

Fishery Conservation and Management

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operator of a commercial vessel, charter vessel, or headboat operating in a fishery governed in this part who is not selected to report by the SRD under paragraph (a) or (b) of this section must provide the following information when interviewed by the SRD:

- (1) Name and official number of vessel and permit number, if applicable.
- (2) Length and tonnage.
- (3) Current home port.
- (4) Fishing areas.
- (5) Ports where fish were offloaded during the last year.
- (6) Type and quantity of gear.
- (7) Number of full- and part-time fishermen or crew members.

(g) *Private recreational vessels in the South Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery.* The owner or operator of a vessel that fishes for or lands South Atlantic snapper-grouper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ who is selected to report by the SRD must—

- (1) Maintain a fishing record for each trip, or a portion of such trips as specified by the SRD, on forms provided by the SRD. Completed fishing records must be submitted to the SRD monthly and must either be made available to an authorized statistical reporting agent or be postmarked not later than 7 days after the end of each month. Information to be reported is indicated on the form and its accompanying instructions.
- (2) Participate in the NMFS-sponsored electronic logbook and/or video monitoring reporting program as directed by the SRD.

[61 FR 34940, July 3, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 43956, Aug. 27, 1996; 61 FR 47448, Sept. 9, 1996; 63 FR 10567, Mar. 4, 1998; 63 FR 57590, Oct. 28, 1998; 64 FR 59126, Nov. 2, 1999; 64 FR 68935, Dec. 9, 1999; 67 FR 43565, June 28, 2002; 69 FR 30241, May 27, 2004; 70 FR 73387, Dec. 12, 2005; 71 FR 56047, Sept. 26, 2006; 73 FR 410, Jan. 3, 2008; 74 FR 50704, Oct. 1, 2009; 74 FR 58911, Nov. 16, 2009]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 74 FR 58911, Nov. 16, 2009, § 622.5 (a)(1)(iv), (b)(1), and (b)(2) were revised and (g) was added. Those paragraphs contain information collection and record-keeping requirements and will not become effective until approval has been given by the Office of Management and Budget.

§ 622.6 Vessel and gear identification.

(a) *Vessel identification*—(1) *Applicability*—(i) *Official number.* A vessel for

which a permit has been issued under § 622.4, and a vessel that fishes for or possesses *pelagic sargassum* in the South Atlantic EEZ, must display its official number—

(A) On the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull and, for vessels over 25 ft (7.6 m) long, on an appropriate weather deck, so as to be clearly visible from an enforcement vessel or aircraft.

(B) In block arabic numerals permanently affixed to or painted on the vessel in contrasting color to the background.

(C) At least 18 inches (45.7 cm) in height for vessels over 65 ft (19.8 m) long; at least 10 inches (25.4 cm) in height for vessels over 25 ft (7.6 m) long; and at least 3 inches (7.6 cm) in height for vessels 25 ft (7.6 m) long or less.

(ii) *Official number and color code.* The following vessels must display their official number as specified in paragraph (a)(1)(i) of this section and, in addition, must display their assigned color code: A vessel for which a permit has been issued to fish with a sea bass pot, as required under § 622.4(a)(2)(vi); a vessel in the commercial Caribbean reef fish fishery fishing with traps; and a vessel in the Caribbean spiny lobster fishery. Color codes required for the Caribbean reef fish fishery and Caribbean spiny lobster fishery are assigned by Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands, whichever is applicable; color codes required in all other fisheries are assigned by the RA. The color code must be displayed—

(A) On the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull and, for vessels over 25 ft (7.6 m) long, on an appropriate weather deck, so as to be clearly visible from an enforcement vessel or aircraft.

(B) In the form of a circle permanently affixed to or painted on the vessel.

(C) At least 18 inches (45.7 cm) in diameter for vessels over 65 ft (19.8 m) long; at least 10 inches (25.4 cm) in diameter for vessels over 25 ft (7.6 m) long; and at least 3 inches (7.6 cm) in diameter for vessels 25 ft (7.6 m) long or less.

(2) *Duties of operator.* The operator of a vessel specified in paragraph (a)(1) of

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this section must keep the official number and the color code, if applicable, clearly legible and in good repair and must ensure that no part of the fishing vessel, its rigging, fishing gear, or any other material on board obstructs the view of the official number or the color code, if applicable, from an enforcement vessel or aircraft.

(b) *Gear identification*—(1) *Traps/pots and associated buoys*—(i) *Traps or pots*—(A) *Caribbean EEZ*. A fish trap or spiny lobster trap used or possessed in the Caribbean EEZ must display the official number specified for the vessel by Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands so as to be easily identified.

(B) *South Atlantic EEZ*. A sea bass pot used or possessed in the South Atlantic EEZ between 35°15.19' N. lat. (due east of Cape Hatteras Light, NC) and 28°35.1' N. lat. (due east of the NASA Vehicle Assembly Building, Cape Canaveral, FL), or a sea bass pot on board a vessel with a commercial permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper, must have a valid identification tag issued by the RA attached. A golden crab trap used or possessed in the South Atlantic EEZ or on board a vessel with a commercial permit for golden crab must have the commercial vessel permit number permanently affixed so as to be easily distinguished, located, and identified; an identification tag issued by the RA may be used for this purpose but is not required.

(ii) *Associated buoys*. A buoy that is attached to a trap or pot must display the official number and assigned color code so as to be easily distinguished, located, and identified as follows:

(A) *Caribbean EEZ*. Traps or pots used in the Caribbean spiny lobster or Caribbean reef fish fisheries that are fished individually, rather than tied together in a trap line, must have at least one buoy attached that floats on the surface. Traps or pots used in the Caribbean spiny lobster or Caribbean reef fish fisheries that are tied together in a trap line must have at least one buoy that floats at the surface attached at each end of the trap line. Each buoy must display the official number and color code assigned to the vessel by Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands, whichever is applicable.

(B) *South Atlantic EEZ*. In the South Atlantic EEZ, buoys are not required to be used, but, if used, each buoy must display the official number and color code assigned by the RA. However, no color code is required on a buoy attached to a golden crab trap.

(iii) *Presumption of ownership*. A Caribbean spiny lobster trap, a fish trap, a golden crab trap, or a sea bass pot in the EEZ will be presumed to be the property of the most recently documented owner. This presumption will not apply with respect to such traps and pots that are lost or sold if the owner reports the loss or sale within 15 days to the RA.

(iv) *Unmarked traps, pots, or buoys*. An unmarked Caribbean spiny lobster trap, a fish trap, a golden crab trap, a sea bass pot, or a buoy deployed in the EEZ where such trap, pot, or buoy is required to be marked is illegal and may be disposed of in any appropriate manner by the Assistant Administrator or an authorized officer.

(2) *Gillnet buoys*. On board a vessel with a valid Spanish mackerel permit that is fishing for Spanish mackerel in, or that possesses Spanish mackerel in or from, the South Atlantic EEZ off Florida north of 25°20.4' N. lat., which is a line directly east from the Miami-Dade/Monroe County, FL, boundary, the float line of each gillnet possessed, including any net in use, must have a maximum of nine distinctive floats, i.e., different from the usual net buoys, spaced uniformly at a distance of 100 yd (91.4 m) or less. Each such distinctive float must display the official number of the vessel.

[61 FR 34934, July 3, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 43957, Aug. 27, 1996; 63 FR 10567, Mar. 4, 1998; 63 FR 57590, Oct. 28, 1998; 64 FR 59126, Nov. 2, 1999; 65 FR 52957, Aug. 31, 2000; 67 FR 22362, May 3, 2002; 67 FR 51078, Aug. 7, 2002; 68 FR 57378, Oct. 3, 2003; 70 FR 62080, Oct. 28, 2005; 73 FR 410, Jan. 3, 2008; 74 FR 50704, Oct. 1, 2009]

§ 622.7 Prohibitions.

In addition to the general prohibitions in § 600.725 of this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to do any of the following:

(a) Engage in an activity for which a valid Federal permit, license, or endorsement is required under § 622.4