

Gulf Fishery News

A publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council



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Volume 38 Issue 1

A Look at 2016 Annual Catch Limits

An annual catch limit is the amount of fish that can be harvested from a stock, or group of species that make up a stock complex, within a calendar year. For many Gulf fish species, once the annual catch limit is harvested, the fishery must be closed.

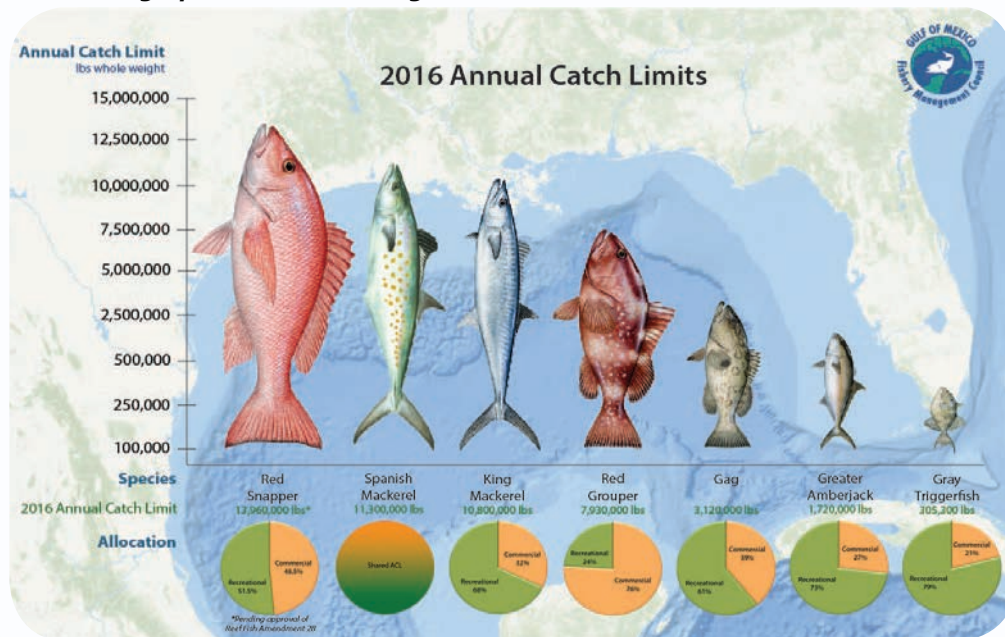
For example, in 2015 the recreational sector harvested its entire red grouper annual catch limit by early fall, and the season was closed for the rest of the year. Similarly, greater amberjack was closed to commercial fishermen in July when the annual catch limit was reached. The recreational sector closed in September when it was projected that its annual catch limit was reached.

For some species, if annual harvest exceeds the annual catch limit then in the following fishing year a pay back of the over harvest is triggered. This happened last year with recreational gray triggerfish. Because the 2014 recreational harvest of gray triggerfish far exceeded the annual catch limit, the excess catch was subtracted from the 2015 annual catch limit. This left the recreational sector with 54,307 pounds to harvest and forced a season closure in early February, 2015.

In some cases the stock annual catch limit is subdivided to create separate commercial and recreational annual catch limits. This ensures that if one sector exceeds its annual catch limit then that sector will be responsible for the consequences.

According to the 2015 landings data we have so far, it looks like we did a pretty good job of staying within the catch limits. This means only a few species - greater amberjack, tilefish, and gray triggerfish - will have adjusted annual catch limits to compensate for last year's overages.

Click the graphic below to enlarge.



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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 workshops 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

MRIP Fishing Effort Survey: Reaching more anglers, more effectively

(From the NOAA website)

Reaching anglers using two sample frames, including Registry information

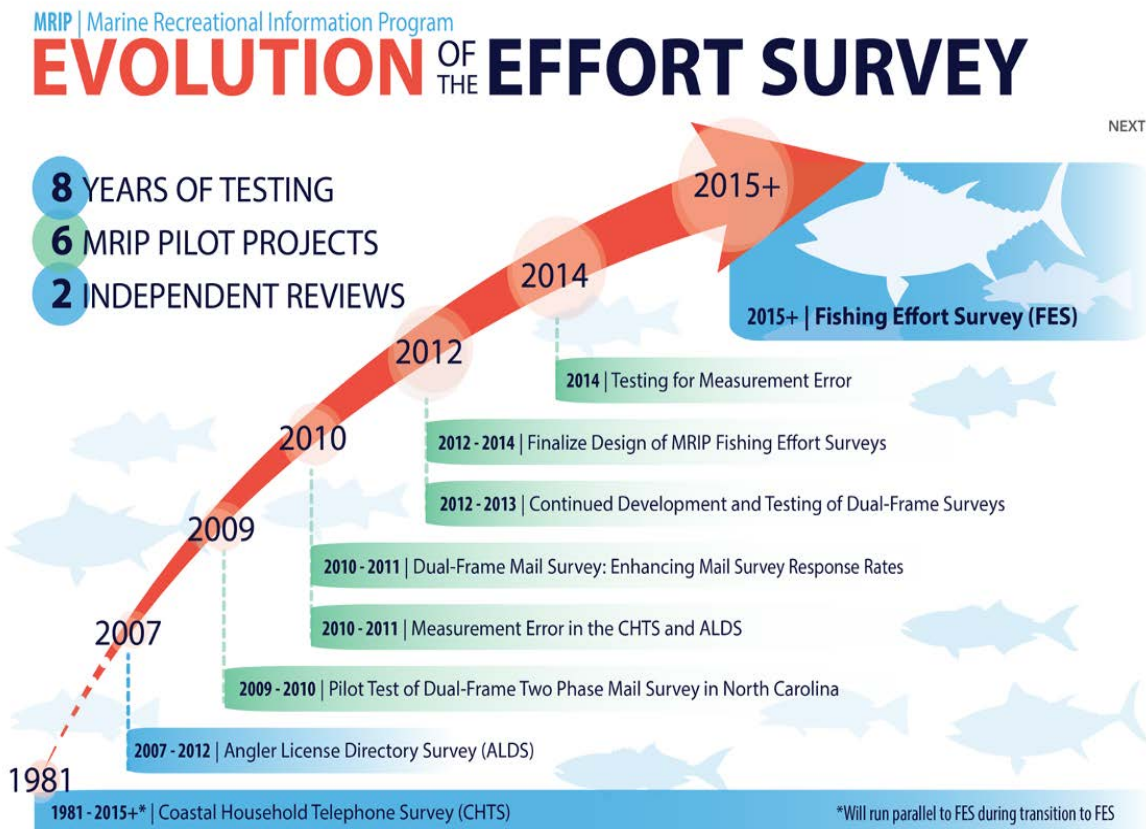
One of MRIP's first major initiatives was to create a database of recreational saltwater fishermen, the National Saltwater Angler Registry. This was a key recommendation of the National Research Council. The purpose of launching the Registry was to create a national directory for surveying anglers. The list of potential survey respondents is referred to as a sample frame.

While a comprehensive registry of all anglers would be ideal for conducting surveys, some fishermen, such as seniors and children, are not required to register. For our survey to have the highest validity, we must be able to reach all potential anglers. Therefore, the MRIP Fishing Effort Survey supplements the Registry with data from the U.S. Postal Service, which includes virtually all U.S. households. Using multiple sample frames to survey anglers minimizes the potential for undercoverage bias.

Reaching anglers by mail

One finding from our pilot studies is mail surveys are more effective than telephone surveys for collecting recreational fishing data. Response rates are much higher for mail surveys than telephone surveys, and mail surveys may result in more accurate reports of fishing activity than telephone surveys. As a result, mail surveys have a lower risk of nonresponse bias and possibly bias resulting from measurement error.

More information about the Fishing Effort Survey (FES) is available at www.countmyfish.noaa.gov.



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Doug Gregory
Executive Director

Carrie Simmons
Deputy Director

Appointed Voting Members

Pam Dana
Destin, FL
850-650-3212

Ed Swindell
Hammond, LA
985-345-4614

John Sanchez
Homestead, FL
786-255-1880

David Walker
Andalusia, AL
334-300-6625

Greg Stunz
Corpus Christi, TX
361-825-3254

Doug Boyd
San Antonio, TX
830-230-5032

Dale Diaz
Biloxi, MS
228-523-4082

Camp Matens
Baton Rouge, LA
225-769-9080

Roy Williams
Tallahassee, FL
850-445-0778

John Greene
Daphne, AL
251-747-2872

Leann Bosarge
Vice Chair
Pascagoula, MS
228-762-0888

State/Federal Voting Members

Robin Riechers
Austin, TX
512-389-4645

Kelly Lucas
Biloxi, MS
228-523-4082

Martha Bademan
Tallahassee, FL
850-487-0554

Myron Fischer
Cut Off, LA
985-632-4525

Kevin Anson
Chair
Gulf Shores, AL
251-968-7576

Roy Crabtree
NMFS SERO
727-824-5301

Non-voting Members

Glenn Constant
USF&WS
225-578-4243

Dave Donaldson
GSMFC
228-875-5912

LCDR
Jason Brand
USCG District
504-589-6298

David Hogan
OES/OMC
202-647-2335

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

2203 N. Lois Avenue
Suite 1100
Tampa, Florida 33607
813-348-1630

Gulf Council to Meet in Austin, Texas

The Gulf Council will hold its next meeting in Austin, Texas, April 4 - 7, 2016. Here's a quick look at some of the issues the Council will consider:

Modifications to Charter Vessel and Headboat Reporting

The Council is working on an amendment that considers modifying the frequency and method of reporting for charter vessels and headboats fishing for reef fish and coastal migratory pelagics in the Gulf of Mexico. In January, the Council requested that the Southeast Fishery Science Center develop a flowchart illustrating alternatives for implementing electronic reporting for federally permitted for-hire vessels. During the April meeting the Council will review the alternatives outlined in the flowchart and hear an update on the commercial electronic reporting pilot program.

[click here to submit comments](#)

King Mackerel

The Council is scheduled to take final action on Amendment 26 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics fishery management plan. Amendment 26 considers changing allocations, stock boundaries, and sale provisions for king mackerel in the Gulf and South Atlantic.

[click here to submit comments](#)



Red Snapper Management for Federally Permitted Charter Vessels

The Council will review the input received from its Ad Hoc Red Snapper Charter-for-Hire Advisory Panel on Reef Fish Amendment 41 which considers creating a red snapper management plan for federally permitted for-hire vessels fishing under the for-hire component of the recreational red snapper allocation. The Council will also discuss the latest draft of the amendment and how to move forward.

[click here to submit comments](#)

Federal Reef Fish Headboat Management

The Council will also review a revised draft of Reef Fish Amendment 42 which considers creating a management plan for federally permitted headboats fishing for reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico.

[click here to submit comments](#)

Framework Action - Modify Red Grouper Annual Catch Limit

Based on its science advisors' conclusions, the Council is considering whether to increase the ACL, which can be set below or equal to the acceptable biological catch (ABC). The Council is scheduled to take final action on this Framework Amendment.

[click here to submit comments](#)

Continued on next page

Council Meeting *continued*

Shrimp Amendment 17B

The Council will discuss Shrimp Amendment 17B which considers shrimp permit issues such as setting a minimum threshold number of Gulf shrimp vessel permits and whether to create a Gulf shrimp vessel permit reserve pool, specification of optimum yield, and issues about transiting in federal waters. The Council recently convened a working group to estimate the aggregate maximum sustainable yield and optimum yield for all shrimp species, and a summary report of that meeting will be provided to the Council.

[click here to submit comments](#)

Hogfish Annual Catch Limit, Minimum Size Limit, and Stock Definition

The Gulf Council will review a public hearing draft of an amendment that considers taking responsibility for the western stock of hogfish, which is located entirely in the Gulf of Mexico jurisdiction. The Council is also considering setting an annual catch limit and increasing both the commercial and recreational minimum size limit for hogfish.

[click here to submit comments](#)



Public Comment

The Council will hear public comment Wednesday, April 6, from 1:45 – 5:00. If you can't make the meeting, you can watch a live broadcast of the meeting by registering for the webinar - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1123487951462208001>. The agenda can be found on page 6 of this newsletter. You can also find the agenda and detailed background materials on our website - visit http://gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/BriefingMaterials/BB-04-2016/April2016Index.php.



Join us for a Post-Council Webinar

Are you interested in learning what happened at the Council meeting? Do you have questions about some of the issues the Council is working to address?

Join us Monday, April 18, 2016, at 6:00 pm (Eastern Time) for a webinar discussion on recent Council actions. Staff will review the decisions made at the Council meeting and answer any questions you may have.

To register for the Webinar, visit <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3457390497527000068>.



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Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Combined Council & Committee Schedule

Doubletree Hotel
Austin, Texas
April 4 - 7, 2016

Monday, April 4, 2016

- 8:30 am – 9:00 am
Administrative Policy/Budget Committee (Tab G) - Bosarge
- Review of 2014 No-cost Extension, 2015 & 2016 Budgets, and 2016 Proposed Activities
- 9:00 am – 10:00 am
Data Collection Committee (Tab F) - Stunz
- Review Electronic Reporting Program Flowchart
 - Update: Commercial Electronic Reporting Pilot Program
 - Final Action - South Atlantic Amendment: Modifications to Charter Vessel and Headboat Reporting Requirements
- 10:00 am - 10:15 am - Break
- 10:15 am – 12:15 pm
Shrimp Committee (Tab D) Bosarge
- Biological Review of the Texas Closure
 - Review of Updated Stock Assessments for Brown, White, and Pink Shrimp
 - Summary of the Shrimp Advisory Panel Meeting
 - Options Paper for Shrimp Amendment 17B
 - Shrimp SSC Summary Report
- 1:45 pm – 3:45 pm
Mackerel Committee (Tab C) - Dana
- Final Action for CMP Amendment 26 - Changes in Allocations, Stock Boundaries and Sale Provisions for Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Migratory Groups of King Mackerel
 - Summary of Public Hearing Comments/Written Comments
 - Summary of Law Enforcement Technical Committee Comments and Reef Fish AP Report
- 3:45 pm - 4:00 pm - Break
- 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Law Enforcement Committee (Tab L) - Boyd
- Law Enforcement Technical Committee Summary
 - Selection of Recipient for Officer of the Year Award

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

- 8:30 am – 5:00 pm
Reef Fish Management Committee (Tab B) - Greene
- Update on 2015 Recreational Red Snapper Landings and Recreational Season Projections for 2016
 - Final Action - Framework Action to Modify Red Grouper Annual Catch Limits
 - Options Paper for Amendment 46 - Modify Gray Triggerfish Rebuilding Plan
 - Draft Amendment 41 - Red Snapper Management for Federally Permitted Charter Vessels
 - Summary Report from Ad Hoc Red Snapper Charter For-Hire Advisory Panel
 - Draft Amendment 42 - Federal Reef Fish Headboat Management
 - Public Hearing Draft Amendment 43 - Hogfish Stock Definition, Status Determination Criteria, Annual Catch Limits, and Size Limit
 - Draft Amendment 45 - Extend or Eliminate the Red Snapper Sector Separation Sunset Provision
 - Preliminary Options and Discussion - Mechanism to Allow Recreational Red Snapper Season to Re-open if ACL is Not Exceeded

NMFS Question and Answer Session Immediately Following Committee - Crabtree

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

- 8:30 am - 9:30 am
Reef Fish Management Committee (Continued)
- Final Action - Framework Action to Modify Commercial Gear Requirements and Recreational/Commercial Fishing Year for Yellowtail Snapper
- 9:30 am - 10:15 am
Gulf SEDAR Committee (Tab I) - Anson
- Review and Updates - SEDAR Progress and Deliverables
 - SEDAR Steering Committee Update
- 10:30 am - 12:15 pm
- I. Call to Order, Announcements, and Introductions – Anson
 - II. Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes (Tab A, No. 3 & 4) – Anson
 - III. Review of Exempted Fishing Permit Applications (if any) (Tab S) - Crabtree/Anson
 - IV. Presentations
 - Review of Proposed Rule - Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology:
 - Rule (Tab A, No. 7a) & Presentations (Tab A, No. 7b) - Branstetter
 - Review of Draft Comment Letter (Tab A, No. 7c) - Simmons
 - Science Update: How the Oil Spill Impacted the Fish Species We Care About (Tab A, No. 8) - Hale & Graham
 - Overview of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (Tab A, No. 9) - Seagraves
 - NMFS-SERO - Landing Summaries (Tab A, No. 10) - NMFS
- 1:45 pm - 5:00 pm
- V. Public Comment - Anson
 - a. Agenda Testimony
 1. Final Action for CMP Amendment 26 - Changes in Allocations, Stock Boundaries and Sale Provisions for King Mackerel
 2. Final Action for Framework Action to Modify Red Grouper ACL
 3. Final Action - Framework Action to Modify Commercial Gear Requirements and Recreational/Commercial Fishing Year for Yellowtail Snapper
 4. Final Action - South Atlantic Amendment - Modifications to Charter Vessel and Headboat Reporting Requirements
 - b. Open Testimony

Thursday, April 7, 2016

- 8:30 am - 3:00 pm
- VI. Committee Reports
 - a. Administrative Policy/Budget - Bosarge
 - b. Law Enforcement - Boyd
 - c. Data Collection - Stunz
 - d. Shrimp - Bosarge
 - e. Mackerel - Dana
 - f. Gulf SEDAR - Anson
 - g. Reef Fish - Greene
- 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm
- VII. Other Business - Anson

Quick Guide to Submitting Online Comments

The Gulf Council wants your input on the many issues under consideration. You can give your input by attending scoping workshops and public hearings held around the Gulf of Mexico. It's impossible for the Council to hold workshops or hearings in every coastal community, so if you can't make a meeting because it's too far away or because of other commitments, you can watch online presentations and submit comments electronically for each amendment.

Check it out! Go to www.gulfcouncil.org and click on the thermometer in the middle of the page. From there you can read up on all the pending actions, watch the video presentations, read comments, and submit your own. All comments submitted through the online form are automatically posted on our web site for Council review. Other comments are manually posted every couple of days.

There is also a thermometer for each issue that lets you know where the Council is in the process for that particular amendment, whether its the scoping phase, final action, or implementation.

Let us hear from you!

MANAGEMENT PLANS

Click on the thermometer to:

- review pending fishery management plans and amendments
- review available amendment guides
- review public comments
- submit public comments



Photo: Paul Borowski

Send us Your Fishing Photos

We want to see your favorite fishing photos! Whether from a spearfishing 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, 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 cannot exceed 1.5 MB (200 ppi).

NOTE: By submitting photos, you understand that your photo may be used on our web site, in our newsletter, or in other publications. Photo credit will be given.



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 and prepare you to participate effectively in the fishery management process 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

A modern take on an old favorite, this recipe is from FoodNetwork.com. You can make it in under 30 minutes.

Lemon Garlic Shrimp 'n' Grits

Ingredients

3/4 cup instant grits
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
3 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 1/4 pounds medium shrimp, peeled and deveined, tails intact
2 large cloves garlic, minced
Pinch of cayenne pepper (optional)
Juice of 1/2 lemon, plus wedges for serving
2 tablespoons roughly chopped fresh parsley



Directions

1. Bring 3 cups of water to a boil in a medium saucepan over high heat, covered.
2. Uncover and slowly whisk in the grits, 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon pepper. Reduce the heat to medium low and cook, stirring occasionally, until thickened, about 5 minutes.
3. Stir in the Parmesan and 1 tablespoon butter. Remove from the heat and season with salt and pepper. Cover to keep warm.
4. Meanwhile, season the shrimp with salt and pepper.
5. Melt the remaining 2 tablespoons butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the shrimp, garlic and cayenne, if using, and cook, tossing, until the shrimp are pink, 3 to 4 minutes.
6. Remove from the heat and add 2 tablespoons water, the lemon juice and parsley; stir to coat the shrimp with the sauce and season with salt and pepper.
7. Divide the grits among shallow bowls and top with the shrimp and sauce. Serve with lemon wedges.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Protecting our marine resources

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



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 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607. Materials can also be sent via fax to 813-348-1711, or by email 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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