



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

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

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Revised April 26, 2011
For Immediate Release
April 12, 2011

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Gulf Council Schedules Public Hearings on Several Proposed Amendments

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has scheduled a series of public hearings on the following proposed amendments:

Amendment 18 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources (Mackerel) contains alternatives for actions to set Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures for Gulf group king mackerel, Gulf group Spanish mackerel, and Gulf group cobia. It also contains measures to remove cero, little tunny, dolphin, and bluefish from the fishery management plan, revise the framework procedure, and separate cobia into Atlantic and Gulf migratory groups.

Joint Amendment 10 to the Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan establishes Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures for Caribbean spiny lobster. This amendment includes additional actions addressing modifications to the Fishery Management Unit; updates to protocol for Enhanced Cooperative Management; regulations regarding the possession of undersized lobsters as attractants for the commercial trap fishery; permit requirements for tailing spiny lobster; sector allocations; limiting spiny lobster fishing areas to protect threatened corals; and requirements for gear marking of all spiny lobster trap lines.

Generic Amendment for Annual Catch Limits/Accountability Measures (ACLs/AMs) contains actions to delegate management of selected species to the other agencies; remove selected species from the fishery management plans; group species for purposes of setting annual catch limits and annual catch targets; establish an acceptable biological catch control rule, an annual catch limit/annual catch target control rule, a generic framework procedure, initial specification of annual catch limits and annual catch targets for stocks still in need of such specification, the apportionment of the black grouper, yellow tail snapper, and mutton snapper stocks between the Gulf and South Atlantic Council jurisdictions; set commercial and recreational allocation of black grouper within in the Gulf Council's jurisdiction; and establish accountability measures to keep catch levels within their annual catch limits or take corrective action if they exceed the limits.

Reef Fish Amendment 32 will establish annual catch limits and annual catch targets for 2012 to 2015 for gag and for 2012 for red grouper. The amendment contains actions to establish a rebuilding plan for gag; set recreational bag limits, size limits and closed seasons for gag/red grouper in 2012; consider a commercial gag and shallow-water grouper quota adjustment to account for dead discards; make adjustments to multi-use IFQ shares in the grouper individual fishing quota program; reduce the commercial gag size limit; modify the offshore time and areas closures; and establish gag, red grouper, and shallow-water grouper accountability measures.

Two hotel locations have changed. The hearings will now be held May 2, 2011 through May 12, 2011 at various locations throughout the Gulf of Mexico as shown below. All hearings will begin at 6 p.m. local time, and will conclude no later than 9 p.m. The meeting schedule is as follows:

Monday, May 2, 2011

ACLs/AMs

Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon
Parkway
950 Lake Carillon Drive
St. Petersburg, FL

Monday, May 2, 2011

ACLs/AMs

Clarion Hotel
12635 South Cleveland Ave
Fort Myers, FL

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mackerel

Best Western
7921 Lamar Poole Road
Biloxi, MS

Cancelled

Tuesday May 3, 2011

Amendment 32

Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Parkway
950 Lake Carillon Drive
St. Petersburg, FL

Amendment 32

Clarion Hotel
12635 South Cleveland Ave
Fort Myers, FL 33907

Mackerel

Cancelled
Fairfield Inn & Suites
3111 Loop Road
Orange Beach, AL

Wednesday May 4, 2011

Amendment 32

Banana Bay Resort
4590 Overseas Hwy
Marathon, FL

Mackerel

Cancelled
Boardwalk - Royal American Beach Getaways
9400 S. Thomas Drive
Panama City Beach, FL

Thursday May 5, 2011

ACLs/AMs

Banana Bay Resort
4590 Overseas Hwy
Marathon, FL

Monday May 9, 2011

Spiny Lobster

Sirata Beach Resort
5300 Gulf Blvd
St. Pete Beach, FL

ACLs/AMs and Amendment 32

Renaissance Riverview Plaza
64 South Water Street
Mobile, AL

ACLs/AMs

Boardwalk - Royal American Beach Getaways
9400 S. Thomas Drive
Panama City Beach, FL

Tuesday May 10, 2011

ACLs/AMs and Amendment 32

Hilton
5400 Seawall Blvd
Galveston, TX

ACLs/AMs and Amendment 32

*****NOTE HOTEL CHANGE**

Four Points Sheraton
940 Beach Blvd.
Biloxi, MS

Amendment 32

Boardwalk - Royal American Beach Getaways
9400 S. Thomas Drive
Panama City Beach, FL

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Amendment 32

Harte Research Institute
Conference Room
6300 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, TX

ACLs/AMs and Amendment 32

*****NOTE HOTEL CHANGE**

Crowne Plaza NOLA Airport
2829 Williams Blvd.
Kenner, LA

Thursday, May 12, 2011

ACLs/AMs

Plantation Suites & Conference Center
1909 Highway 361
Port Aransas, TX

Monday, May 16, 2011

Mackerel

Cancelled
Fisheries Research Lab
1550 Grand Isle, LA

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Mackerel

Cancelled
Hampton Inn
506 West Bay Area Blvd.
Webster, TX

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Mackerel

Cancelled
Plantation Suites & Conference Center
1909 Highway 361
Port Aransas, TX

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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This is a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Award No. NA10NMF4410011.

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