



GULF FISHERY NEWS



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GULF FISHERY NEWS is a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council for persons interested in the Gulf's fishery resources. Editor: Steven Atran.

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GULF COUNCIL SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR APPOINTMENT TO IT'S ADVISORY PANELS AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

In March 2005, the Council will review the membership in its Advisory Panels (APs), Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs), Stock Assessment Panels (SAPs), and Socioeconomic Panel (SEP), and will appoint new members for two-year terms. This is an opportunity for those who are interested to become more directly involved in the management decision-making process. These positions are unpaid, but travel expenses are reimbursed. Depending upon the level of activity for a given fishery management plan, each panel or committee may meet from zero to 3 or 4 times per year except for the standing SSC, which may meet 4 or more times per year. (The standing SSC meets for all SSC meetings, while the species SSCs meet jointly with the standing SSC for issues

specific to the species SSC.)

- APs are comprised of recreational and commercial fishermen, charterboat operators, buyers, sellers, consumers, and others who are knowledgeable about a particular fishery. APs exist for the following:
 - Billfish
 - Coastal Migratory Pelagics

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

March 7-10, 2005
Wynfrey Hotel
100 Rivershase Galleria
Birmingham, Alabama 35244



- Coral
- Florida/Alabama Habitat Protection
- Mississippi/Louisiana Habitat Protection
- Texas Habitat Protection
- Highly Migratory Species (tuna, shark, swordfish)
- Red Drum
- Red Snapper
- Reef Fish
- Shrimp
- Spiny Lobster
- Stone Crab

● SSCs are comprised of economists, biologists, sociologists, and natural resource attorneys who are knowledgeable about the technical aspects of fisheries in the Gulf. The following SSCs exist:

- Standing
- Special Coral
- Special Mackerel
- Special Oceanic Migratory Species
- Special Red Drum
- Special Reef Fish
- Special Shark
- Special Shrimp
- Special Spiny Lobster
- Special Stone Crab

● SAPs are pools of biologists who are trained in the specialized field of population dynamics, and who assess the available biological data and advise the Council on the status of stocks and level of acceptable biological catch. When stock assessments are conducted under the SEDAR (Southeast Data, Assessment and Review) process, scientists are selected from the SAPs to participate in the assessment or assessment review meetings, but individual scientists do not attend each meeting. SAPs include:

- Finfish
- Crustacean

● The SEP is comprised of economists and sociologists who are trained to evaluate the economic and social costs associated with various management measures and advise the Council of the economic and social costs associated with these measures.

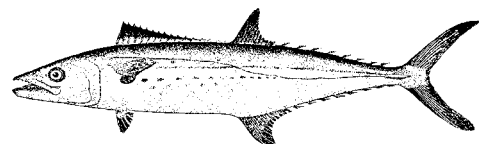
Persons applying to serve on a committee or panel should indicate in a letter or e-mail to the Council office which committee or panel they wish to serve on and should include a current resumé or description of their qualification. Applications can be for as many panels or committees as a person wishes, but for APs, a person can be appointed to a maximum of two standing APs. **Applications must be received by February 11, 2005.** Mailing address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 North U.S. Highway 301, Suite 1000, Tampa, Florida 33619-2272; by fax: 813-225-7015; by e-mail: lorna.evans@gulfcouncil.org.

JULIE MORRIS AND JOE HENDRIX ELECTED COUNCIL CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR 2004/2005

Ms. Julie Morris (Sarasota, Florida) and Mr. Joe Hendrix, Jr. (Houston, Texas) were elected by the Gulf Council to be this year's Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, at the October 2004 Council meeting (rescheduled from September due to Hurricane Ivan) in Panama City, Florida.

Ms. Morris is co-director of Environmental Studies and Assistant to the Provost at New College of Florida. She has been a Council member since 2001. Prior to being appointed to the Gulf Council, Ms. Morris was a Commissioner of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and served as the first Chair of the newly created Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission during 1999 and 2000. During 2002/2003 and again in 2003/2004, Ms. Morris served as Chair of the Council's Habitat Protection Committee and Spiny Lobster Committee.

Joe Hendrix, Jr. is the President of SeaFish Mariculture, a Texas based company working to develop offshore mariculture in the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. Hendrix has over 22 years experience developing commercial shrimp farms and offshore cage culture operations. He has been a Council member since 2002 and serves as Chair of the Council's Artificial Reef Committee and member of the Shrimp and Habitat Committee.



**AMENDMENT 13 TO THE SHRIMP FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVED FOR
PUBLIC HEARINGS**

At its January 2005 meeting, the Council approved Amendment Number 13 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico, U.S. Waters for public review and public hearings. Amendment 13 contains alternatives to: (1) Establish a separate vessel permit for the royal red shrimp fishery or an endorsement to the existing federal shrimp vessel permit (Action 1); (2) Define MSY, OY, the overfishing threshold, and the overfished condition for royal red and penaeid shrimp stocks in the Gulf (Actions 2 through 7); (3) Establish bycatch reporting methodologies and improve collection of shrimping effort data in the EEZ through the use of paper logbooks, electronic logbooks, and observers (Action 8); (4) Require completion of a Gulf Shrimp Vessel and Gear Characterization Form by at least a subset of shrimp vessel permit holders (Action 9); (5) Establish a moratorium on the issuance of commercial shrimp vessel permits (Action 10); and (6) Require reporting and certification of landings during a moratorium (Action 11). For each action, a “No Action” alternative may also be considered. The Council is soliciting public comment on alternatives under each of these potential actions, and for other alternatives, that should be considered by the Council. The Council is soliciting public comment on these issues through the public hearings, by mail and by e-mail; and must be received by the Council on or before March 4, 2005. Public hearing locations, dates, and times are as follows:

Monday, February 14, 2005

Holiday Inn I-10 Bellingrath Gardens
5465 Highway 90 West
Mobile, Alabama 36619
866.436.4329

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

DoubleTree Grand Key Resort
3990 South Roosevelt Boulevard
Key West, Florida 33040
888.310.1540

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Drive
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530
228.374.5000

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

LSU Ag Center Extension Office
1105 West Port Street
Abbeville, Louisiana 70510
337.898.4335

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ramada Inn Houma
1400 West Tunnel Boulevard
Houma, Louisiana 70360
985.879.4871

Thursday, February 17, 2005

DoubleTree Guest Suites Tampa Bay
3050 North Rocky Point Drive
Tampa, Florida 33607
813.888.8800

Monday, February 21, 2005

Brownsville Events Center
1 Events Center Boulevard
Brownsville, Texas 78526
956.554.0700

Tuesday, February 22, 2005

Palacios Recreational Center
2401 Perryman
Palacios, Texas 77465
361.972.2387

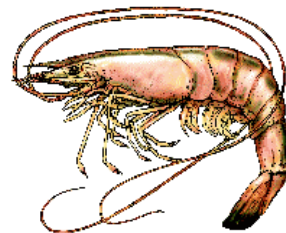
Wednesday, February 23, 2005

San Luis Resort
5222 Seawall Boulevard
Galveston Island, Texas 77651
409.744.1500

Thursday, February 24, 2005

New Orleans Airport Ramada Inn
110 James Drive East
Saint Rose, Louisiana 70087
504.466.1355

Copies of Amendment 13 to the Shrimp FMP can be obtained by calling 813-228-2815 or by visiting our website at <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>.



COUNCIL RECOMMENDS THAT THE 200-MILE SHRIMP CLOSURE OFF TEXAS BE MAINTAINED FOR 2005

At its January meeting, the Gulf Council recommended to maintain, in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off Texas, the cooperative seasonal shrimp closure with Texas (usually about May 15 to July 15) for 2005. The Council reached this decision after hearing an update on the conditions of the Texas shrimp industry, a biological review of the 2004 Texas Closure, and a yield per recruit analysis of the 2004 Texas closure by Dr. James Nance with the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Galveston Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service. The Council also received a favorable recommendation from its Shrimp Advisory Panel and through public comments. The purpose of the closure is to protect juvenile shrimp migrating from the bays to the Gulf of Mexico and allows the shrimp to grow to larger and more valuable sizes.

COUNCIL REQUESTS GROUPE TRIP LIMIT EMERGENCY ACTION

As a result of the new red grouper rebuilding plan that was implemented in 2004, the commercial shallow-water grouper fishery was closed in 2004 from November 15, when the red grouper quota of 5.31 million pounds gutted weight was projected to have been reached, until the end of 2004. This quota closure created disruptions in the commercial grouper fishery, and as a result, representatives from two commercial fishing organizations, Southern Offshore Fishermen's Association and Gulf Fishermen's Association, came to the November Council meeting with a joint proposal to adopt trip limits in 2005 to shorten or eliminate any future quota closures. The proposed trip limits were as follows:

- Effective January 1, 2005, a 10,000 pound gutted weight trip limit*.
- If, on or before August 1, 50% of either the shallow-water grouper or red grouper quota is reached, the trip limit will be reduced to 7,500 pounds gutted weight*.
- If, on or before October 1, 75% of either the shallow-water grouper or red grouper quota is reached, the trip limit will be reduced to 5,500 pounds gutted weight*.

* Trip limits are for shallow-water grouper and deep-water grouper combined.

The Council has asked NOAA Fisheries to implement the industry's proposed trip limits by emergency action. Emergency actions can be in effect for up to 180 days with one 180-day extension allowed (360 days total). In addition, the Council is evaluating the above trip limits and alternative trip limits for possible implementation on a more permanent basis by regulatory amendment. The regulatory amendment will also consider an increase in the red grouper TAC for 2006 (consistent with the red grouper rebuilding plan) and other management measures, including possible changes to the minimum size and recreational bag limits.

Commercial fishermen should be aware that the February 15 to March 15 commercial closed season on gag, black and red grouper remains in effect. This closed season took effect in 2001 to protect gag spawning aggregations during the peak portion of the gag spawning season.

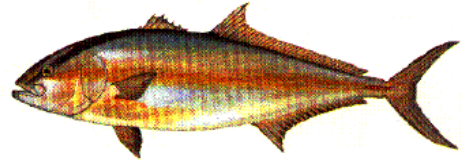
As this newsletter was being printed (late January), the Council's emergency action request was still under review by NOAA Fisheries.

OCTOBER 15, 2004, CONTROL DATE ESTABLISHED AS AN ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT FOR A POSSIBLE IFQ PROGRAM FOR THE COMMERCIAL GROUPE FISHERY OF THE GULF OF MEXICO

The Gulf Council is considering creation of an individual fishing quota (IFQ) program in the commercial grouper fishery. If a grouper IFQ program is developed, it will likely be based on the red snapper IFQ program (currently under development) and will be developed after the red snapper IFQ. As a first step, and to prevent speculation by fishermen attempting to establish a catch history, the Council asked NOAA Fisheries to publish a control date for this fishery.

On November 16, 2004, NOAA Fisheries published an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking establishing a **control date of October 15, 2004**, for the commercial grouper fishery operating in the exclusive economic zone of the Gulf of Mexico. That notice is intended to inform the public the Gulf of

Mexico Fishery Management Council is considering the establishment of an IFQ for the commercial grouper fishery of the Gulf of Mexico. To discourage accelerated effort to develop a catch history in the grouper fishery before the IFQ is implemented, it is the intent of the Council to establish IFQ eligibility criteria based on catch histories prior to October 15, 2004.



COMMERCIAL RED SNAPPER FISHERY FINISHES 2004 SEASON WITH 99.4% OF QUOTA

Preliminary estimates of the commercial red snapper harvest for the 2004 season, which ended at noon on December 15 (the December opening was extended for five days to allow the quota to be filled), are that 4,620,770 pounds of red snapper were landed. This is 99.4% of the 4.65 million pound quota. The 2005 commercial red snapper season will open at noon on February 1, 2005. As in past years, the commercial season will be open from noon on the first until noon on the tenth of each month until the Spring sub-quota of 3.10 million pounds is reached. It will then close until October 1, when it will reopen under the same monthly opening rules until the remaining quota is filled.

The recreational red snapper season will open on April 21 and will remain open through October 31. This is unchanged from the season that has been in place since 2000.

NOAA Fisheries and the Gulf Council are in the process of completing a new red snapper stock assessment under the SEDAR (Southeast Data, Assessment and Review) process. The first step in the process, a SEDAR Data workshop, was held in March 2003 to compile the results of red snapper research from approximately 60 researchers conducted since the last stock assessment in 1999. Stock assessment workshops to analyze the information were held in August and December 2004. A stock assessment report is being compiled from those workshops, which will be reviewed at a SEDAR Review Workshop scheduled for April 4-7, 2005. Upon acceptance at the final review by the review panel, the Council will receive recommendations for acceptable biological catch (ABC). The Council will select a TAC for 2006 that conforms to the red snapper rebuilding plan (which is currently under review by NOAA Fisheries), and could adjust quotas and other management measures for 2006 and beyond.

GREATER AMBERJACK STOCK DECLARED TO BE UNDERGOING OVERFISHING

In February 2001, NOAA Fisheries declared that the greater amberjack stock in the Gulf of Mexico was in an overfished state. However, overfishing was not considered to be occurring because recently implemented management measures (i.e., one fish greater amberjack recreational bag limit, March through May closed season on the commercial greater amberjack fishery, and slot limits on lesser amberjack and banded rudderfish) were believed to have reduced the fishing mortality rate sufficiently to allow the stock to rebuild. In June 2003, a rebuilding plan was formally implemented (Reef Fish Secretarial Amendment 2) which established a seven-year rebuilding plan for greater amberjack and a total allowable catch (TAC) during each of the first three years (2003-2005) of 2.9 million pounds, with an increase to 5.16 million pounds in 2006. No new management measures were implemented at that time. The 2003 landings numbers are now available, and indicate that there were 4.45 million pounds of greater amberjack landed (recreational and commercial combined), which exceeded the 2003 TAC by 53%, or more than 1.5 million pounds). Consequently, NOAA Fisheries notified the Council on January 6, 2005 that overfishing is occurring. Under the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Council has until January 6, 2006 to submit a plan to bring harvest back into compliance with the rebuilding plan. Although the Council will begin work on developing alternatives to reduce greater amberjack harvest to bring harvest rates back in line with the rebuilding plan, a previously scheduled stock assessment for greater amberjack is scheduled to be conducted under the SEDAR (Southeast Data, Assessment and Review) process during 2005, which could affect the TAC and management measures to be included in the plan for 2006 and beyond.

COMMERCIAL PERMIT MORATORIA EXTENSIONS FOR REEF FISH AND KING MACKEREL PROPOSED

The Gulf Council has approved the final versions of Reef Fish Amendment 24 and Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 15 For submission to NOAA Fisheries. These amendments extend indefinitely the moratoria for commercial reef fish vessel permits and commercial king mackerel permits which were scheduled to expire on December 31, 2005 and October 15, 2005 respectively, creating limited access systems for these fisheries.

Under the proposed alternatives, all vessels with valid commercial reef fish permits on the date that Reef Fish Amendment 24 is approved by NOAA Fisheries will be issued new commercial reef fish permits, which will be renewable and transferable in the same manner as currently prescribed for such permits. Likewise, vessels with valid commercial king mackerel permits on the date that Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 15 is approved will be issued new commercial king mackerel permit. In addition, king mackerel vessels that currently hold a Gulf gill-net endorsement will be issued a separate Gulf gill-net permit. These king mackerel and gill-net permits will also be renewable and transferable.

The reef fish vessel permit moratorium was initially established in May 1992 for a three-year period (Reef Fish Amendment 4). Amendment 9 (implemented July 1994) extended it to December 31, 1995, Amendment 11 (implemented January 1996) continued it until December 31, 2000, and Amendment 17 (implemented August 2000) extended it until December 31, 2005.

The king mackerel vessel permit moratorium was initially established in March 1998 to go through October 15, 2000 (Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 8). Amendment 12 (implemented October 2000) extended the moratorium until October 15, 2005. The commercial king mackerel gill-net endorsement and moratorium was established in April 2000.

Although the proposed moratoria are for an indefinite period, the Council is considering eventually replacing the moratoria with individual transferable fishing quota systems.

CONGRESS CREATES LONGLINE VESSEL BUYBACK PROGRAM FOR GULF OF MEXICO

Congress has created a fishing capacity reduction program for the federal Gulf of Mexico reef fish fishery, principally intended for commercial longline vessels (Congressional Appropriations Act of 2005, Section 218). Under the program a \$35,000,000 loan will be made available to pay for the voluntary buyback, to be repaid over a 35 year period by the participants who choose to remain in the fishery. Details of the buyback business plan have yet to be developed, and will likely be designed by the industry in coordination with NOAA Fisheries and the Gulf Council. The final plan must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote of industry participants voting.

COUNCIL APPROVES EFH AMENDMENT

At its January 2005 meeting, the Council approved Generic Amendment 3 for Addressing Essential Fish Habitat Requirements, Habitat Areas of Particular Concern, and Adverse Effects of Fishing for each of its FMPs. This action arose following the judicial decision and settlement agreement in the case of *American Oceans Campaign v. Daley* (Civil Action No. 99-982), under which NOAA Fisheries and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) prepared an "Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Amendment to the Following Fishery Management Plans of the Gulf of Mexico: Shrimp, Red Drum, Reef fish, Stone Crab, Coral and Coral Reef in the Gulf of Mexico and Spiny Lobster and the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic." The Draft EIS analyzed within each fishery a range of potential alternatives to: (1) describe and identify essential fish habitat for each fishery; (2) identify other actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of such EFH; and (3) identify measures to minimize to the extent practicable any adverse effects of fishing on such EFH. Based on this EIS, the Council has subsequently developed "Draft Amendment 3 for Addressing EFH Requirements, Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs), and Adverse Effects of Fishing in the Following Fishery Management Plans of the Gulf of Mexico: Shrimp, Red Drum, Reef fish, Stone Crab, Coral and Coral Reef in the Gulf of

Mexico and Spiny Lobster and the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic.” The Amendment contains proposed alternatives to further identify EFH, establish HAPCs, and to the extent practicable prevent adverse impacts of fishing activities on coral in HAPCs. Copies of this amendment can be obtained by calling 813-228-2815 or by visiting our website at <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>.

DEVELOPMENT OF A RED SNAPPER IFQ PROGRAM CONTINUES

The Council is proceeding with development of Reef Fish Amendment 26/EA for an individual fishing quota (IFQ) program for the commercial red snapper fishery. Public scoping meetings were held in August on the IFQ profile, which will form the basis for the amendment. The Council, at its October 11-14, 2004 meeting, reviewed the public comments received. The IFQ profile and comments were then submitted for review to the Ad Hoc Red Snapper Advisory Panel who met October 26-27, 2004 and selected their preferred alternatives for structure and regulation of that fishery.

At its November 7-10, 2004 meeting, the Council reviewed the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Red Snapper Advisory Panel, and selected the Council’s preferred alternatives. The Council then submitted the revised IFQ profile to an Interdisciplinary Planning Team (IPT) to begin drafting the text of the amendment and environmental impact statement (EIS). This work was begun by the IPT in December. The Council will review the first draft of the options paper for the IFQ amendment at the March 7-10, 2005 Council meeting in Birmingham, Alabama. The public hearing draft should be completed by July, and the final draft by September.

ECONOMIST JOINS GULF COUNCIL STAFF

Our new economist, Assane Diagne has recently joined the Gulf Council. Dr. Diagne got his doctorate degree in agricultural economics from Louisiana State University in 1996. Following his graduation, he was employed by LSU's Coastal Fisheries Institute. Subsequently, he worked for the Louisiana

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Before joining the Council, he taught economics and quantitative methods at Al Akhawayn University in Infrane, Morocco.



**TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE MARCH
GULF COUNCIL MEETING
COMMITTEE SCHEDULE**

Monday, March 7, 2005

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

AP Selection (Tab I) (Closed Session)

- Appointment of APs

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

SSC Selection (Tab L) (Closed Session)

- Appointment of SSCs, SAPs and SEP

-recess-

1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Reef Fish Management Committee (Tab B)

- Draft Reef Fish Amendment 18A
- Options Paper for Reef Fish Amendment 26 (Red Snapper IFQ)
- Revised Red Grouper Draft Regulatory Amendment
- Discussion of Updated Greater Amberjack Analyses
- Alternatives for Reducing Greater Amberjack Landings
- Draft Biological Opinion for Reef Fish Fishery (Lee)

-recess

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel/Red Drum Management Committees (Tab C)

- Options Paper for Generic Offshore Aquaculture Amendment
- Status Report on Draft Generic Amendment for Extension of the Charter Vessel Permit Moratorium

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Administrative Policy Committee (Tab F)

- Cost and Budget Analyses for Video/Teleconferencing
- Proposed Intranet at Council Meetings
- Completion of Revised CD at Start of Council Session
- FMLA Update

-recess

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Migratory Species Committee (Tab G)

- Scoping Comments on HMS Amendment 2
 - Presentation (Megan Gamble)
 - Committee Recommendations

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem Committee (Tab H)

- Report on Ecosystem Scientific Meeting (Shipp)
- Council Member Addendums to Socioeconomic Survey Document
- Staff's Plan for Accomplishing Tasks under Ecosystem Cooperative Agreement

3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Joint Shrimp Management/SSC Session (Tab D)

- Final Shrimp Amendment 13/EA
 - Public Hearing Summaries
 - Public Letters
 - SEP Comments
 - AP Comments
 - SSC Recommendations (Keithly)
 - Committee Recommendations

Shrimp Management Committee Session

- Discussion of Shrimp Amendment 14

COUNCIL SCHEDULE

Wednesday March 9, 2005

- I. Call to Order and Introductions - Morris (8:30 a.m. - 8:35 a.m.)
- II. Adoption of Agenda - Morris (8:35 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.)
- III. Approval of Minutes (Tab A) - Morris (8:40 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.)

- IV. Public Testimony^{1 2} - Morris
 a. Final Shrimp Amendment 13/EA
 b. Exempted Fish Permits (**Tab M**) (if any)
 (8:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.)
- V. Atlantic Sea Turtle Strategy (**Tab O**) - Lee
 (10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)
- VI. Committee Reports
 a. Reef Fish Management (**Tab B**) - Minton
 (10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon)
- recess-
- VII. Committee Reports (Continued)
 b. Shrimp Management/SSC (**Tab D**) - Perret
 (1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.)
 c. Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel/Red Drum Management (**Tab C**) - Minton/Fischer/Foote
 (2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.)
 d. Administrative Policy Committee (**Tab F**) - Fensom
 (2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
 e. Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem - (**Tab H**) - Riechers
 (3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.)
 f. Migratory Species (**Tab G**) - B. Walker
 (3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
 g. AP Selection (**Tab I**) - Horn (**CLOSED SESSION**)
 (4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
 h. SSC Selection (**Tab L**) - Foote (**CLOSED SESSION**)
 (5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.)

-recess-

Thursday, March 10, 2005

- VIII. Committee Reports (Continued)
 g. AP Selection (**Tab I**) - Horn
 (8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.)
 h. SSC Selection (**Tab L**) - Foote
 (8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.)
- IX. Report on Honolulu Meeting - Hendrix
 (9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.)
- X. Enforcement Reports - Montero/Rogers/McKinney
 (9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.)
- XI. Regional Director's Report - Crabtree
 (9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.)
- XII. Directors' Reports - R. Williams/Minton/Perret/Foote/Riechers/Simpson/Brown/Fruge
 (9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.)
- XIII. Other Business - (**Tab K**) - Morris
 (10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Following Meeting:

May 9-12, 2005
 Palace Hotel
 Biloxi, Mississippi

¹Persons wishing to testify must turn in a registration card before the beginning of the public testimony period.

²Persons wishing Council members to have copies of written testimony or information should provide 30 copies to staff for distribution to members. All written information shall include a statement of the source and date of such information. Any oral or written statement shall include a brief description of the background and interests of the person testifying.

GULF FISHERY NEWS WANTS YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS

GULF FISHERY NEWS is a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Any material in this newsletter may be reprinted or reproduced. We would like to hear from you regarding fishery questions you would like to see covered in GULF FISHERY NEWS. GULF FISHERY NEWS or the Gulf Council office can be contacted at c/o Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 North U.S. Highway 301, Suite 1000, Tampa, Florida, 33619-2272. Telephone: 813-228-2815 (toll-free 888-833-1844). Fax: 813-225-7015. E-mail: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org Website: <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional fishery management councils that were established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 1976. The Council is responsible for the development and modification of fishery management plans (FMPs) that are designed to manage fishery resources in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico from state boundaries to the 200-mile limit. This is a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and financial assistance for this newsletter was provided by grant funds pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA05NMF4410003.

March Meeting:

March 7-10, 2005
Wynfrey Hotel
100 Rivershace Galleria
Birmingham, Alabama 35244

May Meeting

May 9-12, 2005
Palace Casino Resort
158 Howard Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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