



United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Galveston Laboratory
4700 Avenue U
Galveston, TX 77551

October 24, 2022

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Dear SPGM Permit Holder:

In June 2022, we mailed you a packet containing an SD card and a pre-paid envelope. You were instructed to use this new SD card to replace the current SD card in your Electronic Logbook (ELB) device, and then return the replaced card to us in the pre-paid envelope.

Your SPGM Permit is non-compliant because we have not received your SD card from June 2022. Providing this data to NOAA Fisheries is required under the conditions of your SPGM permit.

Please insert the new SD card in your ELB and return the current SD card immediately, in order to be in compliance. If you have misplaced the SD card or envelope that we mailed you, contact us so that we can send a replacement. Also, you must notify us if you have not returned the SD card because you have not been fishing.

Amendment 13 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico United States Waters (GMFMC 2005) established the requirement for the ELB program. Amendment 13 and the regulations implementing that amendment require a Gulf of Mexico permitted commercial shrimp fishing vessel to carry an ELB, if selected by the Science and Research Director (SRD):

§ 622.51 Recordkeeping and reporting:

(a) Commercial vessel owners and operators

(2) Electronic logbook reporting. The owner or operator of a vessel for which a Federal commercial vessel permit for Gulf shrimp has been issued and who is selected by the SRD must participate in the NMFS-sponsored electronic logbook reporting program as directed by the SRD. In addition, such owner or operator must provide information regarding the size and number of shrimp trawls deployed and the type of bycatch reduction device (BRD) and turtle excluder device used, as directed by the SRD. Compliance with the reporting requirements of this paragraph (a)(2) is required for permit renewal

Compliance with this reporting program requires the ELB be powered on at all times while the vessel is in operation. In addition, when requested, the SD card MUST be returned to NOAA Fisheries. As noted above, renewal of your SPGM permit requires that your reporting of ELB data is current. Failure to do so may result in the non-renewal of your permit and law enforcement action and civil penalties.

Please let us know if you have any questions and concerns. Contact Rebecca Smith via email at rebecca.smith@noaa.gov. Thank you for your cooperation, without which, collection of this critical information would not be possible.

Sincerely,

Clay Porch, Director
Southeast Fisheries Science Center

