



Gulf Fishery News

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

January - March, 2012

Inside this issue:

From the Helm	2
Upcoming Public Hearings	2
Spiny Lobster	3
Goliath Grouper Steering Committee	3
Gray Triggerfish Update	4
Crew Size/Income Requirement	4
Dealer Permit Amendment	4
Fishery Closures	5
NOAA Explores Timely Recreational Fisheries Information	6
Recipe Rewind	7
Mackerel Amendments 19 and 20	8
Council Agenda	9

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 meetings 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



Volume 34, Issue 1

Gag Grouper Reminder

A reminder to all, new regulations for gag grouper become effective March 12, 2012. These new regulations are designed to end overfishing of gag and to allow the stock to rebuild to healthy levels.

What are the new recreational measures?

The Council has scheduled an increase in the gag Annual Catch Limits and Annual Catch Targets from the 2011 levels as follows:

Year	Recreational Annual Catch Limit	Recreational Annual Catch Target
2011	963,000	780,000
2012	1,232,000	1,031,000
2013	1,495,000	1,287,000
2014	1,720,000	1,519,000
2015+	1,903,000	1,708,000

The recreational gag quota is equal to the Annual Catch Target. If it is exceeded, the overage is deducted from the next year's Annual Catch Target and Annual Catch Limit. The federal recreational gag season is July 1 - October 31. If the Annual Catch Limit is exceeded, the season will close early.

What are the new commercial measures?

The gag commercial Annual Catch Limits and Annual Catch Targets are set as follows:

Year	Commercial Annual Catch Limit	Commercial Annual Catch Target	Adjusted Commercial Quota
2011	616,200	499,200	N/A
2012	788,000	659,000	567,000
2013	956,000	823,000	708,000
2014	1,100,000	971,000	835,000
2015+	1,217,000	1,092,000	939,000

The commercial Annual Catch Target was reduced by 14% to account for added dead discards resulting from the recently reduced harvest. The result is an adjusted quota, which is the actual amount of fish the commercial sector can catch. The gag and red grouper multi-use allocation was also changed from a fixed percentage to a formula-based allocation, and the use of multi-use allocation to harvest a species that are under a rebuilding plan is prohibited.

Finally, the commercial size limit for gag was reduced from 24" to 22" to help reduce the number of discards.

For more information, please visit http://gulfcouncil.org/fishery_management_plans/reef_fish_management.php.





Bob Gill,
Council Chair

From the Helm

A one size fits all approach to fisheries management may seem just and fair, but it's impractical and doesn't work. Not all fishermen are alike, so different regulations are used for different types of fishing. While most fishermen share the same ultimate goals - more fish and more flexibility to fish - there are major differences between how and why commercial and recreational fishermen catch fish. There are also key differences in which regulations are practical and enforceable for each sector. The Council strives to come up with measures that satisfy the needs of each sector, often resulting in different regulations for each group.

For many species, the very first difference between recreational and commercial management is when an Annual Catch Limit, or the total amount of a species that can be harvested each year, is divided between sectors. Limits for each sector are divided differently; for example, greater amberjack is mostly a recreational fishery so recreational fishermen are allocated 68% of the Annual Catch Limit. Red grouper, on the other hand, is mostly a commercial fishery, and 76% of the Annual Catch Limit is allocated to that sector.

Once the sector Annual Catch Limits have been established, regulations are then designed to ensure neither sector exceeds its limit.

Some commercially harvested species are regulated with closed seasons and trip limits, and others are regulated using an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) System. This is possible because the number of commercial fishing boats is limited and the commercial harvest is easy to track. In the IFQ program, the commercial snapper and grouper allocations are further divided among the fisherman in the program. Each year, snapper and grouper fishermen are allowed to harvest their own individual quota.

Under this program, closed seasons and trip limits are unnecessary because fishermen must stop fishing when they reach their limit for the year. This gives commercial fishermen greater flexibility to choose when to fish, and the price of fish has stabilized because there aren't seasonal changes in availability. Because the IFQ program is radically different from any recreational management measures, it may seem unfair to anglers experiencing closed seasons and bag limits.

Unlike commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen are difficult to track and the number of participants is unlimited. Recreational anglers are managed with seasons, bag limits, and size limits to constrain harvest so they don't exceed the Annual Catch Limit. Determining the best recreational fishing regulations is difficult because the location of fish, tourist season, and fishable weather are different in different parts of the Gulf. Likewise, variations in angler preferences make it difficult to decide whether to adjust harvest levels by changing seasons, bag limits, or size limits.

In the end, it's difficult to make management decisions that satisfy fishermen across one sector, let alone across multiple sectors. Tailoring a management plan to accommodate the many competing interests requires different management approaches for each sector, and the Council strives to make equitable decisions so that everyone can benefit.



Reminder About Upcoming Scoping Meetings

Mackerel Amendments 19 & 20 and a Generic Amendment for Dealer Permits & Electronic Reporting

Texas

March 19, 2012

Hilton Galveston
5400 Seawall Boulevard
Galveston Island, Texas 77551

March 21, 2012

Plantation Suites & Conference Center
1909 Highway 361
Port Aransas, Texas 78373

Louisiana

April 2, 2012

Crowne Plaza New Orleans Airport
2829 Williams Boulevard
Kenner, Louisiana 70062

April 3, 2012

Wildlife & Fisheries Department Lab
195 Ludwig Lane
Grand Isle, LA 70358

All meetings begin at 6 pm and end no later than 9 pm.

Mississippi

March 20, 2012

Four Points by Sheraton
940 Beach Boulevard
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530-4138

Alabama

March 21, 2012

Courtyard Marriott
1000 West I-65 Service Road South
Mobile, Alabama 36609

Florida

March 22, 2012

Courtyard Marriott
100 Grand Boulevard
Destin, Florida 32550

March 26, 2012

Harvey Government Center
1200 Truman Avenue
Key West, Florida 33040

March 28, 2012

Hyatt Place
2600 Champion Ring Road
Fort Myers, FL 33905

Documents can be downloaded from
http://gulfcouncil.org/fishery_management_plans/scoping-thru-implementation.php

A Note on Scoping:

Scoping is the process of identifying issues, potential impacts, and reasonable alternatives associated with the issue at hand. It provides the first and best opportunity for the public to make suggestions or to raise issues and concerns before the Council begins developing an amendment.



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Steve Bortone
Executive Director

Richard Leard
Deputy Director

Appointed Voting Members

Pam Dana Destin, FL 850-650-3212	Robert Shipp Mobile, AL 251-460-6351
Robert Gill Chair Crystal River, FL 352-795-1916	Doug Boyd Vice-Chair San Antonio, TX 830-230-5032
Patrick Riley Lake Jackson, TX 979-233-2624	Damon McKnight Slidell, LA 985-960-1900
Thomas McIlwain Ocean Springs, MS 228-818-8866	John Greene Daphne, AL 251-747-2872
Larry Abele Tallahassee, FL 850-644-1765	Kay Williams Vance, MS 228-826-2160
Harlon Pearce Kenner, LA 504-467-3809	

State/Federal Voting Members

Robin Riechers Austin, TX 512-389-4864	Corky Perret Biloxi, MS 228-374-5000
Jessica McCawley Tallahassee, FL 850-617-9635	Myron Fischer Cut Off, LA 985-632-4525
Kevin Anson Gulf Shores, AL 251-968-7576	Roy Crabtree NMFS SERO 727-824-5301

Non-voting Members

Rowan Gould (Acting) USF&WS 404-679-4000	Larry Simpson GSMFC 228-875-5912
Radm Roy A. Nash Eighth USCG District 504-589-6223	David Hogan Foreign Affairs 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

Spiny Lobster Amendment 11

The Council took final action on Joint Amendment 11 to the Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan. The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council took final action in early March. The amendment will now be sent to the Secretary of Commerce for approval and implementation.

Amendment 11 addresses a recent Biological Opinion of the spiny lobster fishery that concludes that spiny lobster trap fishing activities put sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish, and staghorn and elkhorn corals at risk.

Preferred alternatives for this amendment include a "No Action" alternative that results in no trap line marking requirements for spiny lobster traps, and an alternative that creates new closed areas off the Florida Keys with identified staghorn and elkhorn coral colonies inside straight-line boundaries. Spiny lobster trapping will be prohibited in these areas.

Finally, after hearing requests from the spiny lobster commercial fishing industry, the Council moved to subdivide Closed Area 2 into two closed areas. While this action created 60 closed areas, it reduced the total estimated closed area from 6.7 square miles to 5.7 square miles.

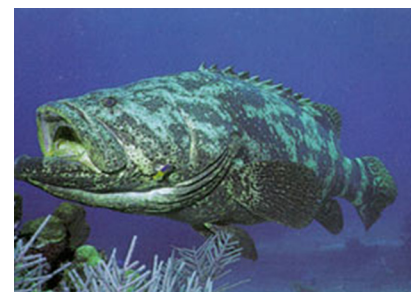


Goliath Grouper Data Needs Discussed by Newly Formed Steering Committee

The Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Councils recently formed an Ad Hoc Goliath Grouper Joint Steering Committee. The Councils are interested in finding ways to collect information for a new goliath grouper stock assessment.

The Steering Committee, made up of people from the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils, met recently to discuss data needs, data collection issues and data time lines related to goliath grouper. The group came up with a four-part work plan that includes the following actions:

1. Conduct a stakeholder survey to determine the public's expectations regarding goliath grouper management.
2. Hold a stakeholder workshop designed to offer an opportunity for a group interaction, education, and problem solving regarding management expectations of goliath grouper.
3. Present survey and workshop results to the Councils with a list of goals. Ask the Councils to refine the goals.
4. Hold a science workshop to give experts the opportunity to offer suggestions on how to achieve goals.



The steering committee also agreed to create a web site to facilitate information transfer regarding goliath grouper. The work plan will be presented to the Gulf Council during its April Council meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Gray Triggerfish Update

The latest gray triggerfish update stock assessment continues to show that the stock is overfished (population is too low) and it is experiencing overfishing (rate of removal is too high). As a result, the Gulf Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee recommended that the gray triggerfish acceptable biological catch be set at 305,000 pounds.

As a rule, a stock's Annual Catch Limit cannot be higher than its acceptable biological catch. The current gray triggerfish Annual Catch Limit is 793,000 pounds, which exceeds the 305,000 pound recommended Acceptable Biological Catch. As a result, the Council initiated the development of an interim rule for consideration during its April Council meeting, that would reduce the gray triggerfish Annual Catch Limit to 305,000 pounds, reduce the Annual Catch Target, and give NOAA Fisheries authority to close the gray triggerfish season when catch limits are reached.

For comparison, gray triggerfish total catches since 2008 are as follows:

Year	Total Catch in Pounds
2008	496,000
2009	482,000
2010*	352,000
*Deepwater Horizon incident	



Photo Credit: Troy Frady



Photo Credit: NOAA Photo Library

The proposed interim rule will last for 180 days. As a follow up, the Council also initiated a framework action to make the interim rule measures permanent, as well as to address a possible bag limit reduction, minimum size limit adjustments, and to consider extending the timeframe for the rebuilding plan from six years to ten years, the maximum allowed under the law.



Reef Fish Amendment 34 - Crew Size/Income Requirement Approved

The Gulf Council took final action on Reef Fish Amendment 34 during its January/February Council meeting in Mobile, Alabama. The amendment increases the maximum crew size limits for dually permitted vessels from three to four, and eliminates the income requirement for Gulf Commercial Reef Fish permits. The amendment will be submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for approval and implementation.

To review the amendment, please visit www.gulfcouncil.org.

Dealer Permit & Electronic Reporting Amendment Underway

During its February meeting, the Gulf Council asked staff to begin developing a generic amendment that proposes changes to seafood dealer reporting requirements. The amendment is for fishery management plans of the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic, including two joint fishery management plans.

Three actions are under consideration:

1. What dealer permits would be required, and for which species?
2. How frequently and by what method would dealers be required to report?
3. Are there penalties for non-reporting or late reporting?

Documents can be downloaded from http://gulfcouncil.org/fishery_management_plans/scoping-thru-implementation.php. Scoping meetings for this amendment have been scheduled. See page 2 for details.



Find us on
Facebook

Find us on Facebook!

Become a fan by clicking **Like** on our page. Just log on to Facebook and search for Gulf Council!

April Council Meeting Reminder

The next Council meeting is scheduled for the week of April 16 - 20, 2012, at the Omni Bayfront Hotel in Corpus Christi, Texas. 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 three business days prior to the start of the Council meeting. 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.

Fishery Closures

Recreational Closures:

Red Snapper

The 2012 recreational season will open June 1. Closure date has not yet been determined.

Shallow-Water Grouper Closure

The annual federal recreational shallow-water grouper closure is from February 1 - March 31. Shallow-water grouper includes gag, red grouper, black grouper, scamp, yellowfin grouper, and yellowmouth grouper.

Gag

The federal recreational gag fishing season opens July 1, and closes October 31.

Commercial Closures:

King Mackerel

The king mackerel commercial run-around gillnet component of the coastal migratory pelagic fishery in the southern Florida west coast subzone is closed, effective 6 a.m. (local time) January 21, 2012, through 6 a.m. (local time) January 21, 2013.

Commercial fishing for Gulf group king mackerel in the southern Florida west coast subzone is closed effective 12:01 a.m., local time, February 26, 2012, for commercial hook-and-line vessels. The closure will remain in effect through the end of the fishing year, June 30, 2012.

The daily vessel trip limit is increased from 50 to 75 fish beginning 12:01 a.m., February 1, 2012, for commercial hook-and-line vessels fishing for Gulf group king mackerel in federal waters of the Florida east coast subzone.

The western Gulf of Mexico zone is closed to commercial king mackerel fishing effective noon September 16, 2011, through June 30, 2012. Commercial king mackerel fishing is prohibited in federal waters from the U.S./Mexico border to the Alabama/Florida boundary.

Commercial king mackerel harvest is prohibited in the northern Florida west coast subzone beginning October 7, 2011 until June 30, 2012.

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 publications.

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, 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 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 on our web site, in our newsletter, or other publications. We will display a brief description of the photo and your name, unless requested otherwise.



Photo Credit: Richard Dawson

NOAA Explores Approaches for Providing More Timely Recreational Fisheries Information

NOAA Fisheries has released the findings and recommendations of its data timeliness project. The project looked at how we might deliver data in a more timely fashion, what tradeoffs would be involved in enhanced timeliness, and what alternatives might exist to more closely match management actions to the current release schedule. Access to more timely fisheries information would allow anglers and managers to adjust their actions in response to in-season data. This could give users a clearer understanding of how their actions and the catch estimates are related and enable better control of catch and a more adaptive management approach.

The project included a two-day workshop that brought scientists, fishermen, and stakeholders together to identify and evaluate options for improving the timeliness of information availability. These options included reducing lag times between data collection and delivery, shortening the length of sampling waves, and using forecasting techniques for producing in-season projections of recreational catch and effort. Key recommendations for improving data timeliness arising from this workshop include:

- **Consider moving from two-month sampling waves to one-month sampling waves, especially during peak seasons for key fisheries.** Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) catch and effort survey designs should have the flexibility to produce monthly catch and effort estimates.
- **Consider reducing lag time between the end of the sampling wave and the release of catch estimates.** Participants felt that lag times could be reduced by up to two weeks without a significant reduction in data quality or the accuracy of the estimates.
- **Support development of models for reliably forecasting in-season catch and effort estimates.** These models could produce projections from partial effort survey results as well as use more timely catch information from one mode of fishing to project recreational landings from other fishing modes.
- **Test and develop innovative methods for data collection.**
- **Consider adapting management to data constraints rather than adapting data to management needs.** Anticipated improvements in data timeliness will reduce but not eliminate management uncertainty. Risks associated with uncertainty could be reduced by alternate management approaches (e.g., setting Annual Catch Targets below Annual Catch Limits).

These recommendations, particularly the shift to one-month waves, will result in increased costs. As several major MRIP improvements (e.g., the implementation of new intercept survey and effort designs) are yet to come, and the costs of these improvements is not fully known, the additional cost of implementing one-month waves will likely need to be weighed against the cost of other anticipated MRIP improvements.

Next steps include:

- **Develop a simulation model to evaluate the trade-offs in timeliness, cost, and precision between two- and one-month sampling waves.** The MRIP Operations Team is currently reviewing a proposal to develop this simulation model. The model would allow for more informed decisions regarding sample allocation. If limited funding prevents a complete shift to one-month waves, this work could also help identify key regions and key times of year where one-month waves would have the greatest benefit.
- **Examine the costs associated with reducing lag time by two weeks.** These costs include increased data processing costs to speed up data availability and additional agency resources to speed up the estimation process.

The decision to shift to one-month sampling waves and to reduce lag time is a complex one, requiring trade-offs among timeliness, data quality, and costs. Our next steps will help determine where and when the move to increase timeliness would be most effective and worth the resulting increase in cost and reduction in data quality.

The complete workshop report is available at www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov or for more information, contact Ron Salz at ron.salz@noaa.gov.



Recipe Rewind

Here's another blast from the past. This recipe was taken from "Florida Seafood Slimmers," published by the Florida Department of Natural Resources.

Spanish Mackerel Paysanne

Ingredients

2 pounds Spanish mackerel filets	1/4 cup catsup
1/2 teaspoon salt	2 tablespoons butter or
1/4 teaspoon white pepper	margarine, melted
1 can (4 oz) sliced mushrooms, drained	1/2 teaspoon liquid smoke
1/3 cup sliced green onions	



Thaw filets if frozen. Cut into serving-size portions. Place in a greased baking dish, 12 x 8 x 2 inches. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Combine remaining ingredients and spread over top of fish. Bake in a moderate oven 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork.

For an updated version of this recipe, use fresh mackerel and fresh mushrooms. Grill the fish instead of baking it. Serve with a light salad.

Take the retro recipe challenge! Send us your favorite retro recipe and have it published in the next edition of Gulf Fishery News.



Free Federal Fishing Regulations App for Droid and iPhone

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. It will prepare you to participate effectively in the creation of fisheries management measures 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/>



Council Considers Mackerel Amendment 19 - Permit Requirements and Mackerel Amendment 20 - Transit Provisions

Mackerel Amendment 19 - Permit Requirements

In the federal waters of the Gulf, South Atlantic, and Mid-Atlantic, you must have commercial king and Spanish mackerel permits to keep more than the recreational bag limit. Currently, there is no commercial permit requirement for cobia, and both commercial fishermen and recreational anglers have the same bag limit. This amendment considers establishing a federal commercial cobia permit. A permit requirement would allow the Council to limit the sale of cobia to only those fishermen with a federal commercial cobia permit.

The Council is also considering stopping or limiting the sale of fish caught under a bag limit. Currently, recreational fishermen are allowed to sell cobia, king mackerel, and Spanish mackerel without a federal permit, but in some states fishermen need a license to sell regulated finfish. Private anglers do not usually sell their fish, but crews from for-hire boats sometimes sell the fish left behind by their customers. Under the current system, all fish that are sold are considered commercial harvest and count toward the species commercial quota even if they are caught recreationally. This can cause fish to be “double counted” when harvest from a single trip counts toward both the commercial quota and the recreational allocation.



Photo Credit: Ben Leininger

Other issues under consideration are:

- eliminating latent king mackerel gill net endorsements to protect fishermen who are fishing
- defining participation criteria for the king mackerel hook-and-line sector
- federal regulatory compliance - should vessels with federal Coastal Migratory Pelagic permits be required to follow the more restrictive of state or federal regulations?
- changing or eliminating income requirements
- establishing a Spanish mackerel gill net endorsement

Mackerel Amendment 20 - Permit Requirements

The Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils created zones and subzones in the mackerel fishery to allow for fair distribution of allowable harvest as fish migrate. In this amendment, the Councils are considering whether the current zone boundaries, allocations, seasons, and trip limits provide the greatest benefit to the commercial industry. To further ensure fair distribution of the resource, the Councils are also considering requiring vessels to declare which zones they will fish. Finally, the Councils are considering measures to allow vessels to transit through closed areas with legally caught fish.



Actions included in this amendment so far include:

- modifying existing commercial boundary line, allocation, and trip limits between the Gulf group king mackerel eastern zone and western zone
- adjusting the Gulf group king mackerel season opening for the western zone
- allowing fish to be transported through a closed area and landed at a fish house in the Gulf
- establishing a Gulf fishing zone identification endorsement
- establishing allocations by state or region

For more information or to review the scoping guides for these amendments, visit http://gulfcouncil.org/fishery_management_plans/scoping-thru-implementation.php.

See page 2 for scoping meeting dates and locations.



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Committee Schedule

Omni Bayfront Hotel
Neuces Ballroom
Corpus Christi, Texas
April 16 - 18, 2012

Monday April 16, 2012

- 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Scientific & Statistical Committee Selection Committee (Tab I)
 - SSC Duties and Responsibilities
 - Presentation on Detailed “Option 3”
- 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Budget/Personnel Committee (Tab K)
 - Executive Director’s Evaluation Process
 - 2012 Proposed Budget
 - Future Funding Overview
- 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Outreach & Education Committee (Tab J)
 - Crisis Communication Plan Review
 - Update on Stakeholder Survey
- 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Artificial Reef Committee (Tab H)
 - Discussion of Artificial Reefs as Essential Fish Habitat
- 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm
Budget/Personnel CLOSED SESSION

Tuesday April 17, 2012

- 8:30 am – 12:00 noon & 1:30 pm – 5:30 pm
Reef Fish Management Committee (Tab B)
 - Update on Red Snapper 5-Year IFQ Review
 - Scoping Document for Amendment 28 – Grouper Allocation
 - Scoping Document for Amendment 33 – LAPP
 - Final Action on Amendment 35 – Greater Amberjack
 - Scoping Document for Red Snapper Provisions for Overage Adjustments
 - Interim Rule on Gray Triggerfish ACL & In-Season Closure
 - Draft Options Paper for Amendment 37 – Gray Triggerfish Management Measures
 - Framework Action – Contractual Services for the For-Hire Sector
 - Sector Separation Discussion
 - Options Paper for Amendment 38 – Revise Post-Season Recreational Accountability Measures for SWG
 - Summary of Goliath Grouper Workgroup Meeting
 - Pilot Studies Design (Headboat IFQ and Days at Sea)

Immediately Following Committee Recess will be the Informal Question & Answer Session on Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Issues.

Wednesday April 18, 2012

- 8:30 am – 9:00 am
Coral Management (Tab F)
 - Report of the Special Coral Scientific & Statistical Committee
- 9:00 am – 10:00 am
Data Collection Committee (Tab E)
 - MRIP Calibration Workshop Summary
 - Generic Amendment – Dealer Permit/Electronic Logbook Reporting Requirements
 - Update on Electronic Reporting for Headboats
 - Update on Electronic Reporting for the For-Hire Sector
- 10:00 am – 11:30 am
Mackerel Management Committee (Tab C)
 - Options Paper for Amendment 19
 - Options Paper for Amendment 20

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.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda

Omni Bayfront Hotel
Neuces Ballroom
Corpus Christi, Texas
April 18 - 19, 2012

Wednesday April 18, 2012

- Call to Order and Introductions – Gill
- Adoption of Agenda (Tab A, No. 4) – Gill
- Approval of Minutes (Tab A, No. 6) – Gill
- Approval of Committee Roster (Tab A, No. 5) – Gill
- Review of Action Schedule (Tab A, No. 7) – Gill
- Review of Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) (if any) (Tab L) – Crabtree/Gill
1:00 pm - 1:45 pm
- Public Comment - Gill
 - Agenda Testimony
 - Final Action Reef Fish Amendment 35 Greater Amberjack
 - Interim Rule for Gray Triggerfish Annual Catch Limit & In-Season Closure Authority
 - Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) (if any)
 - Open Testimony on any other Fishery Issues or Concerns
1:45 pm – 5:30 pm

Thursday April 19, 2012

- Committee Reports
 - SSC Selection (Tab I) – Simpson
 - Outreach & Education (Tab J) – Perret
 - Reef Fish (Tab B) – Shipp
 - Budget/Personnel (Tab K) – Riechers
 - Artificial Reef (Tab H) – Anson
 - Coral (Tab F) – Abele
 - Data Collection (Tab E) – Pearce
 - Mackerel (Tab C) – Fischer
 - Discussion on Exempted Fishing Permits (if any) (Tab L) – Crabtree/Gill
 - Other Business (Tab L) – Gill
 - Update on the Status of the Report from the Shrimp Stock Assessment Workshop – Leard
 - Rule Making Process Review – Bortone
- 8:30 am – 3:45 pm

-Adjourn

²Persons wishing to give public testimony must turn in a registration card 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, and then allow for open public testimony regarding any fishery issue or concern. During public comment, 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 30 copies to staff before public comment begins for distribution to members. 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

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 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.

Gulf Fishery News is a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Any material in this newsletter may be reprinted or reproduced; however, please credit the Council when reprinting articles from this newsletter.