



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

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

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Meeting Notice

September 17, 2012

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Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to Convene its Standing, Special Shrimp, Special Reef Fish, and Socioeconomic SSCs

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a meeting of its Standing, Special Shrimp and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC), including a joint session of the Standing SSC and Socioeconomic SSC, and a joint session of the Gulf Council's Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's SSC. A separate meeting of the Socioeconomic Scientific and Statistical Committee will also convene.

The meeting will be held at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, 2900 Bayport Drive in Tampa, Florida. The Standing, Special Shrimp and Special Reef Fish SSC meeting will convene at 9 am Tuesday, October 9, 2012, and conclude by noon, Thursday, October 11, 2012. The Socioeconomic SSC meeting will convene at 9:00 am Wednesday, October 10 and conclude by 5:00 pm Thursday, October 11, 2012.

The Standing and Special Shrimp SSC will meet jointly to review stock assessments on brown shrimp, white shrimp, and pink shrimp. These are updates to stock assessments presented to the SSC in June, but with landings data through 2011. Based on these assessments, the SSC may review its recommendations from June for overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch. The Standing SSC will meet jointly with the Socioeconomic SSC to discuss the roles of the Standing and Socioeconomic SSCs.

The Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC will meet jointly with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's SSC to review a yellowtail snapper benchmark assessment (SEDAR 27). Based on the assessment, the SSCs will determine an overfishing limit and set an acceptable biological catch for the stock as a whole.

The Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC will meet jointly to review and approve the terms of reference for gag and greater amberjack benchmark assessments (SEDAR 34) and select attendees for the gag benchmark assessment workshops. In addition, the SSC will discuss review methods for the SEDAR 28 (Gulf of Mexico Spanish Mackerel and Cobia) benchmark assessment. The SSC will also review recommendations from the ABC Control Rule Working Group on revisions to the ABC control rule implemented in January 2012 under the Generic Annual Catch Limits/Accountability Measures Amendment. Finally, the SSC will review the SEDAR assessment schedule and priorities, and proposed dates for 2013 SSC meetings.

The Socioeconomic Scientific and Statistical Committee will convene to discuss the structure and roles of the Scientific and Statistical Committees and issues related to the red snapper individual fishing quota program and its five-year review, including an evaluation of the economic performance of the program, the 2011 red snapper IFQ report, IFQ survey results, trends in the program, and the review process. The committee will also discuss issues related to the allocation of red snapper resources, including an economic evaluation of red snapper allocation and social aspects of allocation. The committee also plans to elect a new chair and vice-chair.

Copies of the agenda and other related materials can be obtained by calling 813-348-1630. Materials can also be downloaded from the Council's FTP site - [ftp.gulfcouncil.org](ftp://ftp.gulfcouncil.org)

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the SSCs for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the Committee will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kathy Pereira at least five working days prior to the meeting.

About Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional Fishery Management Councils established by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Council prepares fishery management plans, which are designed to manage fishery resources within the 200-mile limit of the Gulf of Mexico.

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