



# Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

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

## Committees Schedule & Council Agenda<sup>i</sup>

August 14 – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Driskill

Austin, Texas & Virtual

### Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup> – Full Council Session

8:00 AM – 8:10 AM CDT: Induction of New Council Members – *Mr. Hood*

### Monday August 14<sup>th</sup> – Committee Sessions

8:10 AM – 9:30 AM CDT: **Administrative / Budget (Tab G)** – *Gen. Spraggins*

- Presentation of the 2021-2022 Audit Report
- Review Final 2023 Funded Budget and Activities
- Information on Inflation Reduction Act Funding for the Regional Management Councils

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM CDT: **Migratory Species (Tab M)** – *Dr. Frazer*

- Update on Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management Measures
  - Proposed Rule: Amendment 15 – Modifications of Four Commercial Longline Spatial Management Areas and Administrative Changes to Pelagic Longline Electronic Monitoring Program
  - Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Electronic Reporting
  - Scoping: Amendment 16 – Revised Catch Limit for Shark Stocks, Modifications to Commercial and Recreational Shark Fisheries Management

----- Break 10:30 AM – 10:45 AM CDT -----

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM CDT: **Data Collection (Tab F)** – *Ms. Boggs*

- SEFHIER Program Update and Next Steps

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

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM CDT: **Sustainable Fisheries (Tab E)** – *Dr. Sweetman*

- Rice's Whale Critical Habitat Proposed Rule
- SSC Recommendations on Discussion on MRIP Cumulative Estimate Reporting
- SSC Recommendations on Technical Guidance for National Standard 1 Reference Points and Status Determinations

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

**3:15 PM – 5:00 PM CDT: Sustainable Fisheries continued (Tab E) – Dr. Sweetman**

- SSC Recommendations on Evaluation of Interim Analysis Process
- Presentation on Allocation Reviews
- Draft Letter on NOAA Fisheries Request for Comments on the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for National Standard Guidelines 4, 8, and 9 Guidelines

**Monday August 14th – Full Council Closed Session**

**5:00 PM – 5:30 PM CDT: Closed Session – Dr. Frazer**

- Litigation Update

**– Recess –**

**Tuesday, August 15th – Committee Sessions, Continued**

**8:00 AM – 9:45 AM CDT: Reef Fish Committee (Tab B) – Dr. Frazer**

- Discussion: Gag and Black Grouper Management Alternatives

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

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM CDT: Reef Fish Committee *continued* (Tab B) – Dr. Frazer**

- Discussion: Shallow-water Grouper Complex Management

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

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

- Draft Framework Action: Modifications to Recreational and Commercial Greater Amberjack Management Measures
- Draft: Snapper Grouper Amendment 44 / Reef Fish Amendment 55: Catch Level Adjustments and Allocations for Southeast U.S. Yellowtail Snapper

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

**3:45 PM – 5:00 PM CDT: Reef Fish Committee *continued* (Tab B) – Dr. Frazer**

- Status Update on the Anticipated Endangered Species Act Proposed Rules and Section 7 Related Updates
- Status and Timeline Update for Revised IFQ Goals and Objectives
- Status Update on Recreational Initiative

**– Recess –**

**Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> – Committee Sessions, Continued**

**8:00 AM – 10:30 AM CDT: Mackerel (Tab C) – Mr. Anson**

- SSC Recommendations on Gulf King Mackerel Interim Assessment

- SSC Recommendations on SEDAR 81 Gulf Spanish Mackerel Update Stock Assessment
- Proposed Engagement in Mackerel Port Meetings
- Amendment to the 2015 Biological Opinion for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region

----- Break 10:30 AM – 10:45 AM CDT -----

10:45 AM – 11:20 AM CDT: **Shrimp (Tab D)** – *Mr. Schieble*

- Re-initiation of Endangered Species Action Section 7 Consultation on the Authorization of the Southeast U.S. Shrimp Fisheries in Federal Waters, Giant Manta Ray and Shrimp Trawl Interactions, and Next Steps
- Status Update of Side-by-Side Testing of Cellular Vessel Monitoring Systems and Cellular Electronic Logbooks on Gulf Shrimp Vessels

**Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> – Council Session**

- I. 11:20 AM – 11:25 AM CDT: Call to Order, Announcements, and Introductions – *Dr. Frazer*
- II. 11:25 AM – 11:30 AM CDT: Adoption of Agenda<sup>i</sup> and Approval of Minutes (**Tab A, No's 3 & 4**) – *Dr. Frazer*
- III. 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM CDT: Presentations:
  - Update from Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on Wind Energy Development in the Gulf of Mexico (**Tab A, No. 7**) – *Mr. Celata*

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

**Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> – Council Session continued**

- IV. 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM CDT: Public Comment <sup>ii, iii, iv, v</sup> – *Dr. Frazer*
  - Open Testimony on Other Fishery Issues or Concerns

– Recess –

**Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> – Council Session**

**Committee Reports:**

- A. 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM CDT: Administrative / Budget (**Tab G**) – *Gen. Spraggins*
- B. 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM CDT: Migratory Species (**Tab M**) – *Dr. Frazer*
- C. 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM CDT: Data Collection (**Tab F**) – *Ms. Boggs*
- D. 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM CDT: Sustainable Fisheries (**Tab E**) – *Dr. Sweetman*

----- Break 10:30 AM – 10:45 AM CDT -----

- E. 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM CDT: Reef Fish (**Tab B**) – *Dr. Frazer*

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

- F. 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM CDT: Reef Fish *continued* (Tab B) – Dr. Frazer
- G. 2:30 PM – 3:00 PM CDT: Mackerel (Tab C) – Mr. Anson
- H. 3:00 PM – 3:15 PM CDT: Shrimp (Tab D) – Mr. Schieble

----- Break 3:15 PM – 3:30 PM CDT -----

- 3:30 PM – 4:00 PM CDT: Supporting Agencies Update (Tab R) – Dr. Frazer
  - Texas Law Enforcement Efforts (Tab R, No. 1) – Lt. Casterline
  - South Atlantic Council Liaison (Tab R, No. 2) – Ms. Marhefka
  - NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) (Tab R, No. 3) – ASAC O'Malley
  - Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission – Mr. Donaldson
  - U.S. Coast Guard (Tab R, No. 5) – LCDR Motoi
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Department of State
- 4:00 PM – 4:15 PM CDT: Other Business (Tab U) – Dr. Frazer
  - Litigation Update – Ms. Levy
- 4:15 PM – 4:30 PM CDT: Election of Chair and Vice-Chair – Mr. Donaldson

– Adjourn –

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Next Meeting</b> October 23-26, 2023 <a href="#">Embassy Suites by Hilton</a> Panama City Beach, FL</p>
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<sup>i</sup>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 16th, 2023 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.

<sup>ii</sup> 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.**

<sup>iii</sup> 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](mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org). All written comments will be posted on the Council's website for viewing by Council members and the public.

<sup>iv</sup> 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.

<sup>v</sup> 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.