



# 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: Wayne Swingle.*

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## Public Hearings Scheduled

The Council scheduled public hearings for Reef Fish Amendment 18A and the Generic Amendment for Extension of the Charter Vessel/Headboat Permit Moratorium. The Council will approve a public hearing draft of the Charter Vessel/Headboat Amendment, after selection of preferred alternatives, at its May 9-12, 2005 meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi. Alternatives include extending the moratorium or making it a permanent (or indefinite) period. Currently the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has published a notice allowing persons with charter vessels to apply for a permit under the moratorium (see accompanying article in this issue). The public hearings will be scheduled in June at the following dates and cities. Please contact the Council office or our website at [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org) for specific locations:

June 13, 2005 - Kenner, LA  
June 14, 2005 - Biloxi, MS  
June 15, 2005 - Orange Beach, AL  
June 16, 2005 - Destin, FL

June 20, 2005 - Galveston, TX  
June 22, 2005 - Port Aransas, TX  
June 23, 2005 - Port Isabel, TX  
June 27, 2005 - Key West, FL  
June 28, 2005 - Naples, FL  
June 29, 2005 - Madeira Beach, FL

## NMFS Billfish and Highly Migratory Species (HMS) FMPs

The NMFS is in the process of completing amendments to the NMFS Billfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and to the HMS FMP. Species managed under the HMS FMP include tunas, sharks, and swordfish stocks in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. Species managed in the billfish FMP include marlins and sailfish. The Council reviewed the provisions of the two amendments and developed its recommendations for changes to NMFS. The Council requested that the fishing year for bluefin tuna be changed to begin in January. Currently the fishing year is from July 1 to June 30 which usually results in this fishery being closed when they are migrating through the Gulf.

## **Reef Fish Amendment 18A**

The Council continued working on development of Reef Fish Amendment 18A which addresses enforcement and monitoring issues in the reef fish fishery; administrative changes to the framework procedure for setting total allowable catch (TAC) for reef fish; and bycatch and bycatch mortality of endangered sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish. Previously existing sections of the draft amendment contained alternatives to improve enforceability of the prohibition on sale of recreationally caught reef fish; resolve a conflict between U.S. Coast Guard regulations for minimum crew size on inspected vessels out over 12 hours and fishing regulations setting a maximum crew size on vessels with both a charter vessel and commercial vessel reef fish permit when fishing commercially; additional restrictions on the use of reef fish for bait; and a proposal that all commercial reef fish vessels be equipped with vessel monitoring systems (VMS).

Two new sections were added to Amendment 18A at the March Council meeting. A section that revises the framework procedure for setting TAC was moved into Amendment 18A from Amendment 18B. The revisions incorporate the recently adopted Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process for conducting stock assessments, update the terminology, and add the flexibility to set commercial/recreational allocations based on criteria other than the 1979-1987 historical catch data through a regulatory amendment. An entirely new section dealing with bycatch of endangered species (sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish) was added as a result of a NMFS “Biological Opinion” which concluded that reasonable and prudent measures are necessary to reduce stress and increase survival rates of sea turtles and smalltooth sawfishes taken incidentally in the reef fish fishery (see following article).

Public hearings on Reef Fish Amendment 18A will be held concurrently with those for the Generic Amendment for Extension of the Charter Vessel/Headboat Permit Moratorium (see accompanying article).

## **Endangered Species Act Biological Opinion**

In February 2005, NMFS published a “Biological Opinion” under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with respect to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan. This Section requires each federal agency to ensure any action they authorize, fund, or carry out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or to result in the destruction or adverse modification of any designated critical habitat of such species. In the Gulf of Mexico, endangered species that could potentially be impacted by the reef fish fishery include all species of sea turtles (Kemp’s Ridley, green, hawksbill, leatherback, and loggerhead) and smalltooth sawfish. The Biological Opinion estimated that the total lethal take of endangered species over a 3 year period was fairly low, approximately 122 sea turtles (all species combined) and no smalltooth sawfish (although a nonlethal take of up to 8 was projected). Consequently, the Biological Opinion concluded that the level of anticipated take of endangered species in the reef fish fishery is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of green, hawksbill, Kemp’s Ridley, leatherback, or loggerhead sea turtles or smalltooth sawfish. However, the Biological Opinion specified that reasonable and prudent measures be taken as necessary and appropriate to minimize impacts of the incidental take of sea turtles and sawfish during reef fish fishing. Such measures should include, at a minimum, possession inside the wheelhouse of a document provided by NMFS entitled, “Careful Release Protocols for Sea Turtle Release With Minimal Injury” along with sea turtle handling and release guidelines provided by NMFS, and possession and use of line clippers, dip nets, and a dehooking device. Based on the findings of the Biological Opinion, the Council added a section to Draft Reef Fish Amendment 18A to implement the measures called for.

The Careful Release Protocols document can be downloaded from NMFS at:

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Protected%20Resources/TM\\_524.pdf](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Protected%20Resources/TM_524.pdf).

The Biological Opinion can be downloaded from the downloadable files page of the Gulf Council website at:

<http://www.gulfcouncil.org/downloads/2005%20Biological%20Opinion%20for%20RF.pdf> .

### **Aquaculture Amendment Reviewed**

The Council reviewed an options paper for a Generic Amendment to Regulate Offshore Marine Aquaculture. The revised draft options paper was prepared by an Interdisciplinary Project Team (IPT) consisting of NMFS and Council personnel. The Council provided its recommendations for changes to the document and directed the IPT to prepare the public hearing draft of the amendment for Council approval at its July 11-14, 2005 meeting.

### **Ecosystem SSC Meeting Planned**

The Council will convene its Ecosystem SSC on June 9-10, 2005 in Tampa to advise it on issues related to the developing Ecosystem FMPs. At later dates the Council will schedule a series of stakeholder meetings to solicit public input on the issues required in development of Ecosystem FMPs.

### **Overfishing Status of Amberjack Rescinded**

In January 2004, NMFS informed the Council that the estimated harvest (4.45 million pounds [MP]) for 2003 exceeded the TAC of 2.91 MP and therefore overfishing was occurring. However, in March, after re-examining the data, they concluded that harvest was only 3.53 MP and that 2004 estimated harvest (3.08 MP) was only slightly higher than the target 2.91 MP. Overfishing probably occurred in 2003 but overfishing did not occur in 2004. Based on the rebuilding plan, TAC was to increase to 5.2 MP in 2006 but NMFS recommended and the Council agreed that TAC should remain at 2.91 MP until the new assessment, due at the end of 2005, is completed. New acceptable biological catch (ABC) projections (yields) can then be calculated and the rebuilding plan modified as necessary to rebuild within 7 years or the 10 years specified by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (M-SFCMA).

### **Overfishing of Red Grouper**

Preliminary estimates of 2004 recreational catches presented at the March Council meeting indicated that the recreational harvest was 3.06 MP, more than double their current 1.25 MP share of the total allowable catch (TAC). The commercial catch was held to their 5.31 MP share of the TAC through a hard quota which remains in effect unless changed by the Council. Without additional regulations on recreational fishers, the 2004 harvest will likely significantly exceed the TAC and overfishing will continue. Under these conditions, the M-SFCMA (Sections 304[e] and 305[c]) requires that the Council and Secretary act to bring the total catch back within the TAC established by the red grouper rebuilding plan implemented by Secretarial Amendment 1 to the Reef Fish FMP. Therefore, the Council passed a motion “that Council give NMFS authority through emergency or interim rule to bring the recreational red grouper fishery within their target catch levels in Secretarial Amendment 1 for 2005.” The Council requested that NMFS Southeast Regional Office (SERO) expedite this rule so that it will take effect in July 2005 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The Council also began development of a regulatory amendment for red grouper that would extend this emergency interim rule. The regulatory amendment will also include the commercial vessel trip limits recommended by the Gulf Fishermen’s Association and those recommended by the Council. Development of the regulatory amendment will continue after the NMFS emergency, interim rule is published.

### **Red Snapper IFQ Amendment Reviewed**

The Council reviewed an options paper for Reef Fish Amendment 16 (for Red Snapper IFQ Program). The revised draft options paper was prepared by an IPT based on previous documents prepared by an Ad Hoc Red Snapper AP and by the Council. The Council provided its recommendations for changes and instructed the IPT to complete the public hearing draft of the amendment by the July 11-14, 2005 meeting.

## **Shrimp Amendment 13/EA**

The Council reviewed public hearings summaries and letters commenting on the amendment. The SSC met in conjunction with the Shrimp Management Committee and reviewed the Socioeconomic Panel recommendations. The SSC also developed recommendations for the Council. The Council also heard public testimony at the March 2005 Council meeting. Because public testimony indicated that some of the participants in the shrimp fishery in the EEZ were not aware that they must obtain shrimp vessel permits by December 6, 2003, the Council added an alternative to extend the deadline for obtaining a permit to May 2, 2005, in order to qualify for a vessel permit under a moratorium. The Council will take final action at its May 9-11, 2005 meeting and will again hear public testimony on Shrimp Amendment 13/EA beginning at 8:45 a.m. on Wednesday May 11, 2005<sup>1</sup>. The Council will accept written comments on the amendment until May 6, 2005.

<sup>1</sup>**Persons testifying must register before the start of the testimony period.**

## **Press Release Listserv Crashed – Subscribers May Need to Resubscribe**

The computer which is used to e-mail Gulf Council press releases crashed in March, resulting in the loss of an unknown number of subscriber e-mail addresses. If you were subscribed and did not receive a press release dated April 18, 2005, titled “Council to Take Final Action on Shrimp Amendment 13/EA”, then you need to resubscribe. To resubscribe (or for new subscribers), send a blank e-mail to [pressreleases@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:pressreleases@gulfcouncil.org), with the word SUBSCRIBE as the subject line. Within a few hours of sending the subscribe e-mail, you will receive an automatically generated e-mail from the listserv confirming that you are subscribed and welcoming you to the press release list. Subscribers may also wish to contact their ISPs to make sure that e-mails from [pressreleases@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:pressreleases@gulfcouncil.org) are not blocked by anti-spam filters.

## **Charter Vessel Permit Application Reopened**

On April 1, 2005, NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published an emergency rule to reopen the application process for obtaining Gulf charter vessel/headboat permits under the moratorium. Permit owners who received their Gulf charter vessel/headboat permit under the moratorium, or a letter of eligibility for such a permit, need not reapply. This reopening is extended to historical participants in the fishery who, for whatever reason, failed to apply during the moratorium application period.

### **Eligibility under this emergency rule**

Eligibility for charter vessel/headboat permits under this reopening is limited to applicants who: (1) Meet one of the three original moratorium permit eligibility criteria; (2) were not issued an original charter vessel/headboat permit or letter of eligibility under the moratorium for which they were eligible; and (3) can demonstrate economic harm as a result of failure to obtain an original charter vessel/headboat permit under the moratorium.

### **Original moratorium permit eligibility criteria**

The three original moratorium permit eligibility criteria include qualification provisions based on 1) permit history, 2) historical captaincy, or 3) vessel under construction.

To meet the original moratorium eligibility criteria based on permit history, the vessel owner must have held a valid charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf reef fish or coastal migratory pelagic fish between March 29, 2000, and March 29, 2001, or have submitted an application for such a permit to NMFS by March 29, 2001.

To meet the original moratorium eligibility criteria based on Historical Captaincy, the applicant must provide NMFS with documentation verifying that:

- a. Prior to March 29, 2001, he/she was issued either a USCG Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessel license (commonly referred to as a 6-pack license) or a USCG Masters license;

- b. he/she operated, as a captain, a federally-permitted charter vessel or headboat in the Gulf reef fish and/or coastal migratory pelagic fisheries but does not have a fishery permit issued in his/her name; and
- c. at least 25% of his/her earned income was derived from charter vessel or headboat fishing in one of the following years: 1997, 1998, 1999, or 2000.

To meet the original moratorium eligibility criteria based on a vessel under construction, the applicant must provide NMFS with documentation verifying that, prior to March 29, 2001, he/she had a charter vessel or headboat under construction and that the associated expenditures were at least \$5,000 as of March 29, 2001. If the vessel owner was constructing the vessel, the vessel owner must provide NMFS with receipts for the required expenditures. If the vessel was being constructed by someone other than the owner, the owner must provide NMFS with a copy of the contract and/or receipts for the required expenditures.

**Economic harm**

Economic harm, for the purposes of this emergency rule, is based on the concept that a person suffered an actual realized loss as a result of the inability to operate in these fisheries after the moratorium in the same manner as he/she did prior to the moratorium.

For Gulf of Mexico reef fish charter vessel/headboat moratorium permits, proof of economic harm is the issuance of an open access charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf reef fish during the period of March 29, 2000, through November 12, 2003 (the day before moratorium permits were required for the fishery).

For Gulf of Mexico coastal migratory pelagic fish charter vessel/headboat moratorium permits, proof of economic harm is the issuance of an open access charter vessel/headboat permit for coastal migratory pelagic fish during the period of March 29, 2000, through November 12, 2003 (the day moratorium permits were required by the fishery), **AND** verification that the applicant operated in the fishery within the Gulf of Mexico. Documentation

verifying where the vessel operated may include the following:

- a. A documented homeport in the Gulf of Mexico for the permitted vessel during the period March 29, 2000, through November 12, 2003 (Note: An applicant who believes he/she meets the economic harm criteria based on ownership of a vessel under a different name, for example, as may have occurred when ownership has changed from individual to corporate or vice versa, must document his/her continuity of ownership.);
- b. appropriately dated logbooks, passenger manifests, or fuel receipts for the permitted vessel that clearly indicate a location within the Gulf; or
- c. appropriately dated receipts for dock rental for the permitted vessel from a Gulf-based marina.

**How to apply**

The following text outlines the application process. For complete details regarding permits and applications, please contact the Permits Office at the address and telephone number above.

Applications for this reopening are titled “Federal Charter/Headboat Permit Emergency Rule Application for Vessels Fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)” and are available upon request from the Permits Office, or online at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/permits.htm>.

Completed applications and all applicable supporting documentation must be received by the Permits Office by August 1, 2005.



## **Council Meeting Agenda**

The May 9-12, 2005 Council meeting will be held at the Place Casino Resort, 158 Howard Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530. The agenda is as follows:

### **COMMITTEE SCHEDULE** **MAY 9-10, 2005**

#### **Monday, May 9, 2005**

##### **9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

AP Selection Committee (**CLOSED SESSION**) (**Tab I**)

- Appointments to APs
- Discussion of Formation of Grouper IFQ AP

##### **10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**

SSC Selection Committee (**CLOSED SESSION**) (**Tab L**)

- Appointments to SSCs

##### **10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Budget/Personnel Committee (**Tab G**)

- Selection of Ecosystem Facilitator (**CLOSED SESSION**)
- Council Operational Budget for CY2005 (**OPEN SESSION**)

-recess

##### **1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Tab D)**

Shrimp Management Committee

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

##### **3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Administrative Policy/Budget/Personnel (**Tab F**)

- FMLA Revision to SOPPs

##### **4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.**

Habitat Protection Committee (**Tab J**)

- EFH Coordinator's Meeting
- SARP Meeting
- LNG Facility Permitting Update

**4:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

**Data Collection Committee (Tab E)**

- Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (Nowlin)

**Tuesday, May 10, 2005**

**8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.**

**SEDAR Committee (CLOSED SESSION)**

- Selection of Panel Participants for SEDAR Workshops for Amberjack, Vermilion Snapper and Gray Triggerfish

**9:15 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

**Reef Fish Management Committee (Tab B)**

- Demonstrations of Bycatch Release Gear (Epperly/Bergmann)
- Public Hearing Draft Reef Fish Amendment 18A/EA
- Red Grouper 2004/2005 Landings Data (Crabtree)
- Status Report on Interim Red Grouper Rule (Crabtree)
- Revised Options Paper for Red Grouper Regulatory Amendment
- Industry Buy-out Business Plan Discussion (Spaeth)

-recess

**1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel Management Committee (Tab H)**

- Public Hearing Draft Generic Amendment for Extension of Charter Vessel Permit Moratorium

(Celebration of 200<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting – Time to be announced)

**COUNCIL AGENDA**  
**MAY 11-12, 2005**

**Wednesday May 11, 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<sup>1 2</sup> - Morris
- a. Final Shrimp Amendment 13/EA (Tab D)
  - b. Exempted Fish Permits (**Tab M**) (if any)  
(8:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
- recess
- V. Administration's Ocean Action Plan - Crabtree  
(1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.)
- VI. Major Enforcement Issues
- Red Snapper Violations - Charles Tyer
  - Illegal Imports of Seafood into Gulf - Dave McKinney  
(1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.)
- VII. National State Fishery Directors' Meeting - Simpson  
(2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
- VIII. Committee Reports
- a. Shrimp Management (**Tab D**) – Perret  
(3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
  - b. AP Selection (**Tab I**) - Horn (**CLOSED SESSION**)  
(4:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.)
  - c. SSC Selection (**Tab L**) - Foote (**CLOSED SESSION**)  
(4:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
  - d. SEDAR - Morris - (**CLOSED SESSION**)  
(4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.)
  - e. Budget/Personnel (**Tab G**) - K. Williams - (**CLOSED SESSION**)  
(4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

**Thursday, May 12, 2005**

- VIII. Committee Reports (continued)
- b. AP Selection (**Tab I**) - Horn  
(8:30 a.m. - 8:35 a.m.)
  - c. SSC Selection (**Tab L**) - Foote  
(8:35 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.)
  - d. SEDAR - Morris  
(8:40 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.)

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

<sup>2</sup>Persons 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.



- e. Budget/Personnel (**Tab G**) - K. Williams  
(8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.)
  - f. Reef Fish Management (**Tab B**) - Minton  
(9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.)
  - g. Administrative Policy/Budget/Personnel (**Tab F**) - Fensom/K. Williams  
(9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.)
  - h. Habitat Protection (**Tab J**) - Brown  
(9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.)
  - i. Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel (**Tab H**) - Minton/Fischer  
(10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.)
  - j. Data Collection (**Tab E**) – Riechers  
(10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)
- IX. NMFS Billfish and HMS AP Meetings - B. Walker  
(10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.)
- X. Enforcement Reports - McKinney/Sherlock/Rogers  
(10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)
- XI. Regional Administrator’s Report - Crabtree  
(11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.)
- XII. Directors’ Reports - R. Williams/Minton/Perret/Foote/Riechers/Simpson/Brown/Fruge  
(11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)
- XIII. Other Business - (**Tab K**) - Morris  
(11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.)

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Following Meeting:  
Diamond Head Beach Resort  
Ft. Myers Beach, Florida  
July 11-14, 2005

## Council Seeking Social Scientists

The Council appointed all the members of the scientific and statistical committees (SSCs), advisory panels (APs), stock assessment panels (SAPs), and Socioeconomic Panel (SEP) for the 2005 – 2007 period. Through attrition it has lost 3 social scientists or anthropologist members on the Standing SSC. Therefore, the Council is seeking applicants for these seats for consideration at the May Council meeting. Interested persons should provide the Council with a resume by April 29, 2005.

### Advisory Panels

LAST	FIRST	STATE	CLASS	APPT'D
<b>BILLFISH</b>				
Basco	Pamela	TX	R	03/01/97
Bonanno	Gary	LA	CB	03/13/03
Chouest	Dino	LA	R	03/10/05
Fischer	Darlene	LA	R	04/01/99
Milner	John	MS	R	03/13/03
Peel	Ellen	FL	R	01/01/98
Robinson	James	TX	R	03/10/05
Smith	E.R. "Smitty"	LA	R	03/13/03
Taylor	James	MS	R	03/10/05
Wagner, Jr.	William	FL	R	01/01/98
<b>BUTTERFISH - Deleted non active</b>				
<b>COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS</b>				
Dumont	Dan	AL	R	07/15/04
Gibson, Jr.	William	FL	CF	03/11/93
Harper	Don	FL	CF	03/28/01
Harvard	Ben	AL	CF	04/01/99
Holmes	Mike	TX	CB	04/01/99
Horton	Wiley	FL	R	03/13/03
Jenkins	Chris	LA	R	03/13/03
Landry	Richard	LA	R	03/13/03
Ledet, Jr.	Leo	LA	R	03/13/03
Martin	Glenn	TX	CB	05/17/94
Marvel, Jr.	Tom	FL	CF/CB	07/01/93
Niles	George	FL	CF	03/13/03
Nugent	Mike	TX	CB	03/12/97
O'Barr	Bobby	MS	R	09/09/82
Presley	Ed	TX	R	03/10/05
Rice	Richard	LA	CB	03/13/03
Twiggs	Jim	MS	CB	03/28/01
Walker	Don	AL	CB	03/13/03
Waters	Donald	FL	CF	03/13/03
Zales, II	Bob	FL	CB	07/13/89

<b>CORAL</b>				
Berrigan	Mark	FL	FDAg	03/12/97
Causey	Billy	FL	NOAA	07/12/78
Feddern	Henry	FL	CF	07/12/78
Heck	Ken	AL	S	03/11/93
Moe, Jr.	Martin	FL	S	07/12/78
<b>DEEP-WATER CRAB</b>				
Graves	Gary	FL	P	03/28/01
Ostebo	Kenneth	MA	CF	07/12/01
Whipple	William	FL	CF	07/12/01
<b>HABITAT PROTECTION FL/AL</b>				
Anthony	David	FL	R	08/10/94
Barber	Pete	AL	CO	03/13/03
Cufone	Marianne	FL	EN	03/10/05
Lewis, III	Roy	FL	S	03/16/95
McMichael *	Robert	FL	SR	03/16/95
Pridgeon *	Bryan	FL	USFWS	03/27/00
Sierke, Jr.	William	AL	R	03/12/97
Swann*	LaDon	MS	SG	02/11/02
Thompson *	Mark	FL	NMFS	04/15/04
Yeager*	David	AL	NOS	03/28/01
<b>HABITAT PROTECTION MS/LA</b>				
Boyd *	Jan	MS	MDNR	03/13/03
Finley	Heather	LA	LDWF	11/26/01
Hartman*	Richard	LA	NMFS	04/15/04
Lanctot	Randy	LA	R	09/14/83
McCloskey	Bethlyn	LA	R	09/14/83
Necaise*	Paul	MS	USFWS	04/15/04
Richard	David	LA	LM	03/16/95
Sarthou	Cynthia	LA	EN	03/12/97
Umbdenstock	Pete	MS	R	03/13/03
Wilson*	Chuck	LA	SG	01/05/05
<b>HABITAT PROTECTION TEXAS</b>				
Baker	Bill	TX	S	03/22/93
Larson	Dana	TX	OIL	09/14/83
Miget*	Russell	TX	TPWD	04/14/99
Moritz	Burt	TX	R	09/14/83
Perkins	L. Don	TX	R	07/20/95
Spain *	Robert	TX	SR	03/16/95
Stickney *	Robert	TX	SG	05/16/00
Swafford*	Rusty	TX	NMFS	04/15/04
Werner*	Fred	TX	USFWS	03/17/88
* Obligatory Seat				

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES				
Basco	Pam	TX	R	03/13/03
Falterman	Brett	LA	CB	03/28/01
Fischer	Darlene	LA	R	04/01/99
Horst	Jerald	LA	SG	01/22/98
Marvel	Peace	LA	CB	03/13/03
Robinson	James	TX	R	03/10/05
Stout	John	TX	UI	03/10/05
Twinam	Mark	FL	CF	01/22/98
Wagner, Jr.	William	FL	R	01/22/98
RED DRUM				
Chambliss	Jeff	AL	CB	03/28/01
Gerica	Peter	LA	CF	09/10/86
Green	Scott	FL	R	09/17/98
Gros	Randolph	LA	R	04/01/99
Holder	Edward	TX	R	09/10/86
Horn	Doug	MS	P	07/12/01
Mason, Jr.	Howard	TX	R	03/16/95
Moritz	Burt	TX	R	04/24/91
Pearce	Harlon	LA	P	09/10/86
Rawlings	Frank	MS	R	03/16/95
Sibley	James	FL	R	03/28/01
Twiggs	Jim	MS	CB	03/28/01
Williams	James	MS	CF-R	03/16/95
Young	Ron	TX	R	09/10/86
RED SNAPPER				
Baker	Pam	TX	EN	03/13/03
Graham	Gary	TX	SG	03/16/95
Hardison	Frank	LA	CB	03/13/03
Johnson	Jacob	TX	R	03/13/03
Legnon	Richard	LA	R	03/16/95
Malone	Herbert	AL	O	11/12/97
Nix	Kim	TX	CO	11/12/97
Nugent	Mike	TX	CB	03/13/03
O'Barr	Bobby	MS	R	03/16/95
Perkins	Dale	FL	CB	03/13/03
Shipp	Robert	AL	S	08/11/00
Thierry	Mike	AL	CB	03/16/95
Underwood	Russel	FL	CF	03/13/03
Waters	Donny	FL	CF	01/22/98
Weeks	Monty	TX	R	03/13/03
Werner	Wayne	LA	CF	09/10/97
Whitfield	Mike	FL	CF	03/16/95

REEF FISH				
Allen	Ralph	FL	CB	03/16/95
Basco	Irby	TX	R	07/15/04
Cufone	Marianne	FL	EN	03/13/03
Gill	Bob	FL	CF	03/10/05
Hardison	Frank	LA	C	03/13/03
Harris	Marty	FL	CF	03/11/93
Jenkins	Chris	LA	R	03/28/01
Loyal	Gus	FL	CB	03/16/95
O'Hern	Dennis	FL	R	03/10/05
Rowell	Mike	AL	CB	03/28/01
Schmidt	Eric	FL	CF	03/28/01
Shipp	Robert	AL	S	08/11/00
Spaeth	Bob	FL	CO	05/10/84
Stephenson	Frank	FL	R	03/16/95
Taylor	James	MS	CO	03/10/05
Toomer	Edwin	FL	CF	04/01/99
Tucker	Bill	FL	CF	03/28/01
Turke	Tom	FL	CB	04/01/99
Ward	William	FL	CF	04/01/99
Werner	Wayne	LA	CF	01/22/98
Zales, II	Bob	FL	CB	03/16/95
SHRIMP				
Anderson	Wilma	TX	TSA	03/16/95
Barber	Pete	AL	ASA	04/01/99
Bosarge	Steve	MS	CF	03/28/01
Charpentier	Steve	LA	CF	04/24/91
Chauvin	Kimberly	LA	CF	03/10/05
Collins	Julius	TX	TSA	09/13/96
Despaux	Byron	LA	CF	03/13/03
Dinh	Joshua	LA	CF	03/10/05
Dumont	Dan	AL	R	07/15/04
Gaidry	Wilson	LA	CF	03/10/05
Goga	Ivo	TX	P	03/13/03
Gollott	Richard	MS	C	03/13/03
Graham	Gary	TX	SG	03/13/03
Hemingway	Jack	TX	P	03/13/03
Henderson	Dennis	FL	CF	03/14/89
Lasseigne, Jr.	Harris	TX	P	05/14/85
Nelson	Chris	AL	P	04/24/91
Nguyen	Darlene	MS	CO	09/10/03
Stewart	Russell	FL	R	03/10/05
Zimmerman	Walter	TX	P	10/01/81

SPINY LOBSTER				
Gaitanis	Robert	FL	R	07/14/93
Lessard	Karl	FL	CF	08/11/00
Long	Skip	FL	R	07/14/93
Patrick	B. Allen	FL	R	07/14/93
Sansom	Jerry	FL	CO	09/09/82
Stafford	Simon	FL	CF	05/14/85
Superstein	Rick	FL	P	05/14/85
STONE CRAB				
Daniels	Tim	FL	CF	04/11/78
Gill	Bob	FL	CF	03/28/01
Graves	Gary	FL	CF	04/11/78
Lessard	Karl	FL	CF	08/11/00
Rhodes-Donahue	Kennetha	FL	CF	04/01/99
Robinson	Robert	FL	CF	04/30/86
Smyrnios	Janalea	FL	P	03/13/03
Stafford	Simon	FL	CF	03/11/93
AP CLASS CODES				
ASA	Alabama Seafood Association			
CB	Charterboat Operator			
CF	Commercial Fisherman			
CO	Commercial (Other)			
E	Enforcement			
EC	Economist			
EN	Environmental			
FDAq	Florida Department of Agriculture			
FWS	Fish & Wildlife			
LDWF	LA Dept of Wildlife Fisheries			
LM	Land Management			
LSA	Louisiana Shrimp Association			
MDNR	Mississippi Dept. of Natural Resources			
NOAA	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin.			
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service			
O	Other			
OIL	Oil Industry			
P	Processor			
R	Recreational			
S	Scientist			
SFA	Southeastern Fisheries Association			
SG	Sea Grant			
SR	State Representative			
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department			
TSA	Texas Shrimp Association			
UI	Utility Industry			
USFWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service			

### Scientific and Statistical Committees

LAST	FIRST	STATE	AFFL	APPT'D
STANDING SSC				
Adams /1	Charles	FL	UF	07/01/91
Barbieri /2	Luiz	FL	FFWRI	09/11/03
Cowan /3	James	LA	LSU	03/01/95
Diamond /3	Sandra	TX	TX Tech	03/01/99
Fuls /2	Billy	TX	Retired	04/01/97
Gregory /3	Douglas	FL	UF-SG	01/01/92
Guillen	George	TX	Univ H	03/10/05
Jepson /5	Mike	FL	UF	03/10/05
Jones /2	Albert	FL	Retired	06/01/79
Keithly /1	Walter	LA	LSU	07/01/91
Patterson /3	William	FL	UWF	03/10/05
Wilkins /4	James	LA	LSU-SG	03/01/95
1 - Economist				
2 - Biologist				
3 - Pop. Dynamics				
4 - Law				
5 - Anthropologist				
SPECIAL BUTTERFISH - Deleted inactive				
SPECIAL CORAL SSC				
Cuba	Thomas	FL	Delta S. Inc.	03/10/05
Dodge	Richard	FL	NCRI	07/01/99
Jaap	Walter	FL	FFWRI	06/01/79
Lang	Judith	VA	Retired	06/01/79
Schmahl	George	TX	FG NMS	03/10/05
SPECIAL COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGIC (MACKEREL) SSC				
Adriance	Jason	LA	LDWF	03/10/05
Burns	Karen	FL	MoteM	05/01/89
Choucair	Paul	TX	TPWD	03/13/03
DeVries	Douglas	FL	NMFS	05/01/95
McBride	Richard	FL	FFWRI	03/13/03
SPECIAL OCEANIC MIGRATORY SPECIES SSC				
Blankinship	Randy	TX	TPWD	03/01/99
Franks, Jr.	James	MS	GCRL	05/01/95
Thompson	Bruce	LA	CFI-LSU	05/01/95

<b>SPECIAL RED DRUM SSC</b>				
Cook	Paul	LA	LDWF	03/01/99
Nichols	Scott	MS	NMFS	07/01/91
Pausina	Randall	LA	LDWF	01/03/03
Tolan	Jim	TX	TPWD	03/13/03
Vega	Robert	TX	TPWD	01/03/03
<b>SPECIAL REEF FISH SSC</b>				
Allman	Robert	FL	NMFS	03/10/05
Dorf	Barbara	TX	TPWD	03/13/03
Huntsman	Gene	NC	Retired	05/01/87
Kasprzak	Rick	LA	LDWF	04/01/97
Lindberg	Bill	FL	UF	03/01/99
<b>SPECIAL SHARK SSC</b>				
Branstetter	Steve	FL	NMFS	05/01/89
Burgess, Jr.	George	FL	UF	10/01/85
Carlson	John	FL	NMFS	03/01/99
Castro	Jose	FL	MoteM	05/01/89
Duffy	Jim	AL	ALDNR	03/13/03
Hensley	Rebecca	TX	TPWD	03/13/03
Hueter	Robert	FL	MoteM	07/01/91
<b>SPECIAL SHRIMP SSC</b>				
Bourgeois	Martin	LA	LDWF	09/01/00
Brainard	Mike	MS	MSDMR	03/13/03
Griffin	Wade	TX	TA&M	05/01/89
Meador	Karen	TX	TPWD	09/02/03
Nance	James	TX	NMFS	05/01/93
<b>SPECIAL SPINY LOBSTER SSC</b>				
Buesa	Rene	FL	MSMC	10/01/85
Hunt	John	FL	FFWRI	08/01/89
Teehan	Bill	FL	FFWCC	03/13/03
<b>SPECIAL STONE CRAB SSC</b>				
Bert	Theresa	FL	FFWRI	12/01/81
Matthews	Tom	FL	FFWRI	03/01/99
Perry	Harriet	MS	GCRL	05/01/93

## Stock Assessment Pools and Socioeconomic

<b>FINFISH SAP</b>				
Blanchet	Harry	LA	LDWF	08/01/89
Diamond	Sandra	TX	TX Tech.	07/01/99
Ehrhardt	Nelson	FL	UMiami	08/01/89
Fisher	Mark	TX	TPWD	05/01/97
Mahmoudi	Behzad	FL	FWRI	03/13/03
Muller	Robert	FL	FWRI	08/01/89
Murie	Debra	FL	UF	08/01/98
Murphy	Mike	FL	FWRI	07/01/99
Patterson	William	AL	USA	04/01/97
Rooker	Jay	TX	TX A&M	03/13/03
Rose	Kenneth	LA	LSU	10/01/98
Van Hoose	Mark	AL	ADNR	08/01/89
			UBC	
Walters	Carl	CAN	Retired	03/13/03
Warren	James	MS	GCRI	03/01/95
<b>SHRIMP SAP</b>				
Fisher	Mark	TX	TPWD	03/01/99
Griffin	Wade	TX	TA&M	07/01/91
Hartman	Leslie	AL	ADCNR	03/01/99
Nance	James	TX	NMFS	07/01/91
Nichols	Scott	MS	NMFS	07/01/91
Richardson	Bill	MS	MSDMR	03/13/03
<b>SOCIOECONOMIC PANEL</b>				
Anderson	Lee	DE	EC	03/01/99
Estrada	Joselito	TX	EC	03/13/03
Gill	Duane	MS	SS	07/01/99
Griffin	Wade	TX	EC	01/01/00
Holiman	Stephen	FL	EC	05/01/97
Holland	Stephen	FL	SS	12/01/91
Jepson	Michael	FL	SS	06/01/94
Kazmierczak	Richard	LA	EC	03/13/03
Keithly	Walter	LA	EC	01/01/00
Keithly	Diane	LA	SS	03/01/99
Larkin	Sherry	FL	EC	03/10/05
Lavergne	David	LA	EC	09/01/93
Milon	J. Walter	FL	EC	12/01/91
Ward	John	MD	EC	12/01/91
EC = Economist	SS = Social Scientist			

GULF FISHERY NEWS WANTS YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS . . . .

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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.

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