



# 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)

**Meeting Notice**  
**December 19, 2011**

**Contact: Charlene Ponce**  
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## **Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Announces Public Hearings for Spiny Lobster Amendment 11 and Reef Fish Amendment 35 for Greater Amberjack**

The Gulf Council has scheduled a series of public hearings for both Reef Fish Amendment 35 and Amendment 11 to the Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan. All public hearings begin at 6:00 p.m. local time, and will conclude at the end of public comment, but no later than 9:00 p.m.

Reef Fish Amendment 35 contains alternatives that modify the Greater Amberjack rebuilding plan and consider changes to both recreational and commercial management measures. The amendment is scheduled for final action during the January/February Council meeting in Mobile, Alabama.

A guide to the amendment can be downloaded and comments can be submitted by visiting the Council web site at [gulfcouncil.org](http://gulfcouncil.org). Simply click on "Resources" then "Scoping Documents & Proposed Amendments" to access the amendment and contact form.

An online presentation can be viewed by visiting the Council's YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/user/gulfcouncil](http://www.youtube.com/user/gulfcouncil).

Public hearings for Reef Fish Amendment 35 are scheduled as follows:

### **January 9, 2012**

Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore  
2225 North Lois Avenue  
Tampa, Florida  
813-877-6688

Crowne Plaza New Orleans Airport  
2829 Williams Boulevard  
Kenner, Louisiana  
504-467-5611

### **January 12, 2012**

Four Points Sheraton  
940 Beach Boulevard  
Biloxi, Mississippi  
228-546-3100

### **January 18, 2012**

Plantation Suites & Conference Center  
1909 Highway 361  
Port Aransas, Texas  
361-749-3866

### **January 11, 2012**

Hilton Garden Inn Orange Beach  
23092 Perdido Beach Boulevard  
Orange Beach, Alabama  
251-974-1600

### **January 12, 2012**

Hilton Garden Inn Panama City  
1101 U.S. Highway 231  
Panama City, Florida  
850-392-1093

### **January 17, 2012**

Hilton San Luis  
5400 Seawall Boulevard  
Galveston, Texas  
409-744-5000

### **January 11, 2012**

Joint Amendment 11 to the Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan addresses a recent Biological Opinion of the spiny lobster fishery that concludes that spiny lobster trap fishing Page 2.

activities put sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish, and staghorn and elkhorn corals at risk. The Biological Opinion specifies ways to minimize the impact of the spiny lobster trap fishery on these protected species and sets requirements for the terms and conditions under which action must be taken.

Amendment 11 considers two actions: 1) create new closed areas to reduce the impacts of the lobster traps on protected coral species, and 2) alternatives for spiny lobster trap line markings which would improve identification of trap lines entangling protected species. Final action on this amendment is also scheduled for the January/February Council meeting in Mobile, Alabama.

A guide to Amendment 11 can be downloaded and comments can be submitted by visiting the Council web site at [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org). Simply click on "Resources" then "Scoping Documents & Proposed Amendments" to access the amendment and contact form.

The public hearing schedule for Spiny Lobster Amendment 11 is as follows:

**January 23, 2012**

Marathon Government Center  
2798 Overseas Highway  
Marathon, FL  
305-289-6036

**January 24, 2012**

Harvey Government Center  
1200 Truman Avenue  
Key West, FL  
305-295-43

The full amendment for each plan will soon be posted on the Council web site - [http://gulfcouncil.org/resources/scoping\\_documents.php](http://gulfcouncil.org/resources/scoping_documents.php)

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 of 1976. The Council prepares fishery management plans designed to manage fishery resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

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