§ 622.244 At-sea observer coverage.

(a) Required coverage. A vessel for which a Federal commercial permit for golden crab has been issued must carry a NMFS-approved observer, if the vessel’s trip is selected by the SRD for observer coverage.

(b) Notification to the SRD. When observer coverage is required, an owner or operator must advise the SRD in writing not less than 5 days in advance of each trip of the following:

(1) Departure information (port, dock, date, and time).

(2) Expected landing information (port, dock, and date).

(c) Observer accommodations and access. An owner or operator of a vessel on which a NMFS-approved observer is embarked must:

(1) Provide accommodations and food that are equivalent to those provided to the crew.

(2) Allow the observer access to and use of the vessel’s communications equipment and personnel upon request for the transmission and receipt of messages related to the observer’s duties.

(3) Allow the observer access to and use of the vessel’s navigation equipment and personnel upon request to determine the vessel’s position.

(4) Allow the observer free and unobstructed access to the vessel’s bridge, working decks, holding bins, weight scales, holds, and any other space used to hold, process, weigh, or store fish.

(5) Allow the observer to inspect and copy the vessel’s log, communications logs, and any records associated with the catch and distribution of fish for that trip.

§ 622.245 Prohibited species.

(a) General. The harvest and possession restrictions of this section apply without regard to whether the species is harvested by a vessel operating under a commercial vessel permit. The operator of a vessel that fishes in the EEZ is responsible for the limit applicable to that vessel.

(b) Female golden crabs. It is intended that no female golden crabs in or from the South Atlantic EEZ be retained on board a vessel and that any female golden crab in or from the South Atlantic EEZ be released in a manner that will ensure maximum probability of survival. However, to accommodate legitimate incidental catch and retention, the number of female golden crabs in or from the South Atlantic EEZ retained on board a vessel may not exceed 0.5 percent, by number, of all golden crabs on board. See §622.250(a) regarding the prohibition of sale of female golden crabs.

(c) Snapper-grouper aboard a golden crab vessel. South Atlantic snapper-grouper may not be possessed in whole, gutted, or filleted form by a person aboard a vessel fishing for or possessing golden crab in or from the South Atlantic. Only the head, fins, and backbone (collectively the “rack”) of South Atlantic snapper-grouper may be possessed for use as bait.

§ 622.246 Area closures.

(a) Golden crab trap closed areas. In the southern zone, a golden crab trap closed area covers the waters of the South Atlantic EEZ from 36°00' North latitude to 30°00' North latitude, inclusive, between 72°00’ West longitude and the eastern boundary of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone, inclusive. Within the closed area, it is unlawful to lay, drift, or set a sand crab trap, a golden crab trap, or any other trap, trapline, or gear for the purpose of taking any species of crab.