

Gulf Fishery News

A publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council



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What's Inside?

Meet the New Council Members	1
October 2018 Council Meeting Preview	3
Gulf Council Transitions to Fish Rules Mobile Regulations App	4
In the News	4
Induction of New Council Members	6
Farewell to Council Staff Member	7
Upcoming Meetings	7
National Seafood Month	7

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Fishery Management
Council**

*Protecting our marine
resources*

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Meet the New Council Members!

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is responsible for making fishery management recommendations that provide the greatest overall benefit to the nation. This year, the Council welcomes two new members who represent the recreational fishing sector, Susan Boggs and Jonathan "JD" Dugas.

Susan Boggs

Susan Boggs prioritizes two things in life, her family and her career. In addition to owning and operating a full-service marina and fuel dock in Orange Beach, Alabama with her husband, she also manages their for-hire fishing business. If that isn't impressive enough, she also finds time to serve on the local Tourism Board and act as Secretary/Treasurer for the Charter Fisherman's Association. On top of all that, Susan, her husband, and their daughter are an incredibly cohesive family unit. When they're not watching their daughter play soccer, they spend time together at their hunting camp and enjoy spur of the moment exploration days, where they jump in the car and head nowhere in particular.



Photo: submitted by Susan Boggs

As a small girl growing up in Texas, she certainly didn't imagine her life revolving around salt water fishing. She always loved the outdoors, spending countless hours bass fishing from a rickety, homemade barge that sat in a 50-acre pond behind her childhood home. Just before her 30th birthday, Susan moved to coastal Alabama for a business opportunity, and when it didn't pan out, she got a part-time job booking charters for a local marina.

That's when Susan's fishing career began in earnest. While working in the charter office, Susan met her husband Randy, a deckhand on one of the charter vessels in the marina. She credits him with broadening her horizons by exposing her to offshore saltwater fishing. A self-described "stickler for the rules," Susan struggled to adhere to the marina's strict "no dating" policy. She eventually had to fess up to her indiscretion and turn down a management position at the marina because of their budding relationship.

Eventually, Susan and Randy bought a 6-pack charter vessel and moved to another marina. From there, their family business model of "sell out or get bigger" took hold. They upgraded from the 6-pack charter to a 65-foot headboat, and eventually bought a second and third vessel to grow the business even further. They were invited to move their business to the SanRoc Cay Marina in 2009, to revitalize its struggling charter business. After growing their own charter business even more, they purchased the entire marina in 2015.

Ms. Boggs answered some questions to give us some insight on her perspective as one of the newest members of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council:

...continued on next page



Meet the New Council Members cont.

What is the most important issue in our fishery right now?

"Creating stability in the fishery is a huge priority. As a business owner I understand how important it is to be able to make a business plan that is based on predictable access to the fish. Trips can be marketed properly; captains and staff can be employed with more certainty; and strategic decision making can be done with greater confidence. Stability would also allow private anglers more luxury to plan their trips, rather than rush to fish before a closure. Ultimately, stability would begin with a sustainable resource. Once our stocks are at healthy levels, we should be able to find ways to manage our fishermen so that access to fishing is secure and predictable."

What would you like the Council to accomplish while you have a seat at the table?

"I would really like the Council to consider new, novel ways to manage the fishery. I would like to consider innovative management strategies that go beyond the status quo of Gulf-wide seasons and size limits."

I also hope to encourage more accountability in the fishery. If we can find better ways to track what's being harvested, we may be able to create better stability in the fishery.

Finally, I want to build more trust between the Council and the fishermen across the Gulf. The Council is asked to tackle difficult decisions and I want the Council and the fishermen to understand that change is hard and we all may need to make some leaps of faith to affect positive change."

Do you have a favorite fishing moment?

"I'll never forget the time my mom came to visit me in Orange Beach and we took her on her first offshore fishing trip. She had spent a lot of time fishing with me in our pond growing up, but fishing for snapper off the coast was something she had never experienced. It was so much fun to watch her have that experience. I truly cherish that memory."

JD Dugas



Photo: submitted by JD Dugas

JD can pinpoint the exact moment that saltwater fishing became his life's priority. As a boy growing up in Lafayette, Louisiana, he had only been exposed to fresh water fishing for bass and "sac-a-lait" or, what most non-Cajuns might call crappie. When he was 13, his best friend's dad refitted a 1978 Robalo boat with a brand new 250 horsepower Yamaha outboard engine. The day that engine was fitted onto the boat in the neighboring driveway, JD promised himself that he would do anything in his power to make a living that would support an offshore fishing hobby. "Mind you," he quips "back then, that engine was impressive. I knew I wanted to grow up and fish in the ocean with a machine like that."

JD and his best friend fished on that Robalo with his friend's father along the coast. Later in life he bought a fishing camp in a small "camp" community in Grand Chenier, LA. He became part of the community by participating in weekend fishing competitions held amongst the camp owners. The aftermath of Hurricane Rita left JD to focus elsewhere, that's when he began fishing out of Grand Isle, LA and participating in big game fishing competitions along the Gulf Coast. JD kept his promise to himself. He's been able to build a family centered life around his passion for fishing.

JD continued to work in the oil and gas industry. He also began to explore marketing /sales for a home health care business. This eventually led to the purchase of a medical suite of businesses to include hospice, home health, and personal care services. JD also started a marine logistics business servicing the oil and gas industry. The business began with the purchase of a boat and grew into a logistics company. He has then found ways to meet a variety of logistic needs in the industry. Additionally, JD has been involved with coastal restoration projects through Coastal Conservation Association for the last 10 years.

Mr. Dugas answered the following questions to lend a better understanding of his perception of the fishery:

October 2018 Council Meeting Preview

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council meets October 22-25, at the Renaissance Battle House in Mobile, Alabama. We invite you to join us in person or watch a live broadcast of the meeting.

Public comment will be held on Wednesday, October 24th, from 1:30 – 4:30. If testifying in person isn't an option, visit our "[Amendments Under Development](#)" web page to learn about the different issues we're working on and submit your comments.

The meeting agenda and materials will help you prepare for the meeting. Below, you'll find a summary of some of the fishery issues the Council plans to address:



Photo: Dylan Hubbard

Cobia Size and Possession Limits

The Council plans to hear a summary of public comments received and take final action on Coastal Migratory Pelagic Framework Action 7. Anglers have expressed concern for what appears to be a dwindling cobia population and asked the Council to address the issue. Landings remained relatively consistent from 2012-2016; however, there was a decrease observed in 2017. The Council is considering reducing cobia harvest by decreasing the bag limit and increasing the minimum size limit.

Watch the public hearing video

[Submit comment](#)

Historical Captain Endorsements

The Council will review an abbreviated framework action that considers converting historical for-hire captain endorsements to federal for-hire permits. There are currently 31 historical captains with reef fish and coastal migratory pelagic (CMP) permits, and one captain with a CMP permit. At this meeting, the Council will consider new options that would modify the passenger capacity associated with the endorsement.

[Submit comment](#)

State Management of Red Snapper

The Council will continue to work on a suite of documents that consider permanently allowing each Gulf state to manage a portion of the recreational red snapper quota in federal waters. In addition to a previously considered alternative that would allow the states to collectively decide whether or not to include federal for-hire vessels in state management, the Council will consider new alternatives that could allow individual states the option to manage their federal for-hire vessels.

[Submit comment](#)

Carryover of Unharvested Quota

The Council will look at a draft of an amendment that considers allowing the portion of the allowable catch that isn't harvested, due to an early quota closure, be rolled over into the following year's allowable catch.

[Submit comment](#)

Gray Snapper

Based on the current criteria, the latest stock assessment determined that gray snapper is considered to be undergoing overfishing. Fortunately, the recommended acceptable biological catch levels that resulted from the assessment are only slightly lower than the current annual catch limits. As a result, the Council will review a draft amendment that considers establishing criteria to determine the overfished and overfishing status of the stock; modifying annual catch limits, and setting other biological reference points.



Photo: Dylan Hubbard

Shrimp

The Council will look at a draft of Shrimp Amendment 18, which considers increasing the amount of shrimp effort allowed in the special area that is monitored for juvenile red snapper bycatch. Analysis shows that the effort reduction threshold, which requires that shrimp effort in the area be 67% below the effort in the baseline years of 2001-2003 can be reduced to 60% without affecting the rebuilding of the red snapper stock.

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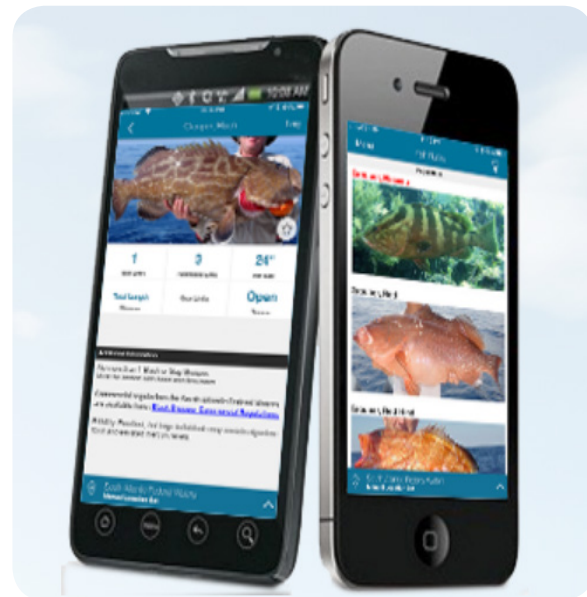


Gulf Council Transitions to Fish Rules Mobile Regulations App

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is transitioning its federal fishing regulations to the Fish Rules mobile application. Fishermen using the Council's current Gulf of Mexico Fishing Regulations mobile application are asked to download **Fish Rules** and **uninstall the former application**.

The Gulf Council has begun using the Fish Rules mobile application to keep anglers updated on federal fishing regulations in the Gulf of Mexico. Fish Rules hosts regulations in state and federal waters from Maine to Texas, and offers a free, user friendly platform. While, recreational regulations are the focus of the Fish Rules application, commercial regulations are available in the "Additional Information" section of each species display.

To keep anglers accurately informed of the regulations during the transition, the current Gulf Council sponsored mobile application will be updated through the end of 2018. **On January 1, 2019 the Council will fully transition to Fish Rules and the Gulf Council application will no longer be updated.** Don't delay, download the Fish Rules mobile application today!



FISH RULES
fish without fear

Click here for [Apple](#)
Click here for [Android](#)

Federal commercial and recreational regulations for the Gulf of Mexico are also available on the Council's [website](#). Contact Emily Muehlstein at Emily.Muehlstein@gulfcouncil.org or (813) 348-1630, ext. 238, with any questions about the application or federal fishing regulations in the Gulf of Mexico

In The News

NOAA Fisheries Certifies Mississippi's Tails n' Scales and Alabama's Snapper Check Survey Designs

NOAA Fisheries announced that the agency has certified the design of Mississippi's Tails n' Scales and Alabama's Snapper Check surveys of charter and private boat fishing for red snapper. These Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) supplemental surveys were developed and implemented to facilitate improved monitoring of red snapper catches with respect to annual catch limits. The collection of accurate recreational fisheries data is a priority for the agency.

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, NOAA Fisheries, and outside expert consultants have been working together with Mississippi and Alabama to develop, test, review, and refine the survey designs since 2015 and 2014, respectively. Both designs for charter and private boat fishing consists of two complementary components: an electronic reporting system and a dockside access point intercept survey. Read more about the Tails n' Scales survey [here](#). Information about Snapper Check can be found [here](#).



Photo: Dylan Hubbard

Sources: NOAA Fisheries MRIP Newscast, June 27 and August 17, 2018

In The News

Sea Turtle Safe Handling and Release Gear

NOAA Fisheries requires sea turtle safe handling and release gear be on board federally permitted commercial and for-hire vessels in the Gulf of Mexico reef fish fishery. The objective of this requirement is to increase fisherman and sea turtle safety in the event a sea turtle is incidentally captured.

There are also sea turtle handling protocols designed to ensure safe and proper techniques to remove fishing gear from incidentally captured sea turtles. NOAA Fisheries held dockside outreach sessions in Florida during August 2018 to review the gear requirements and handling protocols. In case you missed these sessions, you can find this information and more at: https://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_sa/turtle_sawfish_release/index.html



Photo: NOAA Fisheries

In The News

Protected Species Safe Handling, Identification, and Release Workshops in Florida and Louisiana

This workshop is designed to educate longline and gillnet fishermen on the proper techniques for safe handling and release of entangled or hooked protected species, such as sea turtles, marine mammals, smalltooth sawfish, Atlantic sturgeon, and prohibited sharks. In an effort to improve reporting, identification of protected species and prohibited sharks is also taught at these workshops.

The workshops are taught by Angler Conservation Education (ACE) instructors and will be held on the following dates/locations:

November 13, 2018

Holiday Inn
10120 South U.S. Highway 1
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952

November 15, 2018

Hilton Hotel
901 Airline Drive
Kenner, LA 70062

More information and downloadable workshop materials are available [here](#).



Photo: NOAA Fisheries-Ralph Pace

Source: NOAA Fisheries FishNews, September 19, 2018

Submit Your Comments!

Use the online public comment forms available for each proposed Amendment as listed on our website. For general fishery comments not related to a specific amendment, use the "Submit General Fishery Comments" button at the bottom of the page.

Comments submitted using the online form are immediately posted to the Council's website and available for all Council members and the public to view.

Submit your comments regarding any proposed fishery action online at <http://gulfcouncil.org/fishery-management/proposed-amendments/>

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Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Carrie Simmons Executive Director
John Froeschke Deputy Director

Appointed Voting Members

Thomas Frazer Chair Gainesville, FL 352-392-9230	Dale Diaz Vice Chair Biloxi, MS 228-523-4082
John Sanchez Homestead, FL 786-255-1880	Doug Boyd San Antonio, TX 830-230-5032
Greg Stunz Corpus Christi, TX 361-825-3254	Phil Dyskow Marco Island, FL 239-821-7698
Susan Boggs Orange Beach, AL 251-747-4169	Leann Bosarge Pascagoula, MS 228-762-0888
Bob Shipp Fairhope, AL 251-454-7481	Jonathan "JD" Dugas Grand Isle, LA 337-254-0508
Ed Swindell Hammond, LA 985-345-4614	

State/Federal Voting Members

Robin Riechers Lance Robinson, Designee Austin, TX 512-389-4645	Joe Spraggins Paul Mickle, Designee Biloxi, MS 228-523-4104
Jessica McCawley Martha Guyas, Designee Tallahassee, FL 850-487-0554	Patrick Banks Chris Schieble, Designee Baton Rouge, LA 504-284-2035
Scott Bannon Kevin Anson, Designee Dauphin Island, AL 251-968-7576	Roy Crabtree Sue Gerhart, Designee NMFS SERO 727-824-5305

Non-voting Members

Glenn Constant Designee for Cynthia Dohner USF&WS 225-578-4243	LT Mark Zanowicz Designee for RADM David Callahan USCG District 8 504-671-2101
Deidre Warner-Kramer Designee for David Hogan OES/OMC 202-647-2335	Dave Donaldson GSMFC 228-875-5912

Meet the New Council Members cont.

What's the most important issue in the fishery today?

"It's really important that we find ways to promote fairness for all fishing sectors. Commercial fishermen need to be able to make a living and recreational fishermen need to be allowed to thrive. We must continue to allow for a robust commercial industry while ensuring that recreational fishermen can fish when they want. After all, fishing activity is a major economic driver in our coastal communities."

As a Council member how do you hope to improve the fishery?

"Ideally, I would like the Council to find a way to develop management measures that perform in a way to benefit the many different needs across the Gulf. I would like to find ways to get away from "one-size-fits-all" management and be more responsive to regional differences in fish stocks and the many different needs of the people across the coast. I'm excited about state management and hope to continue working towards management strategies that take regional differences into account."



Photo: submitted by JD Dugas

Can you explain why you have such a passion for fishing?

"Fishing is a huge part of my life. I've been blessed with the ability to fish a wide range of species and habitats. I think that fishing is so important to me because I can experience all the best parts of life through fishing. If I'm looking for an adrenaline rush I can target big fish offshore. If I want solitude, I can go out alone and catch dinner. If I want to spend quality time with my wife and daughter, we can all hop in the boat in search of speckled trout. Fishing gives me great satisfaction and allows me to enjoy the most important things in life."

Induction of New Council Members



L to R: Andy Strelcheck, NMFS, Dale Diaz, Susan Boggs, John Sanchez, JD Dugas, and Leann Bosarge, Council Chair.
Not pictured: Ed Swindell

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council inducted two new members and reappointed three members at the August meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Andy Strelcheck, of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), officiated the swearing in of new members, Susan Boggs (Alabama), and JD Dugas (Mississippi), and returning members, John Sanchez (Florida), Dale Diaz (Mississippi), and Ed Swindell (Louisiana). All will serve until June 2021.



Photo: Emily Muehlstein

Farewell to Council Staff Member, Mr. Steven Atran

Senior Fishery Biologist, Mr. Steven Atran officially retired from Council service on September 28, 2018. Mr. Atran began working for the Council in 1991. During the past twenty-seven years, he has served as the lead coordinator of the Council's SSC meetings and Reef Fish Committee. He has also served as lead staff on the Law Enforcement Technical Committee, Ecosystem, and Sustainable Fisheries Committees, and finished his career as interim Deputy Director.

Mr. Atran has a bachelor's degree from the University of Washington and a master's degree from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). During the mid-1980s he worked at the National Marine Fisheries Service laboratory in Sandy Hook, New Jersey and later at the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in Tallahassee, where he developed innovative ways to use microcomputers in fisheries research. In 1989 he switched from research to management with the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission.



He has worked on every reef fish species in the Council's Fishery Management Plans and he has assisted the Council and staff with the various reauthorizations of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and changes to the National Standard Guidelines.

Mr. Atran has been the source of historical Council information and has been a valuable resource to all staff. He will be truly missed. We wish him all the best in his retirement!



Upcoming Meetings

[Coastal Migratory Pelagics \(CMP\) AP Webinar](#)

When:

Tuesday, October 9, 2018:
1:00-3:00 pm EST

[Register for Webinar](#)

[Joint Law Enforcement Committee / Law Enforcement Technical Committee Meeting](#)

When:

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Where:

Isla Grand Beach Resort
500 Padre Blvd.
South Padre Island, TX 78597

[Council Meeting](#)

When:

October 22-25, 2018

Where:

Renaissance Battle House
26 N. Royal Street
Mobile, AL 36602

[Register for the Webinar](#)

[Ad Hoc Red Snapper – Grouper/Tilefish AP](#)

When:

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Where:

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management
Council Office Conference Room
4107 W. Spruce Street, Suite 200
Tampa, FL 33607

[Register for the Webinar](#)

October is National Seafood Month

Celebrate National Seafood Month and join NOAA in savoring sustainable seafood! If you are a seafood fan, visit the [National Seafood Month webpage](#) to see highlights of sustainable (and delicious) U.S. seafood with new features, videos, and more.

Italian Seared Grouper

Ingredients

6 (6-ounce) well-trimmed center cut grouper fillets
2 tablespoons dried basil
1 teaspoon dried sage
3 tablespoons dried parsley
1 tablespoon cracked black pepper
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1 tablespoon onion powder
1 teaspoon garlic powder



Photo: istock

Directions

Blend all seasoning for grouper crust. Lightly dust grouper on one side and set aside. Heat skillet and place olive oil in pan. Make sure pan is hot (a drop of water should pop when added to skillet). Sear grouper for 2 minutes with herb side down. Reduce heat to medium and flip fish. Cook an additional 3 minutes and remove from the pan.

Recipe source: www.fishwatch.gov/eating-seafood/recipes

Recipe adapted from Chef Rob Stinson, Mississippi Chef, 2009 Great American Seafood Cook-Off

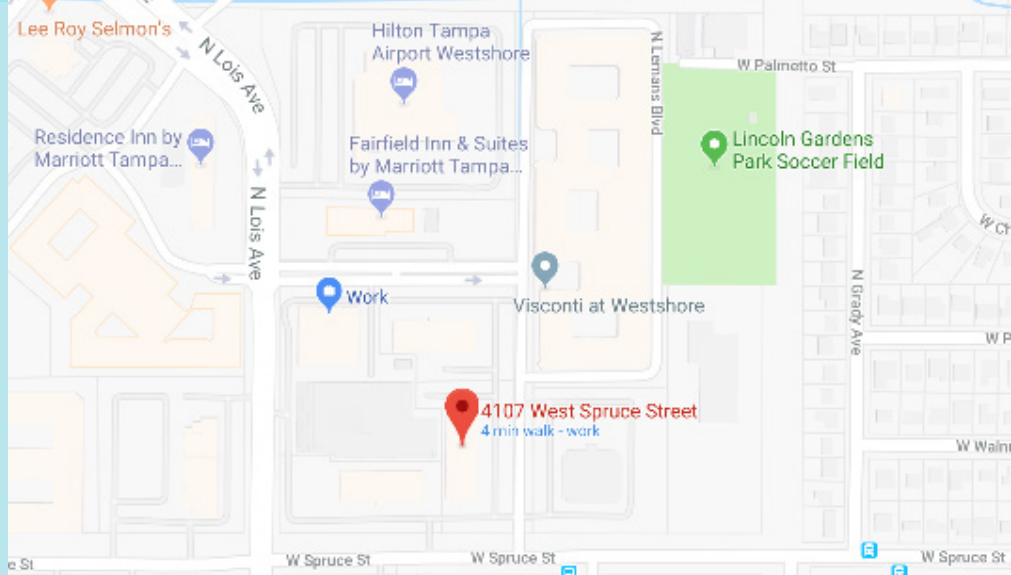


Gulf Council Office Relocation

The Gulf of Fishery Management Council office has moved! Please note our new physical and mailing address:

**Gulf of Mexico Fishery
Management Council**
4107 West Spruce Street, Suite 200
Tampa, Florida 33607

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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 Emily Muehlstein, Public Information Officer, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4107 W. Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607. Materials can also be sent via fax to 813-348-1711, or by e-mail to emily.muehlstein@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.

Gulf Fishery News is a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Any material in this newsletter may be re-

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