



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

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

Committees Schedule & Council Agendaⁱ

January 29th – February 1st, 2024

Hyatt Centric French Quarter & [Virtual](#)

Monday, January 29th – Committee Sessions

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM CST: Administrative/Budget (Tab G) – Gen. Spraggins

- Discussion of Proposed Standing and Special Scientific & Statistical Committee Reorganization for June 2024 Appointments
- Review and Discuss Ad Hoc and Standing Advisory Panels
- Review and Discuss Proposed 2024 Activities and Budget

----- Break 9:45 AM – 10:00 AM CST -----

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM CST: Administrative/Budget *continued* (Tab G) – Gen. Spraggins

- Review Update to 2020-2024 Administrative Award Anticipated Carryover
- Review and Approve Proposal Activities for Phase II Inflation Reduction Act Funding for the Regional Management Councils
- Review and Finalize the Steering Committee Makeup for the Recreational Initiative

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM CST: Law Enforcement (Tab L) – Mr. Diaz

- Summary of Law Enforcement Technical Committee (LETC) Discussion on Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Advanced Landings Notifications
- Summary of LETC Discussions: Additional Topics

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

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM CST: Data Collection (Tab F) – Ms. Boggs

- Summary Report and Recommendations from the Ad Hoc Charter For-hire Data Collection Advisory Panel
- Recommendations and Next Steps for the For-hire Electronic Reporting

----- Break 2:30 pm – 2:45 PM CST -----

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM CST: Data Collection *continued* (Tab F) – Ms. Boggs

- Discussion of MRIP-FES Inventory and Action Plan for the Gulf of Mexico
- Update on the Status of the Timeline on the Implementation of the Commercial Logbooks

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM CST: Shrimp (Tab D) – Mr. Schieble

- Update on Early Adopter Program for Shrimp cVMS
- Shrimp Futures Project: Workshops to Address Current Challenges and Future Scenario Planning

– Recess –

Tuesday, January 30th – Committee Sessions, Continued

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM CST: Reef Fish Committee (Tab B) – Dr. Frazer

- Draft Options: Modification of Mid-Water Snapper Complex Composition and Catch Limits

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

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM CST: Reef Fish Committee *continued* (Tab B) – Dr. Frazer

- Draft Options: Gag Grouper Management Measures
- **Final Action**: Draft Abbreviated Framework Action: Modifications to Catch Limits for Gulf of Mexico Lane Snapper

----- Lunch 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM CST -----

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

- Permit Requirements for Participation in Individual Fishing Quota Programs
- Review of 2023 Gulf Red Grouper Recreational Landings and Quota Closure

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

3:45 PM – 5:00 PM CST: Sustainable Fisheries Committee (Tab E) – Dr. Sweetman

- Allocations and Allocation Review Policy
- Summary of Scientific & Statistical Committee (SSC) Discussion on Incorporating Social Science Theory and Methods in Ecosystem Assessments

– Recess –

Immediately following the Sustainable Fisheries Committee – [NMFS will Host a General Question and Answer Session](#) – Mr. Strelcheck / Dr. Walter / Mr. Anson

Wednesday, January 31st – Committee Sessions, Continued

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM CST: Outreach and Education Committee (Tab O) – Mr. Dugas

- 2023 Communications Improvement Plan Progress and 2023 Analytics
- 2024 Communications Improvement Plan
- 2023 In-Person Event Outreach Progress and 2024 Plan
- Communications Guidelines Book Review
- Fishery Ecosystem Plan Outreach

- Coastal Migratory Pelagics Stakeholder Engagement
- Management Timeline Tool Review
- Return 'Em Right Best Practices Manual Update
- Other Items from the Outreach & Education Technical Committee Summary

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

Wednesday, January 31st – Council Session

- I. **10:45 AM – 10:50 AM CST:** Call to Order, Announcements, and Introductions – *Mr. Anson*
- II. **10:50 AM – 10:55 AM CST:** Adoption of Agendaⁱ and Approval of Minutes (**Tab A, No's 3 & 4**) – *Mr. Anson*
- III. **10:55 AM – 12:15 PM CST:** Presentations:
 - Update on NMFS' National Seafood Strategy Regional Implementation Plan (**Tab A, No. 7**) – *Dr. Rubino*
 - Update from Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on Wind Energy Development in the Gulf of Mexico (**Tab A, No. 8**) – *Ms. Lyncker*
 - Opportunities to Advance Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) in Gulf of Mexico Fisheries through the Southeast EEJ Implementation Plan (**Tab A, No. 9**) – *Mr. Strelcheck*
 - Draft Action Items (**Tab A, No. 9a**)
 - Background: NMFS Equity and Environmental Justice (**Tab A, No. 9b**)
 - Discussion of Exempted Fishing Permit Application (**Tab A, No. 10**) – *SERO*

----- Lunch 12:15 PM – 1:30 PM CST -----

Wednesday, January 31st – Council Session continued

- IV. **1:30 PM – 5:00 PM CST:** Public Comment ^{ii, iii, iv, v} – *Mr. Anson*
 - **Final Action:** Draft Abbreviated Framework Action: Modifications to Catch Limits for Gulf of Mexico Lane Snapper
 - Comments on the Southeast EEJ Implementation Plan
 - Comments on Exempted Fishing Permit Application
 - Open Testimony on Other Fishery Issues or Concerns

– Recess –

Thursday, February 1st – Council Session

Committee Reports:

- A. **8:30 AM – 9:00 AM CST:** Administrative / Budget (**Tab G**) – *Gen. Spraggins*

- B. **9:00 AM – 9:15 AM CST:** Law Enforcement (**Tab L**) – *Mr. Diaz*
C. **9:15 AM – 10:15 AM CST:** Data Collection (**Tab F**) – *Ms. Boggs*

----- **Break 10:15 AM – 10:30 AM CST** -----

- D. **10:30 AM – 11:00 AM CST:** Shrimp (**Tab D**) – *Mr. Schieble*
E. **11:00 AM – 12:00 PM CST:** Reef Fish (**Tab B**) – *Dr. Frazer*

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

- F. **1:30 PM – 2:00 PM CST:** Reef Fish *continued* (**Tab B**) – *Dr. Frazer*
G. **2:00 PM – 2:30 PM CST:** Sustainable Fisheries (**Tab E**) – *Dr. Sweetman*
H. **2:30 PM – 3:00 PM CST:** Education and Outreach (**Tab O**) – *Mr. Dugas*
I. **3:00 PM – 3:15 PM CST:** Recommendation on Exempted Fishing Permit Application (**Tab A, No. 10**) – *Mr. Anson*

----- **Break 3:15 PM – 3:30 PM CST** -----

- 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM CST:** Supporting Agencies Update (**Tab R**) – *Mr. Anson*
- Louisiana Law Enforcement Efforts (**Tab R, No. 1**) – *Major Aucoin*
 - South Atlantic Council Liaison (**Tab R, No. 2**) – *Ms. Marhefka*
 - NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) (**Tab R, No. 3**) – *ASAC Bradford*
 - Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission – *Mr. Donaldson*
 - U.S. Coast Guard (**Tab R, No. 5**) – *Lt. Fuhs*
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Department of State

4:15 PM – 4:45 PM CST: Discussion of Council Planning and Primary Activities (**Tab R, No. 6**) – *Dr. Simmons / Dr. Froeschke / Mr. Anson*

- 4:45 PM – 5:00 PM CST:** Other Business (**Tab U**) – *Mr. Anson*
- Litigation Update – *Ms. Levy*

– **Adjourn** –

Next Meeting
April 8-11, 2024
[The Lodge](#)
Gulf Shores, Alabama

ⁱThe 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 CST on January 31, 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.