



Gulf Fishery News

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

April - May, 2012

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Did you know?

The Gulf Council encourages and accepts public testimony at every stage of the fishery management plan process. Comment opportunities go beyond scoping meetings and public hearings. The Council also takes open public comment during each Council meeting and accepts written comments throughout the process. Written comments can be emailed to: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org, or mailed to:

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 N. Lois Avenue
Suite 1100
Tampa, Florida 33607

Questions?
Call Charlene or Emily at
813-348-1630



Volume 34, Issue 2

Greater Amberjack

In April, the Council took final action on Amendment 35 for greater amberjack, and is recommending maintaining both the minimum size limit of 30" and the June-July recreational closure. The amendment also establishes a 2,000-pound commercial trip limit.

The Council began developing Reef Fish Amendment 35 when the last greater amberjack stock assessment update indicated that the stock remains overfished and continues to experience overfishing. As a result, the Council's scientific advisors recommended that the greater amberjack Acceptable Biological Catch be set at 1,780,000 pounds whole weight. An Annual Catch Limit cannot be higher than the Acceptable Biological Catch, so the current stock Annual Catch Limit of 1,870,000 million pounds whole weight had to be adjusted.

These management measures are expected to reduce overfishing but, until a new stock assessment is completed, it is unknown if the greater amberjack stock will be rebuilt in time to meet its rebuilding schedule.



Photo by Walter Stone



Red Snapper Amendment for Overage Adjustments

Discussions regarding an amendment to address overage adjustments to the red snapper fishery have been tabled until after the red snapper benchmark assessment is conducted and analyzed.

The Magnuson Act recommends that Councils establish overage adjustments for species that are in a rebuilding plan, so the Gulf Council initiated an amendment to accomplish this for red snapper. If a stock's Annual Catch Limit is exceeded, then the overage adjustment would reduce the next year's Annual Catch Limit by the amount of pounds it was exceeded.

Since a benchmark stock assessment is scheduled for August 2012, the Council decided to postpone the amendment and wait for the updated information.



Photo by Mike Jennings





Bob Gill,
Council Chair

From the Helm

We've all been through the drill and we know it well. A stock assessment reveals that a fish stock is overfished (the biomass is below a minimum that signals a level of concern). That news prompts the Council to develop a plan to rebuild the fishery to a safe level, and eventually provide better fishing. Generally, rebuilding a stock means reducing harvest through shorter seasons, reduced bag limits, or other restrictions that inhibit our ability to fish.

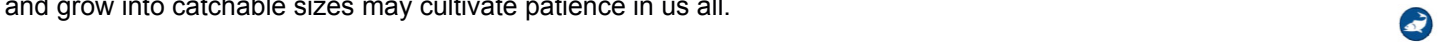
If these actions are successful and the stock begins to rebuild, fishermen will start to see more and larger fish in the water, as we are currently seeing in the red snapper fishery. Often, while a stock rebuilds, restrictive fishing regulations remain in place, creating a sense of frustration among anglers.

This situation frustrates us all, but a few things must happen before the Council can relax regulations. First, the fish populations must be allowed to rebuild. Fish only grow so fast and problems created over many years cannot be solved in a few months. Some years are needed to let the population grow, and then that growth must be measured and confirmed.

This brings us to the next step; the data must be gathered to inform us that the stocks are rebuilding to healthy levels and can absorb more fishing pressure. Stock assessments require both data and time to ensure scientific integrity and accuracy. Ideally, at least three years of new data must be gathered to verify a fish population trend. Adding the additional time it takes to actually perform the assessment, we end up with at least a three-year gap between the assessment using the old data and the new assessment. Now add in the time required for the Council to make management changes and you increase that gap to four or more years. Meanwhile the stock continues to improve, fishermen see more and more fish, and the frustration and disconnect grows.

We can't force fish to grow any faster but we can work to speed up our analysis and assessment efforts to shrink the gap between science and the on-the-water experience. However, shortening the time period of a study can increase the uncertainty of the study. In the case of fish stock assessments, the accuracy in predicting a change in biomass (the amount of fish in a stock) decreases when less data are available. Science by its nature will never be 100% certain and uncertainty always exists, but there is balance between speed and accuracy. Black and white answers are simply not possible, so the goal is to minimize the uncertainty while producing timely results.

Ultimately, it is most important for us all to have patience, to recognize the time required for a fish stock to grow, and to press for better and faster analyses to minimize the human time required to determine the size and health of the fish population. This part of the solution is probably the hardest. However, we all want the same thing, a sustainable fishery so that we can fish, our children can fish, and our grandchildren can fish. Recognizing that it takes time for fish to reproduce and grow into catchable sizes may cultivate patience in us all.



NOAA Fisheries Presents Stock Assessment 101 Series: Part 1—Data Required for Assessing U.S. Fish Stocks

Why Do We Conduct Fish Stock Assessments?

NOAA Fisheries' scientific stock assessments are key to fisheries management. They examine the effects of fishing and other factors to describe the past and current status of a fish stock, answer questions about the size of a fish stock, and make predictions about how a fish stock will respond to current and future management measures (Marine Fisheries Stock Assessment Improvement Plan). Fish stock assessments support sustainable fisheries by providing fisheries managers with the information necessary to make sound decisions.

Visit http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/stories/2012/05/05_23_12stock_assessment_101_part1.html to read the full story.



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Gray Triggerfish - Reef Fish Amendment 37

A 2011 update stock assessment shows that gray triggerfish is experiencing overfishing and is also overfished. To address these issues short-term, the Council approved an interim rule to adjust the annual catch limit and catch target, and provide in-season closure authority to the Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries. The recreational gray triggerfish season will close June 11, 2012.

The Council is also working on Reef Fish Amendment 37 that will establish management measures to eliminate the overfishing of gray triggerfish and rebuild the stock by 2017. The stock was declared overfished in 2007, and the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires the Council to take action to end overfishing within ten years.

Some of the proposed actions contained in Amendment 37 include:

- Modifying the gray triggerfish rebuilding plan
- Reducing Annual Catch Limits and Annual Catch Targets for gray triggerfish
- Modifying both the commercial and recreational minimum size limits
- Establishing a fixed closed season
- Establishing commercial trip limits
- Modifying the recreational bag limit
- Establishing recreational management measures for in-season closure authority

The Council also discussed the large number of undersized gray triggerfish that are landed by both the recreational and commercial sectors. These landings may be the result of management changes.

In 2008, the Council approved Amendment 30A, which changed the gray triggerfish minimum size limit from 12" **total length** to 14" **fork length**. So not only did the minimum size limit change, but the measurement guidelines went from total length to fork length.



Fish regulated by fork length are measured from the tip of the jaw or tip of the snout with closed mouth to the center of the fork in the tail.

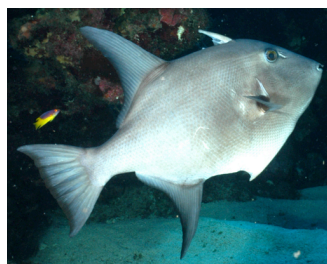
Another complicating factor could be species identification. Gray triggerfish and ocean triggerfish have very distinctive characteristics, but can appear similar in many ways. Ocean triggerfish have no bag or size limits, so if an angler catches an undersized gray triggerfish, but misidentifies it as an ocean triggerfish, he/she may have the impression that the fish is of legal size.

Some distinguishing characteristics between the two fish are the distinctive black spot at the base of the pectoral fin on the ocean triggerfish. Its soft dorsal and anal fins are typically longer and elevated anteriorly compared to the gray triggerfish (Humann 1994).

Gray triggerfish have blueish spots and line markings on their upper body and fins. They also often have white spots and lines on the lower part of the body and fins. Gray triggerfish also can have long filaments extending from the caudal-fin rays (not shown in the photo below), which ocean triggerfish do not have (Matsuura 2001; Robins et al. 1986).



Gray Triggerfish
Photo by GP Schmall



Ocean Triggerfish
Photo by GP Schmall



Ocean Triggerfish
NOAA Photo Library



Grouper Allocation

Allocation is the division of an Annual Catch Limit between fishing sectors. In 2006, the Council set temporary allocations for gag and red grouper; and the black grouper allocation was set for the first time last year.

Current allocations are:

	<i>Commercial</i>	<i>Recreational</i>
Gag	39%	61%
Red Grouper	76%	24%
Black Grouper	73%	27%

The Council is now working to set permanent allocations for gag, red grouper, and black grouper.



Photo by Kathy Hoak

In April, the Council reviewed the historical landings of each grouper species, and the information provided by NOAA scientists concludes that the current allocations of gag and red grouper are not economically efficient.

As a result, the Council requested that more information about commercial Individual Fishing Quota share price, for-hire fees, charter client information, captain and crew information, and seafood dealer information be analyzed as staff begins to develop an options paper to address allocation issues. The options paper will contain a range of possible allocations for each species and will be presented during the June Council meeting in Tampa, Florida.



Photo submitted by Doug Gregory

Council Postpones Discussions on Reef Fish Amendment 33 - Limited Access Privilege Program

During its April meeting, the Gulf Council postponed discussions on Reef Fish Amendment 33 - LAPP Program until its June meeting in Tampa, Florida. Those discussions are now postponed until the Council's August meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.

"We have stakeholders who want to participate in these discussions, but they also want to make the most of the 40-day red snapper season," said Bob Gill, Gulf Council Chairman.

The June Council meeting is June 18 - 21, 2012. The 2012 recreational red snapper season opens June 1, with a proposed closure of July 10.

"Postponing the discussions not only gives people more time to comment on the issue, but also provides more opportunity to participate," said Steve Bortone, Executive Director of the Gulf Council.

About Reef Fish Amendment 33

In August 2011, the Council initiated a plan amendment to establish a reef fish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program for red porgy, vermilion snapper, greater amberjack, gray triggerfish, lesser amberjack, almaco jack, and banded rudderfish. This action was based on a recommendation from the Council's Commercial Reef Fish IFQ Advisory Panel.

The amendment will now be discussed during the Council's August meeting. But before moving forward, the Council is requesting additional comments on the pros and cons of a potential IFQ program for these species.

Comments regarding the merits of a reef fish catch share program for the species noted above can be submitted at the following link: gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/comment_forms/RF%20Amendment%2033%20-%20LAPP.php.

June Council Meeting Reminder

The next Council meeting is scheduled for the week of June 18 - 21, 2012, at the Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore, in Tampa, Florida. Please make your reservation under the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council room block to receive the special discounted room rate.

Note that all written comments will be posted on the Council's web site for viewing by Council members and the public. **To help ensure that Council members have sufficient time to consider your written testimony for a specific Council meeting, please submit your comments at least three business days prior to the start of the Council meeting.** Materials submitted to Council members or staff for distribution prior to or during a Council meeting will be treated as all other written comments and will be posted to the web site.

Oral or written communications provided to the Council, its members, or its staff that relate to matters within the Council's purview are public in nature. These communications will be made available to the public in their entirety and will be maintained by the Council as part of the permanent record. Further, knowingly and willfully submitting false information to the Council is a violation of Federal Law.

A draft agenda will be posted on the Gulf Council web site at www.gulfcouncil.org.

Federal Fishery Closures

Recreational Closures:

Red Snapper

The 2012 recreational season is June 1 through July 10. Bag and size limits remain the same.

Gag

The recreational gag fishing season is closed and will reopen July 1, through October 31.

Greater Amberjack

The recreational greater amberjack season closes June 1, through July 31.

Gray Triggerfish

The recreational gray triggerfish season will close June 11, 2012, and it will reopen January 1, 2013.

Commercial Closures:

Shrimp

Federal waters from 9 to 200 nautical miles off Texas closed to shrimp trawling May 15, 2012, corresponding to the time Texas closes its waters to shrimp trawling. Historically, the opening has been on or about July 15. If there is a need to adjust the July 15 date, notification will be published in the Federal Register and in additional news bulletins.

King Mackerel

The king mackerel commercial run-around gillnet component of the coastal migratory pelagic fishery in the southern Florida west coast subzone closed January 21, 2012, and will reopen 6 a.m. January 21, 2013.

Commercial fishing for Gulf group king mackerel in the southern Florida west coast subzone closed February 26, 2012, for commercial hook-and-line vessels. The closure will remain in effect through June 30, 2012.

The western Gulf of Mexico zone is closed to commercial king mackerel fishing through June 30, 2012.

Commercial king mackerel harvest is prohibited in the northern Florida west coast subzone until June 30, 2012.

Send us Your Fishing Photos

We want to see your favorite fishing and fishery-related photos! Whether they are from a spear fishing adventure, a charter trip, or a commercial effort, we'd like to see your photos and possibly use them on our web site or in our publications.

Send us your photos and help us build a photo library! To submit your photos, please send an e-mail with "Photo Library" in the subject line to gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org. Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number, along with a description and proper photo credit, then simply attach the image and send. Photo descriptions may be edited for grammar, clarity, and/or length. Photos must be in jpeg format and should not exceed 1.5 MB (no more than 200 ppi).

NOTE: By submitting photos, you understand that if we decide to use your photo, it can be used on our web site, in our newsletter, or other publications. We will display a brief description of the photo and your name, unless requested otherwise.

Photo Credit: Mike Latkin



Dealer Permit & Electronic Reporting Amendment Underway



Photo by Bryan Fluech

The Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils are considering changing federal seafood dealer permit and reporting requirements. Improving the accuracy, consistency, and timeliness of data reported by seafood dealers will reduce the likelihood that Annual Catch Limits will be exceeded. Making improvements to dealer reported data would help decrease the amount of uncertainty built into management decisions that aim to balance the largest annual harvest with the future success of the fish stock.

The Council reviewed a scoping document that considers three actions:

1. What dealer permits would be required, and for which species?
2. How frequently and by what method would dealers be required to report?
3. Are there penalties for non-reporting or late reporting?

Staff is developing a draft public hearing document to be presented to the Council during its June meeting. If approved, public hearings will be held later this summer.



Exempted Fishing Permits

The Gulf Headboat Cooperative submitted a request to the Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Regional Office for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) for a pilot study whereby selected headboats in the Gulf of Mexico will examine the feasibility of an alternative rights-based management strategy. The proposal would allow headboats in the study to fish for red snapper and gag grouper, based on allocations issued to them, outside the normal recreational fishing seasons. The participants would report daily catches, working cooperatively with the Harte Research Institute. After a lengthy discussion, the Council recommended that NOAA Fisheries approve the Gulf Headboat Cooperative Exempted Fishing Permit.

The Council also supported an EFP application by the State of Louisiana, provided that the 2012 red snapper season is no fewer than 40 days. The permit would allow the harvest of red snapper by recreational fishermen registered in and operating within certain recreational tournaments during the months of July, August, September, and October, 2012.

Data collected will be used to fill in the description of the older age groups of red snapper that are available to recreational harvesters. The project could also help characterize the age distribution of red snapper around oil rigs and offshore artificial reefs. The information collected would be available for use in the upcoming red snapper benchmark assessment.



Photo by Mike Jennings



Stay in the loop with *Gulf Currents*

Stay up to date on Gulf of Mexico Fishery issues - visit our blog - Gulf Currents.

Gulf Currents will keep you in the loop. It will prepare you to participate effectively in the creation of fisheries management measures by educating you about current events, possible management considerations, regulatory changes, the fisheries management process, and more.

Check it out at: <http://gulfcouncil.blogspot.com/>



Recipe Rewind

Here's another blast from the past. This recipe was taken from "Light and Tasty Florida Seafood Recipes," published by the Florida Department of Natural Resources.

Fish Nectarine Salad

Ingredients

2 cups cooked flaked tilefish or other fish	2 tablespoons diced green pepper
1 1/2 cups cubed, peeled nectarines	1/2 cup mayonnaise
1 can (8 oz) sliced water chestnuts, drained	1 tablespoon lemon juice
1/4 cup chopped pecans	1 1/4 teaspoons salt
	1/4 teaspoon pepper
	1/8 teaspoon thyme
	Lettuce leaves
	Nectarine slices for garnish



Combine fish, cubed nectarines, water chestnuts, pecans and green pepper in a 2-quart bowl. Set aside.

In a small bowl mix together mayonnaise, lemon juice, and seasonings. Pour dressing over fish mixture and toss lightly. Chill.

Serve over lettuce leaves and garnish with nectarine slices.

Makes four servings.

For an updated version of this recipe, use olive oil and a little white wine instead of mayonnaise. Also try arugula, parsley, and radishes instead of plain lettuce leaves.

Take the retro recipe challenge! Send us your favorite retro recipe and have it published in the next edition of Gulf Fishery News.



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Become a fan by clicking **Like** on our page. Just log on to Facebook and search for Gulf Council!

Download the Free Federal Fishing Regulations App for Droid and iPhone

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council offers a fishing regulations App for the Android and the iPhone - both are available for download.

The Apps are free and provide immediate access to the most up-to-date commercial and recreational federal fishing regulations for species managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. The Apps also provide information on fish identification, measurement guidelines, sanctuaries and closures, and important telephone numbers.

Visit the App Store or Android Market to download the App - or simply scan the appropriate QR code on the left with your iPhone or Droid to begin downloading the Gulf Council's free regulations App!



Droid



iPhone

Free QR Code Reader Apps are available in both the App Store and Android Market.

For more information on federal fishing regulations, visit www.gulfcouncil.org.



Update on Cobia and Mackerel - Amendments 19 and 20

The Council reviewed two draft Amendments related to cobia, king mackerel, and Spanish mackerel - Amendments 19 and 20 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan.

Currently, there is no commercial permit requirement for cobia, and both commercial fishermen and recreational anglers have the same bag limit. Amendment 19 considers establishing a federal commercial cobia permit. A permit requirement would allow the Council to limit the sale of cobia to only those fishermen with a federal commercial cobia permit.

The Council is also considering stopping or limiting the sale of bag-limit-caught fish. Currently, recreational fishermen are allowed to sell cobia, king mackerel, and Spanish mackerel without a federal permit but, in some states, fishermen need a license to sell regulated finfish. Private anglers do not usually sell their catch, but crews from for-hire boats sometimes sell fish left behind by their customers. Under the current system, all sold fish that are considered commercial harvest and count toward the species commercial quota even if they are caught recreationally. This can cause fish to be “double counted” when harvest from a single trip counts toward both the commercial quota and the recreational allocation.

Other issues under consideration are:

- Eliminating latent king mackerel gill net endorsements to protect fishermen who are fishing
- Defining participation criteria for the king mackerel hook-and-line sector
- Federal regulatory compliance - should vessels with federal Coastal Migratory Pelagic permits be required to follow the more restrictive of state or federal regulations?
- Changing or eliminating income requirements
- Establishing a Spanish mackerel gill net endorsement



Amendment 20 considers whether the current zone boundaries, allocations, seasons, and trip limits in the commercial mackerel fishery provide the greatest benefit to the industry. To further ensure fair distribution of the resource, the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils are also considering requiring vessels to declare which zones they will fish. Finally, the Councils are considering measures to allow vessels to transit through closed areas with legally caught fish.

Actions included in this amendment so far include:

- Modifying existing commercial boundary line, allocation, and trip limits between the Gulf-group king mackerel eastern zone and western zone
- Adjusting the Gulf-group king mackerel season opening for the western zone
- Allowing fish to be transported through a closed area and landed at a fish house in the Gulf
- Establishing a Gulf-fishing-zone identification endorsement
- Establishing allocations by state or region

For more information or to submit your comments on these amendments, visit http://gulfcouncil.org/fishery_management_plans/scoping-thru-implementation.php.



Special Recognition Evening - Keys Fisheries, Marathon, Florida

By Captain Bill Kelly
Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association

On Thursday, April 5, 2012, more than 100 members and guests of the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association gathered at Keys Fisheries in Marathon to give special recognition to five individuals in the Monroe County State Attorney's Office and several NOAA law enforcement officers for their efforts in curbing spiny lobster and stone crab trap robbing and other crimes against the industry. "Industry losses due to trap theft and poaching amount to an estimated \$4M in the spiny lobster fishery alone in a 9 month season and another \$3.2M for stone crab and that's just in the Florida Keys," according to Capt. Bill Kelly, Executive Director of the Association.

"These numbers are outrageous and unsustainable and we have partnered with law enforcement to bring these types of crimes to a halt. Fortunately, State Attorney Dennis Ward has taken a strong prosecutorial position in these matters and the judiciary in Monroe County has been backing that up with harsh penalties and stiff sentences for those convicted of trap robbing and other serious violations."

Honored at the Thursday night gathering were Monroe County State Attorney Dennis Ward and four Assistant State Attorneys, Colleen Dunne, Carla Matinata, Paunece Ramage and Val Winter.

Just recently, Dunne was recognized by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission as their 'Prosecutor of the Year' for her work in handling marine resource violations. Also recognized were NOAA Special Agents Ken Blackburn and John O'Malley whom Kelly introduced as "an army of two!"

Special Agents Blackburn and O'Malley have prosecuted some of the most well known and largest illegal lobster harvesting cases in Keys history focusing on 'casitas' (Spanish for 'little houses'). Several of those cases (Dreifort & Rusty Anchor) resulted in significant jail sentences, restitution and civil judgments up to \$1.1M. In actuality, casitas are illegal structures placed in Keys waters for the sole purpose of attracting spiny lobster for harvest. The actual number of illegal casitas is unknown but there are reliable estimates of as many as 20,000 of them placed throughout the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and adjacent waters of the Gulf of Mexico and nearshore waters on the Atlantic side.



Photo by Mirna Hormachea

Last November at the FFWCC meeting in Key Largo, FKCF and the Organized Fishermen of Florida (OFF) gave special recognition to five FWC officers (David Dipre, Josh Peters, Bryan Fugate, Jason Rafter, and Aaron Smith) for similar efforts in curbing illegal lobster harvesting practices.

Over the past few months, both Dennis Ward and Colleen Dunne testified before State House and Senate Judiciary Committees on the severity of these crimes and the need to increase penalties under Florida Statutes allowing for stiffer penalties and up to five years imprisonment for trap robbing. Governor Rick Scott signed that legislation into law on April 6, 2012 with an effective date of July 1, 2012.



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Committee Schedule

Hilton Westshore
Hotel Ballroom
Tampa, Florida
June 18 - 20, 2012

Monday June 18, 2012

- 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Administrative Policy Committee (Tab G)
• Report of the Inspector General
- 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Ad Hoc Restoration Committee (Tab I)
• State Summaries
• Presentations
- 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Data Collection Committee (Tab E)
• Ad Hoc Private Recreational Advisory Panel Report
• Public Hearing Draft for Generic Amendment - Dealer Permit/
Electronic Logbook Reporting Requirements
- 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm
Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem Committee (Tab H)
• Discussion of Council's Policy on Risk of Overfishing
• SSC Recommendations on Revising the ABC Control Rule
- 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
Shrimp Management Committee (Tab D)
• Report of the Shrimp Workshop
• Report of the Shrimp SSC Meeting
• Discussion on Electronic Logbooks Program Funding
• Kemps Ridley Assessment Workshop Report - Perret
• Status of NMFS Biological Opinion and Proposed TED
Requirement - Crabtree
• Discussion on Exempted Fishing Permits Related to Shrimp

Tuesday June 19, 2012

- 8:30 am – 12:15 & 1:30 pm – 5:45 pm
Reef Fish Management Committee (Tab B)
• Presentation by Louisiana DWF on Regional Management -
Shepard
• Options Paper for Amendment 28 - Grouper Allocation
• Options Paper for Amendment 37 - Gray Triggerfish Rebuilding
Plan
• Options Paper for Framework Action for 2013 Gag Season, Split
Season, and Elimination of February - March SWG Closure
• Public Hearing Draft of Amendment 38 - Post-Season
Recreational Accountability Measures for SWG & Revisions to the
Generic Framework Procedure
• Scoping Document for Amendment 39 - Sector Separation
• Abbreviated Framework Actions - Status Report; Venting Tool
Requirements and Definition and Intent for For-Hire Fishing in
the EEZ
• National Standard 1 Discussion - Bortone/Crabtree
• Discussion on Exempted Fishing Permits Related to Reef Fish
(if any)

Immediately Following Committee Recess will be the Informal Question &
Answer Session on Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Issues.

Wednesday June 20, 2012

- 8:30 am – 9:30 am
Joint Artificial Reef/Habitat Committee (Tab F)
• Discussion of Artificial Reefs and Petroleum Platforms being
designated as Essential Fish Habitat
- 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
Mackerel Management Committee (Tab C)
• Draft Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 19 - Bag Limits,
Trip Limits & Latent Gill Net Permits
• Draft Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20 - Boundaries
and Transit Provisions
• Discussion on Exempted Fishing Permits Related to Coastal
Migratory Pelagics (if any)

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda

Hilton Westshore
Hotel Ballroom
Tampa, Florida
June 20 - 21, 2012

Wednesday June 20, 2012

- Call to Order and Introductions – Gill
- Adoption of Agenda ¹ (Tab A, No. 4) – Gill
- Approval of Minutes (Tab A, No. 5) – Gill
- Review of Action Schedule (Tab A, No. 6) – Gill
- Review of Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) (if any)
(Tab L) – Crabtree/Gill
2:00 pm - 2:15 pm
- Public Comment ^{2,3,4,5} - Gill
 - Agenda Testimony
 - (1) Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) (if any)
Open Testimony on any other Fishery Issues or Concerns
2:15 pm – 5:30 pm

Thursday June 21, 2012

- Discussion on Exempted Fishing Permits (if any) -
Crabtree/Gill
- Committee Reports
 - Administrative Policy (Tab G) - Riechers
 - Reef Fish (Tab B) - Shipp
 - Ad Hoc Restoration (Tab I) - Simpson
 - Data Collection (Tab E) - Pearce
 - Shrimp (Tab D) - Perret
 - Joint Artificial Reef/Habitat (Tab F) - Anson/Boyd
 - Mackerel (Tab C) - Fischer
 - Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem (Tab H) - Riechers
- 8:30 am - 3:15 pm
- Other Business (Tab K) – Gill
 - Report of the CCC Meeting - Bortone/Gill/Boyd
 - Report on the Living Marine Resources Meeting - Bortone
 - SEDAR Steering Committee Update - Bortone
 - Discussion on "FishSmart" Article - Abele/Gill
- 3:15 pm - 4:00 pm

-Adjourn

¹The established times for addressing items on the Council and committee agendas, except for those setting times for public comment, may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the agenda items. Such adjustments may result in the meeting being extended from, or completed prior to the date established by these agendas.

²Persons wishing to give public testimony must turn in a registration card before the beginning of the public comment period. During public comment, the Council will first hear testimony related to final actions of the Council and pertinent agenda items, and then allow for open public testimony regarding any fishery issue or concern. During public comment, time constraints may limit individual speaking time as determined by the presiding officer. If your sentiments are reflected in comments made by others, please avoid duplication and allow the next speaker to address the Council.

³Persons wishing Council members to have copies of written testimony or information should provide 30 copies to staff before public comment begins for distribution to members. All written information shall include a statement of the source and date of such information. Any oral or written statement shall include a brief description of the background and interests of the person testifying.

⁴Oral or written communications provided to the Council, its members or its staff that relate to matters within the Council's purview are public in nature. 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.

⁵Anyone 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.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Protecting our marine resources

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The Gulf Council would like to hear from you! Please contact us regarding fishery questions, comments, or concerns you would like to see covered in the ***Gulf Fishery News***. Anyone interested in submitting information, such as articles, editorials, or photographs pertaining to fishing or fisheries management, is encouraged to do so. Submissions may be mailed to Charlene Ponce, Public Information Officer, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607. Materials can also be sent via fax to 813-348-1711, or by e-mail to charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional fishery management councils established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Council is responsible for the development and modification of fishery management plans (FMPs) that are designed to manage fishery resources in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico from state boundaries to the 200-mile limit.

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