



Gulf Fishery News

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

November-December, 2009



Volume 31, Issue 5

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Members Appointed to the new Ad Hoc Data Collection Advisory Panel

Congratulations to the following individuals:

Bob Zales
Michael Miglini
Matt Hill
Suzanne Delaune
Bobby Terrebonne
Tracy Redding
Troy Frady
Camp Matens
Vicki Cornish
Glen Brooks

The Council also appointed Vicki Cornish as Chair, and Troy Frady as Vice-Chair.

Amendment for gag under development

A 2009 stock assessment update for gag indicates that the stock is overfished and undergoing overfishing. Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act National Standard Guidelines, once a Council is notified that a stock is overfished or undergoing overfishing it must develop a plan within two years that will end overfishing and rebuild the stock within ten years. Red grouper, while it continues to be neither overfished or undergoing overfishing, has declined since 2005. The decline in both the gag and red grouper stocks is attributed, in large part, to an episodic mortality event in 2005, most likely associated with red tide.

Council staff is currently developing a scoping document for Reef Fish Amendment 32, and will be holding scoping meetings in January, 2010 to solicit public input on possible management measures. Scoping is the process of identifying issues,

See Gag, page 3

Council recruiting members for an Ad Hoc Mackerel Limited Access Privilege Program Advisory Panel

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is forming an Ad Hoc Advisory Panel to consider the trading of catch shares and other issues related to limited access privilege programs for the commercial Gulf king mackerel fishery.

The Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act of 2006 encourages regional Fishery Management Councils to develop limited access privilege programs for fisheries when appropriate. Such programs allow fishermen more flexibility in terms of how and when they can fish during the year, increasing both efficiency and safety at sea.

In addition, limited access privilege programs help improve resource conservation because combined catches of all quota holders are generally at or below the total allowable catch.

Expected time commitment for members of the new Ad Hoc Advisory Panel is 2 - 3, two-day meetings per year. Members are not compensated; however travel expenses are reimbursed.

Anyone interested in serving on the Advisory Panel should submit a letter and resume to:

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

Materials may also be faxed to: 813-348-1711; or e-mailed to Phyllis.miranda@gulfcouncil.org. Resumes and letters must be received no later than close of business January 26, 2010.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Steve Bortone
Executive Director

Richard Leard
Deputy Director

Appointed Voting Members

Ed Sapp Michael Ray
Gainesville, FL Austin, TX
352-377-2715 512-389-4649

Robert Gill Robert Shipp
Vice Chair Chair
Crystal River, FL Mobile, AL
352-795-1916 251-460-6351

Joseph Hendrix Damon McKnight
Houston, TX Slidell, LA
281-597-1620 985-960-1900

Thomas McIlwain John Greene
Ocean Springs, MS Daphne, AL
228-818-8866 251-747-2872

Julie Morris Kay Williams
Sarasota, FL Vancleave, MS
941-487-4527 228-826-2160

Harlon Pearce
Kenner, LA
504-467-3809

State/Federal Voting Members

Robin Riechers Corky Perret
Austin, TX Biloxi, MS
512-389-4864 228-374-5000

Bill Teehan Myron Fischer
Tallahassee, FL Cutt Off, LA
850-487-0554 985-632-4525

Vernon Minton Roy Crabtree
Gulf Shores, AL NMFS SERO
251-968-7576 727-824-5301

Non-voting Members

Sam Hamilton Larry Simpson
USF&WS GSMFC
404-679-4000 228-875-5912

Radm Mary Landry David Hogan
Eighth USCG District Foreign Affairs
504-589-6223 202-647-2335

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

2203 N. Lois Avenue
Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607
Phone: 813-348-1630
Fax: 813-348-1711

Council welcomes two new staff members

Please join us in welcoming the newest members of the Gulf Council team.

Dr. Karen Burns joins the Council as its new Ecosystem Management Specialist. Karen has a long history of working on fishery issues while with the Mote Marine Laboratory, and she has served on several Council advisory panels.

Karen brings with her a newly acquired Ph.D. from the College of Marine Science at the University of South Florida, as well as some special insights into how the Council can bring ecosystem management into the limelight of fishery management.

John Froeschke is our new Fishery Biologist/Statistician. John will receive his Ph.D. this winter from Texas A&M University. He has experience with fisheries on both the Pacific and Gulf Coasts of the U.S.

John comes to us from the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies where he was a Harte Fellow. He also served as a Quantitative Ecologist for the Census of Marine Life Seabed Diversity Project.



Dr. Karen Burns



John Froeschke

From the Deck of the Shipp



The Red Snapper Conundrum and the Need for Fishery Independent Data

While the grouper fishery has received Gulf-wide attention during the last couple of years, there has been no greater species of interest than red snapper. In the early '90s the problem seemed to be bycatch in the shrimp fishery. With the decline in shrimping effort, the focus turned to overfishing by the directed fishery. But throughout the last fifteen years, the quotas of red snapper have experienced a steady reduction. Yet, almost everyone involved with the fishery believes the stocks are increasing. This was borne out by the 2009 recreational data where the quota overruns were attributed to larger, more plentiful snapper. Why is this so? Perhaps what we have with the Gulf red snapper fishery is a conundrum - an unanswerable or purely speculative question.

Of course the stock assessment determines the quotas and serves as the scapegoat for those who disagree with its results. Currently, the stock assessment process relies heavily on fishery dependent data, that is, data generated by the catches of both recreational and commercial fishermen. Unfortunately, simple human behavior, like using a certain gear, fishing in a certain area, or targeting a certain size fish can skew the data, creating a dilemma for the scientists working on the stock assessment models.

For example, commercial fishermen have testified that they prefer to target smaller snappers because they bring in a higher price. Similarly, recreational anglers tend to fish nearshore areas disproportionately because of their small vessel size. These behaviors can bias the fishery dependent data, begging the question – “How do the stock assessment scientists analyze the fishery dependent data to generate meaningful results?”

Gag *continued*

potential impacts, and reasonable alternatives associated with the issue at hand. Below is a summary of what is being scoped.

Proposed Reef Fish Amendment 32 is currently under development, and it will include a plan to end the overfishing of gag and rebuild the stock to its optimum yield, while at the same time minimizing discards and discard mortality to the extent practicable.

Amendment 32 will also review adjustments to red grouper annual catch limits and possibly annual catch targets, and explore whether management changes are necessary or desirable.

What management actions will the Council consider?

The Council is developing a suite of management actions and alternatives to achieve its rebuilding goal and meet the requirements of the Magnuson Act. Some of the possible actions include:

1. Revise previously established annual catch limits & annual catch targets for both species
2. Accountability measures
3. Adjustments to multi-use IFQ shares
4. Recreational management measures
5. Bycatch issues
6. Data collection and monitoring programs
7. Possible time/area closures
8. Industry-proposed initiatives to improve data collection and accountability.

1. Annual Catch Limits and Annual Catch Targets

Current annual catch limits for gag are higher than the recommended catch limits resulting from the recent stock assessment update. Therefore, the Council must revise its current annual catch limit strategy to ensure the recommended annual catch limits are not exceeded.

For red grouper, the annual catch target was previously set equal to optimum yield. While red grouper is neither overfished nor undergoing overfishing, the decline in the stock changes the optimum yield.

For red grouper the annual catch target was previously set equal to optimum yield. While red grouper is neither overfished nor undergoing overfishing, the decline in the stock changes how optimum yield is determined. As a result, the buffer between annual catch limits and annual catch targets is eliminated. The Council must now determine how to adjust for management uncertainty.

2. Accountability Measures

National Standard 1 Guidelines require that for stocks and stock complexes in rebuilding plans, accountability measures should include overage adjustments that reduce the annual catch limits in the next fishing year, unless scientific information shows an adjustment is not necessary to mitigate the effects of the overages. Current accountability measures for gag and red grouper do not contain the overage adjustment for overfished stocks. While the commercial IFQ shares serve as an accountability measure and are expected to prevent the annual catch limit from being exceeded, the amendment implementing the individual fishing quota program did not implement a payback provision to address overfished stocks.

3. Adjustments to IFQ Shares

Under the reduced gag and red grouper annual catch limits expected as part of this amendment, it is possible that the use of multi-use shares could result in commercial harvest of gag or red grouper exceeding its sector allocation. To prevent this, adjustments may be made to the multi-use share provision in the grouper and tilefish individual fishing quota system.

4. Recreational Management Measures

Changes in recreational bag limits, size limits, and closed seasons for gag and red grouper will be needed to achieve necessary changes in allowable catch.

5. Bycatch Issues

Bycatch of gag while fishing for other species, such as red grouper, has a high likelihood of exceeding the quota. The Council will look at possible management measures that will decrease gag bycatch. Reconsidering the use of commercial fish traps is one potential option. Commercial

See Gag, page 4



Gag *continued from page 2*

fishers requested that the Council reconsider the use of fish traps as allowable gear in the reef fish fishery to provide some relief to offset the longline restrictions included in Reef Fish Amendment 31. Another consideration is that the use of fish traps may help lower the bycatch of gag while targeting red grouper. For the recreational sector, consideration will be given to keeping the first fish caught.

6. Data Collection and Monitoring

Fish tag program or other methods to improve monitoring of recreational catches.

7. Time/Area Closures

The overfished status of gag, and the need to protect spawning aggregations of gag from fishing pressure, as well as reduce bycatch of gag while targeting red grouper make time and/or area closures a possible management measure.

8. Public-Proposed Initiatives to Improve Data Collection

- Recreational Sector Separation - Divide the recreational allocation into separate for-hire and private recreational allocations. Each sector would have its own annual catch limit and possibly an annual catch target.
- Vessel Monitoring System - Require for-hire vessels to allow NOAA Fisheries to monitor a vessel for better enforcement.
- Telephone or Web-Based Reporting System for both for-hire and private recreational vessels. Catch can be reported either by telephone or over the Internet to provide more timely and accurate reporting of recreational catch.
- Electronic Logbooks - to improve accuracy of data collected, and for use as an in-season monitoring program.
- Grouper Endorsements (i.e. stamp) for the for-hire sector to identify the number of grouper fishermen for data collection purposes.

Scoping Meeting Schedule for Reef Fish Amendment 32 - Gag and Red Grouper

January 11, 2010

** Harvey Govt Center
1200 Truman Avenue
Key West, FL 33040

Holiday Inn
5002 Seawall Boulevard
Galveston, TX 77551

January 12, 2010

Best Western
7921 Lamar Poole Road
Biloxi, MS 39532

*Hilton
950 Lake Carillon Drive
St. Petersburg, FL 33716

January 13, 2010

**Ramada Inn
4760 S. Cleveland Avenue
Ft. Myers, FL 33907

Fairfield Inn & Suites
3111 Loop Road
Orange Beach, AL 36561

January 14, 2010

*The Boardwalk
9600 S. Thomas Drive
Panama City, FL 32408

January 19, 2010

Crowne Plaza
2829 Williams Road
Kenner, LA 70062

* Note a scoping meeting format change for these meetings. Two rooms will be used - one room where participants can get answers to questions about the proposed amendment, and the other room for participants to provide input.

** Note a scoping meeting format change for these meetings. An informal roundtable discussion regarding the proposed amendment will be held during the first hour of the meeting, from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Public input will be taken beginning no later than 7:00 p.m. ending no later than 9:00 p.m.

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. and will conclude no later than 9:00 p.m.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Closures

Recreational Closures:

Red Snapper

Recreational red snapper season closed August 15, 2009, and will reopen June 1, 2010.

Greater Amberjack

The Recreational Greater Amberjack fishery closed at 12:01 August 24, 2009 due to a quota overage.

Commercial Closures:

Deep-Water Grouper

The commercial fishery for deepwater grouper in the Gulf of Mexico closed June 27, 2009 and will reopen January 1, 2010.

During the closure, vessels with commercial quantities of reef fish on board are prohibited from retaining a recreational bag limit. Thus, a vessel may only have a commercial quantity of reef fish or a recreational bag limit of reef fish.

Tilefish

The commercial fishery for Gulf of Mexico tilefish closed May 15, 2009 and will reopen January 1, 2010. The commercial quota has been reached and the closure is necessary to protect the tilefish resource.

King Mackerel

The commercial run-around gill net fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in the southern Florida west coast subzone is closed January 30, 2009, through January 19, 2010.

The commercial fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in the western zone closed September 12, 2009 and will reopen July 1, 2010.

The commercial fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in the northern Florida west coast subzone closed October 24, 2009 and will reopen July 30, 2010.

Greater Amberjack

The commercial harvest of greater amberjack in the Gulf of Mexico closed November 7, 2009, and will reopen December 31, 2009.

February Council Meeting Reminder

The Council will be meeting the week of February 1 - 4, 2010 at the Battle House in Mobile, Alabama. Please make your reservation under the GMFMC room block to receive the special discounted room rate.

When the Council travels, the deadline for comments is moved up a day to accommodate packing and shipping of materials to our meeting location.

Submission of written comments and materials to be included as part of the briefing book materials for this meeting **MUST BE RECEIVED** by 5:00 p.m. EDT January 26, 2010.

If you miss the deadline and bring your own copies to the meeting, please bring at least 30 copies for the Council. If you wish your materials to be made available to the public, please bring additional copies.

A draft agenda can be found on page 6.



Deck *continued from page 3*

The answer is simple but, alas, expensive. We need more fishery independent data. These are data that sample the population in a way that reflects the entire stock, not selected subunits. I make the analogy that using fishery dependent data would be like extrapolating the demographics of New York City by sampling two subway stations in Brooklyn, whereas fishery independent data would be like sampling two stations in each borough.

This has relevance to the oft referenced flaws in the recreational data source. I certainly agree that the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) data are unreliable. And even if the data are improved with a new, more accurate system, these remain fishery dependent data, and still do not address the real problem.

What are the best fishery independent data sources? The SEAMAP data (trawling data) over the last twenty plus years is probably the best we have now, but unfortunately the survey does not cover the eastern Gulf, where much of the uncertainty lies. Recently, the National Marine Fisheries Service began a bottom longline trawling survey, but because it has been conducted for just a few years, a longer time series will be needed. Random visual surveys are also valuable, but expensive and time consuming. Nonetheless, more surveys must be done.

My personal opinion is that until we can incorporate more fishery independent data into the stock assessment we would be better served to temporarily use an alternative management strategy. Elsewhere I have advocated a temporary area closure that would guarantee the health of the stock, while at the same time reduce markedly the tragic waste in bycatch discards. It makes little sense to waste huge numbers of fish of the very species we're trying to protect.

Dr. Bob Shipp is chair Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and chair Department of Marine Sciences, University of South Alabama.

The opinions express herein are those of the chair, and not necessarily those of the Council or its individual members.

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 newsletter.

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, phone number, along with a description and proper photo credit, then simply attached 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 anywhere on the web site, in our newsletter or other publications. We will display a brief description of the photo and your name, unless requested otherwise.



Photo by Robert Turpin
Five-year-old Mara Turpin catches her first red drum, weighing in at approximately 20 pounds. The fish was released alive.

Committee Agenda
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
 The Battle House
 Mobile, AL
 February 1 - 3, 2010

Monday February 1, 2010

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Full Council - Closed Session

- * Litigation Briefing

9:00 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.

SEDAR Selection Committee (Full Council - Closed Session)

- * Appointments to the SEDAR Meetings for Spiny Lobster, Yellowedge Grouper, and Greater Amberjack

9:20 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.

SSC Selection Committee (Full Council - Closed Session)

- * Appoint members to Special Mackerel SSC

9:40 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

AP Selection Committee (Full Council - Closed Session)

- * Appoint Ad Hoc Mackerel Limited Access Privilege Program AP

10:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem Committee

- * Options Paper for Generic ACL/AM Amendment

1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Budget Committee

- * Review of 2010 funding

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Administrative Policy Committee

- * Modifications to SOPPs and Handbook Development

4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Outreach and Education Committee

- * Report of the Outreach and Education Advisory Panel Meeting

4:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Spiny Lobster/Stone Crab Committee

- * Options Paper for Spiny Lobster Amendment 10
- Report of the Standing and Special Spiny Lobster SSC
- * Approval of Spiny Lobster SEDAR Terms of Reference

Tuesday February 2, 2010

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Reef Fish Management Committee

- * Presentation on Red Snapper Update Assessment
- * Report of the Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC
- * 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
- Scoping Hearing Summaries
- * Report of the LAPP Advisory Panel Meeting
- * Northeast Gulf of Mexico Reserves Program: Changes in Reef Fish Populations - Gledhill
- * Approval of Schedules for SEDAR 22 (Yellow Edge Grouper & Tilefish) and Greater Amberjack Assessment Update

4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Red Drum Committee

- * Discussion of Red Drum Fishery in the EEZ

4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Habitat Protection Committee

- * Report of the Mississippi/Louisiana Habitat Advisory Panel Meeting
- * Report of the Texas Habitat Advisory Panel Meeting

Immediately Following Committee Recess will be an informal Question & Answer Session on Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Issues

Wednesday February 3, 2010

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Shrimp Management Committee

- * Texas Closure for 2010
- Report of the Shrimp Advisory Panel
- Report of the Standing and Special Shrimp SSC

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Coastal Migratory Pelagics (Mackerel) Management Committee

- * Scoping Meeting Summaries
- * Options Paper for Amendment 18 for Mackerel

Council Agenda
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
 The Battle House
 Mobile, AL
 February 3 - 4, 2010

Wednesday February 3, 2010

I. Call to Order and Introductions - Shipp

II. Adoption of Agenda¹ - ShippIII. Approval of Minutes - Shipp
(1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.)IV. Catch Shares Task Force Presentation - Medina
(1:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.)V. Report of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance - W. Walker
(1:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.)VI. Public Testimony^{2,3,4,5} - Shipp

a. Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) (if any)

b. Regulatory Amendment for Reef Fish Total Allowable Catch

c. Open Public Comment Period^{2,6}

(2:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.)

VII. Committee Reports

a. Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem - Morris

Thursday February 4, 2010

VIII. Committee Reports

b. Reef Fish Management Committee - Minton

c. Budget Committee - McIlwain

d. Administrative Policy Committee - Morris

e. Outreach and Education Committee - Gill

f. Spiny Lobster/Stone Crab Management Committee - Teehan

g. Red Drum Management Committee - Pearce

h. Habitat Protection Committee - Hendrix

i. Coastal Migratory Pelagics Management Committee - Fischer

j. Shrimp Management Committee - Perret

k. AP Selection Committee - Perret

l. SSC Selection Committee - Simpson

m. SEDAR Selection Committee - Shipp

(8:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.)

IX. Other Business - Shipp

(12:45 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.)

¹The established times for addressing items on the Council and committee agendas, except for those setting times for public testimony or open 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 testify for either public testimony or open public comment must submit a registration card before the beginning of public testimony; otherwise persons wishing to testify may be denied. One card must be completed for each issue on which persons wish to testify.

³Persons wishing Council members to have copies of written testimony or information should provide 30 copies to staff for distribution. 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 testimony begins to allow for a virus scan of said material.

⁶The Council has set aside this time for open public comment regarding any fishery issue or concern. People wishing to speak before the Council should complete a public comment card, making sure to check the box marked Open Public Comment. In the interest of giving everyone an opportunity to speak, speakers are asked to limit comments to three minutes. If your sentiments are reflected in comments made by others, please state so and allow the next speaker to address the Council. Individuals may be asked to reduce speaking time in order to accommodate all who wish to speak. Open public comment will end no later than the time scheduled on the agenda regardless of the number of persons wishing to comment.

Council Committee Roster for 2010

COMMITTEE ROSTER FOR 2010 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

10/22/09

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

Morris, Chair
Ricocheo, V. Chair
Castibon/Gilchrist/Brandt/Chlor
Hawkins/Gilchrist
Hawkins
Williams
§101: Rowley/Burns

AP RELECTION

Ford, Chair
Mintley, V. Chair
Hawkins/Trachan
Hawkins
Faulstich/Fischer
Quince
§101: Barlowe

ARTIFICIAL REEF

McIntosh, Chair
Quince, V. Chair
Hawkins/Gilchrist
Ray
Shay
Hawkins
§101: Barlowe

BUDGET PERSONNEL

McIntosh, Chair
Fischer, V. Chair
Poore
Gill
Rochers
§101: Rowley/Burns

RETIREMENT PLAN TRUSTEES

Shay
Gill
Mink
Rowley

BIOTA COLLECTION

Ricocheo, Chair
Poore, V. Chair
Castibon/Gilchrist/Brandt/Chlor
McKnight
Faulstich/Fischer
Ray
Shay
§101: Frazzette

BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

Hawkins, Chair
Morris, V. Chair
Brandt/Hawkins
Hawkins/Gilchrist
McKnight
Faulstich/Fischer
§101: Rowley/Burns

BNC RELECTION

Shay, Chair
McIntosh, V. Chair
Castibon/Gilchrist/Brandt/Chlor
Hawkins/Trachan
Mintley/Quince
Faulstich/Fischer
M. Walker/Ford
§101: Barlowe

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Poore, Chair
Shay, V. Chair
Brandt/Quince
Larney/DeGeorge
Mintley/Quince
Shay/Quince
Williams
§101: Low

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Gill, Chair
Poore, V. Chair
Hawkins
McKnight
Mintley/Quince
Mink
Poore
§101: Poore

SEDS, Fisheries Council Chair

Reef Fish Chair
Michael Chair
Shay Chair
§101: Barlowe

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

BARRETEL

Fischer, Chair
Ray, V. Chair
Castibon/Gilchrist/Brandt/Chlor
McIntosh
McKnight
Mintley/Quince
Shay
§101: Low/Burns

COYAL

Trachan, Chair
McKnight, V. Chair
Hawkins/Gilchrist
Morris
M. Walker/Poore
§101: Quince

STONE CRAB REEF CENTER

Trachan, Chair
Gill, V. Chair
Shay
Shay/Quince
M. Walker/Poore
§101: Quince

REPTILIAN SPECIES

Shay, Chair
Williams, V. Chair
McIntosh
McKnight
Faulstich/Fischer
Shay/Quince
§101: Poore

WILD BIRD COLLECTION

Rochers, Chair
Mink, V. Chair
Gill
Quince
Hawkins/Trachan
Williams
§101: Shay

BERLINUM

Poore, Chair
McIntosh, V. Chair
Quince
Hawkins
Ray
Shay
Shay
§101: Burns

REEF FISH

Mintley, Chair
Gill, V. Chair
Castibon/Gilchrist/Brandt/Chlor
Hawkins/Trachan
Morris
Ricocheo
Williams
§101: Mink/Quince

SHARP

Ford, Chair
Williams, V. Chair
Castibon/Gilchrist/Brandt/Chlor
Gill
McIntosh
Poore
Rochers
§101: Low

SHARP BERNER

Ray, Chair
Hawkins, V. Chair
Quince
Hawkins/Gilchrist
Poore
Morris
Shay
§101: Burns

SUSTAINABLE FISHERY PRACTICES

Mink, Chair
Ray, V. Chair
Castibon/Gilchrist/Brandt/Chlor
Brandt/Quince
Hawkins/Gilchrist
Gill
McIntosh
§101: Mink/Burns



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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