



# 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**  
**January 19, 2011**

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## **Reminder - Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Will Hold Public Hearings for Spiny Lobster Amendment 11**

This notice serves as a reminder that the Gulf Council has scheduled public hearings for Joint 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.

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 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 [here](#), and comments can be submitted [here](#). 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  
305-295-4385

The full amendment is 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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