

Gulf Fishery News

A publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council



September - October, 2013
Volume 35 Issue 4

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

Elections for the Chair and Vice Chair for the 2013-2014 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council were held during the Council's August meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Doug Boyd of Texas, who was reappointed to the Council this year and is serving his second term, was re-elected Chair of the Council.



Doug Boyd, Chair

"I am honored that my colleagues have elected me to serve another year as Chair of the Gulf Council. We have so much to accomplish, and I look forward to continuing our work toward healthy and sustainable fisheries," said Boyd.

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



Kevin Anson,
Vice Chair

"I look forward to serving another year as Vice-Chair and to assisting the Council in developing management strategies to make sure our fish stocks are restored to healthy levels," said Anson.

In addition to the elections, Dr. Roy Crabtree, Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, conducted the investiture ceremony for Boyd, as well as two newly appointed members, Leann Bosarge and Roy Williams.



Leann Bosarge

Leann Bosarge is from Mississippi and believes that listening to stakeholders and weighing potential risks against the possible benefits is key to proper management.

"As a member of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, I will come to the table with an open mind to hear many diverse and complex concerns presented and balance those perspectives in order to support the overall health, stability, and sustainability of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem to ensure long term success for

all involved today as well as the generations to come," said Bosarge.

Roy Williams of Florida is no stranger to fishery management. He retired from the Florida Fish & Wildlife and Conservation Commission in 2007, where he was leader of the Marine Fisheries Management Section. He also served as a member of the Gulf Council. Williams sees his challenge as figuring out what level of exploitation is sustainable, and to fairly allocate fishing pressure among users.



Roy Williams

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

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Did you know?

The Gulf Council encourages and accepts public testimony at every stage of the fishery management plan process. Comment opportunities go beyond scoping workshops and public hearings. The Council also takes open public comment during each Council meeting and accepts written comments throughout the process. Written comments can be emailed to: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org, or mailed to:

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
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Questions?

Call Charlene or Emily at
813-348-1630

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Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

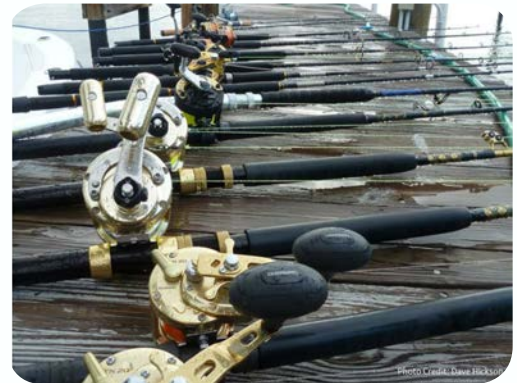
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Headboat Pilot Study Evaluates an Allocation-Based Management System

NOAA Fisheries has issued an exempted fishing permit (EFP) to the Gulf of Mexico Headboat Cooperative (Cooperative). The Cooperative consists of headboat owners/captains and will attempt to evaluate the efficiency of an allocation-based management system using a limited number of headboats.

This two-year pilot study, to be conducted in the Gulf of Mexico, aims to (1) assess whether such a system can better achieve conservation goals established in the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico, (2) evaluate the effectiveness of a more timely electronic data reporting system, and (3) evaluate the potential social and economic benefits of an alternative management strategy for the headboat segment of the recreational fishing sector within the Gulf of Mexico reef fish fishery.

The Cooperative requested an EFP that authorizes its members to harvest a specific amount of red snapper and gag at any time during the 2014 and 2015 fishing years. Allocation is based on the Cooperative participants' 2011 aggregate landings of red snapper and gag as a percentage of the total landings in that year for each species. Those percentages were applied to the expected red snapper and gag recreational catches allowed for 2014 and 2015.



The Cooperative was allocated 148,089 pounds whole weight (ww) of red snapper, based on the proposed red snapper recreational catch of 5.39 million pounds ww. The Cooperative was also allocated 42,114 pounds gutted weight (gw) of gag based on the current gag recreational catch of 1.519 mp gw. These weights will be translated into numbers of fish.

NOAA Fisheries has authorized a maximum of 20 headboats to participate in the Cooperative, which currently consists of 11 headboats.

All vessels in the program will be required to purchase, install, activate, and maintain a Vessel Monitoring System. A participating captain will "hail out" as the vessel leaves the dock, and "hail in" at least one hour prior to landing, alerting law enforcement and port agents to his/her return.

Landings will be reported at the end of the trip using electronic reporting software approved by NOAA Fisheries, and allocations will be monitored through the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office's Catch Share Program web site. Academic researchers, in collaboration with the Cooperative, intend to conduct a socio-economic study of the anticipated effects of the change in headboat cooperative management using currently available data sources. Simultaneously, they will develop additional survey instruments to gather economic data for an analysis of the effects of the pilot project on Cooperative vessels after its first and second years. Data collection will emphasize impacts of the pilot project.



Increasing Survival of Released Reef Fish

It used to be that anglers fishing for reef fish in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico were required to have onboard and use a venting tool. The intent was to help increase survival of fish suffering from barotrauma. Barotrauma is damage caused by a quick change in pressure when fish are brought to the surface.

That rule was eliminated earlier this summer, in part, because of field trials conducted by Florida Sea Grant in which researchers evaluated descending devices in the Gulf of Mexico. Early results are promising, so the Council wanted to give fishermen more options to use a variety of descending techniques and gear best suited to local conditions.

Descending devices can help increase survival by quickly returning the fish back to the depth of capture, sometimes without the need to puncture the swim bladder.

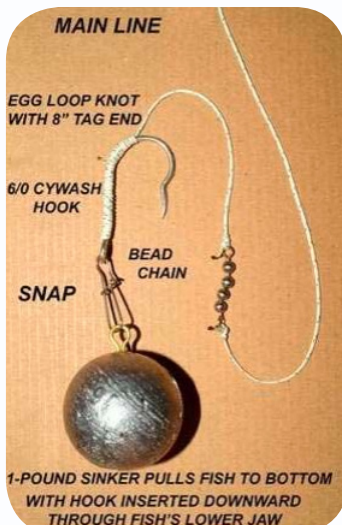
Also, if a fish shows no sign of barotrauma, it may not need venting, so eliminating the venting tool requirement helps reduce unnecessary handling and increase survival.

There are a number of signs that the fish might need help, and only fish that are unable to swim back down should be subjected to additional handling. The key to successful release is returning the fish to the water as quickly as possible.

Venting is encouraged when appropriate - watch [Venting Deepwater Fish](#) - but in some instances the use of descending devices, on their own or in conjunction with venting, might be a better alternative.

There are several types of descending devices available, some of which you can make yourself. Some examples are listed below.

Hook & Drop



For more information on releasing fish with ruptured swim bladders, visit www.catchandrelease.org.

Modified Crate



Seaqualizer™



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MANAGEMENT PLANS

Click on the thermometer to:

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



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Committees Agenda¹
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
DoubleTree Hotel
International Ballroom
New Orleans, Louisiana
October 28-29, 2013

Monday, October 28, 2013

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm: Mackerel Management Committee (Tab C) – Myron Fischer, Chair

- Final Draft of CMP Amendment 20A (Previously CMP Amendment 19)
- Final Draft of CMP Amendment 20B (Previously CMP Amendment 20)
- Discussion of Additional Motions from the South Atlantic Council September 2013 Meeting
- Discussion of Purpose and Timing of CMP Amendment 24
- Review SAFMC's Framework Action addressing king mackerel trip limits and allowable Spanish mackerel nets
- Other Business - Discussion of Regional Electronic Technology Implementation Plan

3:00 pm – 5:30 pm: Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem Management Committee (Tab F) – Robin Riechers, Chair

- Law Enforcement Advisory Panel Report
- Review of Draft Framework Action – Update Tier 3 ACLs with Revised MRIP Landings
- Review of Generic Amendment – Default Status Determination Criteria, Optimum Yield Definition, and Adoption of ACLs for Red Snapper Scoping Document
- Review of Framework Action to Define Operating as a Charter Vessel or Headboat in the Gulf of Mexico

– Recess –

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

8:30 am – 11:30 am & 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm: Reef Fish Management Committee (Tab B) – Bob Shipp, Chair

- Summary of October 9-10, 2013, Reef Fish SSC Meeting
- Final Action – Amendment 39 – Recreational Red Snapper Regional Management
- Review of Draft Framework Action – Rescind Amendment 30B Permit Conditions
- Discuss Ad Hoc Red Snapper IFQ Advisory Panel Charge
- Review of Scoping/Options Paper – Sector Separation
- Discussion of Exempted Fishing Permits Related to Reef Fish (if any)

– Recess –

¹ The established times for addressing items on the Council and committee agendas, except for those setting times for public testimony or open 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.

Council Agenda
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
DoubleTree Hotel
International Ballroom
New Orleans, Louisiana
October 29-30, 2013

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

- I. **4:00 pm – 4:05 pm:** Call to Order and Introductions – Boyd
- II. **4:05 pm – 4:15 pm:** Adoption of Agenda¹ and Approval of Minutes
(**Tab A, No. 5, 6**) – Boyd
- III. **4:15 pm – 4:20 pm:** Approval of 2014 Committee Appointments (**Tab A, No. 3**) – Boyd
- III. **4:20 pm – 4:30 pm:** Review of and Vote on Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) (if any) (**Tab I**) – Crabtree/Boyd
- IV. **4:30 pm – 5:00 pm:** Red Drum* (**Tab G**) – Harlon Pearce, Committee Chair
 - Discussion of Red Drum Tagging Program

Immediately following recess will be the Informal Question & Answer Session on Gulf of Mexico fishery management issues.

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

- V. **8:30 am – 10:00 am:** Data Collection* (**Tab E**) – Harlon Pearce, Committee Chair
 - Discussion of 2013 MRIP Data
 - Discussion of Electronic Data Collection and Tagging Program
 - Appointment of GMFMC Member to Charterboat Subcommittee
 - Update on Commercial Electronic Logbook Pilot Project
- VI. **10:00 am – 11:00 am:** Shrimp* (**Tab D**) – Patrick Riley, Committee Chair
 - Review of New Stock Assessments for Brown, White, and Pink Shrimp
 - Update on the Calibration of the New Shrimp ELB Program
- VII. Committee Reports
 - A. **11:00 am – 12:00 noon:** Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem (**Tab F**) – Riechers
- VIII. **1:30 pm – 4:30 pm:** Public Comment^{2, 3, 4, 5} – Boyd
 - A. Agenda Testimony
 1. Final Action - Mackerel Amendment 20A – CMP Sale and Permit Provisions
 2. Final Action - Mackerel Amendment 20B – Modifications to the CMP Zone Management
 3. Final Action - Reef Fish Amendment 39 – Regional Management of Recreational Red Snapper
 - B. Open Testimony on any Other Fishery Issues or Concerns
- IX. Committee Reports (*continued*)
 - E. **4:30 pm – 5:30 pm:** Mackerel (**Tab C**) – Fischer

Thursday, October 31, 2013

- VII. Committee Reports (*continued*)
 - F. **8:30 am – 10:30 am:** Reef Fish (**Tab B**) – Shipp
- VIII. **10:30 am – 11:30 am:** Other Business (**Tab H**) – Boyd
 - Joint Law Enforcement Report
 - SEDAR Steering Committee Report
 - SEDAR schedule
- IX. **11:30 am – 11:45 am:** Review of Action Schedule (**Tab A, No. 7**) – Boyd

¹ The established times for addressing items on the Council 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.

* These committees will meet as a Council of the whole.

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 hear testimony related to final actions of the Council and pertinent agenda items. Time constraints may limit individual speaking time as determined by the presiding officer.

³ Any oral or written statement shall include a brief description of the background and interests of the person testifying and the source and date of any specific information. Persons wishing to submit written testimony or information can do so by emailing it to gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org. All written comments will be posted on the Council's website for viewing by Council members and the public. **To help ensure that Council members have sufficient time to consider your written testimony, please submit your comments at least three business days prior to the start of the Council meeting.**

⁴ Oral or written communications provided to the Council are public documents. 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.

Quick Guide to Submitting Online Comments

The Gulf Council wants your input on the many issues under consideration. One way to give your input is by attending scoping workshops and public hearings held around the Gulf of Mexico. But it's impossible for the Council to hold a workshop or hearing in every coastal community, so for anyone who can't make a meeting because it's too far away or because of other commitments, we're producing online presentations and comments forms for each amendment.

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

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

Let us hear from you!

MANAGEMENT PLANS

Click on the thermometer to:

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



Photo by: Mike Jennings

Send us Your Fishing Photos

We want to see your favorite fishing photos! Whether from a spear fishing adventure, a charter trip, or a commercial effort, we'd like to see your photos and possibly use them on our web site or in our publications.

Send us your photos and help us build a photo library! To submit your photos, send an e-mail with "Photo Library" in the subject line to gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org. Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number, along with a description and proper photo credit, then simply attach the image and send.

Photo descriptions may be edited for grammar, clarity, and/or length. Photos must be in jpeg format and cannot exceed 1.5 MB (200 ppi).

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

New Ad Hoc Advisory Panel Formed, Members Appointed

The Council selected members to serve on the newly formed Ad Hoc Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota Advisory Panel, which is charged with proposing practicable management measures to improve the performance of the red snapper IFQ program.

Congratulations to the following applicants who were appointed to the panel:

Larry Abele	Seth Macinko	John Graham
Tom Adams	Jerry Rouyea	Scott Hickman
Billy Archer	Bob Spaeth	Chris Horton
Buddy Bradham	Bill Tucker	David Krebs
Jason DeLaCruz	David Walker	Elbert Whorton
Bob Gill	Mike Whitfield	Tommy Williams
	Troy Williamson	Jim Zurbrick

October Council Meeting Reminder

The next Council meeting is scheduled for the week of October 28 - 31, 2013, at the DoubleTree Hotel 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.

Note that all written comments will be posted on the Council's web site for viewing by Council members and the public.

To help ensure that Council members have sufficient time to consider your written testimony for a specific Council meeting, please submit your comments at least seven business days prior to the start of the Council meeting.

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

Materials submitted to Council members or staff for distribution prior to or during a Council meeting will be treated as all other written comments and will be posted to the web site.

Oral or written communications provided to the Council, its members, or its staff that relate to matters within the Council's purview are public in nature. These communications will be made available to the public in their entirety and will be maintained by the Council as part of the permanent record. Further, knowingly and willfully submitting false information to the Council is a violation of Federal Law.

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

Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) Management Workshop a Great Success

The Marine Resource Education Workshop run by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, held a Fisheries Management Workshop in Tampa, Florida this past September. The workshop was the second part of a two-part education program designed by fishermen, for fishermen.

"The most valuable tool was opening a communication network to have access to more fishery information and know who to contact for more information," wrote one participant after taking part in this year's management workshop.

The Program is modeled after a similar program in New England, but it is tailored to meet the needs of the Southeast region. The goal is to inform fishermen about the Fishery Science & Management processes used in the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean.

Participants spent three days learning about the Council process, communicating with the Council and staying informed, laws governing fisheries management, and law enforcement. Participants also took part in a mock Council session in which they were assigned different positions on the Council. Some were recreational anglers, some were commercial fishermen, and others were NGOs. There were even some who took on the role of State Resource Department representatives and Regional Administrator.

Members were presented with a problem and asked to use their positions to study and develop a plan to address the problem. The exercise was designed to give participants hands-on experience in the decision-making process.

Here's what some of the participants had to say about their experience:

"No better learning than participating; the mock council scenario in the management program was the best use of time."

"Combining science and management helped me to clearly understand how ABC & ACL clearly bridge the two. I also learned about SSC and the Council and what the responsibilities and limitations are of each."



2013 MREP Southeast Graduates

"As a result of this program, I will be attending more meetings to get a better grasp on the issues, then consider applying for an advisory panel position."

Anyone interested in participating in next year's program can submit an application to the Marine Resource Education Program. Plans for next year's program are underway. For more information or to submit an application, visit <http://www.gmri.org/community/display.asp?a=5&b=15&c=266>



Recipe Rewind

Here's another blast from the past. This recipe was taken from *The Book of Household Management (1861)*, reprinted on the *Vintage Recipes* web site.

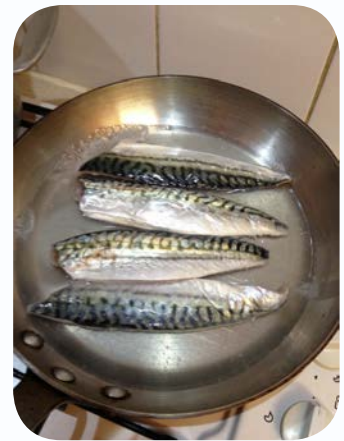
Boiled Mackerel

Ingredients

1/4 pound of salt to each gallon of water.

Instructions

Cleanse the inside of the fish thoroughly, and lay it in the kettle with sufficient water to cover it with salt as above; bring it gradually to boil, skim well, and simmer gently till done; dish them on a hot napkin, heads and tails alternately, and garnish with fennel. Fennel sauce and plain melted butter are the usual accompaniments to boiled mackerel; but caper or anchovy sauce is sometimes served with it. Time: After the water boils, 10 minutes; for large mackerel, allow more time.



Modern Day Recipe Mackerel Recipe from bbcgoodfood.com

Ingredients

1 8oz can of diced beets (not in vinegar)
1 apple, cut into wedges then thinly sliced
1 small red onion, finely sliced
juice ½ lemon
1 tbsp olive oil, plus extra for drizzling
1 tsp cumin seed
small bunch coriander, leaves roughly chopped
4 mackerel fillets, halved width-wise
1 tsp curry powder
4 slices sourdough bread or ciabatta

Instructions

Mix the beetroot, apple, onion, lemon juice, oil, cumin and coriander together, season well, then set aside while you cook the mackerel. Heat the grill to high. Put the fish onto a sheet of foil on the grill rack, sprinkle over the curry powder, drizzle with oil, then season and rub well into the fish.

Grill for 4-5 minutes until the skin is crisp and the fillets are cooked through; you won't need to turn the fish over. Toast the bread in a toaster or alongside the fish under the grill, then drizzle with a little olive oil. Top with the salsa and mackerel, then pour over any pan juices and eat straight away.



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Stay up to date on Gulf of Mexico Fishery issues - visit our blog - [Gulf Currents](http://GulfCurrents.com).

[Gulf Currents](http://GulfCurrents.com) will keep you in the loop and prepare you to participate effectively in the fishery management process by educating you about current events, possible management considerations, regulatory changes, the management process, and more.



NOAA Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas

Printed from the NOAA web site

The Next Generation Atlas

Based on the idea of a traditional atlas but offered via the Internet by NOAA, the new Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas provides answers to questions related to the physical environment, marine resources, and economic activity in the Gulf of Mexico.

As plans to restore the Gulf of Mexico after recent disasters have progressed, federal and state agencies have turned to NOAA for data and information about all aspects of the Gulf of Mexico. One of the most requested resources for that data and information has been the "Gulf of Mexico Coastal and Ocean Zones Strategic Assessment Data Atlas" published by NOAA's National Ocean Service in 1985 as a large hardcopy tabletop book. The new Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas updates and expands that publication in an online, digital format.

The Gulf of Mexico Atlas has data from all five Gulf States (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas). The seaward boundaries of the Atlas extend to the Yucatan Channel and the Straits of Florida. Maps are available in six topic areas: Physical, Biotic, Living Marine Resources, Economic Activity, Environmental Quality, and Jurisdictions.

Each map has a description, written by recognized subject matter experts, explaining how the data was gathered and how it is relevant. Users can also link directly to the data and to a high resolution image of the original 1985 map if available.



Meeting Shared Goals

The 2011 Gulf of Mexico Atlas pilot is an example of the philosophy of leveraging resources among agencies and activities involved in geospatial data as outlined in the US Department of Interior and Federal Geographic Data Committee "Geospatial Platform Modernization Roadmap v4 - March 2011." The goals of the Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas align with those of NOAA's Next Generation Strategic Plan and the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force's Gulf of Mexico Regional Ecosystem Restoration Strategy. The Atlas also supports goals of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Action Plan II.

Contact

For more information about the Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas, please email ncddc.data_atlas@noaa.gov.



The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Protecting our marine resources

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The Gulf Council would like to hear from you! Please contact us regarding fishery questions, comments, or concerns you would like to see covered in the Gulf Fishery News. Anyone interested in submitting information, such as articles, editorials, or photographs pertaining to fishing or fisheries management, is encouraged to do so. Submissions may be mailed to Charlene Ponce, Public Information Officer, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607. Materials can also be sent via fax to 813-348-1711, or by e-mail to charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional Fishery Management Councils established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Council is responsible for the development and modification of fishery management plans (FMPs) that are designed to manage fishery resources in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico from state boundaries to the 200-mile limit.

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