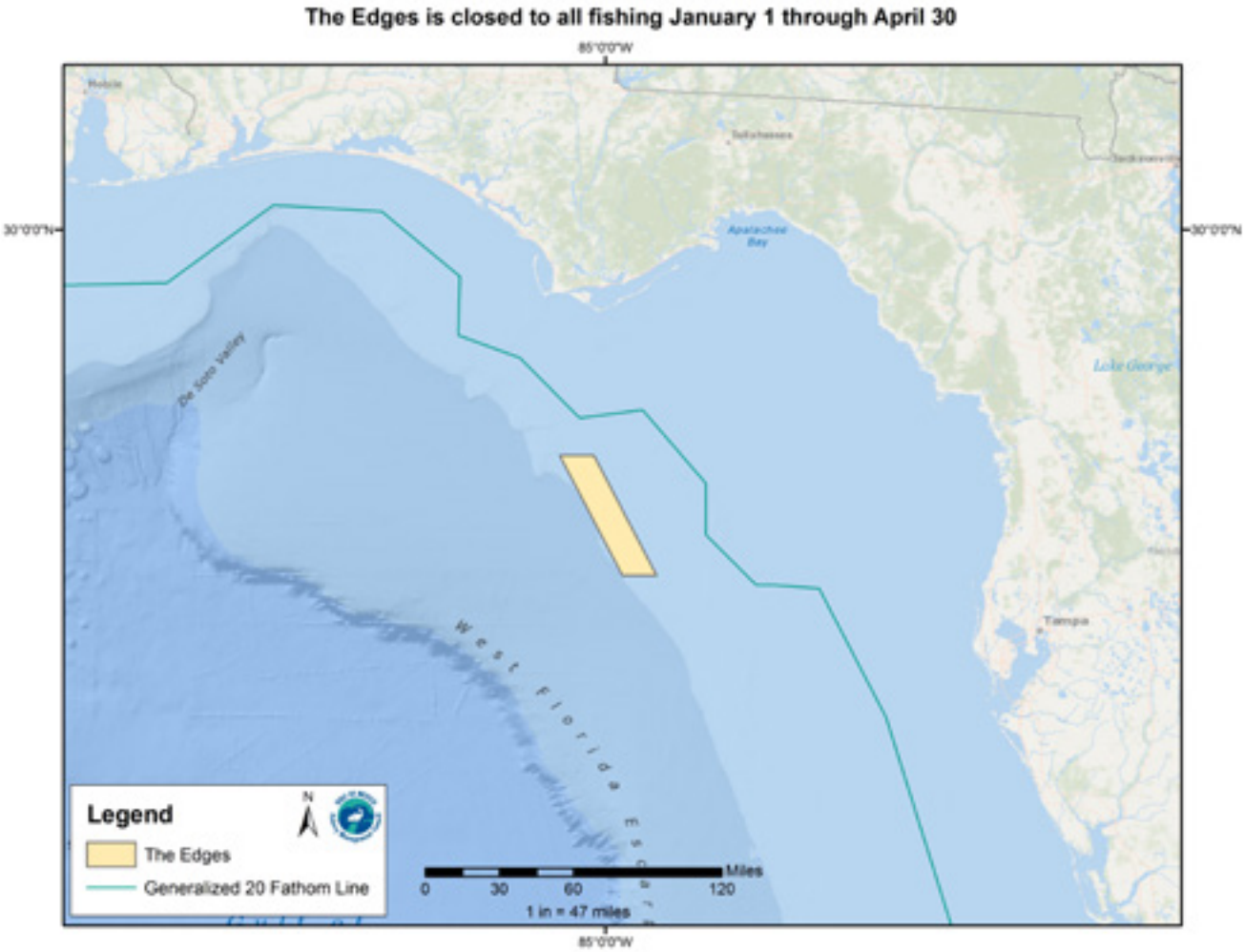
(6) For the purpose of paragraph (k) of this section, fish means finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds. Highly migratory species means tuna species, marlin (Tetrapturus spp. and Makaira spp.), oceanic sharks, sailfishes (Istiophorus spp.), and swordfish (Xiphias gladius).

Madison Swanson and Steamboat Lumps

Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps Marine Reserves closed year round to reef-fish fishing. Surface trolling for species other than reef fish allowed May 1 through October 31.



The Edges (40 fathom contour)



Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps Reserves are closed to reef-fish fishing year round. Surface trolling for species other than reef fish is allowed May 1 through October 31.

Madison-Swanson Marine Reserve		
Position	Latitude	Longitude
A	29°17′ N	85°50′ W
B	29°17′ N	85°38′ W
C	29°06′ N	85°38′ W
D	29°06′ N	85°50′ W
A	29°17′ N	85°50′ W

Steamboat Lumps Marine Reserve		
Position	Latitude	Longitude
A	28°14′ N	84°48′ W
B	28°14′ N	84°37′ W
C	28°03′ N	84°37′ W
D	28°03′ N	84°48′ W
A	28°14′ N	84°48′ W

The Edges (40 fathom contour) is closed January 1 through April 30 to all fishing. The Edges is a 390 nautical square mile region northwest of Steamboat Lumps.

The Edges		
Position	Latitude	Longitude
A	28°51′00″ N	85°16′00″ W
B	28°51′00″ N	85°04′00″ W
C	28°14′00″ N	84°42′00″W
D	28°14′00″ N	84°54′00″ W
A	28°51′00″ N	85°16′00″ W

Pulley Ridge

50 CFR: Wildlife and Fisheries - PART 622 FISHERIES OF THE CARIBBEAN, GULF OF MEXICO, AND SOUTH ATLANTIC §622.34 - Gulf EEZ seasonal and/or area closures. (See page 29)

(r) Pulley Ridge HAPC. Fishing with a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, pot, or trap and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round in the HAPC.

Pulley Ridge

Fishing with a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, pot, or trap and bottom anchoring by fishing vessels are prohibited year-round.

Pulley Ridge		
Position	Latitude	Longitude
A	24°58′18″ N	83°38′33″ W
B	24°58′18″ N	83°37′00″ W
C	24°41′11″ N	83°37′00″W
D	24°40′00″ N	83°41′22″ W
E	24°43′55″ N	83°47′15″ W
A	24°58′18″ N	83°38′33″ W

Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council manages fisheries in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico Exclusive Economic Zone. Federal waters begin where state waters end and extend to the 200-mile limit of the Gulf of Mexico.

Title 50: Wildlife and Fisheries

Part 600 - Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions
Subpart B - Regional Fishery Management Councils

§ 600.105 Intercouncil boundaries.

(c) South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Councils. The Boundary coincides with the line of demarcation between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, which begins at the intersection of the outer boundary of the EEZ, as specified in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and 83°00′ W long., proceeds northward along that meridian to 24° 35′ N lat., (near the Dry Tortugas Islands), thence eastward along that parallel, through Rebecca Shoal and the Quicksand Shoal, to the Marquesas Keys, and then through the Florida Keys to the mainland at the eastern end of Florida Bay, the line so running that the narrow waters within the Dry Tortugas Islands, the Marquesas Keys and the Florida Keys, and between the Florida Keys and the mainland are within the Gulf of Mexico.

State Authority in Federal Waters

A state may regulate vessels that are registered in that state and fishing in federal waters for species for which there are no federal fishery management plans or applicable federal regulations, or for which the appropriate fishery management plan has delegated management of the state and the state rules are consistent with federal regulations.

NOTE: Federally permitted for-hire reef fish vessels must comply with the more restrictive of federal or state reef fish regulations when fishing for reef fish in state waters.

Important Phone Numbers

NMFS Operations Branch	727-824-5305
NMFS Permits and Regulations Branch (see below for tuna permit applications)	877-376-4877
To apply for permits online visit www.nmfspermits.com	
NMFS nationwide federal fishing violations hotline	800-853-1964
NMFS 24-hour tuna information line (also for tuna permits)	888-872-8862
NMFS Highly Migratory Species Division	301-713-2347
NMFS Swordfish/Billfish Recreational Reporting	800-894-5528
Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary	409-621-5151
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary	305-809-4700
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council	843-571-4366
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission	228-875-5912
U.S. Coast Guard, 7th District (Florida east of St. Marks)	305-415-6781
U.S. Coast Guard, 8th District (St. Marks, Florida to Texas)	504-671-2245
Regional NMFS Office for Law Enforcement	727-824-5344
NMFS Enforcement Field Offices:	
St. Petersburg, Florida	727-824-5344
Marathon, Florida	305-743-3110
Niceville, Florida	850-729-8628
Slidell, Louisiana	985-643-6232
Galveston, Texas	409-770-0812
Harlingen, Texas	956-423-3450

Important Phone Numbers *continued*

State Agencies	
Alabama Department of Conservation & Marine Resources	251-861-2882
Information or to report state fishing violations	251-986-7576
24-Hour voice mail to report state fishing violations	251-476-1256
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Information	850-488-4676
To report state fishing violations	850-488-9924
	888-404-3922
Cellular phone	*FWC
Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Information	225-765-2800
To report state fishing violations	800-442-2511
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Information and to report state fishing violations	228-374-5000
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Information	800-792-1112
To report state fishing violations	800-792-game

Regulation Changes and Updates

Supplemental "update sheets" will be published periodically to reflect changes in fishing regulations implemented since this pamphlet was published. For up-to-date regulations visit www.gulfcouncil.org or download our free regulations app. Just visit the Android Market or iTunes and search for "Gulf Council".

NOTE: The Official Electronic Code of Federal Regulations for 50 CFR 622 for Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic is available online. Please visit www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html.

Photos courtesy of: Jeff Berman, Mark Braxton, Ben Leininger, Mark Miller, Emily Muehlstein, Florida Sea Grant, NOAA Photo Library, iStock Photo

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