



# Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

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## Reminder - Final Rule on Shrimp Amendment 13 has published

**November 7, 2006 – Tampa, Florida** –The final rule implementing actions contained within Amendment 13 to the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Mexico has published. The intended effect of the final rule is to stabilize participation in the shrimp fishery of the Gulf of Mexico, and to provide better information by which to manage the fishery.

The rule, which establishes a 10-year moratorium on the issuance of new federal shrimp vessel permits, published in the Federal Register September 26, 2006. Permits under the moratorium are fully transferable, giving permit holders the flexibility to enter or exit the fishery as they choose.

To be eligible for a commercial shrimp vessel permit under the moratorium, vessels must have been issued a valid commercial shrimp vessel permit by December 6, 2003. In addition, an owner who either sold a qualified vessel, had a qualified vessel repossessed, or otherwise lost use of a qualified vessel (i.e., damage, sinking, unaffordable repairs), but who obtained a valid commercial shrimp vessel permit for the same vessel, or another vessel equipped for offshore shrimp fishing of at least five net tons and documented by the Coast Guard prior to September 26, 2006, is eligible for a permit under the moratorium.

Vessel owners who meet eligibility and desire a commercial vessel permit for Gulf shrimp must submit an application postmarked or hand delivered no later than **October 26, 2007** to the National Fisheries Services, Southeast Regional Office Permits Branch, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701, (727) 824-5301.

No applications for commercial vessel permits for Gulf shrimp will be accepted after October 26, 2007. Failure to apply before October 26, 2007, precludes permit issuance even when the applicant otherwise meets the permit eligibility criteria. While there is a one-year period to obtain a moratorium permit, the permit is needed if the vessel is shrimping in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico beginning March 26, 2007.

Commercial vessel permits for Gulf shrimp are fully transferable, with or without the sale of the vessel. To request a transfer of a commercial vessel permit for Gulf shrimp, the owner of a vessel who is to receive the transferred permit must complete the transfer information on the reverse of the permit and return the permit and a completed application for transfer to the Permits Branch. Transfer documents must be notarized.

Renewal of a commercial vessel moratorium permit for Gulf shrimp is contingent upon compliance with the recordkeeping and reporting requirements also established by this final rule. If a commercial vessel permit for Gulf shrimp is not renewed, the permit will be terminated and will not be reissued during the moratorium. A permit is considered "not renewed" when an application for renewal, as required, is not received within 1 year of the permit expiration date.

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