

# Gulf Fishery News

A publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council



August - September 2012

## Gray Triggerfish

In August, the Council directed staff to take draft Reef Fish Amendment 37 out for public hearings. See [page 6](#) for hearing dates and locations.

The latest stock assessment update for gray triggerfish indicates that the stock is both overfished (population too low) and experiencing overfishing (rate of removal too high). Because of this, the Council is working on an amendment that looks at modifying the rebuilding plan for gray triggerfish. The amendment also considers making changes to management measures that will allow the stock to rebuild as fishing continues.

The Council's preferred alternatives so far are as follows:

- Modify the rebuilding plan – Preferred Alternative 3, which would rebuild the stock within 5 years, or by the end of 2016.
- Modify the sector Annual Catch Limit (ACL) and Annual Catch Target (ACT) – Preferred Alternative 4, which establishes a commercial ACL = 64,100 pounds whole weight and ACT = 60,900 pounds whole weight and a recreational ACL = 241,200 pounds whole weight and ACT = 217,100 pounds whole weight.
- Establish a commercial closed season – Preferred Alternative 2, which establishes a fixed closed season for gray triggerfish during peak spawning (June 1 through July 31).
- Establish a commercial trip limit – Preferred Alternative 2, which sets a 50-pound whole weight trip limit.
- Establish a recreational closed season – Preferred Alternative 3, which establishes a fixed closed season for gray triggerfish during peak spawning (June 1 through July 31).
- Modify the recreational bag limit – Preferred Alternative 3, which establishes a 2-gray triggerfish bag limit within the 20-reef fish aggregate bag limit.
- Modify Recreational Accountability Measures – Preferred Alternative 2, which allows NOAA Fisheries to close the fishery if the Annual Catch Target is reached; and, Preferred Alternative 4 - Add an overage adjustment to the accountability measure, Option b - only if the ACL is exceeded and the stock is overfished.

For more information visit [http://gulfcouncil.org/fishery\\_management\\_plans/scoping-thru-implementation.php](http://gulfcouncil.org/fishery_management_plans/scoping-thru-implementation.php)



Photo by Steven Cone



Photo by Troy Frady

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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](mailto: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

## Gulf Council Elects New Chair and Vice Chair, New Council Members Sworn In

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, during its August meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, elected a new Chair and Vice Chair for the 2012-2013 Council year. Doug Boyd of Texas, who was appointed to the Council in 2010, was elected Chair.

"I am honored to be elected to a leadership role with the Gulf Council. This next year presents many challenges for the Council. We must continue working to end overfishing, rebuild and enhance fish stocks, streamline the public's access to safe, quality, affordable Gulf Seafood, secure and enhance vital fish habitat, and further recreational fishing opportunities. The Gulf of Mexico is a diverse ecosystem that provides great socioeconomic benefit to not only the Gulf Coast, but to the entire Nation, and it should be managed for the benefit of all," said Boyd.

Kevin Anson was elected Vice-Chair. Anson is with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Marine Resources Division and is the designee for Chris Blankenship, the Department's Director.

"I look forward to serving on the Council as Vice-Chair, and I am excited to assist the Council throughout its process of developing management strategies to restore fish stocks," said Anson.

In addition to the elections, Dr. Roy Crabtree, Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, conducted the investiture ceremony for five new and returning members to the Gulf Council.

Corky Perret of Mississippi was appointed as an at-large member. Perret previously served as a designee from the Mississippi Department of Natural Resources. Harlon Pearce from Louisiana, was reappointed to his at-large seat, and John "Johnny" Greene from Alabama was also reappointed. New Council members include Campo Matens of Louisiana, and Juan "John" Sanchez of Florida.

Dale Diaz from the Mississippi Department of Natural Resources will now serve as the designee for William Walker, Executive Director. Martha Bademan from the Florida Wildlife & Conservation Commission will now serve as the designee for Nick Wiley, Executive Director. Lieutenant Commander Jason Brand will represent the U.S. Coast Guard as designee for RADM Mary Landry.

These new council members and their colleagues will help shape the science-based management of U.S. fisheries and continue the strong commitment to turning the corner on ending overfishing, rebuilding fish stocks, and achieving and maintaining sustainable fisheries and vibrant fishing communities. Council membership represents a diverse spectrum of interests and expertise - from commercial and recreational fishing industries, to environmental interests.



Doug Boyd, Chair



Kevin Anson,  
Vice Chair



Corky Perret



Harlon Pearce



Johnny Greene



Camp Matens



John Sanchez



Dale Diaz



Martha Bademan



Jason Brand

# Stock Assessment 101 Series: Part 1—Data Required for Assessing U.S. Fish Stocks (originally published May 23, 2012 - [www.fishsmart.com](http://www.fishsmart.com))

## Why Do We Conduct Fish Stock Assessments?

NOAA Fisheries' scientific stock assessments are key to fisheries management. They examine the effects of fishing and other factors to describe the past and current status of a fish stock, answer questions about the size of a fish stock, and make predictions about how a fish stock will respond to current and future management measures (Marine Fisheries Stock Assessment Improvement Plan). Fish stock assessments support sustainable fisheries by providing fisheries managers with the information necessary to make sound decisions.

## Why Are Fish Stock Assessments Important?

Fisheries in the United States contribute significantly to the American economy and generate over 1.5 million jobs economy-wide. Healthy fisheries also provide recreational fishing opportunities to millions of Americans. To continue enjoying these benefits, we must carefully manage fish stocks to ensure sustainable use for current and future generations.

Stock assessments provide important science information necessary for the conservation and management of fish stocks. The Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act calls for the best scientific information available to manage U.S. commercial and recreational fisheries. More than 500 fish stocks in the United States are managed under fishery management plans produced by eight regional fishery management councils. Additionally, coastal states and international organizations rely on NOAA Fisheries' stock assessments for the management of non-federal and joint jurisdiction fish stocks.

## Data for Complete Stock Assessments—*Catch, Abundance, and Biology*

Stock assessments are based on models of fish populations that require three primary categories of information: catch, abundance, and biology. To ensure the highest quality stock assessments, the data used must be accurate and timely.

### Catch Data—*The amount of fish removed from a stock by fishing.*

A national network of fishery monitoring programs continuously collects catch data and makes this information available to stock assessment scientists and managers. Sources of catch data include:

- Dockside monitoring
- Logbooks
- Observers
- Recreational sampling

**Abundance Data**—*A measure, or relative index, of the number or*  
Data ideally come from a statistically-designed fishery-independent survey of locations throughout the stock's range.

**Biology Data**—*Provides information on growth rates and natural mortality.*

Most surveys are conducted annually and collect data on all ecosystem components. NOAA Fishery Survey Vessels and chartered fishing vessels use standardized sampling methods to collect data the same way each year, providing a relative index of abundance over time. In some situations, catch rates by fishermen can be calibrated to provide additional abundance measures.

Biological data includes information on fish size, age, reproductive rates, and movement. Annual growth rings in fish ear bones are read by biologists in our laboratories. The samples may be collected during fishery-independent surveys or be obtained from observers and other fishery sampling programs. Academic programs and cooperative research with the fishing industry are other important sources of biological data.

For more information, visit [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/stories/2012/05/05\\_23\\_12stock\\_assessment\\_101\\_part1.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/stories/2012/05/05_23_12stock_assessment_101_part1.html)



Scientists use fish ear bones to determine fish age, similar to how tree rings tell us about tree age.



## 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  
251-460-7136

John Sanchez  
Homestead, FL  
786-255-1880

Doug Boyd  
Chair  
San Antonio, TX  
830-230-5032

Patrick Riley  
Lake Jackson, TX  
979-233-2624

Camp Matens  
Baton Rouge, LA  
225-769-9080

Corky Perret  
Poplarville, MS  
504-722-1366

John Greene  
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251-747-2872

Larry Abele  
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Kay Williams  
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Kenner, LA  
504-467-3809

### State/Federal Voting Members

Robin Riechers  
Austin, TX  
512-389-4645

Dale Diaz  
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Martha Bademan  
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850-487-0554

Myron Fischer  
Cut Off, LA  
985-632-4525

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

Roy Crabtree  
NMFS SERO  
727-824-5301

### Non-voting Members

Rowan Gould  
USF&WS  
404-679-4000

Larry Simpson  
GSMFC  
228-875-5912

RADM Roy Nash  
USCG District  
504-589-6223

David Hogan  
OES/OMC  
202-647-2335

### Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

2203 N. Lois Avenue  
Suite 1100  
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## Marine Recreational Information Program

### New online project listing allows for easier searching

Curious about what MRIP is working on? Search our online database of all MRIP-funded pilot projects. This allows users to search project titles and view project descriptions and objectives, monthly project updates, and final project reports. Access to current projects makes it easier to follow MRIP's research into new program improvements as they occur, and access to past projects gives you details behind improvements that MRIP has already implemented. View projects at <https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/mdms/public/public.jsp>.

### Catch estimates from March-April now available

Preliminary catch estimates from Wave 2 (March through April) are now available on the MRIP query tool. Preliminary estimates are typically available a month and a half after the end of the preceding wave.

### NOAA Fisheries & states meet to conduct data review & quality checks

Data collection partners from NOAA Fisheries, the Atlantic Coast states, and our contractors recently met in Baltimore, Maryland to review survey performance, survey data, and preliminary statistical estimates arising from the first 4 months of 2012 data collection. The Wave Meeting is a regular feature of MRIP's quality assurance program. For more information about upcoming wave meetings, contact Tom Sminkey at [tom.sminkey@noaa.gov](mailto:tom.sminkey@noaa.gov).

### Custom MRIP estimates now available

Data customers can now produce catch statistics for smaller geographic areas within states. This capability was designed to better meet the needs of those customers interested in monitoring the catches of separate stocks of fish species, like black sea bass, that are separated by sub-state boundaries.

The newly available downloads will also allow customers to access MRIP catch and effort statistics and survey design variables for the 2004 through 2011 Atlantic and Gulf catch data collected by the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey. These data sets contain the sampling weights used in the recent re-estimation of catches for 2004 through 2011, which customers can use to conduct additional analyses. Downloads are available at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/recreational/downloads.html>. For more information, contact Lauren Dolinger Few at [lauren.dolinger.few@noaa.gov](mailto:lauren.dolinger.few@noaa.gov).

### Final Angler Registry Rule Published in Federal Register

Based on its experience with administering the National Saltwater Angler Registry (NSAR) and State Exemption Program, and input from states and the National Saltwater Angler Registry Team, NOAA Fisheries has made minor revisions to the NSAR regulations. These revisions are needed to clarify and update certain provisions as follows: 1) Eliminate duplicative permitting and registration requirements for holders of Main Hawaiian Islands non-commercial bottomfish permits; 2) Provide that states that exempt minors under the age of 17 from the state license or registration requirements will be eligible for Exempted State designation; 3) Allow for the designation of the U.S. Virgin Islands as an Exempted State under the qualifying regional survey option of the rule; and 4) Clarify and update various provisions of the rule. [View the final rule at http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov/](http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov/).



## Sector Allocation

The Gulf Council reviewed a scoping document that explores setting allocations for gag, red grouper, black grouper, and red snapper based on various scenarios, including separating the recreational sector into two or three subsectors.

After receiving extensive public testimony, the Council agreed to table discussion on the amendment until after it receives the 2013 red snapper benchmark assessment. The assessment is currently underway and is expected to be complete in the summer of 2013.



Photo by: Mike Jennings



Photo by: Doug Gregory



Photo by: Scott Hickman



## Proposed Changes to 2013 Recreational Gag Season

The Council approved for public hearings a draft framework action that considers a split recreational gag season for 2013. Some fishermen have asked for a split season to allow for two or three fishing seasons during the year. Changing the season could reduce the total number of fishing days but would allow for fishing at more desirable times of the year; however, the Council has asked for an analysis of reducing the gag bag limit from 2 to 1 fish per person, which could extend the recreational season.

The framework action also includes alternatives to modify or eliminate the annual February through March recreational shallow-water grouper closure. The closure was originally put in place primarily to protect gag spawning aggregations, which occur over shelf-edge reefs in depths of 25 to 70 fathoms. The closure was eventually applied to all shallow-water grouper to protect other groupers that may be spawning and to prevent bycatch of gag by anglers targeting other groupers. The commercial shallow-water grouper closure was later replaced with a seasonal closed area known as The Edges to protect gag spawning aggregations over part of their primary spawning grounds.

There is concern that allowing harvest of other shallow-water grouper during the gag closure could result in increased bycatch and bycatch mortality of gag; however, some fishermen have reported that when all shallow-water grouper are closed, they target other species that are often found in areas of high gag abundance. One suggestion made by Council members is to eliminate the February through March shallow-water grouper closure inshore of 20 fathoms, but leave it in place in waters deeper than 20 fathoms.

Given the regional differences in the recreational harvest of gag, the Council also directed staff to begin developing an amendment for regional management of the recreational gag harvest.

See [page 6](#) for public hearing dates and locations.

Visit - [http://gulfcouncil.org/fishery\\_management\\_plans/scoping-thru-implementation.php](http://gulfcouncil.org/fishery_management_plans/scoping-thru-implementation.php) - to review the amendment or to comment on the proposed changes.



Photo by Troy Frady



## October Council Meeting Reminder

The next Council meeting is scheduled for the week of October 29 - November 1, 2012, at the Marriott Courtyard in Gulfport, Mississippi. 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.**

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](http://www.gulfcouncil.org).

## Federal Fishery Closures

### Recreational Closures:

#### *Red Snapper*

The 2012 recreational red snapper season closed effective July 16, 2012.

#### *Gray Triggerfish*

The recreational gray triggerfish season closed June 11, 2012, and will reopen January 1, 2013.

### Commercial Closures:

#### *Gray Triggerfish*

The commercial harvest of gray triggerfish in the Gulf of Mexico closed July 1, 2012. NOAA Fisheries Service determined that the 2012 commercial quota of 60,900 pounds whole weight was harvested.

#### *King Mackerel*

The northern Florida west coast subzone closed October 5, 2012 to commercial fishing for king mackerel.

The daily vessel trip limit for Gulf group king mackerel in the northern Florida west coast subzone is reduced to 500 pounds beginning August 30, 2012.

The Western Zone of the Gulf of Mexico king mackerel commercial fishery closed August 22, 2012.

The king mackerel commercial run-around gill net component of the coastal migratory pelagic fishery in the southern Florida west coast subzone closed January 21, 2012, and will reopen 6 a.m. January 21, 2013.

## Send us Your Fishing Photos

We want to see your favorite fishing and fishery-related 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@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org). Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number, along with a description and proper photo credit, then simply attach the image and send. Photo descriptions may be edited for grammar, clarity, and/or length. Photos must be in jpeg format and cannot exceed 1.5 MB (200 ppi).

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



Photo by: Doug Dodson



Photo by: Mike Jennings



## Can't make the public hearings?

Don't worry, you can watch the virtual presentation on Gulf Council TV. Simply visit

<http://www.youtube.com/user/gulfcouncil/videos?view=0>.

Then submit your comments online at [http://gulfcouncil.org/fishery\\_management\\_plans/scoping-thru-implementation.php](http://gulfcouncil.org/fishery_management_plans/scoping-thru-implementation.php)



Photo: Troy Frady



Photo: Troy Frady

## Reminder About Upcoming Public Hearings

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will hold public hearings around the Gulf to take comments on proposed Reef Fish Amendment 37 - Gray Triggerfish, and a proposed regulatory amendment that considers a split recreational gag season for 2013 and changing or eliminating the February through March shallow-water grouper closure.

**The public hearing schedule is listed below. All hearings begin at 6 pm and will conclude after public comment has ended, but no later than 9 pm.**

### October 15, 2012

Country Inn & Suites  
4415 Commons Dr. E  
Destin, FL 32541  
(850) 650-9191

Courtyard Marriott  
3250 Tamiami Trail N  
Naples, FL 34103  
(239) 434-8700

### October 16, 2012

Sirata Hotel  
5300 Gulf Boulevard  
St. Petersburg, FL 33706  
(727) 363-5100

Holiday Inn Express  
160 W. Commerce Blvd.  
Gulf Shores, AL 36542  
(251) 948-6191

### October 17, 2012

Courtyard Marriott  
11471 Cinema Drive  
D'Iberville, MS 39540  
(228) 392-1200

Hilton Galveston  
5400 Seawall Blvd.  
Galveston, TX 77551  
(409) 744-5000

### October 18, 2012

Harte Institute  
6300 Ocean Dr, Rm 127  
Corpus Christi, TX 78412  
(361) 825-2000

Crowne Plaza Airport  
2829 Williams Blvd.  
Kenner, LA 70062  
(504) 467-5611

## Stay in the loop with *Gulf Currents*

Stay up to date on Gulf of Mexico Fishery issues - visit our blog - *Gulf Currents*.

*Gulf Currents* will keep you in the loop and prepare you to participate effectively in the fishery management process by educating you about current events, possible management considerations, regulatory changes, the fisheries management process, and more.

Check it out at: <http://gulfcouncil.blogspot.com/>



## Portland, OR based Chef Wins Great American Seafood Cook-Off

Chef Gregory Gourdet of Departure Restaurant in Portland, OR took first place at the ninth annual Great American Seafood Cook-Off (GASCO) in New Orleans in August. His dish of slow cooked Oregon Chinook Salmon featuring Butter Clams, Bacon Dashi, Porcini, Roasted Heirloom Tomato and Crispy Sea Greens impressed a discriminating panel of judges and earned him the title of King of American Seafood.

Oregon's entry to the GASCO was sponsored by Seafood OREGON, the marketing arm of the state's four industry-funded seafood Commodity Commissions – the Oregon Albacore, Dungeness Crab, Salmon, and Trawl Commissions – that operate under the umbrella of the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

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 whenever possible. Prior winners include John Currence of City Grocery in Oxford, MS and John Besh of Restaurant August in New Orleans.

"This year we had more chefs participate than ever before, raising the competition to a whole new level," said Ewell Smith, executive producer of the Cook-Off and executive director of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion & Marketing Board. "Chef Gourdet secured an extraordinary win and we're proud to have him join previous winners in serving as an ambassador for domestic and sustainable seafood."



Photo: [Louisianaseafood.com](http://Louisianaseafood.com)

Chef Keith Frentz of LOLA in Covington, LA earned second prize with a dish of Louisiana Black Drum and Gulf Shrimp, while Chef Jack Gilmore of Jack Allen's Kitchen in Austin, TX took home third prize with his Head-to-Tail Gulf Shrimp Fritter.

NOAA's Fisheries Service, the chief sponsor of this annual event, 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.

"NOAA has been involved from the start, and I am thrilled to see the event become bigger and bigger each year," said Sam Rauch, Acting Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries, a long-time supporter of the Great American Seafood Cook-Off. "The event has been highly effective in raising awareness of the value of our domestic fisheries, and it displays the skills of our country's most talented seafood chefs."

Sig Hansen, one of the featured captains on Discovery Channel's *Deadliest Catch*, co-hosted the 2012 Great American Seafood Cook Off along with Chef Cory Bahr of Restaurant Cotton, who is also a recent winner of Food Network's *Chopped*, and Ewell Smith, executive director of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board.

Judges of the 2012 competition were: Chef Joho of Everest and Paris Club in Chicago, Brasserie Jo in Boston and Eiffel Tower in Las Vegas; Chef Johnny Nunn, executive chef of Brasserie Montmartre in Portland, OR; Liz Grossman, managing editor of Plate Magazine; Ron Ruggless, Bureau Chief at Nation's Restaurant News; Vicki Wellington, vice president and publisher of Food Network Magazine; and Sam Rauch, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries at NOAA.





## Recipe Rewind

Here's another blast from the past. This recipe was taken from a promo card for Knox Gelatine - part of a collectible set.

### Deep Sea Mold

#### Ingredients

4 envelopes Knox Unflavored Gelatine  
 2 cups cold water  
 2 cups sour cream  
 2 cups salad dressing  
 2 teaspoons dried dill weed  
 1-1/2 teaspoons salt  
 1/3 cup lemon juice  
 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce  
 1 teaspoon minced onion  
 1/4 teaspoon Tabasco  
 4 cans tuna, drained and flaked



2-1/2 cups finely chopped cooked shrimp  
 1-1/2 cups chopped celery  
 1/2 cup chopped green pepper  
 1/4 cup diced pimento

Sprinkle gelatine over water in saucepan. Place over low heat; stir constantly until dissolved. Remove from heat; cool. Combine sour cream through Tabasco. Blend in cooled gelatine mixture. Stir in remaining ingredients. Turn into 12 cup mold. Chill until firm.

#### Even better:

Just boil a couple of pounds of fresh Gulf of Mexico shrimp in some Old Bay. Peel and eat.

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



## 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](http://www.gulfcouncil.org).



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## Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Committee Schedule

Courtyard Marriott  
Gulfport, Mississippi  
October 29 - 31, 2012

### Monday October 29, 2012

- 10:00 am – 10:30am  
Ad Hoc Restoration Committee (Tab H) - Simpson  
• Options for potential restoration projects under NRDA & RESTORE Act
- 10:30 am – 11:30 am  
Data Collection Committee (Tab E) - Pearce  
• Scoping document for Electronic Reporting Requirement by For-Hire Vessels
- 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
Shrimp Management Committee (Tab D) - Perret  
• Status of Electronic Logbook Program  
• New shrimp stock assessment for penaeid shrimp  
• Discussion on Exempted Fishing Permits related to shrimp (if any)
- 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm  
SSC Selection Committee (Tab I)  
• Duties and Responsibilities of the SSC
- 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm  
AP Selection Committee (Tab J) - **Closed Session** - Perret  
• Appointment of Ad Hoc Artificial Substrate AP Members  
• Appointment of former Council members to advisory panels
- 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
**Full Council - Closed Session**  
• Report from NOAA General Counsel

### Tuesday October 30, 2012

- 8:30 am – 11:30 am & 12:30 pm – 5:30 pm  
Reef Fish Management Committee (Tab B) - Shipp  
• Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota 5-Year Review  
• Economic Evaluation of Red Snapper Allocation  
• Final Action Amendment 37 - Gray Triggerfish Rebuilding Plan  
• Scoping Document Amendment 39 - Regional Management of Red Snapper  
• Discussion of 2013 Red Snapper Season Non-Compliance by States  
• Draft Regulatory Amendment - Vermilion Snapper ACL & Bag Limits  
• Final Action - 2013 Gag Recreational Season and Bag Limits  
• SEDAR 27 - Yellowtail Snapper Benchmark Assessment  
• Additional Scientific and Statistical Committee Comments (if any)  
• Discussion on 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 October 31, 2012

- 8:30 am – 9:30 am  
Reef Fish Management Committee Continued (Tab B) - Shipp
- 9:30 am – 10:00 am  
Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel/Red Drum Committees (Tab F) - Shipp/Fischer/Pearce  
• Review of changes to the aquaculture proposed rule
- 10:00 am – 11:30 am  
Law Enforcement Committee (Tab G) - Williams  
• Review of strategic and operations plan

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>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

(continued next column)

## Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda

Courtyard Marriott  
Gulfport, Mississippi  
October 31 - November 1, 2012

### Wednesday October 31, 2012

- 1:00 pm - 1:45 pm  
I. Call to Order and Introductions – Boyd
- II. Adoption of Agenda <sup>1</sup> (Tab A, No. 5) – Boyd
- III. Approval of Minutes (Tab A, No. 6) – Boyd
- IV. Approval of Committee Appointments (Tab A, No. 4) Boyd
- V. Review of Action Schedule (Tab A, No. 7) – Boyd
- VI. Review of Exempted Fishing Permits (if any) (Tab J) Crabtree/Boyd
- 1:45 pm - 5:30 pm  
VII. Public Comment <sup>2, 3, 4, 5</sup> - Boyd  
a. Agenda Testimony  
1. Final Reef Fish Amendment 37 - Gray Triggerfish  
2. Framework Action - 2013 Gag Season/Bag Limits  
3. Exempted Fishing Permits (if any)  
b. Open Testimony

### Thursday November 1, 2012

- 8:30 am – 8:45 am  
VIII. Vote on Exempted Fishing Permits (if any) (Tab K) - Crabtree/Boyd
- 8:45 am – 3:30 pm  
IX. Committee Reports  
a. Ad Hoc Restoration (Tab H) - Simpson  
b. Reef Fish (Tab B) - Shipp  
c. Data Collection (Tab E) - Pearce  
d. Shrimp (Tab D) - Perret  
e. SSC Selection (Tab I) Simpson  
f. AP Selection (Tab J) - Perret  
g. Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel/Red Drum (Tab F) - Shipp/Fischer/Pearce  
h. Law Enforcement (Tab G) - Williams
- 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
X. Other Business (Tab L) - Boyd  
• Summary of September 2012 South Atlantic Council Meeting - Dana  
• Summary of Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel Meeting -- Abele  
• National Bycatch Report Update - Ponwith

-Adjourn

<sup>2</sup>cont 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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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.



## Council Requests Emergency Rule to Increase 2012 ACL for Vermilion

The Council directed staff to begin developing a regulatory amendment to increase the vermilion snapper annual catch limit beginning in 2013, based on a recent update stock assessment that found the vermilion snapper stock is neither overfished or experiencing overfishing.

In addition, because preliminary landings data suggest that the 2012 vermilion snapper annual catch limit may be reached before the end of the year, which would result in a closure for both the commercial and recreational sectors, the Council also requested that NOAA Fisheries implement an emergency rule to increase the 2012 vermilion snapper annual catch limit from 3.42 million pounds to 4.19 million pounds. This action was recommended by the Council's Reef Fish Advisory Panel to avoid social and economic disruptions from an early closure.

Photos courtesy of Troy Frady



## Reminder: Gulf Council Seeking Applicants for Ad Hoc Advisory Panel

The Gulf Council is soliciting applications for seats currently available on a newly formed advisory panel. The Ad Hoc Artificial Substrate Advisory Panel will be made up of members of the petroleum industry, state artificial reef biologists, and others, who will assist the Council by providing information and advice regarding the implications of including manmade substrates and structures as essential fish habitat for federally managed fish species.

Artificial reefs are inhabited by a number of federally managed species and may provide important habitat necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity. Both recreational and commercial fishermen use these platforms as sites to catch these fish, and the habitat provided by these structures may be necessary to support viable fish populations and associated fisheries.

The ad hoc advisory panel will consider:

1. The myriad of similar artificial substrates in the aquatic environment that provide structure and habitat functions for fishery resources;
2. Emerging scientific research and economic activities related to artificial habitats and fisheries;
3. Ocean dumping and debris disposal that otherwise mimics the establishment of "artificial reefs";
4. Perspectives from industry representatives relative to the potential impacts of considering artificial substrates as Essential Fish Habitat in the Gulf of Mexico.

Estimated time commitment is two, one- to two-day meetings per year until the panel completes its work. 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 Advisory Panel should send a resume and cover letter to [phyllis.miranda@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:phyllis.miranda@gulfcouncil.org). Materials may also be faxed to: 813-348-1711. Resumes and letters should be received no later than close of business October 22, 2012.

Appointments will be made during the October 2012 Council meeting in Gulfport, Mississippi.





# 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 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](mailto: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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