



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

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

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Meeting Notice

January 8, 2010

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Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to Meet in Mobile, Alabama

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will meet February 1 – 4, 2010, at The Battle House, 26 N. Royal Street in Mobile, Alabama. Council Committees will convene Monday morning at 10:00 after a series of closed sessions. Committees will meet through Wednesday morning, with the full Council convening Wednesday afternoon through Thursday. Agenda highlights are summarized below. For a copy of the detailed agenda or to review briefing book materials, please visit the Council web site at www.gulfcouncil.org or call 888-833-1844.

Beginning at 10:00 a.m. Monday the Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem Management Committee will review an options paper for the Generic Annual Catch Limit and Accountability Measures Amendment, as well as review the proposed National Standard 2 Guidelines.

The Budget Committee will meet at 1:30 p.m. for a review of 2010 funding, followed by the Administrative Policy Committee, who will review modifications to the Statement of Organization Practices and Procedures and discuss handbook development.

Also on Monday the Outreach and Education Committee will receive a report on the Outreach and Education Advisory Panel meeting held in November. Monday's meetings will conclude with the Spiny Lobster/Stone Crab Management Committee review of an Options Paper for Amendment 10. The Committee will also hear a report of the Standing and Special Spiny Lobster Scientific and Statistical Committee, as well as approve the Southeast Data and Review (SEDAR) Terms of Reference for Spiny Lobster.

Tuesday the Reef Fish Management Committee will meet to review and discuss the following:

- Presentation on the Red Snapper Stock Assessment Update
- Report of the Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee
- Report of the Red Snapper Advisory Panel
- Draft Final Regulatory Amendment for Red Snapper Total Allowable Catch
- Options Paper for Amendment 32 – Gag/Red Grouper, (Including Scoping Meeting Summaries)
- Report of the Limited Access Privilege Program Advisory Panel Meeting
- Presentation - Northeast Gulf of Mexico Reserves Program: Changes in Reef Fish Populations
- Approval of Stock Assessment Schedule for Yellowedge Grouper and Tilefish, and the Stock Assessment Update Schedule for Greater Amberjack

Tuesday's meetings will conclude with a discussion by the Red Drum Committee on the red drum fishery in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, followed by a meeting of the Habitat Protection Committee to receive reports of the Habitat Advisory Panel meetings.

Immediately following committee recess on Tuesday, the Council and NOAA Fisheries will host an informal Question and Answer Session on Gulf of Mexico fishery management issues.

Beginning Wednesday morning at 8:30 the Shrimp Management Committee will review of the Shrimp Advisory Panel recommendations for the 2010 Texas Closure. The Committee will also hear a report of the Standing and Special Shrimp Scientific and Statistical Committee meeting, and a report on shrimp effort in 2009. Finally, the Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Management Committee will convene to discuss scoping meeting summaries; an options paper for Amendment 18; and the control rule for Gulf group king mackerel and Spanish mackerel.

The full Council will convene at 1:00 p.m., and from 1:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m., will receive a presentation regarding the Catch Shares Task Force. A report on the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Activities will be presented from 1:45 – 2:15, followed by Public testimony. Testimony will be accepted on Exempted Fishing Permits (if any) and a Final Regulatory Amendment for Reef Fish Total Allowable Catch. The Council will also hold an open public comment session to give members of the public an opportunity to address the Council on fishery issues that may not be on the agenda. Open public comment will be taken immediately following public testimony until 4:15 p.m. Comment cards must be completed before the start of public testimony.

Beginning at 4:15 p.m. Wednesday, through Thursday afternoon, the Council will deliberate and take action on committee recommendations made earlier in the week. The meeting is expected to conclude by 1:15 p.m. Thursday.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Council and Committees for discussion, in accordance with the M-SFCMA, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the Council and Committees will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the M-SFCMA, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

The established times for addressing items on the agenda may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the agenda items. In order to allow for such adjustments and completion of all items on the agenda, the meeting may be extended from, or completed prior to the date established in this notice. Meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Tina O'Hern at the Council five days prior to the meeting.

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