



Gulf Fishery News

Volume 27, Issue 5

November-December, 2005

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council *Protecting our marine resources*

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Red Snapper IFQ goes back to voters for final approval

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council held a final public hearing on the red snapper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Wednesday, November 15, 2005 at the Ramada Inn in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. Members of the public who spoke were largely in favor of moving forward with the second and final referendum that, if passed, will move the red snapper fishery from a limited access system to an IFQ program.

“The industry will regulate itself, and we’ll have a viable fishery again,” said David Krebs, member of the Ad Hoc Red Snapper Advisory Panel (AHR SAP), speaking in favor of the program.

The initiative has been under scrutiny for nearly six years by the AHR SAP, a panel of commercial fishermen, scientists, environmentalists, and dealers appointed by the Council to review the IFQ proposal and make recommendations on how to proceed.

“There was a lot of bloodletting” during the process, said Donald Waters, a commercial fisherman and AP member from Pensacola, Florida. “But we’ve chosen options that everyone can live with,” he said.

For years, the red snapper fishery has been marked by overcapitalization. The current limited entry and closed season management system has encouraged fishermen to engage in derby-type fishing where participants race to harvest as many fish as possible before the quota is taken and the fishery closes.

Under the proposed IFQ, individual quotas will be assigned based on historical landings. Class 1 reef fish permit holders will choose ten consecutive years between 1990 and 2004, Class 2 reef fish permit holders will choose five years between 1998 and 2004. For those fishermen who hold a Class 1 historical captain’s license, individual quotas will be assigned based on a seven-year average.

See *Red Snapper*, page 3

Congratulations to:

Pam Baker
 Glen Brooks
 James Clements
 Ken Daniels
 William Deadrick
 Martin Fischer
 Doug Gregory
 Donald Leal
 Ed Maccini
 Tom Marvel
 Dave McKinney
 Dr. Ken Roberts
 Eric Schmidt
 Ed Small
 Bob Spaeth
 Susan Steingress
 Bill Tucker
 Donnie Waters

Ad Hoc Grouper IFQ Advisory Panel appointed

Congratulations to all those appointed to the newly formed Ad Hoc Grouper IFQ Advisory Panel (AP). At its November meeting, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council selected members to serve on the AP, which is charged with advising the Council on matters pertaining to the development of an IFQ program for the commercial grouper fishery. The panel will examine the benefits and consequences of using IFQs to better manage that fishery.

The AP is comprised of representatives of vertical line, longline, trap, and multi-species/multi-gear fishermen, as well as dealers. Members are assisted by non-voting members, with expertise in economics, fishery science, and law enforcement.

See membership list at the left.

Recreational red grouper regulatory amendment is adopted

At its November meeting, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council took final action to send a recreational red grouper regulatory amendment to the Secretary of Commerce for implementation.

The amendment is intended to establish more permanent management measures for the recreational grouper fishery - measures that are necessary in order for the Council to return the recreational red grouper landings to the levels specified in the rebuilding plan and to minimize impacts on other grouper resulting from more restrictive recreational red grouper regulations.

The final document contains preferred alternatives that decrease the red grouper bag limit from 2 to 1, establish a closed season for red, gag, and black grouper from February 15 through March 15, and prohibit captain and crew of for-hire vessels from retaining grouper when under charter.

An alternative previously considered - reducing the aggregate bag limit from five to three - was rejected, leaving the aggregate bag limit at five grouper.

"Both the recreational sector and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission urged the Council to maintain the five-fish aggregate bag limit," said Julie Morris, Council member.

Morris points out that the one-fish bag limit for red grouper adopted by the Council could result in anglers fishing harder for gag grouper. Reducing the aggregate bag limit to three fish would have provided additional protection to gag by reducing harvest by an estimated seven percent.

"But because the one-month grouper closure approved by the Council accomplishes that same seven percent reduction, reducing the aggregate bag limit was unnecessary," said Morris.

The February 15 - March 15 closure was chosen because it is during peak spawning season for gag. It also provides the greatest reduction in landings with a lower economic impact than other proposed closures.

"The closure won't actually be in place until 2007, and we expect federal and Florida rules to be the same during 2006," Morris said.

Many who spoke at the final public hearing held in Fort Walton Beach, FL, requested the Council not take action on the amendment until the next red grouper stock assessment is completed. That assessment is not due out until the fall of 2006.

"The problem with deferring action until after the stock assessment is completed is that when a fishery is determined to be undergoing overfishing, the Council is required to take action within one year," said Dr. Rick Leard, Deputy Director of the Gulf Council.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (M-SFCMA) requires the Council to, within one year, prepare an FMP, plan amendment, or proposed regulations for a fishery that has been identified as overfished or experiencing overfishing. Waiting for the stock assessment would have put them beyond that one-year deadline.

For more than a year, the Council has wrangled with this amendment,

which is designed to help meet the red grouper rebuilding schedules outlined in Secretarial Amendment 1 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

That Secretarial amendment adopts a ten-year rebuilding plan that is reviewed at three-year intervals. It also sets the annual allowable catch of red grouper at 6.56 million pounds (MP) - with a commercial quota of 5.31 MP and a recreational target catch level of 1.25 MP.

The fall of 2004 marked the first three-year interval. That same year, the recreational catch was exceeded by more than two and a half times the target level, at 3.18 MP, one factor prompting the need for a regulatory amendment.

In all, the amendment as approved is expected to reduce recreational landings by more than 33%, keeping in line with the rebuilding plan.

In a separate action, the Council moved to begin working on an amendment that will establish red grouper allocations between the commercial and recreational sectors. A status report will be presented to the Council during its January meeting.



NOAA Photo Credit

Recreational fishing boats grace the Islamorada waterfront.

Attention Charter Boat Captains

The National Charter Boat Association (NACO) is collecting economic loss information across all areas impacted by the 2005 hurricane season. A series of meetings are scheduled in South Florida. Meetings have already been held in Mississippi, Louisiana and the Florida Panhandle.

NACO plans to identify the charter, guide, and headboat owners who have been affected by the record number of storms in the Gulf of Mexico this year and will gather and assess economic loss data associated with owners and support personnel who have been affected by the widespread destruction.

“The destruction caused by these storms is widespread and has, in some way, affected the entire fleet. At this time, it is essential for all of us to work

together for the benefit of our industry,” said Bobbi Walker, Executive Director of NACO.

Information collected will be provided to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Congress, and to any agency that can provide economic assistance. Assistance may be in the form of grants or low interest loans that will aid in the economic recovery of these small businesses.

“It’s imperative that every charter operator fill out a disaster form so that we can record the total number affected and the total amount of economic help needed. Even if an owner has lost only a few trips and doesn’t intend to request help, that information is important to the total impact assessment and will help those who desperately need assistance,” said Bob Zales, NACO President.

If you are unable to attend the meetings, you can participate in the survey by visiting the NACO web site at www.nacocharters.org and completing the economic loss survey, or by calling the NACO office at 251-981-5136.

Scheduled Meetings	
DEC. 9, 2005 Mackle Park 1361 Andalusia Terrace	MARCO ISLAND 11 AM TILL
DEC. 10, 2005 Holiday Isle Charter Dock	ISLAMARADO 11 AM TILL
DEC. 11, 2005 State of Florida Service Center Bldg. Rm. 104 2796 Overseas Hwy	MARATHON 11 AM TILL
DEC. 12, 2005 Harvey Gov’t Center 2nd Floor 1200 Truman Ave.	KEY WEST 11 AM TILL



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHARTERBOAT OPERATORS

P.O. Box 2990
Orange Beach, AL 36561
Phone: 251.981.5136
Fax: 215.981.8191

www.nacocharters.org Email: info@nacocharters.org

Red Snapper *continued from page 1*

It is hoped that the IFQ program will increase product quality by improving fishing and handling methods, and reduce bycatch by allowing fishermen greater flexibility in operations.

Russell Underwood, a permit holder from Panama City, Florida, says he has been in a “boat race” for the past 15 years. “I want my life back,” he said.

IFQs often will create an incentive for fishermen to conserve the resource.

“It gives them a long-term interest

in the health and productivity of the fishery,” said Wayne Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

By a unanimous vote, the Council adopted a motion that allows the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to move forward with the final referendum.

Those eligible to vote are Class 1 reef fish permit holders. Ballots will be mailed to those permit holders some time in December.

If approved, the Gulf Council will ask NMFS to send the document to

the Secretary of Commerce for review. If implemented by the Secretary, the IFQ program will become effective in 2007.



NOAA Photo Credit

Proposed Joint reef fish/shrimp amendments go to scoping

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, at its last meeting, considered a list of proposed actions to be included in a scoping document that will be presented to the public in January.

Initially planned to be a single joint reef fish/shrimp amendment, the Council chose to develop two joint amendments to address the rebuilding of the red snapper



NOAA Photo Credit

fishery. The first amendment - joint Reef Fish Amendment 27/Shrimp Amendment 14 - will contain proposed actions that will deal with adjustments to the total allowable catch (TAC) for red snapper, size limits, bag limits, recreational season dates, and the certification of new shrimp bycatch reduction devices (BRDs). The amendment will also look at shrimp limits on trawling gear, shrimp restrictions on the transfer of vessel permits, and possible area closures for shrimp.

The second amendment – joint Reef Fish Amendment 28/Shrimp Amendment 15 - will consider such issues as gear restrictions for the reef fish fishery, establishing commercial fishing seasons, further

reducing bycatch, as well as other management alternatives.

A recent stock assessment shows that red snapper continues to be overfished and undergoing overfishing. A stock is overfished when it becomes sufficiently small and falls below the minimum stock size threshold (MMST). It then becomes necessary to change management practices to achieve an appropriate level and rate of rebuilding. When a stock is undergoing overfishing it is harvested at a rate equal to or greater than that which will meet the management goal.

Scoping documents for both amendments are currently under development. Scoping meetings for Reef Fish Amendment 27/Shrimp 14 are scheduled for late January. A total of ten meetings will be held around the Gulf coast, from Brownsville, Texas to Key West, Florida.

The meetings are designed to receive comments on possible ways to reduce directed harvests of red snapper, as well as ways to reduce bycatch in the directed reef fish fishery and further reduce bycatch in the shrimp fishery, particularly that of red snapper.

“I would encourage anyone who has an interest in the reef fish or shrimp industry to participate in the scoping process. It’s the best way to have your ideas considered up front,” said Rick Leard, Deputy Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

It is anticipated that scoping comments will be presented to the Council during its March meeting.

Scoping Hearing Schedule

Amendment 27 to the Reef Fish FMP and Amendment 14 to the Shrimp FMP

Mobile, AL	1/23/06
Brownsville, TX	1/23/06
Port Aransas, TX	1/24/06
Pascagoula, MS	1/24/06
Galveston, TX	1/25/06
Orange Beach, AL	1/25/06
Larose, LA	1/26/06
Panama City, FL	1/26/06
Tampa, FL	1/30/06
Key West, FL	1/31/06

Public input is an important part of the amendment process, particularly during the scoping phase. It offers the public an opportunity to have ideas heard and possibly included as alternatives presented to the Council for consideration. Therefore, the Council strongly encourages public participation. Please contact the Gulf Council at 813-348-1630 for more information on how you can become part of the process.

NOAA seeking nominations for awards programs

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is currently seeking nominations for three awards programs.

The first, **NOAA Fisheries' Stewardship and Sustainability Awards**, is a new program that recognizes outstanding performance, achievements and leadership by industries, organizations and individuals that promote best stewardship practices for the sustainable use of living marine resources and foster a stewardship ethic within their community.

Nominees will be considered for the following awards:

- ◆ Special Recognition Award
- ◆ Stewardship and Sustainability Award
- ◆ Conservation Partnership Award
- ◆ Science, Research and Technology Award
- ◆ Coastal Habitat Restoration Award

◆ Public Education, Community Service & Media Award

This awards program is open to industry sectors, organizations, individuals, state, local and federal government agencies and their employees. Organizations, individuals and agencies cannot nominate themselves. The deadline for submitting nominations is January 10, 2005.

For more information, visit <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/mafacs/award.htm> or contact Laurel.Bryant@noaa.gov.

The second awards program is the **National Wetlands Awards**. As in past years, NOAA Fisheries Service has joined the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) and others in the environmental community to sponsor the National Wetlands Awards.

These awards are designed to recognize individuals who have demonstrated outstanding innova-

tion or excellence in wetland conservation at the regional, state, or local level.

The third program—the **International SmartGear Competition**—is the bycatch reduction contest organized by the World Wildlife Fund. Details for that competition can be found on page 6 of this newsletter.

The 2006 Awards will be given in six categories: Education and Outreach; Science Research; Conservation and Restoration; Landowner Stewardship; State, Tribal, and Local Program Development; and Wetland Community Leader. Nominations with supporting material are due by January 15, 2006. Nomination forms may be downloaded from <http://www2.eli.org/nwa/nwaprogram.htm>.

For more information, please contact wetlandsawards@eli.org or Brenda.Rupli@noaa.gov.

FWC approves rules to clarify total length fish measurements

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has approved a series of rules to clarify and standardize how anglers should measure the total length of various saltwater finfish.

The new rules specify that the “total length” of saltwater fish, such as red drum, spotted sea trout and snook, should be measured by determining the straight line distance from the most forward point of the head with the mouth closed, to the farthest tip of the tail with the tail compressed or squeezed together, while fish is lying on its side.

However, there is no change to the way the “fork length” of saltwater fish, such as Spanish mackerel, pompano, and cobia, should be measured.

Another new rule changes measurement for gray triggerfish, from total length to fork length, to be consistent with the way this species is measured in federal waters.

The goal of these rules is to provide a standard measurement procedure for the total length of saltwater fish that is understood by resident and visiting anglers. The changes will also the rules to be more uniformly enforced by

officers in the filed.

The new rules will take effect July 1, 2006. For more information on the rules, contact Lee Schlesinger at 850-487-0554.

Federal Regulations

Fork length means the straight-line distance from the tip of the head (snout) to the rear center edge of the tail (caudal fin.)

Total length means the straight-line distance from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail (caudal fin), excluding any caudal filament, while the fish is lying on its side. The mouth of the fish may be closed and/or the tail may be squeezed together to give the greatest overall measurement.

A SMART idea to reduce bycatch could net you \$25,000!

WASHINGTON—World Wildlife Fund has announced the launch of the second WWF International Smart Gear Competition. The contest seeks innovative fishing gear that reduces marine bycatch—the accidental catch and related deaths of marine mammals, birds, sea turtles and non-target fish species in fishing gear such as nets and longlines.

"World Wildlife Fund's looking for real-world fishing solutions that allow fishermen to fish 'smarter'—better targeting their intended catch while safeguarding the dolphins, sea turtles and other marine life often caught unintentionally," said Ginette Hemley, vice president, species conservation, World Wildlife Fund.

"This unique collaboration among conservationists, fishermen and scientists is designed to inspire new technologies for more sustainable fishing," Hemley said.

The international competition will award a \$25,000 grand prize and two \$5,000 runner-up prizes to

the designs judged to be the most practical, cost-effective methods for reducing bycatch of any species. The competition is open to eligible entrants from any background—including fishermen, professional gear manufacturers, teachers, students, engineers, scientists and backyard inventors. Instructions for entry and competition rules are available at www.smartgear.org. Entries must be submitted by March 15, 2006.

Conventional fishing gear does often not allow users to selectively target their catch. As a result, non-target fish species, marine mammals, birds, sea turtles and non-target fish species are caught and sometimes killed.

More than 25 percent of what is caught in the course of fishing – as much as 20 million metric tons, annually—is thrown over the sides of fishing boats dead or dying. This bycatch is the leading threat to many endangered marine mammals, sea turtles and sea birds around the world.

"The WWF International Smart Gear Competition aims to stop one of the biggest threats to healthy marine ecosystems and related economic losses to fishermen," said Hemley of World Wildlife Fund. "We hope this competition harnesses the creativity and ingenuity of fishermen, scientists and the public to reduce the waste caused by inefficient gear."

Last year, WWF awarded three new practical solutions to marine bycatch: a system for keeping longlines away from sea turtles by a former high-school biology teacher and commercial fisherman; changes to the chemical properties of fishing ropes and nets by a North American team; and modified trawls to reduce bycatch of undersized shrimp and fish by a team of Indian scientists.

The winner of the WWF International Smart Gear Competition will be decided by a diverse set of judges, including fishermen, researchers, engineers and fisheries managers from all over the world.

Frequently used acronyms

ABC	Acceptable Biological Catch	MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
AP	Advisory Panel	MRFSS	Marine Recreational Fishing Statistics Survey
BRD	Bycatch Reduction Device	NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
CPUE	Catch Per Unit Effort	OY	Optimum Yield
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	SEDAR	Southeast Data, Assessment and Review
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat	SSC	Scientific and Statistical Committee
FMP	Fishery Management Plan	SFA	Sustainable Fisheries Act
GSMFC	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission	TAC	Total Allowable Catch
HAPC	Habitat Area of Particular Concern	TED	Turtle Excluder Device
HMS	Highly Migratory Species	VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
IFQ	Individual Fishing Quota		

Gulf of Mexico fishery closures

Recreational Closures:

Red Grouper

By interim rule, the red grouper fishery is closed November 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005.

Red Snapper

The recreational fishery for red snapper closed at 12:01 a.m., EST, on November 1, 2005 and will remain closed until 12:01 a.m., EST, April 21, 2006.

Commercial Closures:

Shallow-water Grouper

The commercial fishery for shallow-water grouper in the Gulf of Mexico federal waters is closed from 12:01 a.m., EST, October 10, 2005 to 12:01 a.m., EST January 1, 2006. Existing regulations require closure of the entire shallow-water grouper fishery when either the red grouper quota or shallow-water grouper quota (8.80 million pounds, gutted weight) is reached. The shallow-water grouper complex includes red, black, gag, yellowfin, scamp, yellowmouth, rock hind, and red hind.

In addition, there is an annual commercial fishery closure for all grouper species (shallow-water and deep-water) from February 15 to March 15, during peak spawning periods.

King Mackerel

The commercial fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in the western zone is closed, effective 12:00 noon, EST, November 17, 2005, through June 30, 2006. The western zone extends from the U.S./Mexico border to the Alabama/Florida boundary.

During the closure, no king mackerel caught in the closed zone/subzone may be purchased, bartered, traded, or sold. This includes recreational and tournament caught fish.

Exceptions: A person aboard a vessel that has a valid charter/headboat permit for coastal migratory pelagic fish may continue to retain king mackerel in or from the closed zone/subzone under the 2-fish daily bag limit, provided the vessel is operating as a charter vessel or headboat. Charter vessels or headboats that hold a commercial king mackerel permit are considered to be operating as a charter vessel or headboat when carrying a paying passenger or when more than 3 persons are aboard, including operator and crew.

Tilefish

The commercial fishery for tilefish closed 12:01 a.m., EST, November 21, 2005 and will remain closed until 12:01 a.m., EST, January 1, 2006.

The prohibitions listed above do not apply to fish that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to the start of the closure and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Wayne Swingle Executive Director	Richard Leard Deputy Director
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Appointed Voting Members

DeGraaf Adams, III Richmond, TX (832) 476-5608	Julie Morris Sarasota, FL (941) 359-4527
Karen Bell Cortez, FL (941) 794-1249	Robert Shipp Mobile, AL (251) 460-6351
William Daughdrill Panama City, FL (850) 769-7384	Walter Thomassie Golden Meadow, LA (985) 396-2636
Myron Fischer Cut-Off, LA (985) 632-4525	Bobbi Walker Orange Beach, AL (251) 981-6159
Joseph Hendrix, Jr. Houston, TX (281) 597-1620	Kay Williams Vanceleve, MS (228) 826-2160
Philip Horn Pascagoula, MS (228) 762-4511	

State/Federal Voting Members

Robin Riechers, Chair Austin, TX (512) 389-4645 Designee for Larry McKinney	Vernon Minton Gulf Shores, AL (251) 968-7576
Corky Perret, Vice Chair Biloxi, MS (228) 374-5000 Designee for William Walker	Karen Foote Baton Rouge, LA (225) 765-2383 Designee for John Roussel
Roy Williams Tallahassee, FL (850) 487-0554 Designee for Ken Haddad	Roy Crabtree St. Petersburg, FL (727) 570-5301

Non-voting Members

Sam Hamilton USF&WS (404) 679-4000	Larry Simpson GSMFC (228) 875-5912
Radm Robert Duncan Eighth Coast Guard District (504) 589-6223	David Hogan Foreign Affairs Officer (202) 647-2335

Committee Agenda (subject to change)

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Omni Corpus Christi Hotel – Bayfront Tower
Corpus Christi Ballroom A
Corpus Christi, Texas
January 9-10, 2006

Monday, January 9, 2006

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Habitat Protection Committee (Tab J)

SARP Report

Texas Habitat Protection AP Recommendations

Shell Oil LNG Proposals (Zerata)

Gulf Foundation CRP Habitat Grants (Doken)

Gulf of Mexico Summit Update (Doken)

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Shrimp Management Committee (Tab D)

Texas Closure

- recess -

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

Reef Fish Management Committee (Tab B)

Update on Red Snapper Referendum Result

Status Report on Grouper Allocation Amendment

Discussion Paper for Reef Fish Amendment 29
(Grouper IFQ)

Procedure to Trigger Vertical Line Fishing Only in
Grouper Fishery

-recess-

Tuesday, January 10, 2006

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Management Committees (Tab C)

Scoping Document for Joint Amendment (Reef Fish
27/Shrimp 14)

Scoping Document for Joint Amendment (Reef Fish
28/Shrimp 15)

Shrimp AP Comments on Scoping Documents

-recess-

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Budget/Personnel Committee (Tab F)

FMLA

CY2006 Budget

3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Administrative Policy Committee (Tab E)

Revision of SOPPs SSC Operations Section

Video Conferencing

Public Question/Answer Sessions

Updated fishing regulation brochures available online

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has posted the latest version of its Federal Fishing Regulations for both commercial and recreational fishing. Visit <http://gulfcouncil.org/downloads/recbrochure.pdf> to download the recreational fishing regulations brochure, and <http://gulfcouncil.org/downloads/com%20brochure.pdf> for the commercial regulations.

Hard copies will be available after the first of the year and can be acquired by calling the Gulf Council at 813-348-1630, or by e-mailing a request to Charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org.



Council Agenda (subject to change)

**Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Omni Corpus Christi Hotel – Bayfront Tower
Corpus Christi Ballroom A
Corpus Christi, Texas
January 11-12, 2006**

Wednesday, January 11, 2006

- I. Call to Order and Introductions – Riechers
(8:30 a.m. – 8:35 a.m.)
- II. Adoption of Agenda – Riechers
(8:35 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.)
- III. Approval of Minutes (Tab A) – Riechers
(8:40 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.)
- IV. Public Testimony^{1 2} - Riechers
 - a. Reef Fish Amendment 26 (Red Snapper IFQ)
 - b. Texas Shrimp Closure
 - c. Exempted Fishing Permits (if any)
(8:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)

-recess-

- V. Committee Reports
 - a. Reef Fish Management (Tab B) – Minton
(1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
 - b. Joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Management (Tab C) – Minton/Perret
(3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.)
- VI. Litigation Session (CLOSED) – McLemore
(4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.)

-recess-

Thursday, January 12, 2006

- V. Committee Reports (continued)
 - c. Budget/Personnel (Tab F) – K. Williams
(8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.)
 - d. Administrative Policy (Tab E) – Morris
(9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.)
 - e. Habitat Protection (Tab J) – Brown
(9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.)
 - f. Shrimp Management (Tab D) – Perret
(9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.)
- VI. SAFMC Liaison - Adams
(10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.)
- VII. Enforcement Reports – Kiester/Rogers/McKinney
(10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)
- VIII. Adoption of LEAP Operation Plan—B. Walker
(10:30 a.m.—10:45 a.m.)
- IX. Regional Administrator’s Report – Crabtree
(10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)
- X. Director’s Reports* – R. Williams/Minton/Perret/Foote/Riechers/Simpson/Brown
(11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)
- XI. Other Business
(11:30 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.)

-adjourn-

* Includes State Rules Regulating Pompano

¹ Persons wishing to testify must turn in a registration card prior to the beginning of the public testimony period.² Persons wishing Council members to have copies of written testimony or information should provide 30 copies to staff for distribution. 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.

GMFMC wants your news and views

The Gulf Council would like to hear from you! Please contact us regarding fishery questions, comments, or concerns you would like to see covered in the *Gulf Fishery News*. Anyone interested in submitting information, such as articles, editorials, or photographs pertaining to fishing or fisheries management are encouraged to do so. Submissions may be mailed to Charlene Ponce, Public Information Officer, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607. Materials can also be sent via fax to 813-348-1711, or e-mail; charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org.

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 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.

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The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council *Protecting our marine resources*

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