



The Shrimp e-Advocate

The Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA) is a non-profit alliance of members of the U.S. shrimp industry in eight states committed to preventing the continued deterioration of America's shrimp industry and to ensuring the industry's future viability. SSA serves as the national voice for the shrimp fishermen and processors in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas.

IMPORTANT: Fishing closure off of Escambia County

JUNE 14, 2010

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For immediate release: June 13, 2010
Contact: Lee Schlesinger, 850-487-0554

Map of affected area: Go to MyFWC.com/Newsroom and click on the headline for this story.

Oil forces partial fishing closure in Escambia County

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), in coordination with Florida's Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Department of Health, issued an executive order to temporarily close a portion of coastal state waters offshore of Escambia County to the harvest of saltwater fish, crabs and shrimp. The FWC is taking precautionary actions regarding harvest and consumption of these marine species, which may be affected by oil from the BP Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The closure includes state waters from the beaches out 9 nautical miles into the Gulf from the Alabama line east to the Pensacola Beach water

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tower. Interior bays and estuaries remain open to fishing. This area covers approximately 23 miles of Florida's coastline in Escambia County, where oil from the Deepwater Horizon spill is now present (see map).

Recreational catch-and-release fishing is still allowed as long as saltwater fish are not harvested or possessed in the closed area.

Oysters, clams and mussels are not included in the closure, because they are not expected to be affected by oil in the area. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services carefully monitors populations of these shellfish.

This order, which includes specific closure coordinates, can be viewed online at MyFWC.com/OilSpill and takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, June 14, and will remain in effect until repealed, extended or modified by a subsequent order. The order will be enforced by several state and federal agencies, and the affected area will remain closed until it is free of visible oil and testing confirms that the water and the marine life in it are once again safe.

Under the order, fishermen can transit through the closed area with saltwater fish, crabs or shrimp that were legally harvested outside the closed area. Fishermen doing this are required to go as directly as possible from where these species were legally harvested to where the vessel is regularly docked, moored or stored, or to the licensed wholesale dealer where the catch is to be sold.

"The oil spill in the Gulf is still far from most of Florida's vast coastlines, and while the FWC continues to carefully track oil spill developments and prepare

for possible impacts, Florida's abundant saltwater fisheries remain in good health and the fish you buy in a commercial outlet or restaurant are safe and wholesome to eat," said FWC Chairman Rodney Barreto. "The FWC encourages residents and visitors to go fishing in Florida and to enjoy fresh Florida seafood."

More information on FWC's response to the BP oil spill and closed fishing areas in federal waters offshore of Florida is available online at

MyFWC.com/OilSpill.

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STATE OF FLORIDA

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Order No. EO 10-29
of the

Emergency Closure of State Waters

**Gulf of Mexico in response to the
Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill**

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission of the State of Florida, acting under the authority of Article IV, Section 9, of the Florida Constitution, through its Executive Director under Delegations of Authority Paragraph 17 and Paragraph 22 and Executive Order of the Governor Number 10-115, as amended, and in coordination with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, takes the following precautionary actions regarding harvest and consumption of saltwater fish and marine invertebrates that may come in contact with or be impacted by oil from the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. This order does not apply to oysters, clams and mussels. Oil from the spill is now present in the area described in Paragraph 1 below.

1. All harvest and possession (commercial and recreational) of saltwater fish and marine invertebrates other than oysters, clams and mussels from Florida waters is prohibited in the following described area:

All state waters seaward of the COLREGS demarcation line, encompassing an area from the Florida-Alabama border eastward to the Pensacola Beach water tower. This area is further described:

Commencing at the edge of the Gulf of Mexico at Pensacola Beach at 87 degrees 8.48 minutes west longitude and 30 degrees 19.83 minutes north latitude; thence south to the limit of state jurisdictional waters of the Gulf of Mexico at 87 degrees 8.48 minutes west longitude and 30 degrees 10.66 minutes north latitude; thence in a westerly direction along the southern limit of state jurisdictional waters to the southwest corner of the closed area at 87 degrees 31.09 minutes west longitude and 30 degrees 7.53 minutes north latitude; thence north along the state line between Florida and Alabama to the edge of the Gulf of Mexico at Perdido Key at 87 degrees 31.09 minutes west longitude and 30 degrees 16.79 minutes north latitude; thence eastward along the barrier island beaches and COLREGS line to the point of commencement at Pensacola Beach.

2. The transport aboard any vessel of any of legally harvested saltwater fish or marine invertebrates through a closed area is prohibited, unless such transport is as direct, continuous, and expeditious as possible from the place where the saltwater or marine invertebrates were legally harvested to where the vessel is regularly docked, moored, or otherwise stored or to the licensed wholesale dealer where the catch is to be sold. Hovering, drifting, and other similar activities inconsistent with the direct, continuous, and expeditious transit of such vessels shall constitute a violation of section 1 by each person present aboard the vessel.
3. Recreational catch and release, which does not lead to harvest or possession of any saltwater fish, is not prohibited.
4. This order shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on June 14, 2010 and remain in effect until repealed, extended or modified by subsequent order.

Specific Authority: Article IV, Section 9, Florida
Constitution

Law Implemented: Article IV, Section 9, Florida
Constitution
and 120.81(5), Florida Statutes

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., June 14, 2010

seal of the Florida
Given under my hand and

Conservation Commission
Fish and Wildlife

June.
On this ____ day of

Attest: _____
Director
Agency Clerk

Nick Wiley, Executive

