§ 622.6 Vessel and gear identification.

(a) Vessel identification—(1) Applicability—(1) 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.

(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 attached 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.
(ii) 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, or 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.

(3) Buoy gear. In the Gulf EEZ, if buoy gear is used or possessed, each buoy must display the official number of the vessel.


§ 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 without such permit, license, or endorsement.

(b) Falsify information on an application for a permit, license, or endorsement or submitted in support of such application, as specified in §622.4(b), (g), (p), (q), or (r) or in §§622.18 or 622.19.

(c) Fail to display a permit, license, or endorsement, or other required identification, as specified in §622.4(f).

(d) Falsify or fail to maintain, submit, or provide information or fail to comply with inspection requirements or restrictions, as specified in §622.5.

(e) Fail to make a fish, or parts thereof, available for inspection, as specified in §622.5(e).

(f) Falsify or fail to display and maintain vessel and gear identification, as specified in §622.6(a) and (b) or §622.4(f)(11).

(g) Fail to comply with any requirement or restriction regarding ITQ coupons, as specified in §622.15(c)(3), (c)(5), (c)(6), or (c)(7).

(h) Possess wreckfish as specified in §622.15(c)(4), receive wreckfish except as specified in §622.15(c)(7), or offload a wreckfish except as specified in §622.15(d)(3) and (d)(4).

(i) Transfer—

(1) A wreckfish, as specified in §622.15(d)(1);

(2) A limited-harvest species, as specified in §622.32(c) introductory text;

(3) A species/species group subject to a bag limit, as specified §622.39(a); and

(4) South Atlantic snapper-grouper from a vessel with unauthorized gear on board, as specified in §622.41(d)(2)(iii); or

(5) A species subject to a commercial trip limit, as specified in §622.44.

(j) Use or possess prohibited gear or methods or possess fish in association with possession or use of prohibited gear, as specified in §622.31.

(k) Fish for, harvest, or possess a prohibited species, or a limited-harvest species in excess of its limitation, sell or purchase such species, fail to comply with release requirements, or molest or strip eggs from a Caribbean spiny lobster, as specified in §622.32.

(l) Fish in violation of the prohibitions, restrictions, and requirements