



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

Committees Schedule & Council Agendaⁱ

August 19-22nd, 2024

Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino Biloxi, Mississippi & [Virtual](#)

Monday, August 19th – Full Council Session

8:30 AM – 8:45 AM CDT: Induction of New and Re-appointed Council Members – *Mr. Strelcheck*

Monday, August 19th – Committee Sessions

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM CDT: **Administrative/Budget (Tab G)** – *Gen. Spraggins*

- Review and Approve Final 2024 Funded Budget
- Review Proposed Activities and Budget for 2025-2028 Funding Request
- Status Update on Inflation Reduction Act Funding for the Regional Management Councils

----- **Break 9:45 AM – 10:00 AM CDT** -----

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM CDT: **Ecosystem (Tab Q)** – *Dr. Banks*

- Presentation on Modifications to the 2024 NMFS Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Road Map (EBFM) and Ecosystem Technical Committee Recommendations and Comments
- Draft Comment Letter on Modifications to the 2024 EBFM for Review
- SSC Recommendations and Feedback on Essential Fish Habitat Contract Work

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM CDT: **Sustainable Fisheries (Tab E)** – *Dr. Sweetman*

- Research and Monitoring Priorities for 2025-2028 Including SSC Recommendations
- SSC Recommendations on Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule

----- **Lunch 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM CDT** -----

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM CDT: **Data Collection (Tab F)** – *Capt. Walker*

- Discussion on For-hire Data Collection Program including Presentation on Effort Validation Options in the New For-hire Data Collection Program

----- **Break 3:00 PM – 3:15 PM CDT** -----

3:15 PM – 5:00 PM CDT: **Shrimp (Tab D)** – *Mr. Schieble*

- Review of the Expenditures of the FY23 Funds for the Early Adopter Program for Shrimp cVMS and Update on the Early Adopter Program for Shrimp cVMS
- Update on Shrimp Futures Project

- Recap of Southeast Shrimp Strategy and Planning Meeting
- Update on Timing of Re-initiation of Section 7 Consultation

– Recess –

Tuesday, August 20th – Committee Sessions, Continued

8:30 AM – 8:45 AM CDT: Litigation Update – *Ms. Levy*

8:45 AM – 10:45 AM CDT: **Reef Fish Committee (Tab B)** – *Dr. Frazer*

- Draft Options: Reef Fish Amendment 58: Modifications to Shallow-water Grouper and Deep-water Grouper Management Measures

----- Break 10:45 AM – 11:00 AM CDT -----

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM CDT: **Reef Fish Committee *continued* (Tab B)** – *Dr. Frazer*

- Discussion of Vision Statement for the Individual Fishing Quota Programs

----- Lunch 11:30 PM – 1:00 PM CDT -----

1:00 PM – 3:30 PM CDT: **Reef Fish Committee *continued* (Tab B)** – *Dr. Frazer*

- Reef Fish Amendment 59: Requirements for Participation in Individual Fishing Quota Programs
- Draft Options: Federal For-hire Buffer and Fishing Season for Red Snapper
- Contract Outcomes: Regional and Sector-Specific Gulf of Mexico Age, Growth, and Age-length Key Estimation Derived from Otolith-based Ageing and SSC Recommendations
- SSC Summary Report:
 - Influence of Timing and Duration of Recreational Seasonal Harvest Restrictions on Gag Effort, Harvest, and Discards in the Gulf of Mexico

----- Break 3:30 PM – 3:45 PM CDT -----

3:45 PM – 5:30 PM CDT: **Full Council Closed Session (Tab T)** – *Mr. Anson*

- Selection of Special Shrimp Scientific and Statistical Committee Members for 2024-2027 Term
- Appointment of Working Group Membership for the Recreational Initiative

– Recess –

Wednesday, August 21st – Committee Sessions, Continued

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM CDT: **Gulf SEDAR Committee (Tab I)** – *Mr. Anson*

- SEDAR Assessment Process Changes and Model Complexity with SSC Recommendations
- SEDAR Steering Committee Summary Report July 2024

- SSC Recommendations and Feedback on Management Strategy Evaluations Overview and RESTORE Project Update on Stock Assessment Projections

----- Break 10:00 AM – 10:15 AM CDT -----

Wednesday, August 21st – Council Session

- I. **10:15 AM – 10:20 AM CDT:** Call to Order, Announcements, and Introductions – *Mr. Anson*
- II. **10:20 AM – 10:25 AM CDT:** Adoption of Agendaⁱ and Approval of Minutes (**Tab A, No's 3 & 4**) – *Mr. Anson*
- III. **10:25 AM – 12:00 PM CDT:** Presentations:
 - Project Introduction and Review of RWE Fisheries Communications Plan (**Tab A, No. 7**) – *Ms. Boelke*
 - Update from Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on Wind Energy Development in the Gulf of Mexico (**Tab A, No. 8**) – *Ms. Lyncker*
 - Mississippi Law Enforcement Efforts (**Tab A, No. 9**) – *Sgt. Carron*

----- Lunch 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM CDT -----

Wednesday, August 21st – Council Session continued

- IV. **1:30 PM – 5:00 PM CDT:** Public Comment ^{ii, iii, iv, v} – *Mr. Anson*
 - Comments on Renewable Wind Energy Communications Plan from RWE
 - Comments on the Status of the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fisheries
 - Open Testimony on other Fishery Issues or Concerns

– Recess –

Thursday, August 22nd – Council Session

Committee Reports:

- A. **8:30 am – 9:00 am CDT:** Administrative/Budget (**Tab G**) – *Gen. Spraggins*
- B. **9:00 AM – 9:30 AM CDT:** Ecosystem (**Tab Q**) – *Dr. Banks*
- C. **9:30 AM – 10:00 AM CDT:** Data Collection (**Tab F**) – *Capt. Walker*

----- Break 10:00 AM – 10:15 AM CDT -----

- D. **10:15 AM – 10:45 AM CDT:** Shrimp (**Tab D**) – *Mr. Schieble*
- E. **10:45 AM – 11:00 AM CDT:** Sustainable Fisheries (**Tab E**) – *Dr. Sweetman*
- F. **11:00 AM – 11:15 AM CDT:** Closed Session (**Tab T**) – *Mr. Anson*
- G. **11:15 AM – 12:00 PM CDT:** Gulf SEDAR (**Tab I**) – *Mr. Anson*

----- Lunch 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM CDT -----

- H. **1:30 PM – 3:30 PM CDT:** Reef Fish (**Tab B**) – *Dr. Frazer*

----- Break 3:30 PM – 3:45 PM CDT -----

3:45 PM – 4:15 PM CDT: Supporting Agencies Update (Tab R) – Mr. Anson

- South Atlantic Council Liaison (Tab R, No. 1) – Mr. Borland
- NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) Report (Tab R, No. 2a) and Presentation (Tab R, No. 2b) – TBD
- Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (Tab R, No. 3) – Mr. Donaldson
- U.S. Coast Guard (Tab R, No. 4) – TBD
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Department of State

4:15 PM – 4:30 PM CDT: Discussion of Council Planning and Primary Activities (Tab R, No. 5) – Dr. Simmons / Mr. Anson

4:30 PM – 4:45 PM CDT: Other Business (Tab U) – Mr. Anson

4:45 PM – 5:00 PM CDT: Election of Council Chair and Vice-Chair – Mr. Donaldson

– Adjourn –

Next Meeting

November 4-7, 2024

[Hilton St. Pete Bayfront](#)

St Petersburg, Florida

i The established times for addressing items on the Council agendas may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the agenda items. Public testimony may begin earlier than 1:30 pm CDT on August 21, 2024, but will not conclude before that time. Public testimony may end before the published agenda time if all registered in-person and virtual participants have completed their testimony.

ii Persons wishing to give public testimony **virtually** must sign up on the Council website beginning on the first day of the Council meeting. Registration closes one hour before public testimony begins. During public testimony, the Council will hear testimony related to final actions of the Council and pertinent agenda items. Time constraints may limit individual speaking time as determined by the presiding officer.

To help ensure that Council members have sufficient time to consider your written testimony, please submit your comments at least three business days prior to the start of the Council meeting.

iii Any oral or written statement shall include a brief description of the background and interests of the person testifying and the source and date of any specific information. Persons wishing to submit written testimony or information can do so by emailing it to gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org. All written comments will be posted on the Council's website for viewing by Council members and the public.

iv Oral or written communications provided to the Council are public documents. These communications will be made available to the public in their entirety and maintained by the Council as part of its permanent record. Further, knowingly and willfully submitting false information to the Council is a violation of Federal law.

v Anyone wishing to use electronic visual aids during public testimony must provide staff with a copy of the material at least one hour before comment begins to allow for a virus scan of said material.