



**Tampa Bay Shrimp Permit
Transferability**
Draft Rule
February 8, 2012
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Marine Fisheries Management



Version 1

This document summarizes a draft rule amendment for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) rule for shrimp, 68B-31, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). This draft rule amendment was requested by commercial shrimpers in Tampa Bay and would modify the Commission's rule to allow commercial fishermen shrimping in Tampa Bay to transfer their permits to other commercial shrimpers. This draft rule amendment would also clarify certain rule language.

Authors: Carly Canion and Martha Bademan

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Background

- Tampa Bay food shrimp permit was created in 1992 to limit the number of shrimpers in Tampa Bay
- Only permits issued in 1992 can be renewed
- These permits are nontransferable
- In 2012, four food shrimp permits are still active
- The permit holders requested the ability to transfer their permits



In 1992, Hillsborough County worked with the inshore shrimping industry to reduce the negative effects of shrimping on other fisheries and on bottom habitat by reducing shrimping effort in Tampa Bay. To do so, the Tampa Bay food shrimp permit was established by the Florida legislature to limit the number of commercial shrimpers in Tampa Bay. Only permits issued in the first year (1992) were made eligible for renewal and were nontransferable. The number of permits issued in 1992 was around 30, and has since dropped to four permits in 2012. The remaining permit holders have requested that their permits be made transferable. The following slide summarizes a draft rule to allow permit holders to transfer their permits.

For the purpose of this rule, Tampa Bay means all the waters of the bay east and north of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge (US 19 and Interstate 275).

Proposed Draft Rule Amendments

68B-31.019 Regulation of Shrimp Fishing in Tampa Bay; License Requirements

- *Allow the current Tampa Bay food shrimp permit holders to transfer their permits*
- *Provide guidance and clarify rule language*



The proposed draft rule would allow Tampa Bay food shrimp permit holders (four remaining) to transfer their permits to other commercial harvesters. Staff anticipate that a permit might actually be “sold” as a part of the “transfer” which is allowable under the proposed rule amendment. To be able to receive the transfer of the permit, the buyer must hold a valid saltwater products license (SPL) and restricted species endorsement (RS). Details on what information and what timeframe the transfer could be submitted within are provided. In addition, the rule would be updated to remove redundant text and to clarify the name of the permit.

No additional permits would be created. Staff feels this is a reasonable amount of effort for commercial shrimping in Tampa Bay and recommends that if the current four shrimp permit holders do not want to continue, that the permits be allowed to be transferred.

Staff Recommendation

Approve the advertised rule amendment to:

- Allow Tampa Bay shrimp permit holders to transfer their permits
- Provide guidance and clarify rule language

If directed staff will publish a notice that the rule will become final and effective on May 1, 2012, with no further public hearing unless requested.



Staff recommends approving the proposed rule to allow Tampa Bay shrimp permit holders to transfer their permits and to clarify certain rule language.

Staff also recommends approving the draft rule without further hearing planned prior to adoption, unless requested, and recommends that this rule become effective on May 1, 2012. Staff has evaluated the rules under the standards of 68-1.004, F.A.C., and found them to be in compliance.