



NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office

Overview

NOAA Fisheries' **Southeast Regional Office (SERO)** manages, conserves, and protects living marine resources in federal waters of the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and U.S. Caribbean and their habitats, and fosters the development of marine aquaculture. SERO programs:

- Work with the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Councils to maintain healthy fish stocks important to commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries, and to provide safe, sustainable seafood.
- Conserve and manage marine mammals and threatened and endangered species, including corals, sea turtles, sawfish, sturgeon, right whales, bottlenose dolphins, and many other species of concern.
- Protect coastal and marine habitats, provide fish passage and ecological flow recommendations at dozens of barriers, and support large-scale, habitat conservation and restoration programs.

Key disaster response services include:

Emergency Environmental Compliance Reviews

- Conduct emergency consultations to mitigate impacts of response activities on threatened and endangered species, critical habitat and essential fish habitat.
- Provide technical advice, including Best Management Practices and other guidance, for minimizing adverse effects to trust resources during emergency response.

Fishery Closures and other Temporary Rules to Protect Public Health and Trust Resources

- Close fisheries if needed to protect public health.
- Authorize turtle excluder device exemptions if debris or other environmental conditions are impeding conservation benefits of TEDs.
- Provide select fisheries paper-based recordkeeping and reporting allowances.

Key Disaster Response Services:

- Emergency Environmental Compliance Reviews
- Fishery Closures & other Temporary Rules to Protect Public Health & Trust Resources
- Fishery Disaster Assistance Evaluations
- Marine Mammal & Sea Turtle Stranding Response Coordination
- Incident Command Post Staffing

Fishery Disaster Assistance Evaluations

- Support state agencies requesting fishery disaster declarations, evaluate requests, and assist in distributing any funds appropriated by Congress.

Marine Mammal & Sea Turtle Stranding Response Coordination

- Oversee, coordinate, and authorize stranding network responses to marine mammal and sea turtle strandings.
- Investigate cause of strandings and, when appropriate, respond with emergency rulemaking if fishery-related.

Incident Command Post Staffing

- Staff Incident Command Posts, as needed, to provide local expertise and technical assistance and guidance and/or to support field activities including wildlife response and Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique operations.

Contact

SERO is based in St. Petersburg, FL, and supported by ten field offices located from NC through TX and in the U.S. Caribbean.

Email: nmfs.ser.emergency.consult@noaa.gov

Tel: 727-824-5301; Fax: 727-824-5320

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

