



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

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FB11-031

NOAA Fisheries Service Seeks Public Comment on Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Spiny Lobster in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic *Comment Period Ends June 1, 2011*

NOAA Fisheries Service is seeking public comment on Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)/Amendment 10 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Spiny Lobster in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic. The Environmental Protection Agency announced the availability of the DEIS on April 15, 2011 (76 FR 21345).

Actions contained within the DEIS include: 1) Removal of four minor lobster species from the FMP; 2) modification of management reference points and status determination criteria; 3) establishment of sector allocations; 4) establishment of an acceptable biological catch rule, annual catch limits, annual catch targets, and accountability measures; 5) update of the Framework Procedure and Protocol for Enhanced Cooperative Management; 6) modification of regulations regarding use of undersized lobster as attractants; 7) modification of regulations regarding tailing permits; 8) closure of areas to protect threatened coral species; 9) requirement of trap line markings; and 10) removal of derelict traps.

Request for Comments

Written comments on this DEIS must be received no later than June 1, 2011, in order to be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service. See the **Addresses** section for information on where and how to submit comments.

Addresses

Electronic copies of the DEIS may be obtained from the NOAA Fisheries Service Web site <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SpinyLobsterAmendment.htm>, the e-Rule Making Portal <http://www.regulation.gov>, the Gulf Council's Web site <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>, or the South Atlantic Council's Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>.

For a paper copy contact:

Sustainable Fisheries Division
Southeast Regional Office
NOAA Fisheries Service
263 13th Avenue South
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You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Enter the following docket number into the "Search" box: **NOAA-NMFS-2011-0106**. All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter, may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA Fisheries Service will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.
- **Mail:** Susan Gerhart, NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

Comments received through means not specified in this bulletin may not be considered.

If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, e-mail us at: SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov.