



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

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

2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Phone: 813.348.1630 • Toll free: 888.833.1844 • Fax: 813.348.1711
www.gulfcouncil.org

**For Immediate Release
February 28, 2011**

**Contact: Charlene Ponce
813-334-0895**

Gulf Council to Convene a Meeting of its Standing, Special Mackerel and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committees

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a meeting of the Standing, Special Mackerel, and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committees at the Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel, 739 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. The meeting will begin at 1 pm Tuesday, March 22, 2011, and conclude by noon on Friday, March 25, 2011.

The Standing and Special Mackerel SSC will meet jointly to review the Council's preferred alternative for an acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule, as well as available biological information and recommend an overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch for Gulf group king mackerel, Gulf group Spanish mackerel, and cobia.

The remainder of the meeting will be a joint meeting of the Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC. The Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC will review an update assessment for greater amberjack and recommend an overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch based on the assessment and the ABC control rule. The committee will reconsider its previous recommendation for an acceptable biological catch for red grouper in light of new analyses that were reviewed by the SSC in January.

The committee will review and recommend overfishing limits and acceptable biological catch for several data-poor stocks using the ABC control rule, and reconsider previous recommendations made for lane snapper, the tilefish complex (blueline tilefish, anchor tilefish, blackline tilefish, and goldface tilefish), and the amberjacks complex (Almaco jack, banded rudderfish, and lesser amberjack).

The SSC will also review potential criteria for removal of selected species from the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan, as well as review its previous comments on proposed revisions to the SEDAR stock assessment process. Finally, the SSC will review proposed dates for scheduling SSC meetings for the remainder of 2011.

Copies of the agenda and other related materials can be obtained by calling 813-348-1630 or by downloading materials 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 Scientific and Statistical Committees 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 Scientific and Statistical Committees 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 the Council office at least five working days prior to the meeting.

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.

Sign up to have these meeting notices, updates and other general information delivered straight to your inbox by sending a blank email with "subscribe" in the subject line to: pressreleases@gulfcouncil.org.

XXX

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

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

2203 N. Lois Avenue
Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

An Equal Opportunity Employer
Official Business

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TAMPA FL
PERMIT NO. 1294

«FIRST NAME» «LAST NAME»
«ADDRESS 1»
«ADDRESS 2»
«CITY», «STATE» «POSTAL CODE»