

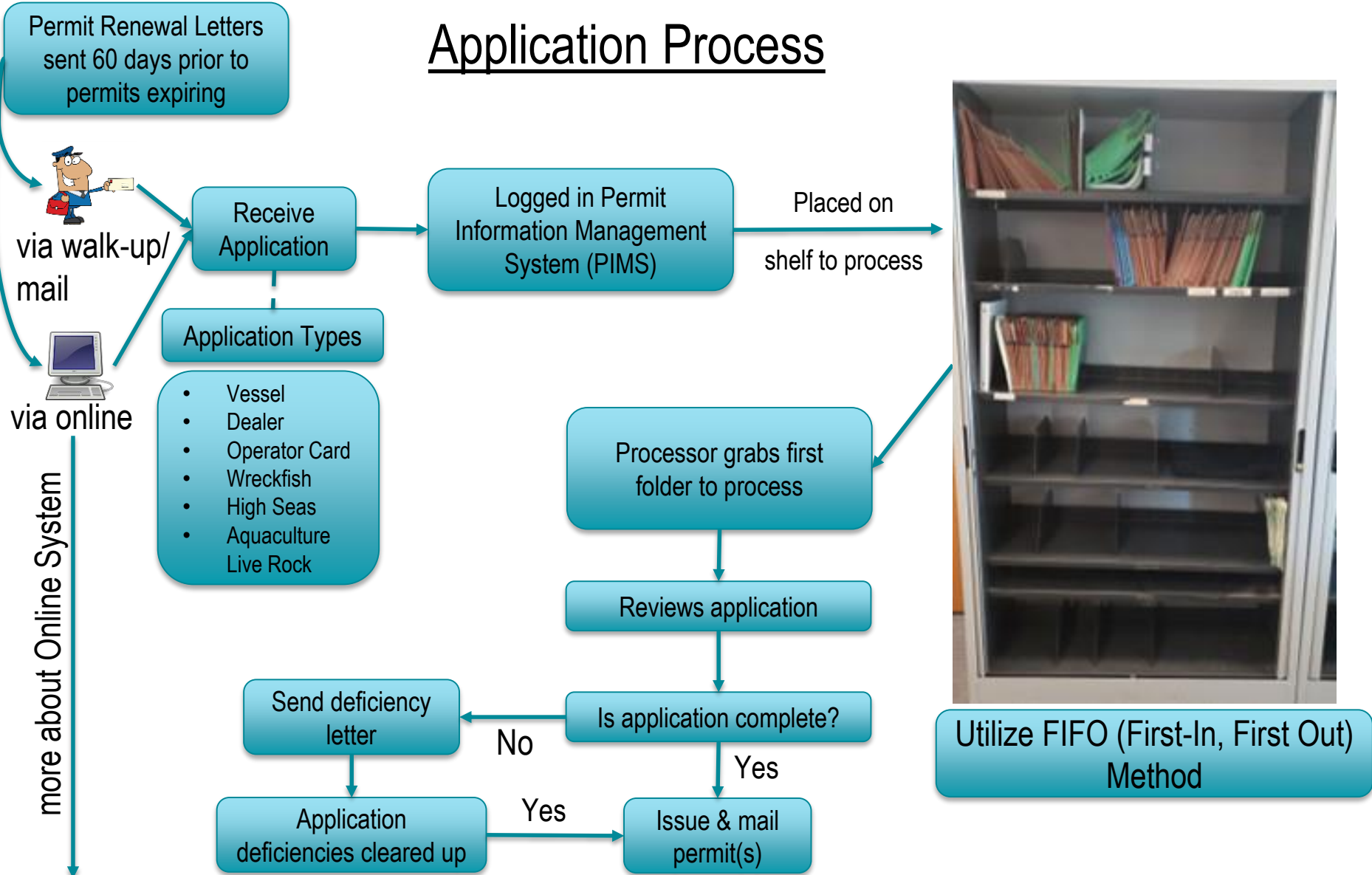
National Marine Fisheries Service Constituency Services Branch (Permit Office) Presentation

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting August 14, 2019

- Permit Office was established in the early 90's.
- We currently manage over 19,000 permits in the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic (ME to TX), and Caribbean.

Constituency Services Branch – Permit Office

Application Process



Southeast Region Online Permit System

The screenshot displays the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office website. The header includes navigation links for NOAA HOME, WEATHER, OCEANS, FISHERIES, CHARTING, SATELLITES, CLIMATE, RESEARCH, COASTS, and CAREERS, along with a search bar for NMFS Site. The main content area is titled "Welcome to the Southeast Fisheries Permit System" and features a "Submit Your Permit Renewal Application Online Today!" section. This section lists four key benefits: getting permits sooner, fewer deficiencies, uploading supporting documents, and easy payment. A "Terms of Use" box is also present. On the right, there are sections for "Redeem your Invitation Code" and "Account Login". The footer contains links for Permit Applications, SEFSC Logbook Office, Vessel Application Status, and FOIA Page.

NOAA HOME WEATHER OCEANS FISHERIES CHARTING SATELLITES CLIMATE RESEARCH COASTS CAREERS Search NMFS Site

NOAA FISHERIES | Southeast Regional Office
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Welcome to the Southeast Fisheries Permit System

Submit Your Permit Renewal Application Online Today!

- **Get Your Permits Sooner** - All applications are processed in the order in which they are received. Therefore, once you submit your online application, we have received it and you are in line
- **Fast** - the online application process takes less than 15 minutes to complete
- **Fewer deficiencies** - completing the application online insures fewer deficiencies that could delay your permit getting renewed
- **Upload supporting documents** - you can upload any applicable supporting documents right from your computer
- **Easy to pay** - you can pay for your permit renewal via credit card or ACH

Please note that this online system allows for permit *renewal* only. If you want to obtain new or transferred permits please submit a paper application. Also, please note that online applicants may only make changes address information. Applicants should submit a paper application to make any other changes to the vessel owner(s), vessel lessee(s), and/or officers/shareholders of a business that owns or leases the vessel.

Apply to Renew your Permits Online

To renew your permits on line, you must first redeem your personalized Invitation Code and create an account Username and Password. The invitation code is case sensitive and has the following format: ABCDwxyz1234. If you receive an invalid Invitation Code message, ensure the format of your code is correct.

After you have redeemed your invitation code and established an account, please use your Username and Password to log into the online renewal system.

Terms of Use

This U.S. Government system is to be used by authorized users only. Information from this system resides on computer systems funded by the Government. The data and documents on this system include Federal records that contain sensitive information protected by various Federal statutes, including the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a. All access or use of this system constitutes user understanding and acceptance of these terms and constitutes unconditional consent to review and action by all authorized Government and law enforcement personnel. Unauthorized user attempts or acts to (1) access, upload, change, or delete information on this system, (2) modify this system, (3) deny access to this system, (4) accrue resources for unauthorized use or (5) otherwise misuse this system are strictly prohibited. Such attempts or acts are subject to action that may result in criminal, civil, or administrative penalties.

Applicants using this online system agree to submit their non-refundable application fee online, via third party vendor Pay Gov. Notification of missing documents, document uploads, and notification of tracking information for mailed permits will be sent to the email address associated with their account.

Redeem your Invitation Code to setup your online renewal account.
Enter Invitation Code

Account Login
My e-mail address is:
Password:
☐ Accept Terms of Use
Login
Reset Password

Permit Applications
Permit Information

SEFSC Logbook Office
Current Permit Holders

Vessel Application Status
Dealer Application Status

FOIA Page
IFQ Program

- Launched in 2015
- Now can renew 30 of 33 vessel permits
- Eligibility & instructions included in Renewal Letter
- Takes 10 minutes to complete
 - System pre-populates vessel, permit, and entity information
 - Compliance data and required documents to complete application are identified.
 - Can pay online using credit card or ACH
- Get your permits sooner
- Application deficiencies emailed to user once/week
- Future:
 - Request new or transfer vessel and dealer permits, and operator cards

<https://portal.southeast.fisheries.noaa.gov/seroapplication/>

- Invitation Code is included on the renewal letter sent out 60 days prior to your permit(s) expiring.
- Invitation Code is associated with the permit holder, so when the code is redeemed via the online system, the permit holder's name (individual or business) is displayed.
- Once the code has been redeemed and the online account is created, you don't have to do it again.
- The renewal letter you receive the next year, will have the email address used when creating the account.

Renewal Letter - New User



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-6905
<http://sems.nmfs.noaa.gov>

December 31, 2018

Vessel Number:

Renewal Notice and Online Renewal Invitation

Dear Permit Holder:

This serves as a reminder that the following permits issued to your vessel will soon expire:

Fishery	Permit Code	Expiration Date
ATLANTIC DOLPHIN/WAHOO COMMERCIAL	ADW	02/28/2019
GULF REEF FISH	RR-169	02/28/2019
KING MACKEREL	KM-214	02/28/2019

To renew these permits you must submit a complete application, with appropriate fees and supporting documentation.

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Let's get started. Create your online account.

To renew your permits online, you must first redeem your personalized Invitation Code and create an online account. To do this, complete the following steps:

1. Navigate to the online system home page at <https://portal.southeast.fisheries.noaa.gov/seroapplication/>
2. Click the **Enter Invitation Code** button in the upper right corner of the home page.
3. Enter the following personalized invitation code in the **Enter Invitation Code Here** box

ABATrg

← Invitation Code

Renewal Letter - Existing User



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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December 31, 2018

Vessel Number:

Renewal Notice and Online Renewal Invitation

Dear Permit Holder:

This serves as a reminder that the following permits issued to your vessel will soon expire:

Fishery	Permit Code	Expiration Date
ATLANTIC DOLPHIN/WAHOO CHARTER/ HEADBOAT	CDW	02/28/2019
S. ATLANTIC CHARTER/HEADBOAT FOR PELAGIC FISH	CHS	02/28/2019
S. ATLANTIC CHARTER/HEADBOAT FOR SNAPPER-GROUPER	SC	02/28/2019

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Great news! You already have an online account

To renew your permits online, you must log into the Southeast Fisheries Permit System at <https://portal.southeast.fisheries.noaa.gov/seroapplication/>

Your account username is:

@bellsouth.net

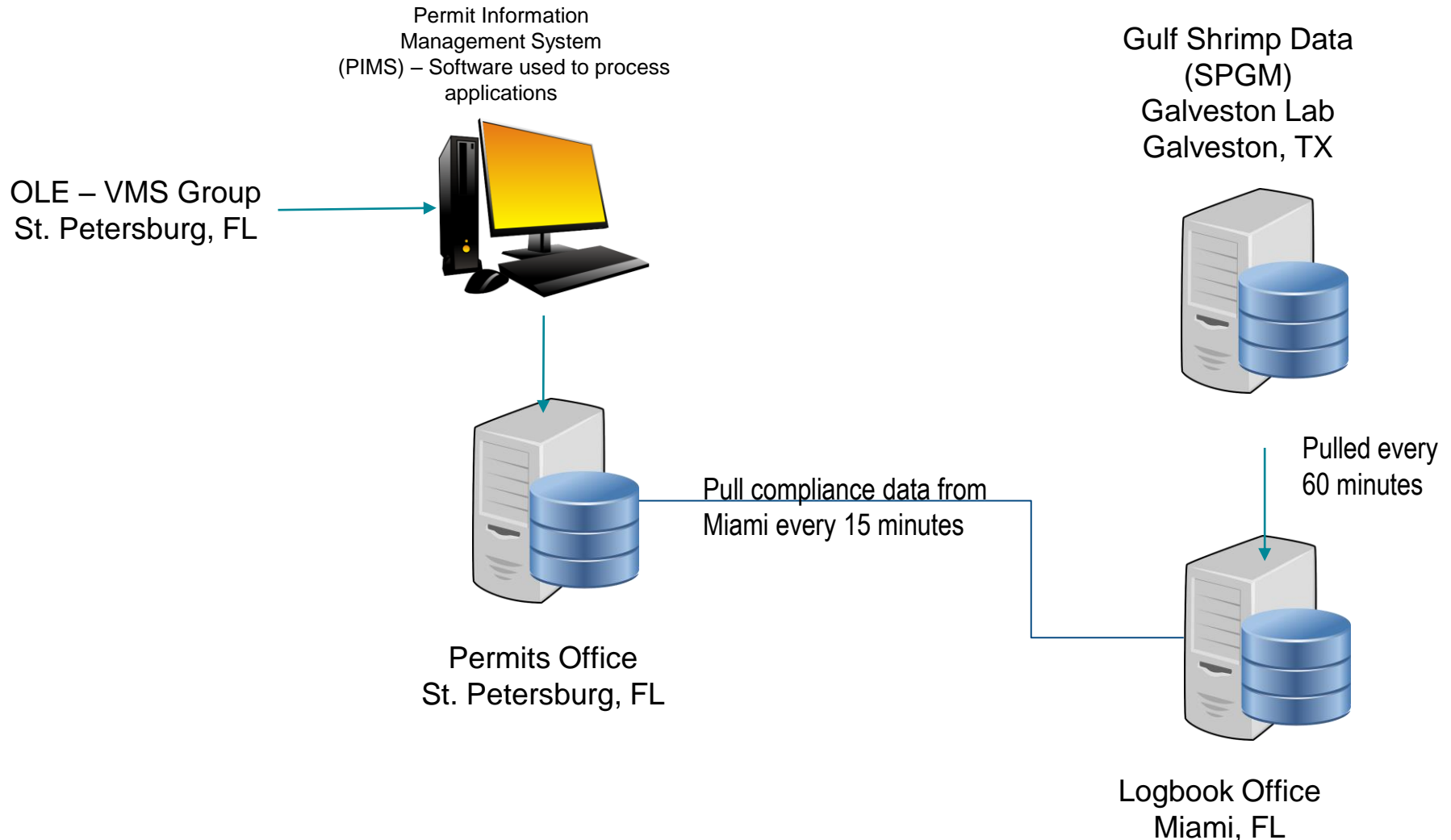
[Forgot Password](#)

← Email used for online account.



NOAA FISHERIES

Permit Office, Logbook Office & OLE-VMS



Permit Office, Logbook Office & OLE-VMS

Permit Information
Management System
(PIMS)



PIMS will not allow the issuance of permits that have a *Not Compliant* logbook status.

Logbooks



Type	Logbook Compliance
RENEW ATLANTIC DOLPHIN/WAHOO COMMERCIAL (ADW)	COMPLIANT
 RENEW GULF REEF FISH (RR-591) +	COMPLIANT

Good to go! Can issue the permit(s)

 TRANSFER KING MACKEREL (KM-1718) +	NOT COMPLIANT	UDP	YES
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Not compliant. Can't issue the permit



Permit Office, Logbook Office & OLE-VMS

Permit Information
Management System
(PIMS)



VMS



For all applications with a Gulf of Mexico Commercial Reef Fish (RR) requests (transfer or renewal), PIMS will automatically set the VMS pending reason listed below. OLE-VMS staff consistently check PIMS for applications with RR permits and either resolves them (clears them) or provide a remark on why the VMS could not be resolved. PIMS will not allow the issuance of permits if they have an unresolved VMS reason.

Application Vessel Requests Relationships Documents Payments Floy Tags Traps Requirements Process Requests									
RENEW GULF REEF FISH (current status: PENDING)									
Reason								Date	Resolved
VMS –AN ACTIVELY REPORTING VMS UNIT ONBOARD OR VALID POWER DOWN LETTER OF EXEMPTION IS REQUIRED.								06/24/2019	<input type="text"/>

Not resolved by Office of Law Enforcement – VMS Group – Can't issue the permit

RENEW GULF REEF FISH (current status: PENDING)									
Reason								Date	Resolved
VMS –AN ACTIVELY REPORTING VMS UNIT ONBOARD OR VALID POWER DOWN LETTER OF EXEMPTION IS REQUIRED.								07/01/2019	07/02/2019

Resolved by Office of Law Enforcement – VMS Group – Permit can be issued

Permit Office, Logbook Office & OLE-VMS

VMS Reminders From OLE-VMS Office

- OLE Welcome package for permit transfers, will be sent once the application is received by the Permit Office.
- There is a yellow checklist that should be followed to make the process easier.
- All pertinent information and contacts numbers, email and fax numbers are included on yellow checklist.
- Unit needs to be on and transmitting for more than 24 hours and installation and activation form should be in the OLE-VMS office before we can clear the permit.

For permit renewals:

- The units should be on all the time, except if the vessel does have a Power Down Exemption.
- Exemptions will be given on a case by case request.

Permits and IFQ

- Both permits and IFQ utilize the same database system
 - Information filled out on a permit application populates information used for IFQ management and analyses (e.g., percentage ownership, citizenship, address)
- In order to ***fish*** IFQ, your IFQ shareholder account must be linked to a permit and vessel
 - The names on the permit must be exactly identical to the names on the IFQ shareholder account
 - When change in permit holder or vessel ownership, need to establish a new IFQ account
- Expired vessel permits: can not fish
- Expired dealer permits: not available on landing notifications and can not complete landing transactions

How are permit expiration dates & primary mailing address determined?

The expiration dates and primary mailing address are all related to the Permit Holder. The Southeast Region issues vessel permits, so the Permit Holder is the “vessel owner”.

Scenario 1: Vessel Is Individually/Joint Owned

The expiration date is determined by the individual owner’s birth month. For jointly owned boats, the individual identified as the primary mailing recipient is used to determine the expiration date.

Scenario 2: Vessel Is Business Owned

The expiration date is determined by the month the business was formed. Primary mailing recipient is automatically set to the businesses mailing address.

How are permit expiration dates & primary mailing address determined? - con't.

Scenario 3: Vessels That Are Leased

- The lessee is the Permit Holder (individual or business), so they are the primary mailing recipient.
- The expiration date is determined by the last full month the lease is valid. For example, a lease that expires on 6/15/2020, will get a 5/31/2020 expiration date since the lease does not span the entire month of June.
- A lease that expires on 6/30/2020, will get an expiration date of 6/30/2020.

Additional Permit Information

Limited Access vs Open Access Permits

Limited Access

- Southeast Region no longer issues new permits.
- Can obtain via transfer from existing Permit Holder.
- One year to renew after expiration. Permit becomes nonrenewable (terminates) after the one year is up.

Open Access

- Southeast Region still issues new permits.
- Non-transferrable because you can still request new permits.
- Still considered a renewal up to 18 months past expiration date.

Additional Permit Information - con't.

Expired Permits

- Permits that have expired cannot be used to legally fish or purchase fish.
- Expired limited access permits have a 1 year grace period for renewal or to transfer to another vessel with the exact same vessel ownership.
- Expired permits cannot be transferred to a vessel under different ownership. The permits must be renewed first.

Transferring Limited Access Permits

- The Permit Holder's signature on the back of the permit must be notarized.
- The permit must be signed and notarized before the expiration date.
- Change in Permit Holder or Vessel Ownership constitutes a transfer.

Transferring Gulf Charter/Headboat Permits

- Must sign the back of the permit attesting you have removed the decals from the old vessel.

Additional Permit Information

Vessel Leases

- There is no provision in the federal regulations to lease permits.
- Permit holders may lease a vessel and obtain/transfer permits on the vessel as the lessee. Note: the vessel lessor and lessee cannot independently hold federal permits for the same vessel at the same time.
- Permit Office FAQ Webpage is a great resource for information related to leases. Google: SERO Permits FAQ
- Southeast Region website moved to www.fisheries.noaa.gov on July 1, 2019. The old website URL (sero.nmfs.noaa.gov) is no longer valid. You can check your application status online.

Questions?