



# Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

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

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**For Immediate Release  
July 6, 2011**

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## Gulf Council to convene Standing, Special Reef Fish, and Special Mackerel Scientific & Statistical Committees

**Tampa, Florida** – The Gulf Council’s Standing, Special Reef Fish, and Special Mackerel Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs) July 26 – July 28, 2011. The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 26, and conclude by 3 p.m. Thursday, July 28.

The Committees will first meet jointly to receive a presentation on the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process.

The Standing and Special Mackerel SSC will then review, revise (if necessary), and approve terms of reference for a SEDAR 28 benchmark assessment for Spanish mackerel and cobia.

The Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC will meet to discuss the rationale of its previous recommendation that the 2012 SEDAR 31 red snapper assessment be changed from a standard assessment to a benchmark assessment, as well as the potential benefits and drawbacks to requesting yield streams and managing the red snapper fishery in terms of number of fish rather than biomass. The Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC will then review, revise (if necessary), and approve the terms of reference for the SEDAR 31 red snapper assessment. This assessment is currently scheduled for 2012 as a standard assessment; however, based on the SSC recommendation, the Council has requested that it be a benchmark assessment.

The remainder of the meeting will be a joint meeting of the Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC. Remaining items on the agenda include:

- Presentation from NOAA General Counsel on what constitutes best available scientific information
- Review and suggest modifications to the process for deciding levels of acceptable biological catch
- Receive a report on the Ecosystem SSC meeting and discuss the role of the Ecosystem SSC with respect to the Standing SSC

The meeting will be held at the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council office, 2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, Florida. Copies of the agenda can be obtained by calling the Council office at 813-348-1630.

Copies of the agenda and other related materials can be obtained by calling the Council office at 813-348-1630. Materials can also be downloaded from the Council’s ftp site – <ftp://gulfcouncil.org>. The ftp server can also be accessed from the Gulf Council’s home page – [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org) - under “Quick Links”.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the SSCs for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (M-SFCMA), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the SSCs will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda, as well as any issues that may arise after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) M-SFCMA, 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. Please direct requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids to Kathy Pereira at the Council 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 U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

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