Alabama Trip Tickets

Alabama fishermen and seafood dealers are required to report seafood landing through a trip ticket system. The information is very important for establishing how much seafood is landed in Alabama, its value, and how it was caught. Also, the information can be used to establish eligibility for programs that provide assistance to fishermen and may be used to establish historical participation in a fishery when licenses are limited or reduced. In other words it's in every fisherman's interest to make sure his/her landings are properly recorded in the trip ticket system. Recent programs to provide fuel to shrimpers and work opportunities for oystermen were based on having reported landings as proof of participation in a fishery. Just having a fishing license is no longer enough to establish eligibility for some programs. Here are some of the key elements of the Trip Ticket Program.

Many ask what needs to be reported on a trip ticket and who is responsible for the completion of the trip ticket. The answer is simple, both parties are responsible. A seafood dealer is required to report all seafood purchased (point of first sale) from a commercial fisherman regardless of how the seafood dealer receives the product, be it unloaded from a vessel or delivered by truck. Additionally, the seafood dealer is required to report their name and license number, the fisherman’s name and license number, the county and port landed, the transaction date, the species landed including quantity, weight units, product condition (head on/off, gutted, etc), the count/grade, and the price of that species.

The fisherman is not without his/her responsibilities. The fisherman must provide to the dealer a valid commercial fishing license, the vessel name (if applicable) and registration number (State or Coast Guard), the trip start date, total trip time, the total fishing time, the primary area fished, and the primary gear used, include the quantity, size, and mesh size (if applicable) so that the trip ticket is completed accurately. Both parties are required to sign or initial each trip ticket. A trip ticket should be completed each time seafood is unloaded or delivered and should not contain multiple trips combined as a single fishing event. Seafood dealers are required to provide copies of the completed trip tickets to each fisherman. Trip tickets are due in to Marine Resources by the 10th of the month for the preceding month. (Source: ADCNR, Marine Resources Division)

Federal Permits Required in the South Atlantic Shrimp Fishery April 11, 2006

Amendment 6 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (FMP) was approved and implemented in 2005. This amendment established a requirement for an owner or operator of a trawler that harvests or possesses brown, pink, or white shrimp (penaeid shrimp) in or from federal waters of the southern Atlantic states (North Carolina through Florida) to obtain a commercial vessel permit for South Atlantic penaeid shrimp.

Penaeid shrimp vessels must have a permit onboard by April 11, 2006. To obtain an application form, contact: NOAA Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office Permits Branch

Red Snapper Quotas

Differences between commercial and recreational seasons for red snapper can sometimes cause confusion, since sector allocations are managed differently. On the commercial side, the red snapper quota is divided into spring and fall sub-quotas. The spring season opens at noon on the first of February and closes at noon on the tenth. This continues every month until the sub quota of 3.06 million pounds is reached.

The fall season begins at noon on the first of October and ends at noon on the tenth, continuing through November. In December, the fishery remains open until the quota, 1.60 million pounds (adjusted for any over or under harvest during the spring), is caught, or December 31, whichever occurs first. “When the commercial red snapper season remains open for the entire month of December, it isn’t an extension of the season, it’s simply what’s outlined in the regulations that have been in place for years.” said Dr. Richard Leard, Deputy Director of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

Recreational red snapper is managed in a
different manner, through a fixed season, and is open from April 21 through October 31. The fixed recreational season is expected to keep the recreational sector within its quota on average. This means that in some years the recreational fishery may exceed its quota, while in other years it may catch less; but the average over several years should be close to the quota. By comparison, the commercial fishery, with realtime monitoring, will rarely exceed its quota by any significant amount, though it may come in under quota in some years. Any adjustment to either the recreational or commercial regulations would require an amendment of those regulations through the rule making process. For more information on fishing rules and regulations, visit the Gulf Council web site at www.gulfcouncil.org and click on Fishing Rules. (Source: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, Gulf Fishery News. Vol. 28(1), Jan.-Feb. 2006)