

**Background Information for Tab B
Other Business – Historical Captain Charter Reef Fish Permits**

Federal regulations pertaining to the transfer of historical captain reef fish permits (identical language provided in CMP section):

§ 622.20(b)(1)(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.

The historical captain permit must stay with the historical captain permit holder and can only be placed on a vessel that the historical permit holder is fishing. The historical captain can transfer the permit to another vessel, but the same historical captain must be the one operating the vessel. Excluding permits on vessels that participate in the Southeast Region Headboat Survey, as of October 5, 2016, there were 32 historical captain endorsements for reef fish and 1,215 charter/headboat permits for reef fish without a historical captain endorsement. Any changes to transfer requirements for historical permits would need to be done by the Council through an amendment.

Implementation and Initial Eligibility Requirements

The historical captain endorsement was implemented through joint Amendment 14 (CMP)/20 (Reef Fish), which also instituted the moratorium on charter/headboat permits. The rationale behind it was concern about captains who worked for someone else, but were trying to work their way into the fishery. These captains had typically operated the same vessel for several years, but were not the owners of the vessel. The historical captain endorsement was given to those who could demonstrate their involvement in the respective fishery. Additional information can be found in Amendment 20 (<http://gulfcouncil.org/fishery-management/implemented-plans/reef-fish/>).

Any U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) licensed captain who met the following requirements would be issued a letter of eligibility to be replaced by a permit/endorsement that may be used only on a vessel that they operate as a captain: 1) could demonstrate to NMFS that they were USCG licensed, 2) operated (as a Captain) a permitted for-hire fishing vessel prior to March 9, 2001, but did not have a for-hire permit issued in their name, 3) were able to qualify for the permit within 90 days of implementation of the final rule for this amendment, and 4) were able to demonstrate that at least 25% of their earned income came from recreational for-hire fishing in 1 of the last 4 years ending with March 29, 2001 (i.e., calendar years 1997, 1998, 1999, or 2000). The letter of eligibility granted to a qualifying historical captain was for the same passenger capacity as established by a USCG safety certificate for the vessel he/she operated during the

calendar year used to demonstrate that 25% of his/her earned income was from recreational for-hire fishing.

Distribution of Reef Fish Historical Captain Endorsements

Table 1. Regional distribution of charter vessels with for-hire permits, and historical captain endorsements, by homeport state.

State (Region)	Number of Charter Vessels	Number of Charter Vessels with Historical Captain permit	Total
Florida			
Panhandle (Escambia - Dixie)	290	9	299
Peninsula (Levy - Collier)	335	7	342
Keys (Monroe)	82	0	82
Alabama	128	4	132
Mississippi	30	2	32
Louisiana	113	6	119
Texas	215	4	219
Non-Gulf States	22	0	22
Total	1,215	32	1,247

Source: NMFS-Southeast Regional Office (SERO) permit office database accessed October 5, 2016. Non-Gulf states include Florida counties of Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, Alachua, and Putnam. Vessels participating in the SRHS are not included.

Table 2. Permit passenger capacity of charter vessels with Gulf Charter/Headboat Permits for Reef Fish, and Historical Captain permits.

Passenger Capacity	Number of Charter Vessels	Number of Charter Vessels with Historical Captain permit
6	1,042	23
9-15	19	1
16-19	25	0
20-24	51	1
25-30	20	1
31-40	15	3
41-50	21	0
51-80	11	2
>80	11	1
Total	1,215	32

Source: NMFS-SERO permit office database accessed March 3, 2016. Vessels participating in the SRHS are not included.