



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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

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Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: NOAA Modifies and Extends Commercial and Recreational Fishing Closure in the Oil-Affected Portions of the Gulf of Mexico

NOAA Fisheries Service modified the boundaries of the closed fishing area to better reflect the current extent of the oil pollution. All commercial and recreational fishing including catch and release is prohibited in the closed area.

The closure will be in effect for 10 days, from May 7, 2010, through 12:01 a.m., local time, May 17, 2010, unless conditions allow NOAA Fisheries Service to terminate it sooner. NOAA Fisheries Service will continue to monitor and evaluate the oil spill and its impacts on Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) fisheries and will take immediate and appropriate action to extend or reduce this closed area. This closed area represents slightly less than 4.5 percent of Gulf of Mexico federal waters. The vast majority of Gulf waters have not been affected by the oil spill and continue to support productive fisheries and tourism activities. This closure is implemented for public safety.

This action temporarily closes the area bound by the following coordinates to all fishing: From the point where 29°50' N. lat. intersects with the 3 nautical mile Louisiana state boundary; proceeding easterly to the point 29°50' N. lat. and 87°28' W. long.; thence, southeasterly to the point 29°20' N. lat. and 86°55' W. long.; thence, southwesterly to the point 28°18' N. lat. and 87°44' W. long.; thence, northwesterly to the point 28°30' N. lat. and 89° W. long.; thence, northwesterly to the point where 28°52' N. lat. intersects with the 3 nautical mile Louisiana state boundary; thence along the seaward limit of Louisiana's waters.

Electronic copies of the rule may be obtained from the e-Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Enter the following docket number into the "Search" box: **NOAA-NMFS-2010-0100**. The documents are also available from the NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505.

This bulletin provides only a summary of the information pertinent to the rule. Any discrepancies between this bulletin and the rule as published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

Need more information on these topics?

Southeast Regional Office's Web page:

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

Fishermen who wish to contact BP about a claim should call 1-800-440-0858.

