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Developing Federal Permits in the U.S. Caribbean Exclusive Economic Zone

Scoping Document



February 2015

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Chapter 1. Introduction

1.1 What is Scoping?

Scoping is the process the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) use to request early input from the public on actions designed to adjust the management of federal fisheries in the U.S. Caribbean. During scoping, the Council and NMFS identify possible fishery management issues and their potential impacts and receive public input on the best way to address these issues. Scoping is the first opportunity for the public to make suggestions, raise issues, or provide alternative approaches to the Council before a fishery management plan or an amendment to an existing plan is developed.

1.2 How does scoping affect fisheries management?

The Council uses public comments provided through scoping in the development of management options. Once they develop the management options, the public hearing process will begin, and the public will have the opportunity to comment on the management measures included as options. The Council will consider public input as it deliberates and chooses the most appropriate management options.

Caribbean Fishery Management Council

- Responsible for conservation and management of fish stocks
- Consists of seven voting members
 - Four voting members appointed by the Secretary of Commerce
 - One voting member appointed by each of the Governors of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (2 total)
 - The Regional Administrator of NMFS for the Southeast Region
- Manages the area from 3 to 200 nautical miles (nm) off the coasts of the U.S. Virgin Islands and 9 to 200 nm off the coast of Puerto Rico
- Develops fishery management plans and recommends regulations to NMFS and the Secretary of Commerce for implementation



1.3 How to get involved?

There are many ways you can help the Council. One way is to identify fishery management needs and recommend reasonable management options. The first step to getting involved is to become familiar with the management process by visiting <http://www.caribbeanfmc.com/>. Contact the Council members and staff to discuss your questions or concerns. The public may also attend meetings and serve on panels and committees that advise the Council on fishery issues. For more information on how to participate, please call 787-766-5926.

1.4 What actions are being proposed?

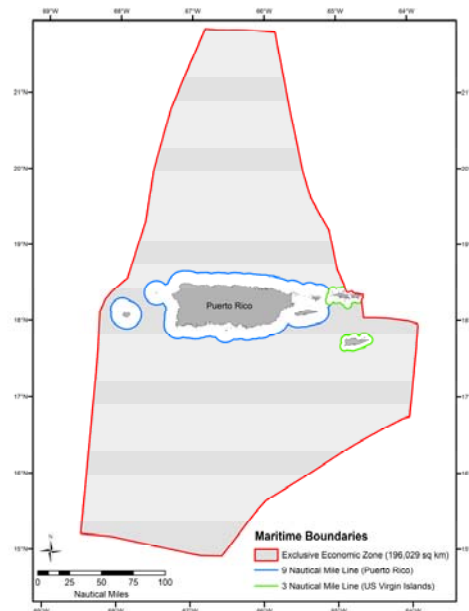
The Council is considering establishing federal permits for fishing in the U.S. Caribbean exclusive economic zone (EEZ). A primary goal of establishing federal permits is to gain a better understanding of the population of fishers and their harvest patterns in the EEZ. Increased knowledge of fishing effort¹, landings², and general harvest areas (e.g., state vs. federal waters) improves fisheries management in the U.S. Caribbean by reducing scientific and management uncertainty and better identifying spatial patterns of capture and harvest. A federal permit system could also enhance acquisition of landings data through increased reporting compliance, and will allow better identification of active fishers for educational and/or research activities. Improved data collection may also enable the application of in-season accountability

measures, thus avoiding annual catch limit overages and preventing overfishing.

Fishers would also benefit from a federal permit system through increased professionalization of commercial fisheries. A permit system would allow for controlled entry and managed effort so those commercial fishers dedicated to a particular fishery would have a more reliable foundation on which to build their businesses and livelihoods.

1.5 Where is the project located?

The U.S. Caribbean EEZ consists of those waters extending from the nine nautical mile (nm) seaward boundary of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the three nm seaward boundary of the territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) out to 200 nm offshore.



¹ The amount of fishing gear of a specific type used on the fishing grounds over a given unit of time (e.g. hours trawled per day, number of hooks set per day, or number of hauls of a beach seine per day). When two or more

kinds of gear are used, the respective efforts must be adjusted to some standard type before being added.

² Data on the part of the catch that is selected and kept during the sorting procedures on board vessels and successively discharged at dockside.

Figure 1. Jurisdictional boundaries of the Caribbean Fishery Management Council.

1.6 Why is the Council considering action?

The harvest activities of all fishing sectors must be understood to the greatest degree possible to assure that societal goals encompassed in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act are met. Thus, the need for timely, effective, and efficient means to monitor harvest from all sectors is fundamental. A permitting system provides a comprehensive method to achieve this goal. Permitting supports professionalization of individual fisheries, identifying and acknowledging those fishers dedicated to and reliant upon a specific component of the commercial fishery. Permits also allow for direct communication with fishing entities, enabling focused outreach and education opportunities.

A permitting system allows fishery scientists and managers to gather more accurate data, decreasing both scientific and management uncertainty. Scientific uncertainty can be mitigated to some degree by increasing knowledge of the fishery and the health of the fish populations that support that fishery. A permit system that identifies the universe of fishers operating within a fishing sector and allows tracking of the disposition and characteristics of harvested resources would substantially enhance knowledge of the fishery. Data derived from a comprehensive permit system would also contribute to reducing management uncertainty by providing better estimates of harvesting effort and the timing of harvest, thereby improving management design and responsiveness. More accurate and reliable catch data allows for more informed management.

The absence of a federal permit system, or mandatory federal reporting requirements, has been identified as a major contributor to the lack of fishing effort information in the EEZ. A permitting system would allow better estimates for measuring fishing effort for the Council-

Needs/Issues that a permitting system could address in the EEZ

- Provide accurate and timely data on landings
- Allow estimation of catch per unit of fishing effort
- Identify spatial and temporal trends in effort, including the relative importance of fishing to individual communities
- Manage competing interests for the resource
- Identify trends in the health of targeted fish stocks
- Quantify the socioeconomic importance of permitted fishing sectors and mitigate negative impacts of management to fishing communities.
- Provide permitted fishers with a better understanding of their fishery and the opportunities and implications of management to that fishery.

managed fisheries while shedding light on the



effectiveness of regulations implemented to manage that effort.

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1.7 Existing Licensing Requirements in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

Puerto Rico

The government of Puerto Rico requires commercial fishing licenses for fishing in Commonwealth waters and additional species-specific commercial permits³ for incidental catch, land crabs, and sirajo gobies (Table 1.7.1). In Puerto Rico, this existing permit system could provide a foundation upon which a federal permit system could be built, although other permit system options should also be considered and evaluated.

In 2011 and 2012, the number of licensed commercial fishers in Puerto Rico more than doubled to 3,408 from the 1,129 licensed commercial fishers reported in a 2008 commercial fishers census (Matos-Caraballo and Agar 2008; E. Piñeiro, Council Vice-Chair, pers. comm.). Historically, commercial fishers in Puerto Rico were required by the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER), the agency responsible for administering commonwealth fishing licenses, to show their tax return forms when applying for their commercial license. The tax forms were used to determine what amount of each fisher's income came from commercial fishing and therefore whether they qualified as a commercial fisher. In 2011, a moratorium was placed on the tax return requirement when applying for a commercial license. That moratorium appears to have triggered fishers in the recreational sector to move into the commercial sector by applying for the Puerto Rico commercial beginner's license. Some

recreational fishers saw the benefit of obtaining a commercial license as it allowed them to use additional fishing gears (e.g., bandit gear) and sell their catches, both of which are prohibited practices under a recreational license. This situation appeared to be a particular problem for Puerto Rico's deep-water snapper fishery.

Beginning with the 2014 license year, the PRDNER removed the moratorium on the tax form requirement when applying for a commercial license. Re-implementing the tax form requirement should remove from the commercial sector those fishers that don't depend on fishing as their major source of income. However, this sort of management inconsistency could be rectified with the implementation of a permit system that would serve to further specify the cohort of professional fishers active in some or all sectors of the commercial fishery.

To achieve that goal for Puerto Rico's deep-water Snapper Unit 2 (SU2) fishery, the government of Puerto Rico in 2013 established a special permit for the SU2 fishery, which includes the queen snapper (*Etelis oculatus*) and the cardinal snapper (*Pristipomoides macrophthalmus*). This special permit was implemented to manage the number of fishers accessing SU2 and to thereby reduce the likelihood of overfishing the resource. The special permits were awarded to commercial fishermen that had a full-time or part-time commercial fishing license and could show

³ For the purpose of this action, "license" refers allowing the general act of fishing while "permit" refers to allowing fishing for a specific species, sector, or gear.



evidence, through historical landings, that they targeted these two species.

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Table 1.7.1: Licenses and Permits in Puerto Rico and Associated Costs

Commercial	Required License	Cost of License		
	Pescador Comercial a Tiempo Completo (Full Time)	\$40.00		
	Pescador Comercial Principiante (Beginners License)	\$40.00		
	Pescador Comercial a Tiempo Parcial (Part Time)	\$40.00		
	Pescador Comercial No Residente (Full time non-resident)	\$250.00		
	Dueños de Bote de Alquiler (“Charter Boat” or “Headboat”)	For residents 16-21 feet \$125.00, 22-30 feet \$200.00, and 31 and higher \$400.00. For non-resident 16-21 feet \$250.00, 22-30 feet \$375.00, and 31 and higher \$750.00.		
	Required Permits	Cost of Permit		
	Cartucho y muniama – Queen and Cardinal Snappers	No cost		
	Juey Común - Land Crabs	\$15.00		
	Pesca incidental - Incidental harvest	\$5.00		
Recreational	Required License	Cost of License		
		1 Day	7 Days	1 year
	13 a 14 años residente-Resident	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
	15 a 21 años residente-Resident	\$ 3.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00
	22 a 60 años residente-Resident	\$ 3.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 20.00
	Mayor de 60 años residente-Resident	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
	Ciudadano EE. UU. no residente – Non-resident	\$ 5.00	\$ 7.00	\$ 35.00
	Ciudadano extranjero visitante – International visitor	\$ 7.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00
	Required Permits	Cost of Permit		
		1 Day	7 Days	1 year
	Langosta común	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 25.00
	Carrucho – Queen Conch	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 25.00
	Juey Común – Land Crab	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 25.00
	Peces de pico – Billfish	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 25.00
	Camarón agua dulce – Shrimp Freshwater	\$ 5.00	\$ 7.00	\$ 10.00
	Setí – Sirajo Gobies	\$ 5.00	\$ 7.00	\$ 10.00

USVI

Since 1974, the USVI has required all commercial fishers to have a commercial fishing license. Helpers⁴ are not required to have a commercial fishing license, although each commercial fisher must obtain a helper's license for each helper used or employed (V.I.C., Title 12, Chapter 9A §312). The USVI does not require a recreational license to fish in territorial waters (Table 1.7.2). However, permits are required for the following locations:

1. **Altona Lagoon and Great Pond, St. Croix** – No Commercial fishing. A recreational shrimp fishing permit is required for the harvesting of shrimp.
2. **St. James Reserve** – A permit is required to collect baitfish with a cast net within 50 feet of the shoreline or fish with a hook and line. All other fishing and harvest of other animals and plants is prohibited in this area.
3. **Cas Cay/Mangrove Lagoon Marine Reserves** – A permit is required to collect baitfish using only a cast net within 50 ft of the north and west shorelines of Cas Cay. All other fishing and harvest of other animals and plants is prohibited in this area.

In August 2001, the Commissioner of the USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources issued a moratorium on the issuance of commercial fishing licenses. Those individuals that were licensed up to 3 years before August 2001 were allowed to renew their commercial fishing license (Holt and Uwate 2004), but no new entrants into the commercial fishery have been allowed since implementation of the moratorium. Based on the USVI's Department of Fish and Wildlife 2010-2011 registration list (Kojis and Quinn 2011), in 2008 there were 383 licensed commercial fishers in the USVI, including 223 on St. Croix and 160 on St. Thomas/St. John. By 2011 the number of licensed commercial fishers in the USVI had decreased to 334, including 214 on St. Croix and 120 on St. Thomas/St. John (Kojis and Quinn 2011). As long as the moratorium on granting new commercial fishing licenses in the USVI remains in place, it is anticipated those numbers will continue to decrease through attrition. Note that the transfer of commercial licenses is presently not allowed in the USVI.

⁴ The licensed commercial fisher must be onboard when the "helper" is fishing. Commercial fishers must have the number of helpers indicated on their license. Although

legally defined as helpers, these individuals are also fishers.

Table 1.7.2: Licenses and Permits in the USVI and Associated Costs

	Required License	Cost of License
	A commercial fishing license annually is required by: 1. All commercial fishers. 2. Any person who uses a pot, trap, set-net or haul seine, even for personal consumption. 3. Any person who sells or trade or barter any part of his catch, including charter boat operators who sell or trade their catch.	\$5.00
Commercial	Commercial fishing “helper” license	\$20.00
	License from the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs permitting the sale of fish.	\$1.00
	Required Permits	Cost of Permit
	None	n/a
Recreational	Required License	Cost of License
	None	n/a
	Required Permits	Cost of Permit
	Shrimp Permit (Altona Lagoon and Great Pond, St. Croix)	\$10.00
	Cast net for Baitfish (St. James Reserve)	\$5.00/month (max 2 months)
	Hook-and-Line (St. James Reserve)	\$2.00/month (max 2 months)
	Cast net for Baitfish (Cas Cay/Mangrove Lagoon Marine Reserves)	\$5.00/month (max 2 months)

Chapter 2. Potential Options

There are many aspects to implementing fishing permits in the U.S. Caribbean exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and many options regarding the design of a permit system. Options for developing and designing a permit system include, but are not limited to:

1. Require commercial fishers to obtain a federal permit to fish in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ;
2. Require commercial fishers to obtain a commercial fishing license from either Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) to fish in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ;
3. Require commercial fishers to obtain a federal permit **OR** a commercial fishing license from either Puerto Rico or the USVI to fish in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ
4. Require a species/species group/fishery-specific permit in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ;
5. Require a gear-specific permit in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ;
6. Require a dealer permit to purchase fish harvested from the U.S. Caribbean EEZ;
7. Conduct a pilot study with some or all fishers from some or all island groups to evaluate the practicality of permits in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ.

The development and design of a permit system can be island-specific. Thus, a permit system could be implemented for a single island (St. Croix, Puerto Rico) or island group (St. Thomas/St. John). Additionally, regardless of the combination of island/island group for which permits are implemented, the permit may be a general requirement or may be specific to a particular fishery sector such as traps or deep-water snapper. Moreover, those specifics may differ among island/island group with, for example, a deep-water snapper permit being instituted only for one island and a trap permit only being instituted for a separate island. Fishery management in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ is moving from a species-based approach (Queen Conch, Reef Fish, Lobster, and Corals and Reef Associated Plants and Invertebrates Fishery Management Plans [FMPs]) to an island-based approach (St. Croix, Puerto Rico, and St. Thomas/St. John FMPs), a format conducive to application of permit systems tailored to the needs of each of those islands/island groups.

There are presently no federal licenses or permits issued for the commercial harvest of Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council)-managed species from the U.S. Caribbean EEZ. A commercial permit would allow managers to track the number and identity of commercial fishers active in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ, obtain better landings and effort data, improve law enforcement capabilities, allow for directed outreach to and education of those licensed fishers, and professionalize the fishers working within a permitted fishing sector. Permitting commercial fishers would ultimately lead to more accurate data, thereby reducing uncertainty, enhancing the precision for monitoring allowable catch levels, and increasing the suitability and effectiveness of fishing regulations. An additional potential positive outcome to the fishers from that better knowledge would be application of a smaller reduction coefficient when deriving the allowable annual catch (i.e., annual catch limit) from established fishery reference points. A permitting system will also enhance capabilities for the social analysis of potential management



measures by making available better data regarding the importance and contribution of commercial fishing to fishers and the fishing communities within which they reside. Finally, permitting the commercial fishers operating within a particular sector will provide those professional fishers with the security and predictability necessary to manage their businesses within a complex and ever-changing economic and ecological environment.

Establishing a new federal permit system in U.S. Caribbean EEZ waters could result in confusion among fishers and fishing communities. Furthermore, there may be resistance to additional permitting requirements in federal waters, especially considering that some fishers harvest extensively or exclusively from territorial or Commonwealth waters. Moreover, the existence of mandatory state permitting requirements and associated expenses, in addition to newly developed federal requirements, likely will create additional concerns among the fishers. These concerns need to be addressed as a permit system is developed.

Impacts of and resistance to a permit requirement for federal waters may be reduced if that permit system relies on current territorial or Commonwealth licensing/permitting efforts as opposed to establishing a new and separate federal permitting system. However, a federal permit system reliant on current territorial licensing/permitting would require that the territorial or Commonwealth licenses and permits be structured in such a way that they were consistent with the various provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. In particular, the fees charged for the territorial license or Commonwealth permit could not exceed the administrative costs of issuing the permits, and the permits would need to be available to anyone in the U.S. at the same cost and based on the same eligibility requirements that presently apply to resident fishers.

Another possible option would be to recognize the territorial or Commonwealth license as valid permits to fish in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ. However, to address the needs of those fishers desiring to fish in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ but that do not qualify for a territorial or Commonwealth license would require the establishment of a concurrent federal permit that is available to any U.S. citizen who does not have, or qualify for, a territorial or Commonwealth license. Aside from the administrative impacts that would arise, both the economic impacts that would result from fishers being required to purchase two separate licenses/permits to fish in the EEZ off Puerto Rico or the USVI, and the social impacts resulting from the time and effort required to fill out separate permit applications (Appendix A), would be avoided by expanding on the currently-established territorial or Commonwealth systems.

Fees

It would be necessary to charge a fee to the fishers associated with obtaining federal permits in order to recover costs associated with maintaining the permit system. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is authorized to charge administrative fees for permit issuance, renewal, or transfer. The direct cost of obtaining a federal permit under the current Southeast Regional Office (SERO) permitting process is estimated at \$25 per permit (C. Sramek, NMFS SERO Permits Office, pers. comm.).

Application Process

The current SERO application (Appendix A) is relatively detailed and requires the submission of vessel characteristics data (e.g., horsepower, gross tonnage, net tonnage, hull identification number, hold capacity, corporation shareholder information, lease information). Completion of the current SERO permit application form takes between 20 minutes and 60 minutes, depending on the complexity of the supporting documents. However, since fishers in the U.S. Caribbean operate smaller, more individualized businesses, a simpler application may be sufficient for a federal permit system in Puerto Rico and the USVI which could reduce the burden on fishers.

Open vs. Closed Permits

There are two different types of permit options available to the Council. First, the Council could choose an *open access* permit system that does not restrict the number of permits available to fishers. With open access permits, fishers can apply for a permit at any time. Open access permits are used throughout the U.S., including the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and U.S. Caribbean (Table 2.1). Alternatively, the Council could implement a *limited access* permit where the number of operators and, potentially, their fishing effort is restricted by controlling the number of available permits and the restrictions included with the permit. Once the original number of permits is allocated to fishers, new fishers can only obtain a permit for that sector by purchasing an existing permit from another fisher. A variety of limited access permits currently are issued in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (Table 2.2). Limited access permits frequently involve controls on the number and size of vessels, and conditions related to the transfer of fishing rights or the replacement of vessels. Presently, there are no limited access permit systems in federal waters of the U.S. Caribbean.

Table 2.1. Current Open Access Permits Available for Vessels Fishing in the EEZ of the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and the U.S. Caribbean

Open Access Commercial Permit
Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo
Spiny Lobster
Spiny Lobster Tailing
Spanish Mackerel
Rock Shrimp
South Atlantic Penaeid Shrimp
Gulf Royal Red Shrimp Endorsement
HMS Commercial Caribbean Small Boat Permit
Open Access Charter/Headboat Permits
Atlantic Charter/headboat for Dolphin/Wahoo
Atlantic Charter/headboat for Coastal Migratory Pelagics
South Atlantic Charter/Headboat for Snapper-Grouper

Table 2.2. Current Limited Access Permits Available for Vessels Fishing in the EEZ of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic

Limited Access Commercial Permits
King Mackerel
Gillnet for King Mackerel
Gulf of Mexico Shrimp
Gulf of Mexico Commercial Reef Fish
Eastern Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Bottom Long Line Endorsement
Rock Shrimp
South Atlantic Golden Crab
South Atlantic Unlimited Snapper-Grouper
South Atlantic 225 LB Trip Limit Snapper-Grouper
South Atlantic Sea Bass Pot Endorsement
South Atlantic Golden Tilefish Endorsement
Swordfish Directed
Swordfish Handgear
Swordfish Incidental
Shark Directed
Shark Incidental
Atlantic Tuna Longline
Limited Access Charter/Headboat Permits
Gulf Charter/Headboat Coastal Migratory Pelagics
Gulf Charter/Headboat for Reef Fish
Historical Captain Gulf Charter/Headboat for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fish
Historical Captain Gulf Charter/Headboat for Reef Fish

Pilot Program Opportunities

Rather than moving directly into a permit program for federal waters of the U.S. Caribbean, it may be advantageous to first develop one or more pilot studies for specific fishery sectors. Pilot studies would allow fishery managers to identify issues and devise solutions that can then be applied to an expanded permit system if such expansion is desired. Information gathered from pilot studies would guide the Council in making determinations as to the type of permit system to implement and the extent of that system. Regardless of the type of pilot program instituted, if any, participation in the pilot study could be free to all interested fishers, thus creating no financial advantage (or disadvantage) to the participants relative to those who do not participate.

Puerto Rico

Recent events in Puerto Rico have raised awareness regarding an opportunity to establish a permit program for the commercial Snapper Unit 2 (SU2) fishery operating in Puerto Rico EEZ waters. In 2012, the annual catch limit (ACL) that was established for the Puerto Rico commercial SU2 fishery in the 2010 Caribbean ACL Amendment (CFMC 2011) was substantially exceeded based on the mandated

comparison criterion (average of 2010-2011 commercial landings). The commercial ACL of 145,916 pounds (lbs) was exceeded by 132,063 lbs (90.5%) based on average SU2 landings of 277,979 lbs (190.5%). This outcome required application of an accountability measure reducing the length of the harvest season by 102 days. Much of this overage was attributed to the entry into the fishery of new fishers with a one-year ‘beginners’ commercial fishing license. Needless to say, this influx of temporary fishers and the repercussions of the resultant ACL overage brought considerable hardship to those professional commercial fishers dependent on this resource for income.

The SU2 event of 2012 brought to light issues with data reporting, overcapacity of the fishery, lack of control on participation, and a general need to better manage the SU2 commercial and recreational sectors in Commonwealth and federal waters surrounding Puerto Rico. Had the requirement for a federal permit to participate in the SU2 commercial fishery been in place, much of this impact could have been avoided. The SU2 fishery, particularly that component of the fishery executed along the west coast of Puerto Rico, historically involves a small number of dedicated, professional fishers. The fishery characteristically targets patchy, deep-water habitats. As a result, long-term participation within the context of changing environmental conditions results in only a small number of commercial fishers maintaining consistent success in the fishery. Those fishers, clearly identifiable from Puerto Rico licensing and landings data, constitute a potentially ideal target audience for a pilot study (and, ultimately, for a sector-specific permit program). If the Council chose to move ahead with a pilot permit program, the commercial SU2 fishery of Puerto Rico could be an ideal starting point.

USVI

A similar situation exists in the USVI. There, commercial fish trap fishers have recently implemented, on their own initiative, a management program that reduces the number of traps in the fishery and controls entry into the fishery. Those outcomes render the St. Thomas/St. John or St. Croix fish trap sectors good candidates for testing a pilot permit program in the USVI. Similar to Puerto Rico’s commercial SU2 fishery, the St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix fish trap fisheries are composed of a small group of dedicated, professional fishers generally supportive of sustainable management of their fishery. In contrast to the Puerto Rico commercial SU2 pilot program, which involves a particular fishery management unit, the USVI pilot program would involve a particular gear sector. This would provide an important opportunity to compare the needs, problems, and solutions associated with those different approaches, producing information necessary to developing a more broad-based permit system.

If the Council chose to implement a limited access permit program anywhere in the U.S. Caribbean, at a pilot or system scale, a control date with which to identify valid participants in the permit program has already been established. At their March 2009 meeting, the Council voted to establish a control date of March 24, 2009, for the commercial sector of the reef fish, queen conch, and spiny lobster fisheries operating in federal waters off Puerto Rico and the USVI. On July 8, 2009, NMFS published an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) in the *Federal Register* (74 FR 32528). The Council followed at their August 2012 meeting by voting to update the control date for the commercial trap sectors of the reef fish and spiny lobster fisheries operating in federal waters off Puerto Rico and the



USVI. On April 5, 2013, NMFS published an ANPR in the *Federal Register* (78 FR 20496) announcing the control date of February 10, 2011. These ANPRs informed fishers that anyone entering these fisheries after the control date will not be assured of future access should a management regime, such as a permit program that limits the number of participants in any of these fisheries, be prepared and implemented. The Council may choose to use a different control date, or to give variably weighted consideration to fishers active in the fishery before and after the control date. Other qualifying criteria, such as documentation of landings and sales, or possession of a valid license or permit from either Puerto Rico or the USVI, may be considered for entry into the fishery. The Council may also choose to take no further action to control entry or access to any of these fisheries, in which case the control date may be rescinded.

Summary

Developing tools and enhancing efforts to manage fisheries and the well-being of fishing communities in the U.S. Caribbean are important for both the marine resources and the people who depend on those resources. In order to provide better information for management, fishery managers must have a better understanding of the population of fishers and their harvest patterns in the EEZ. A federal permit system is one effective tool with which to obtain this information. This scoping document provides an overview of the permit process as well as suggestions as to how a permit system for federal waters of the U.S. Caribbean might be developed within or outside of the context of existing Puerto Rico and USVI license/permit programs. Information is then provided regarding potential pilot programs that could be developed to test and refine permit program structure and application, using the Snapper Unit 2 fishery off the west coast of Puerto Rico and the USVI fish trap fishery as examples.

The scoping process is designed to obtain input from fishers, the general public, and local government representatives on these and other actions and alternatives considered by the Council. For example, the scoping process will allow the Council to share with the public the extent of actions, the range of alternatives, and types of impacts to be evaluated when developing federal permits for fishing in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ. The scoping process also allows opportunity for the public to submit comments and suggestions. Based on public participation and input obtained during the amendment development process, the Council will identify and eliminate issues determined to be insignificant or that could be addressed in other documents, and to address issues that may have been overlooked in the process leading up to public scoping.

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Appendix A: SERO Permit Application

U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA
NMFS PERMITS OFFICE, F/SER14
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Toll Free 877-376-4877 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET)
727-824-5326 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET)
permits.sero.nmfs.noaa.gov



OMB Control No. 0648-0205; Expiration date: 10/31/2014

FEDERAL PERMIT APPLICATION FOR VESSELS FISHING IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Reviewer's Initials and Date

Permit Check or Money Order
Number and AmountFloy Tag Check or Money Order
Number and AmountSanctioned Case Number if
Sanctioned

Non Compliance Hold Date

Non Compliance Cleared Date

Expiration Date(s)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Application ID

REMEMBER TO SEND A COPY of the current (not expired) United States Coast Guard (USCG) Certificate of Documentation or a copy of the State Vessel Registration. Do not send the original. If the vessel's state registration does not list all owners, also provide a copy of the vessel's title, or other documentation from the appropriate state agency, that identifies all vessel owners.

SECTION 1 - VESSEL INFORMATION

Official Number From USCG Certificate Of
Documentation (If the vessel is documented)

Year Built

Length (ft)

Total Horsepower

State Registration Number (as applicable)

Crew Size—Including the Captain,
but not including passengers.

Vessel Name

HOLD or FISH BOX CAPACITY
How many pounds of product can you bring
to the dock when full?

Hull Identification or IMO Number

Hull Material

☐ FIBERGLASS☐ STEEL☐ WOOD☐ CEMENT☐ OTHER
(DESCRIBE)

Fuel Data

☐ DIESEL☐ GASOLINE☐ OTHER
(DESCRIBE)Fuel Capacity -
Total GallonsProduct Storage
(check all that
apply)☐ ON ICE IN
HOLD, FISH
BOX, ICE
CHEST,
COOLER,
ETC☐ FREEZER☐ LIVE WELL

Hailing Port City

Hailing Port County Or Parish

Hailing Port State

USCG DOCUMENTED VESSELS ONLY

Gross Tons

Net Tons

Passenger Capacity Data For Charter
Vessels/Headboats Only☐ UNINSPECTED VESSEL - "6-PACK"☐ USCG INSPECTED VESSEL: Specify
Passenger Capacity as listed on the USCG
Certificate of Inspection, not including Capt.
and Crew.This vessel is
used MOSTLY for
(select only one)☐ Commercial
Fishing☐ Charter☐ HeadboatFor Shark and Swordfish Directed and
Incidental Permit Applicants Only: Does your
vessel fish with, or carry onboard, either☐ Yes☐ NoReminder: If yes, include a copy of your
"Protected Species Release,
Disentanglement, and Identification
Workshop Certificate".



SECTION 2 - OPEN ACCESS PERMITS AND ENDORSEMENTS

Payment Reminder: All applications must include payment of a non-refundable application fee in the form of a check or money order made payable to the *U.S. Treasury*. The fee is \$25.00 for the first permit and \$10.00 for each additional permit or endorsement requested on this application.

FEE SCHEDULE FOR PERMITS AND ENDORSEMENTS:

1 Permit: \$25 2: \$35 3: \$45 4: \$55 5: \$65 6: \$75 7: \$85 8: \$95 9: \$105 10: \$115 11: \$125 12: \$135

INSTRUCTIONS: Find the permits in the left column and mark the check box beside that fishery to indicate what transaction(s) you want.

OPEN ACCESS COMMERCIAL PERMITS

	NEW		RENEW	
ATLANTIC DOLPHIN/WAHOO (ADW)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SPINY LOBSTER (LC) (Not required for the EEZ off Florida)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SPINY LOBSTER TAILING (LT) You must have an LC permit OR provide your FL SPL information below.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SPANISH MACKEREL (SM)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ROCK SHRIMP - CAROLINAS ZONE (RSCZ)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOUTH ATLANTIC PENAEID SHRIMP (SPA)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GULF ROYAL RED SHRIMP ENDORSEMENT (GRRS) You must have a valid Gulf of Mexico Shrimp permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HMS COMMERCIAL CARIBBEAN SMALL BOAT PERMIT (CCSB)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FOR LOBSTER TAILING PERMIT APPLICANTS ONLY

LOBSTER TAILING APPLICANTS: To obtain a lobster tailing permit you must possess a Florida Saltwater Products License (SPL) with Restricted Species and Crawfish endorsements. If you do not have a Florida SPL with Restricted Species and Crawfish Endorsements, you must possess or simultaneously obtain a valid Federal Spiny Lobster (LC) permit.

You must provide a copy of your Florida SPL if you do not have a Federal Spiny Lobster (LC) permit

Saltwater Products License Number

Crawfish Endorsement Number

Saltwater Products License
Expiration Date

OPEN ACCESS CHARTER/HEADBOAT PERMITS

	NEW		RENEW	
ATLANTIC CHARTER/HEADBOAT FOR DOLPHIN/WAHOO (CDW)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ATLANTIC CHARTER/HEADBOAT FOR COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS (CHS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOUTH ATLANTIC CHARTER/HEADBOAT FOR SNAPPER-GROUPER (SC)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SECTION 3 - LIMITED ACCESS/MORATORIUM PERMITS AND ENDORSEMENTS**

Payment Reminder: All applications must include payment of a non-refundable application fee in the form of a check or money order made payable to the *U.S. Treasury*. Please refer to the fee schedule in section 2 of the application.

INSTRUCTIONS: Find the permits in the left column and mark the check box beside that fishery to indicate what transaction(s) you want.

LIMITED ACCESS COMMERCIAL PERMITS

	PERMIT NUMBER	TRANSFER	RENEW
KING MACKEREL (KM)			
GILLNET FOR KING MACKEREL (GN)			
GULF OF MEXICO SHRIMP (SPGM)			
GULF OF MEXICO COMMERCIAL REEF FISH (RR)			
EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO REEF FISH BOTTOM LONG LINE ENDORSEMENT (RRLE)			
ROCK SHRIMP (SOUTH ATLANTIC EEZ) (RSLA)			
SOUTH ATLANTIC GOLDEN CRAB (GC)			
SOUTH ATLANTIC UNLIMITED SNAPPER-GROUPER (EXCLUDING WRECKFISH) (SG1)			
SOUTH ATLANTIC 225 LB TRIP LIMIT SNAPPER-GROUPER (EXCLUDING WRECKFISH) (SG2)			
SOUTH ATLANTIC SEA BASS POT ENDORSEMENT (SBPE)			
SOUTH ATLANTIC GOLDEN TILEFISH ENDORSEMENT (GTFE)			
SWORDFISH DIRECTED (SFD)			
SWORDFISH HANDGEAR (SFH)			
SWORDFISH INCIDENTAL (SFI)			
SHARK DIRECTED (SKD)			
SHARK INCIDENTAL (SKI)			
ATLANTIC TUNA LONGLINE (ATL) Must have either SFI or SKI and either SFD or SKD			

LIMITED ACCESS CHARTER/HEADBOAT PERMITS

	PERMIT NUMBER	TRANSFER	RENEW
GULF CHARTER/HEADBOAT FOR COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGIC FISH (CHG)			
GULF CHARTER/HEADBOAT FOR REEF FISH (RCG)			
HISTORICAL CAPTAIN GULF CHARTER/HEADBOAT FOR COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGIC FISH (HCGG)			
HISTORICAL CAPTAIN GULF CHARTER/HEADBOAT FOR REEF FISH (HRCG)			

**SECTION 4 - INDIVIDUAL VESSEL OWNER(S) AND LESSEE INFORMATION**

Answer all of the following questions to see how to fill out this section. Copy this page as needed to provide the required information on all persons that own or lease the vessel.

Does your USCG Documentation or State Registration show the vessel owner as a person or persons?	YES - Use this page for the vessel owners	NO - Fill out vessel owner info in Section 5
Does your USCG Documentation or State Registration show more than one person as the vessel owner?	YES - Use Section 4b for the vessel owners	NO - Fill out Section 4b if vessel is leased
Is a person or persons leasing this vessel from the vessel owner?	YES - Use Section 4b for the lessee	NO - The lessee is a business Put lessee info in Section 5b
		NO - Skip Section 4b

SECTION 4a - Vessel Owner on the USCG Certificate of Documentation or State Registration for Undocumented Vessels

- 1) If the USCG Documentation or State Registration shows one person as sole vessel owner - list their information here.
- 2) If the USCG Documentation or State Registration shows more than one person as vessel owner - list their information in Section 4b.
- 3) If there are more than two persons, photocopy this blank page as necessary to provide information for all the owners.

☐ MAILING RECIPIENT - All mail about this permit will go to the person listed in Section 4a

Is this person a United States Citizen or permanent resident alien? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Mr/Mrs/Ms	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Suffix - Jr, Sr, etc.

Tax Identification Number (SSN)	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	Area Code	Phone Number

Mailing Address	Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country

☐ Check box if the street address is the same as the mailing address.

Street Address (PO Box not acceptable)	Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country

SECTION 4b - Vessel Lessee OR Vessel Owner on the USCG Certificate of Documentation or State Registration

- 1) If the USCG Documentation or State Registration shows more than one person as sole vessel owner - list their information here.
- 2) If this vessel is leased by a person(s), list the lessee's information here.
- 3) If there are more than two people, photocopy this blank page as necessary to provide information for all the owners and lessee's.

Lease start date: Lease end date:

☐ MAILING RECIPIENT - All mail about this permit will go to the person listed in Section 4b

Is this person a United States Citizen or permanent resident alien? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Mr/Mrs/Ms	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Suffix - Jr, Sr, etc.

Tax Identification Number (SSN)	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	Area Code	Phone Number

Mailing Address	Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country

☐ Check box if the street address is the same as the mailing address.

Street Address (PO Box not acceptable)	Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country

**SECTION 5 - BUSINESS VESSEL OWNER(S) AND LESSEE INFORMATION**

Answer all of the following questions to see how to fill out this section. Copy this page as needed to provide the required information on all persons that own or lease the vessel.

Does your USCG Documentation or State Registration show the vessel owner as a business?	YES - Use this page for the vessel owners	NO - Fill out previous page for vessel owners	
Does your USCG Documentation or State Registration show more than one business as the vessel owner?	YES - Use Section 5b for the vessel owners	NO - Fill out Section 5b if vessel is leased	
Is a business or businesses leasing this vessel from the vessel owner?	YES - Use Section 5b for the lessee	NO - The lessee is a person Put lessee info in Section 4b	NO - Skip Section 5b

SECTION 5a - Vessel Owner on the USCG Certificate of Documentation or State Registration for Undocumented Vessels

- 1) If the USCG Documentation or State Registration shows one business as sole vessel owner - list their information in Section 5a.
- 2) If the USCG Documentation or State Registration shows multiple businesses as vessel owner - list their information in Section 5b.
- 3) If there are more than two businesses, photocopy this blank page as necessary to provide information for all the owners.

☐ MAILING RECIPIENT - All mail about this permit will go to the person listed in Section 5a

Is this business entity established under the laws of the United States or any State of the United States? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Registered Name of Business

Tax Identification Number (FEIN)	Date Business Formed (MM/DD/YYYY)	Area Code	Phone Number			
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>			
Mailing Address	Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

☐ Check box if the street address is the same as the mailing address.

Street Address (PO Box not acceptable)	Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

SECTION 5b - Vessel Lessee OR Vessel Owner on the USCG Certificate of Documentation or State Registration

- 1) If the USCG Documentation or State Registration shows more than one business as sole vessel owner - list their information here.
- 2) If this vessel is leased by a business(es), list the lessee's information here.
- 3) If there are more than two businesses, photocopy this blank page as necessary to provide information for all owners and lessee's.

Lease start date: Lease end date:

☐ MAILING RECIPIENT - All mail about this permit will go to the person listed in Section 5b

Is this business entity established under the laws of the United States or any State of the United States? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Registered Name of Business

Tax Identification Number (FEIN)	Date Business Formed (MM/DD/YYYY)	Area Code	Phone Number			
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>			
Mailing Address	Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

☐ Check box if the street address is the same as the mailing address.

Street Address (PO Box not acceptable)	Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**SECTION 6 - OFFICER/SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION FOR BUSINESS(ES) THAT OWN OR LEASE THE VESSEL**

This page must be filled out if the owner or the lessee of the vessel is a business. Copy this page as necessary to provide information on all persons that are officers/shareholders of the business(es) shown in Section 5.

Owner or lessee of the vessel: ☐ Owner ☐ Lessee

Business name Federal Tax ID Number

Position Held - Check ALL That Apply

☐ President/CEO ☐ Vice President ☐ Secretary ☐ Treasurer ☐ Director/ Manager ☐ Shareholder ☐ Other

Percent of Corporation Held Is this business entity a United States citizen or permanent resident alien? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Mr/Mrs/Ms Last Name First Name Middle Name Suffix - Jr, Sr, etc.

Tax Identification Number (SSN) Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) Area Code Phone Number

Mailing Address Apt # City State County/Parish Zip Code Country

☐ Check box if the street address is the same as the mailing address.

Street Address (PO Box not acceptable) Apt # City State County/Parish Zip Code Country

Position Held - Check ALL That Apply

☐ President/CEO ☐ Vice President ☐ Secretary ☐ Treasurer ☐ Director/ Manager ☐ Shareholder ☐ Other

Percent of Corporation Held Is this business entity a United States citizen or permanent resident alien? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Mr/Mrs/Ms Last Name First Name Middle Name Suffix - Jr, Sr, etc.

Tax Identification Number (SSN) Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) Area Code Phone Number

Mailing Address Apt # City State County/Parish Zip Code Country

☐ Check box if the street address is the same as the mailing address.

Street Address (PO Box not acceptable) Apt # City State County/Parish Zip Code Country

Minor Shareholder Information

☐ MINOR SHAREHOLDERS - Check here if one or more shareholders individually holds shares that is less than 1% of the total business shares.

TOTAL PERCENTAGE of the business shares held by minor shareholder(s)

**SECTION 7 - HISTORICAL CAPTAIN OR DESIGNATED OPERATOR (INCOME QUALIFIER)**

This person is a (check all that apply):

- ☐ Historical Captain for Gulf of Mexico Charter/Headboat for Reef fish
☐ Historical Captain for Gulf of Mexico Charter/Headboat for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fish
☐ Designated Operator (Income Qualifier other than the Permit Holder) for:

Check all that apply: ☐ Commercial King Mackerel ☐ Commercial Spiny Lobster ☐ Spanish Mackerel*A Historical Captain MUST sign Section 9 as the applicant.**A Designated Operator MUST sign Section 9 as the operator along with the applicant.*

Mr/Mrs/Ms	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Suffix - Jr, Sr, etc.
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Tax Identification Number (SSN)	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	Area Code	Phone Number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Mailing Address	Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

☐ Check box if the street address is the same as the mailing address.

Street Address (PO Box not acceptable)	Apt #	City	State	County/Parish	Zip Code	Country
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

SECTION 8 - SEA BASS POTS OR GOLDEN CRAB TRAPS**COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF YOU HAVE SEA BASS POTS OR IF YOU HAVE GOLDEN CRAB TRAPS. TAGS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL POTS/TRAPS**

Tag cost is \$1.80 per tag made payable by check or money order to Floy Tag, Inc.

I need tags for: ☐ Sea Bass Pots ☐ Golden Crab Traps

What color are your Buoys for Sea Bass Pots or Golden Crab Traps?

List an existing buoy color code for ANY other trap or pot fishery?

South Atlantic Sea Bass Pot/Golden Crab Trap Information - You are allowed a MAXIMUM of 35 Sea Bass Pots

Number of Pots/Traps	Pot or Trap Height (inches)	Pot or Trap Length (inches)	Pot or Trap Width (inches)	Mesh Size Height (inches)	Mesh Size Width (inches)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**SECTION 9 - SIGNATURE FOR APPLICATION - REQUIRED**

The undersigned certifies under penalty of perjury that the foregoing information is true and correct (28 USC 1746; 18 USC 1621; 18 USC 1001, 16 USC 1857). Further, the undersigned certifies that if a spiny lobster tailing permit is requested, the applicant routinely fishes commercially in Federal waters on trips of up to 48 hours or more and that such fishing activity requires the separation of the tail and carapace to maintain quality product.

Please note: If the vessel listed in Section 1 is leased, the applicant who signs below must be an individual named as a lessee in Section 4, or an officer or shareholder of the lessee as listed in Section 5 with information listed in section 6. If the vessel listed in Section 1 is not leased, the applicant must be an individual named as an owner in Section 4, or an officer or shareholder of the owner as listed in Section 6.

Applicant Signature	<input type="text"/>	Position in Business	<input type="text"/>	Date	<input type="text"/>
Print Name	<input type="text"/>	Designated Operator Signature	<input type="text"/>	Date	<input type="text"/>

SECTION 10 - INCOME QUALIFICATION AFFIDAVIT FOR INCOME QUALIFIED PERMITS

An Income Qualification Affidavit is accepted as proof of meeting permit income qualification requirements. This signed Income Qualification Affidavit is required with every application to renew or transfer an income qualified permit (as listed below).

Knowingly supplying false information or willfully overvaluing any fishing income for the purpose of obtaining a permit is a violation of Federal law punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment.

Spiny Lobster

50CFR622.400 An applicant must provide the following information: (vi) A sworn statement by the applicant for a vessel permit certifying that at least 10 percent of his or her earned income was derived from commercial fishing, that is, sale of the catch, during the calendar year preceding the application.

King Mackerel

50CFR622.370 To obtain or renew a commercial vessel permit for king mackerel, at least 25 percent of the applicant's earned income, or at least \$10,000, must have been derived from commercial fishing (i.e., harvest and first sale of fish) or from charter fishing during one of the 3 calendar years preceding the application.

Spanish Mackerel

50CFR622.370 To obtain or renew a commercial vessel permit for Spanish mackerel, at least 25 percent of the applicant's earned income, or at least \$10,000, must have been derived from commercial fishing (i.e., harvest and first sale of fish) or from charter fishing during one of the 3 calendar years preceding the application.

The following information applies to my income qualification for the following fisheries:

Check all that apply: ☐ Spiny Lobster ☐ King Mackerel ☐ Spanish Mackerel

I, _____, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing information is true and correct (28 USC 1746; 18 USC 1621; 18 USC 1001; 16 USC 1857). I agree to provide the necessary documentation to prove that I met the earned income requirement when so requested by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Executed on _____ (date signed).

Printed Name _____ Signature _____

Business Name (if Applicable) _____

Type of business (if Applicable) _____

Position In Business (if Applicable) _____

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to: PRA Officer, National Marine Fisheries Service, F/SER26, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

The National Marine Fisheries Service requires this information for the conservation and management of marine fishery resources. The data reported will be used to develop, implement, and monitor fishery management activities for a variety of other uses. Responses to this collection are required to obtain or retain a fisheries permit under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Name and address information will be released via a NOAA website. All other data submitted will be handled as confidential material in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fishery Statistics. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.