



# Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

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

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

For Immediate Release

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## Gulf Council to Hold Public Hearings Around the Gulf of Mexico

The Gulf Council will hold a series of public hearings around the Gulf of Mexico to collect public comments on proposed Reef Fish Amendment 39 - Regional Management for Recreational Red Snapper.

The purpose of Regional Management is to take into account variation in the fishery, and to provide regional flexibility in management of the recreational harvest. This would enable areas of the Gulf (states) to modify some management measures to better suit the needs of each region. For example, regions could propose bag limits and season structure for the harvest of its portion of the recreational annual catch limit (ACL).

Once regions are defined, management measures adopted by a region must constrain harvest to within the region's portion of the recreational ACL (quota). Red snapper would remain a federally managed species, and the Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service would continue to oversee management and ensure that the annual recreational quota is not exceeded.

The amendment also considers other alternatives such as whether the Council will delegate some management authority to the regions, or have regions submit conservation equivalency plans; whether the management of separate recreational components would continue; how to define the regions; modifying the federal minimum size limit; whether to allow regions to establish closed areas in federal waters adjacent to their regions; apportioning the recreational ACL among regions; and modifying post-season accountability measures.

For more information, please see our Public Hearing Guide at [http://gulfcouncil.org/fishery\\_management\\_plans/scoping-thru-implementation.php](http://gulfcouncil.org/fishery_management_plans/scoping-thru-implementation.php).

The meeting schedule is as follows:

**Mon, October 19, 2015**

Courtyard Marriott Gulfport Beachfront  
1600 East Beach Blvd.  
Gulfport, MS 39501

**Thurs, October 22, 2015**

Embassy Suites  
570 Scenic Gulf Drive  
Destin, FL 32550

**Mon, October 19, 2015**

Hilton Garden Inn  
6717 South Padre Island Dr  
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

**Tues, October 27, 2015**

Hilton St. Petersburg  
Carillon Park  
950 Lake Carillon Dr.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33716

**Tues, October 20, 2015**

Renaissance Mobile  
Riverview Plaza Hotel  
64 South Water Street  
Mobile AL 36602

**Wed, October 28, 2015**

Webinar  
[Click here to register!](#)

**Tues, October 20, 2015**

Embassy Suites San Antonio  
10110 US Highway 281 N  
San Antonio, TX 78216

**Mon, November 2, 2015**

Doubletree  
4964 Constitution Avenue  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808  
225-925-1005

**Wed, October 21, 2015**  
Hampton Inn & Suites  
2320 Gulf Freeway South  
League City, TX 77573

All in-person meetings begin at 6:00 pm local time and end no later than 9:00 pm local time. Webinars begin at 6:00 pm Eastern Time.

### **About the 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.

### **Submit comments and stay updated on fishery issues:**

Check it out! Go to [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://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 it's the scoping phase, final action, or implementation.



You can also find information on our Facebook page, blog, and YouTube channel.

