

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 622 is proposed to be amended as follows:

**PART 622--FISHERIES OF THE CARIBBEAN, GULF OF MEXICO, AND SOUTH ATLANTIC**

1. The authority citation for part 622 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

2. In § 622.20, revise paragraph (b) (1) and add paragraph (b) (1) (v) to read as follows:

**§ 622.20 Permits and endorsements.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) \* \* \*

(1) *Limited access system for charter vessel/headboat permits for Gulf reef fish.* No applications for additional charter vessel/headboat permits for Gulf reef fish will be accepted. Existing permits may be renewed, are subject to the restrictions on transfer in paragraph (b) (1) (i) of this section, and are subject to the renewal requirements in paragraph (b) (1) (ii) of this section. An eligible charter vessel/headboat permit with a historical captain endorsement may be converted to a charter vessel/headboat permit without a historical captain endorsement, per procedures at paragraph (b) (1) (v) of this section.

\* \* \*

(v) *Procedure for conversion of permit with historical captain endorsement.* A charter vessel headboat permit with a historical captain endorsement valid on October 25, 2018, may be converted to a charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf reef fish without a historical captain endorsement. A charter vessel/headboat permit with a historical captain endorsement that is converted to a charter vessel/headboat permit without a historical captain endorsement will retain the same vessel permit capacity as the permit it replaces. To convert an eligible charter vessel/headboat permit with a historical captain endorsement, the permit holder must submit an application to the RA by *[insert date 2 years from implementation date of the action]*. If no application to convert an eligible charter vessel/headboat permit with a historical captain endorsement is received by *[insert date 2 years from implementation date of the action]*, the permit holder will retain a charter vessel/headboat permit with the historical captain endorsement that is subject to the restrictions described in paragraph (b) (1) (i) (B) of this section.

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2. In § 622.373, revise paragraph (a) and add paragraph (b) (4) to read as follows:

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

(a) No applications for additional charter vessel/headboat permits for Gulf coastal migratory pelagic fish will be accepted. Existing permits may be renewed, are subject to the restrictions on transfer in paragraph (b) of this section, and are subject to the renewal requirements in paragraph (c) of this section. An eligible charter vessel/headboat permit with a historical captain endorsement may be converted to a charter vessel/headboat permit without a historical captain endorsement, per procedures at paragraph (b) (4) of this section.

(b) \* \* \*

(4) *Procedure for conversion of permit with historical captain endorsement.* A charter vessel headboat permit with a historical captain endorsement valid on October 25, 2018, may be converted to a charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf coastal migratory pelagic fish without a historical captain endorsement as described in paragraph (b) (1) of this section. A charter vessel/headboat permit with a historical captain endorsement that is converted to a charter vessel/headboat permit without a historical captain endorsement will retain the same vessel permit capacity as the permit it replaces. To convert an eligible charter

vessel/headboat permit with a historical captain endorsement, the permit holder must submit an application to the RA by [*insert date 2 years from implementation date of the action*]. If no application to convert an eligible charter vessel/headboat permit with a historical captain endorsement is received by [*insert date 2 years from implementation date of the action*], the permit holder will retain a charter vessel/headboat permit with the historical captain endorsement that is subject to the restrictions described in paragraph (b) (2) of this section.

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