



February 27th, 2014

**Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Florida to host meetings considering Reef Fish Permit for Recreational
Fishing**

Hello Florida RAP Session Attendees,

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is holding some public workshops on a proposal that would create recreational permit/registry for anglers that harvest Gulf reef fish species like red snapper and gag. The information collected by this permit/registry program would be used to improve recreational data collection on these species. This subject came up at RAP sessions so we wanted to make sure you are aware of these meetings and invite you to attend. Locations, dates, and times are all listed in the FWC press release below.

If you have any questions about the sessions contact the Gulf Council's Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission representative.

Martha.bademan@myfwc.com

Thanks!!

Emily Muehlstein

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is hosting several public workshops in early March to gather public input on a proposal that would improve recreational reef fish data collection.

The proposal would create a mandatory permit or registry system for Gulf of Mexico recreational anglers who target reef fish like red snapper, grouper, amberjack and gray triggerfish. This system will help researchers better define the number of offshore anglers and help them contact these anglers to gather additional data. Get your voice heard on this important topic by attending an in-person workshop or a phone conference.

The workshops are scheduled for the following locations and times:

- Monday, March 3: Fort Myers (6-8 p.m. EST), Bass Pro Shops, 1004 Gulf Center Dr.
- Tuesday, March 4: St. Petersburg (6-8 p.m. EST), Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, 100 Eighth Ave. SE
- Wednesday, March 5: Perry (6-8 p.m. EST), Perry City Council, 224 S. Jefferson St.
- Thursday, March 6: Destin (6-8 p.m. CST), Destin Community Center, 101 Stahlman Ave.

- Tuesday, March 11: Phone Conference (6-8 p.m. EDT), RSVP to the Division of Marine Fisheries Management at 850-487-0554 to obtain instructions to join the meeting.
- Wednesday, March 12: Pensacola (6-8 p.m. CDT), Escambia County Extension Office Auditorium, 3740 Stefani Rd.

[For more information](#) visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater," "Rulemaking" and "Public Workshops" or call 850-487-0554.

About Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional Fishery Management Councils established by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Council prepares fishery management plans, which are designed to manage fishery resources within the 200-mile limit of the Gulf of Mexico.

Submit comments and stay updated on fishery issues:

Check it out! Go to www.gulfcouncil.org and click on the thermometer in the middle of the page. From there you can read up on all the pending actions, watch the video presentations, read comments, and submit your own. All comments submitted through the online form are automatically posted on our web site for Council review. Other comments are manually posted every couple of days.

There is also a thermometer for each issue that lets you know where the Council is in the process for that particular amendment, whether its the scoping phase, final action, or implementation.



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**Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management
Council**

[Emily Muehlstein](#)

Fishery Outreach Specialist
888-833-1844 ext. 239