



Gulf Fishery News

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

August - September, 2011

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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 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 33, Issue 4

Council Members Sworn In

Patrick Riley of Lake Jackson, Texas is one of the newest members of the Gulf Council. Riley has been involved in the Gulf shrimp fishery since childhood. When he was eight, his father took him offshore and he worked as a header (someone who pulls the heads off the shrimp).

"I remember thinking, they're not paying me enough!" said Riley.

Nevertheless, he continued to work as a header during the summers, and at 15, he took a job at Western Seafood where he started out unloading boats and doing various other jobs. Riley later attended Texas A&M where he studied civil engineering. He is now general manager of Western Seafood.



Patrick Riley

Riley says he is committed to spending the time necessary to study the issues the Council is faced with and making sure all user groups are treated equitably. He hopes to contribute to balancing the use of the resources with ensuring sustainability.

Riley is a former member of the Gulf Council's Shrimp Advisory Panel, and a member of the Texas Department of Agriculture Shrimp Marketing Program Advisory Panel, the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation Board of Directors.



Dr. Pamella Dana

Pamella Dana of Destin, Florida, is a life-long angler who appreciates the delicate but essential task of ensuring a healthy and robust marine ecosystem.

Dana earned a Ph.D. in International Development and Economics from the University of Southern California. She spent many years working in commerce and trade before making the transition into the charter business.

She has owned an operated Sure Lure Charter Company for the past four years and hopes to use her industry experience to engage in dialogue and decision-making that will have a meaningful impact on our living marine resources.

Dana is a member of the Destin Charter Boat Association, the National Association of Charter Boat Operators, Destin Fisherman's Cooperative, Destin Fishing Fleet, Inc., Conservative Cooperative of Gulf Fishermen, Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation, and Visit Florida. An avid lady angler and tournament contender, Dana is the standing Women's World Champion for Cobia Fishing.

Continued next page

Council Members *continued*

Bob Shipp is reappointed to the Gulf Council for a third three-year term. He was first appointed to the Council in 1991 and served three, three-year terms. This is his second stint as a Council member, making this his 15th year of service.

Shipp earned a Ph.D. from Florida State University where his dissertation research focused on systematics and evolution of puffer fishes of the Atlantic Ocean. He is a strong advocate for improving data collection, with emphasis on fishery independent surveys and replacing or reducing fishery dependent data sources.

Shipp is a Professor and Chair of Marine Science at the University of South Alabama. He retains an active interest in the relationship between systematics and biogeography. In recent years, he has become more focused on marine resource management.

"I have an interest in recruitment processes of marine fishes, and I would like to develop methods to use this information to optimize management programs," said Shipp.

Shipp is also interested in the role of artificial reefs in fishery management.



Dr. Bob Shipp



Bob Gill,
Council Chair

The Gill Net

As the Council's new Chair, I plan to share my thoughts with you via this newsletter on current federal fisheries management topics. If you have topics of particular interest that you would like to have addressed here, please let me know.

I'll begin by giving you my perspective on some of the issues the Council has recently dealt with, particularly those items approved during our August, 2011 meeting in Austin, Texas.

Perhaps the biggest game changer is the implementation of the Annual Catch Limits and the associated Accountability Measures, both of which are required by the Reauthorized Magnuson Stevens Act of 2006. The issues surrounding Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures are complex, but in a nutshell, Annual Catch Limits are hard limits designed to prevent overfishing, and they must be set for all managed species.

These limits are similar to what's popularly known as hard TACs (Total Allowable Catch) in that there are consequences to exceeding preset limits. Accountability Measures must also be established to ensure that the Annual Catch Limits are not exceeded, and to correct overages - should they occur.

These new requirements have a congressionally imposed time limit and must be implemented before 2012. This tight timeline and the complexity involved suggest that the Council will be revisiting these decisions to fine tune and to make sure the results are what the Council intended.

During the process of developing Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures, the Council asked the Southeast Science Center and our Science and Statistical Committee to take another look at the landings projections for the important species of red snapper, red grouper, and gag grouper. As a result, the Council was able to increase the red grouper quota in 2011, but unable to provide increases for red snapper or gag grouper. The Council did, however, request a modified update of the red snapper assessment to incorporate the latest data, and we scheduled a review during the January 2012 Council meeting.

The August meeting also resulted in the Council putting several new issues on the table for consideration. These issues will be discussed during our October meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, and include reviewing the Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota program for the commercial sector; addressing sector accountability for overfishing; and considering various issues affecting the king mackerel fishery.

As always, Council members and staff welcome and rely on your input, particularly when we begin to evaluate the issues concerning a developing issue. Weighing in early is always better than waiting until final decisions are ready to be made.

If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to visit www.gulfcouncil.org, where you can sign up to receive information and updates, as well as find the latest information, including contact information for Council members and staff, meeting schedules and agendas, and a wealth of information about the Council. If you can't find what you need, let us know and we'll be happy to help.



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
Bill Teehan Tallahassee, FL 850-487-0554	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

Repeal of the Stone Crab Fishery Management Plan

NOAA Fisheries Service has published a final rule in the Federal Register to repeal the Fishery Management Plan for the Stone Crab Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico. This rule is effective October 24, 2011.

In June, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission voted to extend state regulation concerning stone crab fishing into federal waters. Because federal regulations and state regulations were essentially the same, no change is expected in how the fishery is conducted.

The commercial stone crab fishery is prosecuted primarily in Florida coastal waters. The federal fishery management plan was originally implemented in 1979 to close areas and reduce conflict arising from competing gear use between stone crab and shrimp fishermen. The plan applies only to federal Gulf of Mexico waters adjacent to Florida waters. The fishery management plan for the Shrimp Fishery in the Gulf of Mexico establishes the same closed areas, so those closed areas will remain in place.

In the process of developing new federal regulations, NOAA Fisheries Service and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council reviewed all fishery management plans to determine which species are in need of federal management. National standard guidance lists criteria to consider in deciding whether a fishery needs federal management, including if the fishery could be or already is adequately managed by states. Because the stone crab plan only covers waters adjacent to Florida state waters and Florida has essentially the same regulations, the Council felt Florida could adequately manage the fishery.

The action will promote management of the stone crab fishery in the most efficient manner, while maintaining conservation of the resource and the ecosystem and properly conform to National Standard Guidance under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The environmental assessment, final rule, and other information on this topic can be found at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/StoneCrab.htm>. The final rule is also available via the Internet at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>.



Council Recruiting for Ad Hoc Private Recreational Data Collection Advisory Panel

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is seeking applicants for an Ad Hoc Private Recreational Data Collection Advisory Panel. The panel will provide guidance to the Council relative to the collection of private recreational angler data. Applications will be accepted through October 17, 2011.

Panel members are not paid, but are compensated for travel and per diem expenses for attendance at all meetings. Anyone interested in serving on the Ad Hoc Private Recreational Data Collection Advisory Panel should submit a letter and resume to:

Phyllis Miranda
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 N. Lois Avenue
Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Materials may also be faxed to: 813-348-1711; or e-mailed to phyllis.miranda@gulfcouncil.org. Resumes and letters should be received no later than close of business October 17, 2011.



Council Approves Reef Fish Amendment 32 - Gag and Red Grouper

Gag and red grouper are the two most abundant grouper species in the Gulf of Mexico, accounting for 93% of recreational grouper landings and 80% of all commercial grouper landings. The commercial fishery catches the majority of red grouper, while the recreational fishery catches most of the gag.

In 2009, an update stock assessment showed that the Gulf of Mexico gag stock was overfished and undergoing overfishing. This determination prompted the Gulf Council to begin developing Reef Fish Amendment 32 to address the overfishing of gag and develop a stock rebuilding plan in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Act requires that overfishing be ended within two years and that overfished stocks be rebuilt to sustainable levels in ten years or less.

Reef Fish Amendment 32 was approved by the Council in August, and deals with the rebuilding of the gag stock and the management of red grouper. Measures in this amendment include:

1. Establish a rebuilding plan that will rebuild the gag stock in 10 years or less.
2. Set the longest gag season for 2012 possible - July 1 through October 31; the two-fish bag limit, and four-fish aggregate bag limit remains intact.
3. Increase the red grouper recreational bag limit from 2 fish to 4 fish per person.
4. Reduce the commercial 2012 gag quota by 14% to compensate for dead discards.
5. Adjust the commercial grouper multi-use individual fishing quota shares.
6. Reduce the commercial gag minimum size limit to 22 inches total length.
7. For the recreational fishery, add an overage adjustment when gag or red grouper are considered overfished, and if recreational landings are projected to exceed the annual catch limit, close the season early.

Currently, the Gulf red grouper stock is neither overfished nor undergoing overfishing. Amendment 32 increases the red grouper catch limits in response to the improved status of the stock, also increasing the recreational red grouper bag limit to allow a better opportunity for that sector to catch its allocation.



Photo by Troy Frady

Council Takes Final Action on Red Grouper Regulatory Amendment

In August, the Council took final action on a regulatory amendment for red grouper. The amendment will increase the red grouper total allowable catch for 2011 through 2015 as follows:

Year	Pref. Alt 3	Comm. Quota (76% of TAC)	Rec. Quota (24% of TAC)
2011	6.88 MP	5.23 MP GW	1.65 MP GW
2012	7.07 MP	5.37 MP GW	1.70 MP GW
2013	7.27 MP	5.53 MP GW	1.74 MP GW
2014	7.41 MP	5.63 MP GW	1.78 MP GW
2015	7.52 MP	5.72 MP GW	1.80 MP GW



Annual increases are contingent upon total allowable catch not being exceeded in the previous year. The amendment also increases the red grouper recreational bag limit from two fish to four fish.



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October Council Meeting Reminder

The next Council meeting is scheduled for the week of October 24 - 28, 2011, at the Doubletree Suites in New Orleans, Louisiana. Please make your reservation under the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council room block to receive the special discounted room rate.

Submission of written comments and materials to be included as part of the briefing book materials for this meeting **MUST BE RECEIVED** by 5:00 p.m. EDT October 17, 2011.

If you miss the deadline and bring your own copies to the meeting, please bring at least 30 copies for the Council. If you wish your materials to be made available to the public, please bring additional copies.

A draft agenda will be posted on the Gulf Council web site at www.gulfcouncil.org.



Red Snapper Update

In August, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council received a report from NOAA Fisheries Service on the 2011 recreational red snapper landings data. Estimates show that the total landings will likely exceed the recreational red snapper quota. This includes the 345,000 pounds that was added to the recreational quota through an emergency rule. So far the preliminary data, which do not include July landings or data from Texas, show that at least 80% of the quota has been caught. NOAA Fisheries predicts that landings will exceed the quota by 10% - 20% once the Texas data and the July landings data are added to the landings estimates.

What does this mean?

In June, the Council requested NOAA Fisheries implement an emergency rule that would increase the recreational red snapper quota by 345,000 pounds for the 2011 fishing year, as well as give the Regional Administrator authority to reopen the recreational red snapper season later in the year if quota remains. But because there is no quota leftover from the summer season, there is no opportunity for a 2011 fall season.

Other Red Snapper News

The Council directed staff to begin developing an options paper that examines sector specific payback provisions to address overages that may occur in the red snapper fishery. Currently, if the total allowable catch is exceeded, then the total allowable catch for the following year cannot be increased as scheduled. In this situation, if one sector (commercial or recreational) exceeds its annual quota and causes the total allowable catch to be exceeded, both sectors experience the consequences when the total allowable catch for the following year is not increased. Sector specific payback options will look at ways to assign responsibility to each sector for any overages incurred. In other words, if only one sector goes over its quota, then the other sector would not be held responsible for that overage.

In the red snapper fishery the recreational sector is at the most risk of exceeding its quota, so this amendment will also include alternatives for annual catch targets and buffers for the recreational fishery designed to reduce the likelihood of the quota being exceeded.



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, 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 by Barry Baham

The Elusive Cubera - a First Person Encounter

By Michael Wright

Our fishing trip started out like many others. It would end like no other. Four eager fishermen, Michael Wright from West Palm, Ben Morganson from Nokomis, David Beveridge from Tampa, and Bob Goff from Venice, arrived at the Harbor Lights dock in Venice, Florida at 5:30 a.m. as Captain Glen Ballinger loaded an empty fish box with ice. We all imagined that box would be full of fish upon our return, especially with our primary target for that day: red snapper. Captain Glen Ballinger's 33' foot Hydrosport® named *Outcast* was soon pulling away from the dock in the quiet darkness just before dawn.

The plan was to start deep and work our way in. Glen fished the day before to collect bait, and about 100 of the little guys swam in the live well waiting for their turn to be the center of attention, so there was no need to delay the action. The seas were calm and we made our way in less than 2 hours to a spot 70 miles from Venice inlet at 200 foot depth. We tried a variety of cut baits and dropped down a couple of the live guys, but the bite was uncharacteristically slow. We landed a few fish, but returned them to the sea to fight another day as we knew we could do better. Soon the anchor was up and we were moving to shallower water.

In 180 feet of water we had more success. We collected half of our limit of ten red snapper in about an hour. All were in the ten pound range and taken mostly on the bottom with frozen sardines. The live bait was attracting amberjack, and after catching and releasing a few 20 pounders, we knew it was time to change plans. The anchor came up and we moved a couple of miles towards shore to continue our quest.

Glen knew this new location held yellowtail snapper and almaco jack, so we decided to anchor and chum. Instantly the bite was on. We never had a chance to get our bottom rigs out because the drags on the flat lines were screaming within seconds of the bait hitting the water. We landed a few of the usual suspects, but soon it was apparent all types of fish were going to get in on the action. The red snapper were coming up from the 160-foot depths to attack our bait and soon the limit was reached. All of the red snapper were larger than the 10 pounders we picked up earlier. Large mangrove snappers, almaco, and yellowtail were soon filling up our fish box. We continued to catch and release amberjack, gag grouper and bonita (*more likely little tunny*).



Photo by Glen Ballinger



Photo by Glen Ballinger

Our fish box was just about full and everyone was drenched in sweat, but we were having such a great time we decided to catch and release until it was time to head home for the day. Since we had released several bonita, we were hoping a large blackfin tuna would put the icing on our day and finish off our dwindling cooler space. Our bottom rigs remained in rod holders as the relentless action continued. As had happened several times, we were all hooked to fish at the same time. Dave Beveridge, fishing a flat line with a tomtate grunt for bait, believed he had hooked a shark on his small spinning rod and prepared for either the 15 pound braided line to snap or the monofilament leader to be cut. Neither happened.

As Dave fought his "shark" for 30 minutes the rest of us were too busy catching our own fish to pay much attention to his efforts. Dave was dismayed as the fight continued and his small rod and reel outfitted with low test line continued to hold up to the fish. Dave called Glen over to help him release the fish as he knew the long battle was near its end. When the fish rose in the clear water Glen recognized it was not a shark on the line. Glen quickly grabbed a gaff, and with help from his crew, the catch of the day was hoisted into the boat.

Dave's fish was a 45-pound cubera snapper. The fish was on the deck with a circle hook precariously dangling from its lip just inches from massive teeth. Between the five of us we had pulled just about every fish imaginable from the Gulf of Mexico, but this was a first. None of us had ever seen a live cubera, much less hauled one into the boat. We were exhausted, but with the prospect of landing another cubera looming, we continued to fish. We released a few more fish, but alas no more cubera were to be had. Glen signaled it was time to call it a day, and after a few pictures with the catch of the day, we headed home, happy and tired.



Mackerel Amendment 18

The Council has approved Amendment 18 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fishery Management Plan. The amendment addresses the establishment of annual catch limits, accountability measures, and annual catch targets for king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia, as required by the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Amendment:

1. Removes cero, little tunny, dolphin, and bluefish from the management unit.
2. Revises the framework procedure and adopts the base framework procedure.
3. Establishes separate migratory groups of cobia at the South Atlantic and Gulf Council boundary.
4. Adopts the Gulf Council's acceptable biological catch control rule for cobia, Spanish mackerel, and king mackerel.
5. Sets the annual catch limit equal to the acceptable biological catch for cobia, Spanish mackerel, and king mackerel. Sets a single stock annual catch limit for Spanish mackerel and cobia. Sets separate commercial and recreational annual catch limits for king mackerel and gear specific annual catch limits for the commercial sector.
6. Sets a single stock annual catch target for cobia that is 90% of the annual catch limit.
7. Sets in-season accountability measures for cobia and Spanish mackerel so that once the annual catch target is reached, the fishery will be closed for the remainder of the season.



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 right with your iPhone or Droid to begin downloading the Gulf Council's free regulations App!

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Closures

Recreational Closures:

Red Snapper

The 2011 recreational red snapper season closed 12:01 a.m., July 19, 2011. The 2012 recreational season will open June 1. Closure date has not yet been determined.

Gag

NOAA Fisheries Service announced a temporary rule to set the 2011 recreational gag season to open September 15 and close at 12:01 a.m. November 16.

Commercial Closures:

King Mackerel

The king mackerel commercial run-around gillnet fishery in the southern Florida west coast subzone is closed from February 2, 2011, through 6 a.m. January 17, 2012. King mackerel commercial gillnet fishing is prohibited in the Gulf of Mexico off Collier and Monroe Counties, from a line directly west of the Lee/Collier county line on the west coast of Florida south and east to a line directly east of the Monroe/Miami-Dade county line on the east coast of Florida.

The daily vessel trip limit is reduced to 500 pounds beginning 12:01 a.m., local time, March 8, 2011, for commercial hook-and-line vessels fishing for Gulf group king mackerel in the southern Florida west 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.

Free QR Code Reader Apps are available in both the App Store and Android Market.



Droid



iPhone

For more information on federal fishing regulations, visit www.gulfcouncil.org.



Recipe Rewind

Here's another blast from the past. This recipe was taken from Florida Department of Natural Resources 1970 recipe book.

Sea Slaw

Ingredients

1-1/2 pounds grouper fillets	1 tablespoon lemon or lime juice
1 quart of boiling water	1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon salt	1 cup shredded green cabbage
1/4 cup of low-calorie salad dressing (mayonaise-type dressing)	1 cup shredded red cabbage
2 tablespoons chopped onion	6 lettuce cups
2 tablespoons sweet pickle relish	Lemon/lime wedges



Place grouper fillets in boiling salted water. Cover and simmer about 10 minutes or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Drain. Remove skin and bones; flake. Combine salad dressing, onion, relish, lemon or lime juice, salt, and fish. Chill at least 1 hour to blend flavors. Add cabbage and toss lightly. Serve in lettuce cups. Serve with lemon or lime wedges. Serves 6. Approximately 134 calories in each serving. For an updated version of this recipe, try grilling the fish and replace the dressing with a little bit of olive oil and homemade salsa.

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



Greater Amberjack

Last March, the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee reviewed the latest greater amberjack stock assessment and determined it necessary to adjust the Acceptable Biological Catch (the sustainable harvest level used to set the upper limit on the range of potential annual Total Allowable Catch). The Committee recommended the acceptable biological catch be set at 1.78 million pounds whole weight.

The current total allowable catch, which is effectively the stock annual catch limit, is 1.871 million pounds whole weight. Because the total allowable catch exceeds the acceptable biological catch recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Council is looking at options to adjust the current stock annual catch limit (total allowable catch). During its August meeting, the Council considered the following actions:

1. Adjust Annual Catch Limits based on the Scientific and Statistical Committee recommendations. The Council selected Preferred Alternative 3, Option b; *Modify the rebuilding plan and set the ACL = ABC = 1,780,000 pounds ww and set the ACT = 1,539,000 pounds ww.*
2. Consider adding trip limits to the commercial sector and possibly modify the fixed closed season. *No Preferred Alternative has been selected.*

3. Consider changing the fixed recreational closed season (currently June and July); adjusting the minimum size limit, and exploring proportional bag limits. *No Preferred Alternative has been selected.*

Greater Amberjack has been under a rebuilding plan since 2003 after a stock assessment determined it was overfished. The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires overfished stocks be rebuilt within 10 years, and that deadline is quickly approaching.

Public hearings on this amendment will be held later this year. Meeting details will be posted at www.gulfcouncil.org.

To view the current draft document, visit www.gulfcouncil.org/news_resources/scoping_documents.php. If you wish to submit comments, please visit www.gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/RF35GAJ.php.



Photo by Mike Jennings



Committee Schedule ¹
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
 Doubletree Hotel - International Ballroom
 New Orleans, Louisiana
 October 24-27, 2011

Monday October 24, 2011

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Joint Law Enforcement Committee, Gulf Council's Law Enforcement Advisory Panel & Gulf States Law Enforcement Committee

- Texas Oyster Regulations
- Inter-jurisdictional Fisheries Program Activity
- Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's Enforcement Publications
- Review of Gulf Council Action Schedule
- Individual State Enforcement Report Highlights
- Discussion on State Violation Search Methods

5:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Administrative Policy Committee

- Discussion on Enforcement Violations Policy

Tuesday October 25, 2011

8:30 am – 12:00 noon & 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Beef Fish Management Committee

- Summary of October 2011 SSC Meeting
- Vermilion Snapper Update Assessment
- Gray Triggerfish Update Assessment
- Discussion on Amendment 28 – Grouper Allocation
- NOAA Dutch Shores Policy Presentation
- Draft Amendment 34 – Crew Size & Income Requirement
- Public Hearing Draft Amendment 33 – Greater Amberjack Retaining
- Options Paper – Red Snapper Fall Season Beg Amendment
- Discussion – Red Snapper Payback Provisions for Overages
- Discussion – Amendment 36 – Red Snapper IFQ Transfer
- Report of the Ad Hoc Headboat Advisory Panel Meeting
- Discussion – Amendment 37 – Red Snapper IFQ 3-year Review
- Report of the Reef Fish LAPP Advisory Panel Meeting

Wednesday October 26, 2011

8:30 am – 10:30 am

Data Collection Committee (Tab E)

- Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Presentation
- Change for Ad Hoc Private Recreational Data Collection Advisory Panel
- Presentation on Mechanisms for Implementing Headboat Electronic Reporting

10:30 am – 11:30 am

Spiny Lobster/Stone Crab Management Committee (Tab F)

- Summary of Meeting Held with NOAA, Industry, and Sanctuary Staff
- Review of Public Hearing Draft of Joint Spiny Lobster Amendment 11
- Selection of Public Hearing Locations

11:30 am – 11:45 am

Red Drum Management Committee (Tab I)

- Summary of the Status of Red Drum

1:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem Committee (Tab G)

- Ecosystem Scientific & Statistical Committee Report
- Discussion Paper on Sector Separation
- Proposed Joint SAFMC/GMFMIC Goliath Grouper Panel
- Proposed Ad Hoc Joint SAFMC/GMFMIC Committee to Consider a South Florida Fishery Management Plan

Immediately Following Committee Review is an Informal Question & Answer Session on Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Issues.

Thursday October 27, 2011

8:30 am – 9:00 am

Advisory Panel Selection Committee (Tab H) – FULL COUNCIL – ~~CLOSED SESSION~~

- Appointments to the Ad Hoc Private Recreational Data Collection Advisory Panel

9:00 am – 9:30 am

Scientific & Statistical Committee (SSC) Selection Committee (Tab E)

- Review of SSC Roles/Responsibilities/SCPPs Language

9:30 am – 10:00 am

Mackerel Management Committee (Tab C)

- Mackerel Amendment 13, Bag Limit Sales, Trip Limits, Transit, Latent Gill Net Permits

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Shrimp Management Committee (Tab D)

- Review of the Shrimp Scientific & Statistical Committee Report
- Status of Shrimp Stock Presentation
- Preliminary Report of 2011 Shrimping Effort

Council Agenda
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
 Doubletree Hotel - International Ballroom
 New Orleans, Louisiana
 October 24-27, 2011

Thursday October 27, 2011

- I. Call to Order and Introductions – Gill
11:00 am – 11:05 am
- II. Adoption of Agenda¹ [Tab A, No. 4] – Gill
11:05 am – 11:30 am
- III. Approval of Minutes [Tab A, No. 5] – Gill
11:30 am – 11:35 am
- IV. Approval of 2012 Committee Appointments [Tab A, No 6] – Gill
11:35 am – 11:40 am
- V. Fisheries 101 [Tab M] – Bortone
11:40 am – 11:45 am
- VI. Review of Council Action Schedule (Tab A, No. 7) – Gill
11:45 am – 12:00 noon
- VII. Public Comment^{2,3,4,5} – Gill
 - a. Agenda Testimony
 - [1] Agenda Items
 - [2] Draft Reef Fish Amendment 34 – Crew Size and Income Requirement
 - [3] Draft Reef Fish Amendment 36 – Restrict Red Snapper IFQ Transfer
 - [4] Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP)
 - b. Open Testimony on any other Fishery Issue or Concern
12:00 pm – 3:30 pm
- VIII. Committee Reports
 - a. Reef Fish [Tab B] – Anson
3:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Friday October 28, 2011

- VIII. Committee Reports – (CONTINUED)
 - a. Reef Fish Continued [Tab B] – Anson
 - b. Law Enforcement [Tab H] – Williams
 - c. Administrative Policy [Tab I] – Riechers
 - d. Data Collection [Tab E] – Pearce
 - e. Spiny Lobster/Stone Crab [Tab F] – Teehan
 - f. Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem [Tab G] – Riechers
 - g. Red Drum [Tab L] – Pearce
 - h. Advisory Panel Selection [Tab J] – Perret
 - i. Scientific & Statistical Committee Selection [Tab K] – Simpson
 - j. Mackerel [Tab C] – Fischer
 - k. Shrimp [Tab D] – Perret
8:30 am – Noon
- IX. Other Business [Tab M] – Gill
Noon – 12:30 pm

¹ The 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.

² Persons 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.

³ Persons 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.

⁴ 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 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.

⁵ Anyone 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.

Chef Smith Edges Top Chefs From Around the U.S. to Become King of American Seafood

NEW ORLEANS (August 6, 2011) – Chef Jim Smith, executive chef of the Alabama Governor’s Mansion, took first place at the eighth annual Great American Seafood Cook-Off in New Orleans today. He impressed the judges with a dish titled “Late Summer Alabama Bounty” that featured sous vide shrimp and marinated crab with garam masala, scented yellow squash puree, farmers market lady peas, bacon-peach relish and Spanish basil oil.

The event, sponsored by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and presented by the Louisiana Seafood Promotion & Marketing Board, is known for pitting up-and-coming chefs against recognized culinary greats from throughout the United States. The chefs were asked to create unique dishes with domestic seafood, and utilize fish that’s native to their home states. Prior winners include John Currence of City Grocery in Oxford, MS and John Besh of Restaurant August in New Orleans.

“We congratulate Chef Smith on an extraordinary win and we’re proud to have him serve as an ambassador for domestic and sustainable seafood,” said Ewell Smith, executive producer of the Cook-Off and executive director of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion & Marketing Board. “The competition was very close this year and each one of our chefs demonstrated extraordinary culinary talents with an array of sustainable seafood from throughout the country.”

The 2010 King of American Seafood Chef Dean Max, executive chef at 3030 Ocean in Ft. Lauderdale, FL crowned Chef Smith King of American Seafood during the official awards presentation. Chef Bud Gruniger of North Carolina earned second prize with a red drum creation, and Chef Scott Anderson of New Jersey took home third prize with a dish featuring New Jersey fluke.

NOAA’s Fisheries Service is the annual event’s chief sponsor and uses the cook-off to highlight – to American seafood consumers – the agency’s commitment to a healthy marine environment and improving the nation’s domestic seafood supply.

“At NOAA, we emphasize that U.S. seafood is healthy, safe, and good for you,” said Eric Schwaab, NOAA Fisheries Assistant Administrator. “Events such as the annual Seafood Cook-off are a terrific way to bring that message right to the public, especially those folks interested in new and creative ways to prepare seafood.”

Kevin Roberts, a chef/restaurant owner from Southern California and host of BBQ Pitmasters on TLC, co-hosted the Great American Seafood Cook-Off with John Folse, the chef known as Louisiana’s Culinary Ambassador to the World.

Judges of the 2011 competition were: Chef Rick Moonen, an advocate for sustainable seafood, restaurateur, cookbook author and finalist in Top Chef Masters; Laura McIntosh, host of traveling cooking show Bringing It Home; Chef Roland Schaefer of the American Academy of Chefs; Patricia Mack of Gayot.com; Melissa Kogut, executive director of the Chefs Collaborative, and Will Blunt, managing editor of StarChefs.com.



Chef Jim Smith

Earlier this year, organizers of The Great American Seafood Cook-Off encouraged states to hold a qualifying round or appoint a chef to compete in the event. There were chefs representing 14 states such as: Alabama, Alaska, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas and West Virginia. The 2011 Great American Seafood Cook Off is endorsed by the National Restaurant Association and will be audited by the National Fisheries Institute.

Past winners of the Great American Seafood Cook Off are Dean Max of 3030 Ocean in Fort Lauderdale, FL; Tory McPhail of Commander’s Palace in New Orleans; John Currence of City Grocery in Oxford, MS; Tim Thomas of the Ocean Forest Golf Club in Sea Island, GA; Justin Timineri, Executive Chef for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Randy Evans of Brennan’s of Houston, and John Besh of Restaurant August in New Orleans.



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

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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 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.

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