

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, 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 § 622.50, revise paragraph (b)(3)(ii), and add paragraphs (b)(3)(iii) and (e) to read as follows:

§ 622.50 Permits, permit moratorium, and endorsements.

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(b) * * *

(3) * * *

(ii) Except as provided for in paragraph (b)(3)(iii) of this section, a commercial vessel moratorium permit for Gulf shrimp that is not renewed will be terminated and will not be reissued during the moratorium. A permit is considered to be not renewed when an application for renewal, as required, is not received by the RA within 1 year of the expiration date of the permit.

(iii) When NMFS has determined that the number of commercial vessel moratorium permits for Gulf shrimp has reached the threshold number of permits as described in the FMP, then a commercial vessel moratorium permit for Gulf shrimp that is not

Comment [SS1]: contains reserve pool exception reference, Action 4

Comment [SS2]: reserve pool permits paragraph, Action 4

Comment [SS3]: Action 5, transit and stowage paragraph

Comment [SS4]: references reserve pool permits

renewed will be converted to a Gulf shrimp reserve pool permit and held by NMFS for possible reissuance. Gulf shrimp reserve pool permits will not be issued until eligibility requirements are developed and implemented through subsequent rulemaking.

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(e) *Gulf shrimp transit provision.* A vessel that does not have a valid Gulf shrimp moratorium permit, as described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, may possess Gulf shrimp when in transit in the Gulf EEZ provided that the shrimp fishing gear is appropriately stowed. For the purposes of this paragraph, transit means non-stop progression through the Gulf EEZ. Fishing gear appropriately stowed means trawl doors and nets must be out of the water and the bag straps must be removed from the net.

3. In § 622.55, revise paragraph (c)(1) to read as follows:

§ 622.55 Closed area.

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(c) * * *

(1) The Tortugas shrimp sanctuary is closed to trawling.

The Tortugas shrimp sanctuary is that part of the EEZ off Florida shoreward of rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points:

Point	North lat.	West long.

Comment [SS5]: Action 4, preferred alternative 4. Reserve pool permits

Comment [SS6]: Action 5, Preferred Alt 2. transit and stowage.

Comment [SS7]: Regulatory fix not related to 17B to update coordinates to be consistent with Coast Pilot positions, Light List, and consistent with FWC updates

Comment [SS8]: The closure provisions are not changing, we are just updating the coordinates since they haven't been updated since 1981 and are no longer all accurate with current published positions.

N ¹	25°52'54"	81°37'56"
F	24°50'42"	81°51'18"
G ²	24°40'00"	82°26'39"
H ³	24°34'44"	82°35'27"
P ⁴	24°35'00"	82°08'00"

¹Coon Key Light.

²New Ground Shoals Light.

³Rebecca Shoals Light.

⁴Marquesas Keys.

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4. In § 622.73, add paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 622.73 Prohibited species.

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(c) Wild live rock may not be harvested or possessed in the Gulf EEZ.

Comment [SS9]: Point N updated for units consistency, longitude, and to be consistent with US Coast Pilot. FWC updating as well but will be consistent with USCG Light List, negligible difference in updated position.

Point F, updated for consistency in units, to be consistent with FWC as well

Point G, updated light title, New Grounds, to New Grounds Shoals, lat and long, consistent with units and USCG Light List, and FWC

Point H, update for units and consistent with US Coast Pilot. FWC updating consistent with USCG Light List, negligible position difference in updated position

Point P, update for consistency in units, FWC not updating this position.

Comment [SS10]: Regulatory fix not related to 17B to have the wild live rock prohibition in the Gulf consistent with Amendment 2 to the Coral FMP. The prohibition had been inadvertently removed in 1999 and was recently noticed. This fix is consistent with Am2 to Coral FMP