

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 § 622.34, revise paragraphs (a)(2), (3), (6), and remove and reserve paragraph (5) to read as follows:

**§ 622.34 Seasonal and area closures designed to protect Gulf reef fish.**

(a) \* \* \*

(2) Within the Madison and Swanson sites and Steamboat Lumps, fishing is prohibited year-round and possession of Gulf reef fish is prohibited, including on a vessel in transit. Possession of any other fish species is prohibited, except for such possession on a vessel in transit with fishing gear stowed as specified in paragraph (a)(4) of this section. The provisions of this paragraph, (a)(2), do not apply to Atlantic highly migratory species.

(3) Within the Edges during January through April each year, all fishing is prohibited and the possession of any

**Commented [AB1]:** Action 1, Alt. 2. Prohibit fishing year-round in the Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps MPAs. This prohibition does not apply to Atlantic highly migratory species.

Action 2, Alt. 3. The possession of any species of Gulf reef fish is prohibited year-round in the Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps MPAs, with no exception for vessels in transit.

fish species is prohibited, except for such possession on a vessel in transit with fishing gear appropriately stowed as specified in paragraph (a)(4) of this section. The provisions of this paragraph (a)(3) do not apply to Atlantic highly migratory species.

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(5) [Reserved]

(6) For the purpose of this paragraph (a), fish means finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds. Atlantic highly migratory species means those species regulated by part 635 of this title.

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