



# Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

*Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico*

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## **Commerce Department Announces 2015 Regional Fishery Management Council Appointments**

The Secretary of Commerce recently announced the appointment of one new member and three returning members to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

Mr. Ed Swindell of Louisiana will join the Council beginning August 11, 2015. Swindell is no stranger to the fishery management process. He served on the Gulf Council in the 70s, and he spent nearly four decades in the menhaden industry. Most recently, Swindell was a member of the Council's Coastal Migratory Pelagics and Red Drum Advisory Panels. He also served on the Recreational Fisheries Advisory Panel of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Mr. Dale Diaz of Mississippi, who has served on the Council as the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources representative since 2012, is appointed to his first term as an at-large Council member. Diaz has spent his career as a steward of marine resources and has worked hard to develop solid relationships among the various stakeholder groups. Diaz has also served on the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium Advisory Council, the Governor's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding and Renewal, as well as others. He is the current Chair of the Council's Habitat Committee and its Artificial Reef Committee.

Captain Johnny Greene of Alabama is reappointed to his third term on the Council. Greene has fished his entire life, both as a commercial fisherman and as a recreational angler. He is the owner and operator of Intimidator Charters. Greene has been involved in fishery management since the late 1990s, and in 2009, he was appointed to the Gulf Council. He is the current Chair of the Reef Fish Committee. Greene is also a longtime member of the Orange Beach Fishing Association and sits on its board of directors.

Mr. Campo Matens of Louisiana is reappointed to his second term on the Council. Matens is passionate about fishing and has been an avid fisherman since childhood. He has extensive experience around the world observing pelagic fish while diving and spearfishing. Matens was first appointed to the Gulf Council in 2012.

Finally, Mr. John Sanchez of Florida is reappointed to his second term. Sanchez is an avid recreational angler, as well as the former Executive Director of the Monroe County Commercial Fishermen, Inc. – now known as the Florida Keys Commercial Fisherman's Association. Sanchez also served on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council from 1997 – 2000. Sanchez is the current Chair of the Marine Reserve Committee.

Congratulations to Ed Swindell, Dale Diaz, Johnny Greene, Camp Matens, and John Sanchez!