



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.

FLORIDA COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON ADVISORY

JULY 22, 2010

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FLORIDA COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON ADVISORY

July 22, 2010

Effective July 22, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time (5:00 p.m. Central Time), NOAA will reopen 26,388 square miles (68,345 square kilometers) of area it had previously closed to commercial and recreational fishing in the Gulf of Mexico in response to the BP/Deepwater Horizon oil spill. All commercial and recreational fishing including catch and release is prohibited in the remaining closed area; however, transit through the area is allowed.

The closed area now measures 57,539 square miles (149,026 square kilometers) and covers about 24 percent of the Gulf of Mexico exclusive economic zone. Before the southern area was re-opened, 83,927 square miles (217,371 square kilometers), or roughly 35 percent of federal waters of the Gulf, were closed to fishing. NOAA will continue to evaluate the need for fisheries closures based on the evolving nature of the spill and will re-open closed areas as appropriate.

NOAA collected 52 samples of fish from this area, including commercially and recreationally important species. Sensory testing showed no detectable oil or dispersant odors or flavors in the samples, and the results of chemical analysis were well below levels of concern.

NOAA continues to work closely with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the states to ensure seafood safety, by closing fishing areas where tainted seafood could potentially be caught, and assessing whether seafood is tainted or contaminated to levels that pose a risk to human health. NOAA and FDA are working together to sample seafood from inside and outside the closure area, as well as dockside- and market-based sampling.

Link to map:

http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/deepwater_horizon/BP_OilSpill_FisheryClosureMap_072210.pdf

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These advisories are distributed to those who are involved in Florida's seafood and aquaculture industries.

These advisories are distributed by the Bureau of Seafood and Aquaculture Marketing, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Click on the link below to view all Florida Commercial Fishing Season Advisories that are currently in effect:

http://www.fl-seafood.com/season_advisory.htm