

**Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council
DRAFT Discard Mortality Workshop Agenda**

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Objective– To create a roadmap/action plan to promote the use of barotrauma mitigation tools, data collection efforts for discard mortality by fleet and species, and ultimately, incorporate results into stock assessments.

- Introductions and Adoption of Agenda
- Overview of Issue and Meeting Objectives

Staff will describe the rationale for meeting, present a broad overview of existing information on discard mortality, and review the deliverables we're hoping to produce during the meeting.

- **Presentation** – Magnitude of Discard Mortality of Reef Fish in the Gulf of Mexico

Science Center staff will summarize discards by numbers/pounds and share discard mortality values used in the stock assessments. We've requested data by fleet, gear type and year for:

- *Red Snapper*
- *Vermillion Snapper*
- *Red Grouper*
- *Gag*
- *Greater Amberjack*
- *Gray Triggerfish*
- *King Mackerel*
- *Spanish Mackerel*
- *Cobia*

- **Presentation** – West Coast Success story: Use of Barotrauma Mitigation and Incorporation into Management and Stock Assessment Process

Staff from the Pacific Council or Science Center will present a case study showing an example of a stock that has directly benefited from barotrauma mitigation measures. The presentation will highlight how the use of devices was monitored, how the impact of those devices on the stock were measured, and how that data was incorporated into a stock assessment.

- **Facilitated Discussion** – Barotrauma Mitigation by Fleet and Reef Fish Species
 - Best practices and devices for each fleet
 - Roadblocks/barriers for non-preferred methods

The group will compile a list of best barotrauma mitigation practices by fleet and discuss the barriers for non-preferred mitigation methods. Suggestions will be based both on fishing experience and scientific findings.

- **Presentation**– Define Necessary Stock Assessment Inputs
- **Discussion** – Enhancing Data to Support Stock Assessments
 - Prioritize data gaps by species, fleets, and location
 - Suggest barotrauma mitigation research that could benefit stock assessments

Scientific staff from NMFS and the Science Center provide an overview of stock assessment inputs that could be improved with better information on discard mortality. The group will be asked to suggest any research ideas that could lead barotrauma mitigation efforts to be incorporated into stock assessments. This information may help drive future RESTORE funding and to ensure that the proper tools are used by fleet if the Council wanted to develop regulations for barotrauma devices. Before devices or practices are required by fishing regulation proper testing and monitoring is needed to ensure that barotrauma mitigation efforts by fishermen can be incorporated into future stock assessments.

Proposed composition of workshop attendees:

5 - Scientists (Science Center Staff, SSC Members, Other)

5 - Managers (GMFMC, GSMFC, NOAA)

6- Stakeholders (Commercial, For-hire, Private Recreational, NGO)

Proposed dated for 1-day workshop:

Week of July 29th

Week of August 26

Week of September 9

Week of September 23

Deadlines

- Present workshop results at the 2019 October Council meeting.
- Final meeting outcomes reported to RESTORE by November 2019.