

Gulf Fishery News

A publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council



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Volume 35 Issue 2

In Remembrance...



Rick Leard, Ph.D.

Dr. Richard Leard, longtime Deputy Director of the Gulf Council, passed away April 3, 2013. He was 63.

After earning both a B.S. and Ph.D. from Southern Mississippi, Dr. Leard dedicated more than 35 years to fishery management. Before becoming the Council's Deputy Director, he was Executive Director of the Mississippi Marine Conservation Commission. He later served as Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Conservation and as Program Coordinator for the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management Program of the Gulf States Marine

Fisheries Commission.

Dr. Leard was a member of the National Shellfish Association and the American Fisheries Society, and a former member of MAFAC.

He was an avid fisherman and golfer, and he enjoyed riding his motorcycle.

Council member Larry Simpson passed away April 10, 2013. He was 65. Mr. Simpson earned a B.S. from the University of Southern Mississippi and an M.S. from the University of South Alabama. He worked in the education field, molding and teaching young minds at Live Oak Academy. He later decided to delve into fisheries and began his career with Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission in 1978. He served as the agency's Executive Director from 1983 to present. He was integral in expanding the Commission's programs and responsibilities over the last 30 years.



Larry Simpson

Mr. Simpson was also a member of many professional organizations and associations including the American Fisheries Society, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Department of Commerce Marine Advisory Committee, and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

Dr. Karen Burns, who served as the Council's Ecosystem Management Specialist, passed away April 11. She was 61.



Karen Burns, Ph.D.

Dr. Burns earned a B.S. in Biology/Chemistry from the University of Miami, an M.A. in Zoology from the University of South Florida, and a Ph.D. from the College of Marine Science at the University of South Florida.

Before joining the Council, Dr. Burns spent many years in fisheries, most recently as manager of the Fish Biology Program at Mote Marine Laboratory.

Dr. Burns was a distinguished member of the science community and respected among her peers.

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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



A Message from the new Executive Director, Doug Gregory

Fisheries management became my passion after taking my first job studying spiny lobster in the Florida Keys. That job put me on the docks where I found myself explaining to lobster fishermen why the data we were collecting were needed and how they were used. Coincidentally, this was about the same time the Magnuson Act was created. So given my upbringing along the waterfronts of North Carolina and Key West, and my new interest in lobster science, it seemed a natural choice for me to embark on a fisheries science career.

So you can imagine my excitement to begin my service as only the third Executive Director of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council in its entire 37-year history. During those 37 years, I have had a continuous 29-year working relationship with the Council, first serving as a staff biologist for 7 years and, subsequently, as a member of the Scientific and Statistical Committee. I also have served on various stock assessment panels.

Prior to rejoining the Council as its Executive Director, I was the Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent for the Florida Keys where I focused on building collaborative relationships between the fishery managers/regulators and the fishing public. My fisheries-related educational efforts, coupled with my close and long-term association with the Gulf Council, made my decision to attain the Executive Director position an easy next step in my career.

The Council system is a unique government/public partnership that includes stakeholders in the decision-making process alongside state and federal regulators. While I subscribe to this practice of co-management, I also encourage adaptive management whereby we evaluate past management actions and adapt them to new circumstances to maintain the most effective management program possible.

But we face many challenges. Not only are we dealing with episodic events like red tides, hurricanes, and the rare oil spill, but we also must incorporate more ecosystem information into our stock assessments and decision making, particularly since we face increased water temperatures induced by climate change that can alter migration patterns and other life history traits such as growth, reproduction, and recruitment.

As Executive Director, I hope to have a greater opportunity to help the Gulf fishermen and fisheries resources in a more active and direct way. By increasing communication and collaboration among the scientists, managers, fishermen, and other stakeholders, we can resolve many of the fishery difficulties we face or, at the very least, develop a mutual understanding of the issues and determine the best path forward.

I will work toward facilitating the flow of information to the Council and in communicating the Council's decisions to our agency colleagues and the public to maintain a transparent management process. All aspects of our fisheries are integral to the management system and public participation is key to its success.

As I take on this new responsibility, I look forward to greeting old friends across the Gulf and meeting new ones as we address the various fisheries issues confronting us. I am delighted to be back on board.



Doug Gregory Executive Director



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Farewell from Dr. Steve Bortone



Steve Bortone, Ph.D.

"So long..."

Four years ago my wife, Shelby, and I returned to Florida so I could assume the role as Executive Director for the Gulf Council. My career as a Marine Biologist began in Florida in the late 1960s and continued as Professor at the University of West Florida and director of several environmental institutions. It was good to be "back home" after a stint at the helm of the Minnesota Sea Grant program, to work with former students, friends, and colleagues along the Gulf coast.

I was not new to the Gulf Council, having written the first reef fish plan in the '70s. In pondering my retirement, I note the Council's significance as an intermediary between the public and the federal government in helping to manage our nation's fisheries. The process is now more technical and formal with much better data.

Today's Gulf Council is much improved. There are several new staff positions (Anthropologist, GIS Analyst, Fisheries Outreach Specialist, Stock Assessment Coordinator and a Fisheries Statistician) that help keep the Council current on the latest techniques and analytical methods. Staff members continue to improve their stature in their respective fields. We have also moved to completely digitize the office, and materials are more readily available and at a lower cost. Along those lines, plans and amendments are more readable and easier for all to understand. In concert with this effort, we now reach the public through a variety of electronic communications.

I am extraordinarily proud of my staff as it strives to inform Council members on important issues. Their unbiased approach in being "honest brokers" of technical information is the hallmark of their professionalism. Staff has improved interactions with personnel from other agencies to the point that other Councils admire how easily we work together.

Financially, these have been rough times for all government sponsored institutions. Fortunately, through the diligence of staff, the Council continues to weather this situation well. Consequently, there should be no noticeable change in the ability of the Council to meet its responsibilities despite a 15-20% decline in purchasing power over the past four years.

I have not done all this alone. Council staff deserves the greatest share of the credit for these improvements. I merely took their ideas and helped make them happen. In conjunction with staff, however, nothing could have happened without the cooperation and guidance of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs with whom I have closely worked. Tom McIlwain, Bob Shipp, Bob Gill, and more recently, Doug Boyd and Kevin Anson, have served me and the Council well.

The service provided by the hard work of the Council members, and that of the general public through their participation in the Council process, is the cornerstone of the Council. Given the problems we have in the Gulf, the work ahead remains daunting, but all involved are up to the task. I leave a management Council that has responded to help lead the world in moving toward making all of fisheries sustainable.

I thank everyone for your counsel and friendship in this endeavor, and to continue the quote initiated in the title of this article (from Douglas Adams' "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"), "So long...and thanks for all the fish!"



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MANAGEMENT PLANS

Click on the thermometer to:

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



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Gulf Council to meet in Pensacola, Florida

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will hold its regular meeting at the Crowne Plaza, 200 E. Gregory Street in Pensacola, Florida, June 17 - 21, 2013. Here's a quick look at some of what will be discussed:

Reef Fish

Red Snapper Benchmark Assessment Review

The Council will review the SEDAR 31 Red Snapper Benchmark Assessment and the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) recommendations for Acceptable Biological Catch. The Council is expected to set quotas for 2013 and beyond based on the SSC's recommendations

Allocation

Sam Rauch, Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, will present to the Council an Allocation Overview. The Council will then review a scoping document for Reef Fish Amendment 28 - Red Snapper Allocation. The document has been on hold until the red snapper stock assessment was completed.

Regional Management of Recreational Red Snapper

The Council will review a public hearing draft of Reef Fish Amendment 39, which examines dividing the federal red snapper quota among states or regions. This division would potentially give states/regions more flexibility in choosing seasons and bag limits, but would not necessarily result in more fishing days.

Under a regional management system, red snapper would remain a federally managed species subject to federal conservation goals, and the Council would continue to allocate the recreational quota.

Red Snapper IFQ Program

The Council will also discuss Amendment 36, which will address potential modifications to the Red Snapper IFQ Program based on the 5-year review recently accepted by the Council.

Continued on next page.



Photo by Rich DeVoe



Photo by Mark Miller

June Council Meeting *continued*

Goliath Grouper Workshop Summary

Staff will provide the committee with a review of the March 12, 2013, Goliath Grouper Science Workshop and a summary of the May 21-22 Stakeholder Workshop. The Council will then discuss potential next steps with regard to the future management of Goliath grouper.

Data Collection

Headboat Electronic Reporting for Reef Fish Resources & Coastal Migratory Pelagics

The Council will review and take final action on a Framework Action for Headboat Electronic Reporting Requirements. A scoping document for improving private recreational red snapper fisheries data will also be reviewed. Visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dB2PLeuR9pY> to watch a short video presentation.

Shrimp

The Council is scheduled to receive a summary report from the Shrimp Advisory Panel, which met in May. They will also continue discussions regarding a Framework Action to Establish Funding Responsibilities for an Electronic Logbook Program for the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery.



Commercial Fisherman,
Donny Waters, testifying
before the Council.

Public Comment

Public comment will begin Wednesday at 1:00 pm. The Council will take comments on:

- Framework Action to Require Electronic Reporting for Headboats
- Reef Fish Amendment 39 - Regional Management of Recreational Red Snapper
- Framework Action to Fund Electronic Logbook Program for the Shrimp Fishery
- Exempted Permits (if any)

The Council will then hear open public comment to give members of the public an opportunity to address the Council on fishery issues that may not be on the agenda. Open public comment will be taken immediately following public testimony until 5:30 pm. Anyone wishing to speak must sign up prior to the comment period.

Can't make the meeting? Don't worry, you can watch live on Gulf Council TV. Simply visit http://www.gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/Webinars.php. Find your meeting and follow the link to register. You can also submit your comments online at http://gulfcouncil.org/fishery_management_plans/scoping-thru-implementation.php. Find your topic of interest and click on the "Submit Your Comments here" link.

To view the complete agenda and briefing book materials, visit <http://ftp.gulfcouncil.org/?user=anonymous> and click on the *Briefing Book* folder.



SSC Recommends Increase in Red Snapper ABC

The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the latest red snapper stock assessment and increased the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for 2013-2016. For 2013 the ABC was increased from 8,460,000 pounds to 13,500,000 pounds. The stock is clearly recovering, but this particularly large increase is due to a few strong year-classes that are passing through the fishery, i.e., years when a higher than average number of red snapper were spawned. These fish are now mature and large enough to be caught.

Unfortunately, spawning has been below average in the two most recent years (2010-2011) for which spawning success has been examined. In order to maintain the rebuilding plan, the Acceptable Biological Catch will need to be reduced from the 2013 peak. As a result, the SSC also set the ABC at 11,900,000 pounds for 2014 and 10,600,000 pounds for 2015; which still represents about a 25% increase over this year's original ABC.

Stay tuned: the Council will review the assessment and SSC recommendations, set quotas, and make management measures that aim to achieve these quotas during its June meeting in Pensacola, Florida.

How Hard Can it Really be to Count Fish?

It's hard to count fish. Not only do they move, but they are often hidden within the depths of the ocean. To complicate things, an overwhelming number of variables, like weather, tide, and habitat make data collection difficult and test the limitations of gear and technology.

Fisheries science is just as complex and multifaceted as the subject it studies. Biology, ecology, oceanography, population dynamics, economics, and sociology are all woven together to create the discipline of fisheries science, which formulates our understanding of fisheries and informs fisheries management decisions.

There are two general categories of data used by fisheries scientists to assess fish stocks. The first is **fisheries-independent data** in which scientists use a variety of different sampling techniques like netting, trapping, and direct observation to collect fisheries information. The second is **fisheries-dependent data**, which relies on fishing activity and is collected with the help of professional and recreational fishermen.



Fisheries dependent data collected from commercial and recreational anglers plays an important role in determining the status of fish stocks. Fisheries dependent data is used to monitor harvest to help fisheries scientists identify trends in fish populations over time. Fishery dependent data are also used to predict and monitor harvest during a fishing year, and harvest trends are used to set seasons. This is particularly important for species that are managed with a quota because in-season monitoring of fishing activity prevents overfishing by tracking harvest so that when a sector reaches its quota it is closed



Commercial Data Collection

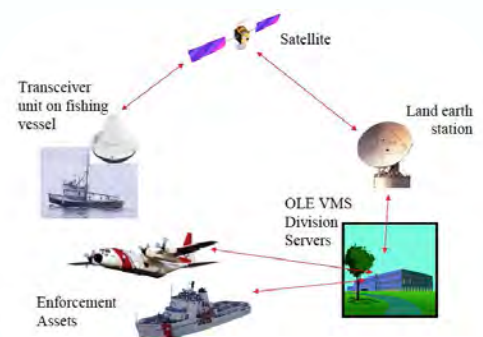
In the Gulf of Mexico, it is relatively easy to collect accurate fisheries dependent data from commercial fishermen, in part because there are fewer than 900 commercial reef fish vessels Gulf-wide. Also, the commercial Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program, a management tool used to constrain the commercial harvest of certain fish species, created requirements that have improved commercial data collection. Below is a description of fisheries dependent data collection techniques used in the commercial fishery that contribute to stock assessments.

Onboard Observers - NOAA fisheries personnel ride along to observe fishing activities on about 1% of all commercial fishing trips. The vessels are randomly selected for participation, and observations are conducted around the Gulf, throughout the year, and aboard vessels using each type of fishing gear.

Logbooks - All commercial reef fish fishermen are required to document effort and catch for each fishing trip. A random 20% of all the commercial fishermen are also required to fill out logbooks detailing dead discards. NOAA Fisheries audits about 10% of all logbooks.

Vessel Monitoring - Commercial reef fish vessels participating in the IFQ program must be equipped with a tracking device (vessel monitoring system) that is active at all times. They are also required to notify NOAA Fisheries before departing on a trip and 3 hours before the vessel returns to shore.

Electronic Reporting and Trip Tickets - A commercial fishing vessel in the IFQ program must report its catch before reaching shore. Once the boat lands, the dealers purchasing fish harvested under the IFQ program must enter data about the price, amount, and species of fish purchased.



Continued next page

Counting Fish *continued*

Dockside Monitoring - Interviews are conducted by dockside monitors who collect information on species, size, age, and fishing effort from commercial fishermen returning from fishing trips.

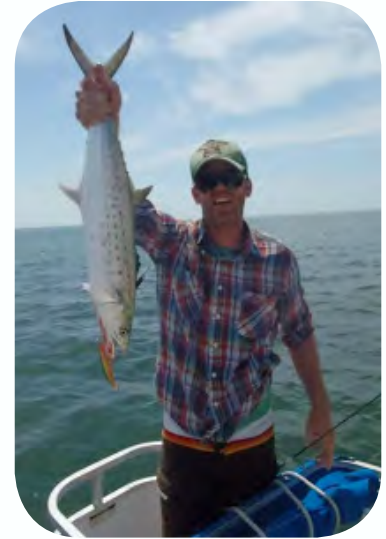
Recreational Data Collection

The recreational fishing sector includes both private fishermen and fishermen on for-hire trips. The for-hire component is fairly easy to track because, like the commercial fishermen, the universe of participating vessels is small and well known. Unfortunately, the collection of private recreational fishing data is more complicated because the universe of recreational fishermen is hard to define, and tracking the activity and harvest of an estimated 4,500,000 people participating in the fishery is not practical.

Why is it so hard to figure out how much recreational fishing there is?

Many people assume that recreational fishing effort can be quantified by simply counting fishing licenses. It's more complicated than that. For starters, not all fishermen are required to be licensed; in many states, you don't need a license if you're over 60 or under 16. Also, licenses don't distinguish between fishermen targeting federal species and fishermen targeting state managed species. Finally, some fishermen fish frequently and some fish only on rare occasions; the actual fishing effort of different anglers cannot be estimated based on possession of a license.

Luckily, there is a surprisingly simple way to determine what the private recreational sector is catching on average: $\text{Fishing Effort} \times \text{Catch} = \text{Harvest}$. A national program called the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) is used to collect information on average effort and average catch of anglers. Since it's not practical to ask every private recreational angler what they've caught each time they go fishing, fisheries scientists use a sample of the entire population to estimate the activity of the entire fishery. Fishing effort is determined using phone surveys, and average catch is determined using dockside intercept surveys.



Phone Surveys - In 2012, the number of phone surveys completed in the coastal areas of the Gulf states totaled 52,741. The phone survey asks people how many times they fished during a specific time period. Fishing effort is then calculated based on those responses.

Dockside Intercept Surveys - Surveyors from Natural Resources Department of each Gulf state determine the typical catch of a recreational fishing trip by interviewing people when they return from a fishing trip. The surveyors count and measure the fish that are landed. In 2012, there were 26,296 interviews conducted on the Gulf coast of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Texas uses their own creel survey to determine recreational harvest in their state and reports that information to NOAA Fisheries for use in stock assessments and quota monitoring.

The recreational data collection system has been criticized because it relies on a sample to determine the behavior of the entire population. At this point, there is no way to get information about the activity of every single private recreational fisherman, so the program focuses on ensuring that the sample they take represents the entire population of fishermen as closely as possible.

The Council, NOAA Fisheries, and many other organizations are working to find new, innovative ways to improve the accuracy of private recreational angler data. Self-reported angler information, offshore fishing permits, electronic logbooks, and many other methods are being considered as ways to enhance the current data collection system. While improved fisheries dependent data will contribute to more accurate stock assessments and quota monitoring, it will never paint the entire picture of what's going on beneath the waves.

A full understanding of fish stocks requires scientist to directly study the fish and collecting fisheries independent data. The next installment of this series *"How Hard Can it Really be to Count Fish?"* will provide a more vivid understanding of fish science by describing the work that fisheries scientists are doing on the water to assess fish stocks through scientific studies of the fish themselves.



Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Update

Electronic Logbook Pilot Study Results Available

Since its inception, a key priority of MRIP has been to explore new technologies and new methods to gather catch and trip information from the charter for-hire industry. A pilot study was recently completed that tested the feasibility of using electronic logbooks to collect landings and fishing effort data. An MRIP Project Team comprised of partners from Florida, Texas, and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, as well as a group of independent experts, worked alongside for-hire captains to design a pilot program to collect catch and effort data in the Florida Panhandle and Corpus Christi, Texas, during 2010 and 2011. The final project report providing results and recommendations for future work is available at www.countmyfish.noaa.gov.



Key project findings include:

- A census of for-hire catch and effort was not achieved due to non-responses by vessels required to report. Logbook reports in this study were submitted for a large portion of the total fishing effort, but many trips validated during the study were not reported. However, reporting compliance gradually improved over the duration of the pilot study. The Project Team anticipates that trend in compliance would have continued had this pilot study run for a longer period, allowing fishermen to become more familiar with reporting requirements
- Electronic reporting with built-in quality control features that prevent data entry errors and omissions was an effective method for receiving high-quality, self-reported data from a large population of participants. Paper logbooks and electronic reporting options without built-in quality control features required more follow-up with participants to verify and attempt to correct self-reported data. Electronic reporting options that allow users the ability to record and store logbook data at sea facilitate better record-keeping and accurate recall by offering more flexibility for when and how users keep track of trip details and record logbook data.
- Current authority to enforce reporting requirements for federally permitted vessels was effective for determining reporting compliance, but was not adequate for achieving timely reporting. Additional enforceable requirements are needed to achieve complete and timely reporting.
- A complete accounting of charter boat catch in a region would require identification of, and participation by, all charter boats. Authority to require and enforce trip reporting for non-federally permitted charter vessels varies by state, and some states may require legislative changes to gain such authority.
- For an ongoing logbook reporting program to remain effective, a consistent and high level of effort by port samplers and law enforcement is required to validate and maintain reporting compliance and timely reporting.
- Participants in the pilot study were required to report weekly, which was sufficient to produce precise catch and effort statistics within the current two-month wave reporting standard. However, requiring daily reporting could be cost-prohibitive due to the increased effort required to track and validate compliance at this higher reporting frequency.
- Comparisons in this study between logbook reports and independent field validations by scientific personnel confirm that self-reported data are subject to recall bias and inaccuracies in reporting; therefore, individual logbook trip reports cannot be considered a one-to-one match with independent field validations. However, given an adequate sample size, aggregated logbook data are potentially very useful for developing estimators for total effort, catch-per-unit effort, and total harvest at the regional scale. The Project Team initiated a follow-up review of the potential for use of a combination of logbook and dockside validation data to produce an accurate and precise estimate of catch. Methods of estimating cumulative monthly catch and effort during periods of high fishing activity, and bi-monthly catch and effort during periods of low fishing activity are under development.

Continued next page

June Council Meeting Reminder

The next Council meeting is scheduled for the week of June 17 - 21, 2013, at the Crowne Plaza, 200 E. Gregory Street in Pensacola, 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 seven business days prior to the start of the Council meeting.

Comments can be submitted online by clicking the thermometer on the Council's homepage - www.gulfcouncil.org. Find your topic of interest and click on the "Submit Your Comments here" link.

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.

MRIP Update *continued*

Several potential benefits were recognized from this study, and the Project Team did not rule out logbook reporting as a feasible method for the collection of catch and effort statistics from the for-hire sector. Given adequate resources and long-term funding commitments, this method may be feasible for a large geographic area with a large number of vessels, but may not be feasible for small states or regions with a small number of vessels.

However, immediate implementation of a logbook requirement for federal permit holders will not likely achieve a complete and accurate census of catch and effort. MRIP will continue to maintain the current surveys, working with state partners. This project demonstrated that moving to electronic logbook reporting and/or a for-hire census approach requires:

- Working closely and in partnership with the captains who will use the program;
- Conducting substantial outreach and engagement to ensure support, buy-in, and ongoing participation, and to prioritize data needs with respect to issues such as timeliness, geographic scale, and accuracy;
- Ensuring adequate funding, resources, and the statutory authorities to ensure compliance and to maintain validation;
- Developing effective methods for identifying eligible vessels, and reporting catch and discards; and
- Having clear commitments among all regional partners to deliver the resources and authorities necessary to carry out an electronic trip reporting program with the necessary supporting validation, compliance monitoring and enforcement, port and sea sampling, and data reporting and management systems, as recommended by the pilot project report.



Send us Your Fishing Photos

We want to see your favorite fishing photos! Whether 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, send an e-mail with "Photo Library" in the subject line to [gulfcouncil@](mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org)

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.



Photo by: Colin Vasey



Recipe Rewind

Here's another blast from the past. This recipe was taken from *Good Housekeeping, Cooking for Company*, 1967, reprinted on the *Mid-Century Menu* web site.

Shrimp Parfait

Ingredients

Carrot-Apple Salad, below	6 tomato slices, quartered
Radish Slaw, below	6 pitted ripe olives
Curry-Shrimp Salad, below	6 cooked ham slices, each rolled up
6 radish roses	Crisp Crackers

Prepare salads, and radish roses and refrigerate. About 30 minutes before serving:

1. In each of 6 tall goblets or glasses, arrange layer of Carrot-Apple salad, then one of Radish Slaw. Top with quartered tomato slice, then a layer each of Curry-Shrimp Salad.
2. Crown each serving with more Curry-Shrimp Salad and Radish Slaw, then an olive and a reserved shrimp.
3. Now, on each of 6 luncheon plates, center one of the parfait salads. Around each group a ham roll-up, 3 Blue Cheese-Walnut Balls, a radish rose, and a few crackers.



Even better:

Let's skip the Carrot-Apple Salad, Radish Slaw, and Blue Cheese-Walnut Balls. Instead, just get a couple pounds of Gulf shrimp, heads on. Preheat your gas or charcoal grill and get it very hot. Put about 2 sticks of butter into a food processor with a bunch of basil leaves (reserve a few for garnish), add the juice of 1 lemon, and salt and pepper. Puree. Stuff about half of the butter under the shells of the shrimp (about 1/2 tablespoon per shrimp). Lay the shrimp on the hot grill and cook for 3 minutes on each side, brushing with the remaining basil butter a few times as they cook. Put shrimp on plates and dot with remaining basil butter. Squeeze more lemon over the shrimp and garnish with remaining basil.



Download the Free Federal Fishing Regulations App

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.



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 management process, and more.



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Committee Agenda

Crowne Plaza
Pensacola, Florida
June 17 - 19, 2013

Monday, June 17, 2013

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Red Drum Management Committee (Tab I) - Pearce

- Review of Updated Gulf of Mexico Red Drum Sampling Protocols

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Mackerel Management Committee (Tab C) - Fischer

- Review SEDAR 28 Spanish Mackerel and Cobia Assessments
- Review CMP Advisory Panel Recommendations and Public Hearing Drafts for Amendments 19 & 20
- Discussion of Schedule and timing for Amendment 22: Recreational and Commercial Allocation of King Mackerel

4:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Administrative Policy Committee (Tab H) - Riechers

- SEDAR Revisions to Administrative Handbook

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm **Full Council - Closed Session**

Advisory Panel Selection Committee (Tab F) - Perret

- Appointments to Coral and SEDAR NGO Advisory Panels

5:00 pm – 5:30 pm **Full Council - Closed Session**

Scientific and Statistical Committee Selection Committee (Tab G) - Anson

- SEDAR Pool, Special Coral, & Special Mackerel SSC Appointments

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Reef Fish Management Committee (Tab J) - Shipp

- SEDAR 31 Red Snapper Benchmark Assessment and SSC Recommendations for ABC
- Amendment 28 - Red Snapper Allocation Scoping Document
- Amendment 39 - Recreational Red Snapper Regional Management
- Amendment 36 - Red Snapper IFQ 5-Year Review
- For-Hire Days-at-Sea Pilot Program
- Goliath Grouper Science and Stakeholder Workshop Summaries
- White Paper on Live Animal Collection for Public Displays
- Status of Action to Define For-Hire Fishing Under Contractual Services
- 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 19, 2013

8:30 am – 11:30 am

Reef Fish Committee continued (Tab J) - Shipp

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Data Collection Committees (Tab E) - Pearce

- Final Action - Framework Action for Headboat Electronic Reporting Requirements
- Scoping Document for Improving Private Recreational Red Snapper Fisheries Data

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Joint Artificial Reef/Habitat Protection Committees (Tab K) - Anson/Greene

- Summary of Fixed Petroleum Platforms and Artificial Reefs as EFH
- Options Paper - Fixed Petroleum Platforms & Artificial Reefs as EFH

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Shrimp Management Committee (Tab D) - Riley

- Summary of the May 2013 Shrimp Advisory Panel Meeting
- Framework Action to Fund Electronic Logbook Program for the Shrimp Fishery

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem Management (Tab J) - Riechers

- Draft Framework Action - Update Tier 3 ACLs with MRIP Landings
- Sustainable Seafood Certification Discussion

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Ad Hoc Restoration Committee (Tab L) - Greene

- Status Updates on Early Restoration Projects
- Discussion - National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Restoration Project Proposals

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda

Crowne Plaza
Pensacola, Florida
June 19 - 20, 2013

Thursday, June 20, 2013

9:00 am – 11:30 am

I. Call to Order and Introductions – Boyd

II. Adoption of Agenda¹ (Tab A, No. 4) – Boyd

III. Approval of Minutes (Tab A, No. 5) – Boyd

IV. Committee Reports

- a. Advisory Panel Selection (Tab F) - Perret
- b. SSC Selection (Tab G) - Anson
- c. Administrative Policy (Tab H) - Riechers
- d. Joint Artificial Reef/Habitat (Tab K) - Anson/Greene
- e. Red Drum (Tab I) - Pearce
- f. Mackerel (Tab C) - Fischer

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

V. Public Comment^{2,3,4,5} - Boyd

- a. Agenda Testimony
 1. Framework Action to Require Electronic Reporting for Headboats
 2. Reef Fish Amendment 39 - Regional Management of Recreational Red Snapper
 3. Framework Action to Fund Electronic Logbook Program for the Shrimp Fishery
- b. Open Testimony

5:00 pm – 5:15 pm

VI. Review of and Vote on EFPs (if any) (Tab L) - Crabtree/Boyd

Friday, June 21, 2013

8:30 am – 12:15 pm

VII. Committee Reports (continued)

- g. Data Collection (Tab E) - Pearce
- h. Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem (Tab J) - Riechers
- i. Shrimp (Tab D) - Riley
- j. Reef Fish (Tab B) - Shipp

12:15 pm – 12:45 pm

VIII. Other Business (Tab N) - Boyd

- *Managing Our Nation's Fisheries* Summary
- SAFMC June 2013 Meeting Summary
- SEFSC Data Program Review
- MREP Science Workshop Update
- Summary of the May 2013 CCC Meeting

IX. Review of Action Schedule (Tab A, No. 6) - Boyd

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 register 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. Open public testimony regarding any fishery issue or concern will follow. 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 an electronic copy to staff prior to the meeting for posting on the web site. 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 North 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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