

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE
SOUTHEAST REGION PERMIT FAMILY OF FORMS
OMB Control No. 0648-0205

We are requesting a change to the Federal Permit Application for Vessels Fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), per Amendment 31 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan as laid out in Final Rule 0648-AX67: the addition of a checkbox for an Eastern Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Bottom Long Line Endorsement (RRLE), for those renewing permit holders requesting the endorsement.

An estimated 61 vessels will qualify for the endorsement: those already possessing a Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Permit (RR) and having a record of the required amount of landings. The estimated burden for reviewing instructions and checking the RRLE box is estimated to be less than one minute per response, for a total of 1 hour of additional burden.

Additionally, the final rule contains the option for Gulf reef fish permit holders to appeal longline endorsement eligibility and/or landings information. The only items subject to appeal are: initial eligibility for an eastern Gulf reef fish bottom longline endorsement based on ownership of a qualifying reef fish permit, the accuracy of the amount of landings, and correct assignment of landings to the permittee. Appeals must be submitted to the Regional Administrator (RA) postmarked no later than 120 days after the date of publication of the final rule, and must contain documentation supporting the basis for the appeal. The estimated number of hours to complete an appeal is two hours per response. An estimated 2 responses are expected for the appeals process, with a total annual burden of 4 hours.

A total of 2 responses and 5 hours of additional burden would be added to this information collection.