Fishery Conservation and Management

§ 622.47 Gulf groundfish trawl fishery.

Gulf groundfish trawl fishery means fishing in the Gulf EEZ by a vessel that uses a bottom trawl, the unsorted catch of which is ground up for animal feed or industrial products.

(a) Other provisions of this part notwithstanding, the owner or operator of a vessel in the Gulf groundfish trawl fishery is exempt from the following requirements and limitations for the vessel’s unsorted catch of Gulf reef fish:

(1) The requirement for a valid commercial vessel permit for Gulf reef fish in order to sell Gulf reef fish.

(2) Minimum size limits for Gulf reef fish.

(3) Bag limits for Gulf reef fish.

§ 622.46 Prevention of gear conflicts.

(a) No person may knowingly place in the Gulf EEZ any article, including fishing gear, that interferes with fishing or obstructs or damages fishing gear or the fishing vessel of another; or knowingly use fishing gear in such a fashion that it obstructs or damages the fishing gear or fishing vessel of another.

(b) In accordance with the procedures and restrictions of the FMP for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico, the RA may modify or establish separation zones for shrimp trawling and the use of fixed gear to prevent gear conflicts. Necessary prohibitions or restrictions will be published in the Federal Register.

(c) In accordance with the procedures and restrictions of the FMP for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources, when the RA determines that a conflict exists in the king mackerel fishery between hook-and-line and gillnet fishermen in the South Atlantic EEZ off the east coast of Florida between 27°00.6′ N. lat. and 27°50.0′ N. lat., the RA may prohibit or restrict the use of hook-and-line and/or gillnets in all or a portion of that area. Necessary prohibitions or restrictions will be published in the Federal Register.

[61 FR 34934, July 3, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 59126, Nov. 2, 1999]
§ 622.48 Adjustment of management measures.

In accordance with the framework procedures of the applicable FMPs, the RA may establish or modify the following items:

(a) Caribbean coral reef resources. Species for which management measures may be specified; prohibited species; harvest limitations, including quotas, trip, or daily landing limits; gear restrictions; closed seasons or areas; and marine conservation districts.

(b) Caribbean reef fish. Size limits, closed seasons or areas, fish trap mesh size, and the threshold level for overfishing.

(c) Coastal migratory pelagic fish. For a species or species group: Age-structured analyses, target date for rebuilding an overfished species, MSY (or proxy), stock biomass achieved by fishing at MSY ($B_{MSY}$) (or proxy), maximum fishing mortality threshold (MFMT), minimum stock size threshold (MSST), OY, TAC, quota (including a quota of zero), bag limit (including a bag limit of zero), size limits, vessel trip limits, closed seasons or areas and reopenings, gear restrictions (ranging from regulation to complete prohibition), reallocation of the commercial/recreational allocation of Atlantic group Spanish mackerel, permit requirements, definitions of essential fish habitat, and essential fish habitat HAPCs or Coral HAPCs.

(d) Gulf reef fish. (1) For a species or species group: Target date for rebuilding an overfished species, TAC, bag limits, size limits, vessel trip limits, closed seasons or areas, gear restrictions, quotas, MSY (or proxy), OY, and estimates of stock biomass achieved by fishing at MSY ($B_{MSY}$), minimum stock size threshold (MSST), and maximum fishing mortality threshold (MFMT).

(2) SMZs and the gear restrictions applicable in each.

(e) Gulf royal red shrimp. MSY, OY, and TAC.

(f) South Atlantic snapper-grouper and wreckfish. Biomass levels, age-structured analyses, target dates for rebuilding overfished species, MSY, ABC, TAC, quotas, annual catch limits (ACLs), target catch levels, accountability measures (AMs), trip limits, bag limits, minimum sizes, gear restrictions (ranging from regulation to complete prohibition), seasonal or area closures, definitions of essential fish habitat, essential fish habitat, essential fish habitat HAPCs or Coral HAPCs, and restrictions on gear and fishing activities applicable in essential fish habitat and essential fish habitat HAPCs.

(g) South Atlantic golden crab. Biomass levels, age-structured analyses, MSY, ABC, TAC, quotas (including quotas equal to zero), trip limits, minimum sizes, gear regulations and restrictions, permit requirements, seasonal or area closures, sub-zones and their management measures, time frame for recovery of golden crab if overfished, fishing year (adjustment not to exceed 2 months), observer requirements, authority for the RA to close the fishery when a quota is reached or is projected to be reached, definitions of essential fish habitat, and essential fish habitat HAPCs or Coral HAPCs.

(h) South Atlantic shrimp. Biomass levels, age-structured analyses, BRD certification criteria, BRD specifications, BRD testing protocol, certified BRDs, nets required to use BRDs, times and locations when the use of BRDs is required, definitions of essential fish habitat, and essential fish habitat HAPCs or Coral HAPCs.

(i) Gulf shrimp. Closed seasons and areas, target effort and fishing mortality reduction levels, bycatch reduction criteria, BRD certification and decertification criteria, BRD testing protocol, certified BRDs, and BRD specifications.

(j) Gulf red drum. Target date for rebuilding an overfished species, MSY (or proxy), stock biomass achieved by fishing at MSY ($B_{MSY}$), OY, TAC, minimum stock size threshold (MSST), maximum fishing mortality threshold (MFMT), escapement rates for juvenile fish, bag