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NOAA Seeks Public Comment on Grouper/Tilefish IFQ

The Gulf Council submitted Reef Fish Amendment 29 to NOAA Fisheries Service for review, approval, and implementation. The Amendment was developed to rationalize effort and reduce overcapacity in the commercial grouper and tilefish fisheries to achieve and maintain optimum yield.

Written comments must be received by 5 p.m. EST, on June 8, 2009 and can be submitted as follows:

Electronic: www.regulations.gov
Enter NOAA-NMFS-2008-0223 in the keyword search and check the box "send a comment or submission."

Mail: Susan Gerhart
Southeast Regional Office
NOAA Fisheries Service
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Sea Turtle Interactions With Bottom Longline Gear

The Gulf Council at its April meeting reviewed a draft of Reef Fish Amendment 31 and selected preferred alternatives for proposed management actions intended to reduce the number of sea turtle interactions with bottom longline fishing gear in the reef fish fishery of the Gulf of Mexico.

Management actions contained in the amendment include:

- Allowing or prohibiting the use of squid as bait in the bottom longline fishery
- Longline time/area closures
- Longline endorsements to fish east of Cape San Blas
- Modifications to fishing practices and gear
- Framework modification for total allowable catch

Some of the preferred alternatives selected by the Council so far call for the prohibition of bottom longline fishing shoreward of 35 fathoms in the eastern Gulf of Mexico from June through August.

In considering a longline endorsement, the Council's preferred alternative will require a minimum 40,000 pounds annual average of reef fish landings using longline gear between 1999 and 2007, in order to qualify for the endorsement.

A series of public hearings will be held throughout the Gulf coast in May and June.

According to a 2006-2008 NOAA Fisheries Service report, the number of threatened loggerhead sea turtles

[See Turtles, page 2](#)

Recreational Red Snapper Fishery Opens June 1

The 2009 recreational red snapper season will open June 1 and close at 12:01 a.m. August 15, 2009, as long as the State of Florida agrees to adopt compatible regulations. Early indications are that the state will comply.

An early closure is necessary because new data shows that the 2008 recreational catch in the Gulf exceeded the quota



[See Red Snapper, page 9](#)

Turtles *from page 1*

that have been caught in the bottom longline fishery has exceeded authorized levels.

The Council is required by the Endangered Species Act to take action to provide protection for threatened loggerhead sea turtles from interactions with fishing gear. Similarly, National Standard 9 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires the Council to reduce bycatch to the extent practicable, and where it cannot be reduced, to reduce bycatch mortality.



Photo credit: Cathy Readinger

In January, the Council requested an emergency rule that would address the issue in the short-term. That rule will temporarily close the bottom longline fishery in waters less than 50 fathoms for the entire eastern Gulf of Mexico and will become effective May 18, 2009.

Additionally, during the 2009 fishing year while the emergency longline closure is in effect, once the 2009 deep-water grouper quota is caught reef fish bottom longline gear will be prohibited in the eastern Gulf of Mexico (east of Cape San Blas).

The emergency can remain in effect for 180 days, but the Council has requested that NOAA Fisheries end the emergency action as soon as possible if the biological opinion currently under development indicates that actions outlined in Amendment 31 will sufficiently address the turtle bycatch issue in the longline fishery.

The updated biological opinion is expected to be completed by August.

Accountability Measures and Annual Catch Limits Update

The Gulf Council is currently developing a generic amendment to implement catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs) for the remainder of the stocks it manages. For stocks managed jointly by the South Atlantic and Gulf Councils (coastal migratory pelagics and spiny lobster) separate joint ACL amendments will be developed.

The new provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act require the Gulf Council to set annual catch limits for stocks managed under its fishery management plans to ensure that overfishing does not occur.

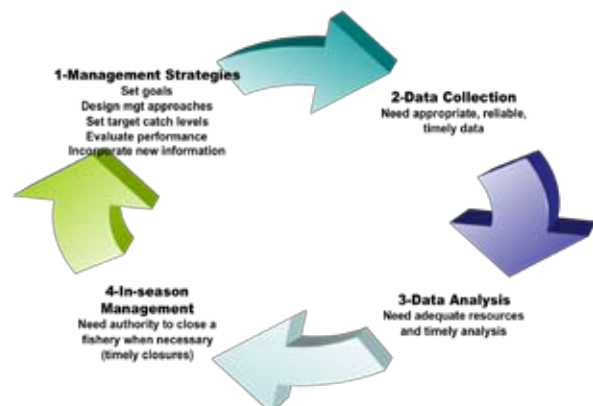
In the event that the catch limits are exceeded, accountability measures are predetermined actions to either prevent further catches in the current fishing year or return catches to the specified levels in the following year, depending upon the availability of real-time data and the current status of the stock.

Additionally, the Council is required to prevent overfishing and rebuild stocks to levels that will support maximum sustainable yield - the largest catch that can be taken from a stock over an indefinite period.

Annual catch limits must be established by 2010 for all fisheries where overfishing is occurring, and by 2011 for all other fisheries.

Council staff is drafting a scoping document to discuss the new requirements and possible approaches to establishing ACLs and AMs. A draft scoping document is tentatively scheduled for review by the Council in June. Scoping meetings will be held later this summer to garner public input.

The Council has established ACLs and AMs for stocks that are classified as overfished or undergoing overfishing (greater amberjack, gray triggerfish, red snapper and gag), as well as for red grouper. These ACLs are subject to adjustment when new stock assessments are completed.



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Richard Leard
Interim Executive Director

Appointed Voting Members

Ed Sapp Gainesville, FL 352-377-2715	Michael Ray Austin, TX 512-389-4649
Robert Gill Crystal River, FL 352-795-1916	Robert Shipp Vice Chair Mobile, AL 251-460-6351
Joseph Hendrix Houston, TX 281-597-1620	Susan Villere Mandeville, LA 985-845-3557
Thomas McIlwain Chair Ocean Springs, MS 228-818-8866	Bobbi Walker Orange Beach, AL 251-981-2300
Julie Morris Sarasota, FL 941-487-4527	Kay Williams Vanceleave, MS 228-826-2160
Harlon Pearce Kenner, LA 504-467-3809	

State/Federal Voting Members

Robin Riechers Austin, TX 512-389-4864	Corky Perret Biloxi, MS 228-374-5000
Bill Teehan Tallahassee, FL 850-487-0554	Myron Fischer Cutt Off, LA 985-632-4525
Vernon Minton Gulf Shores, AL 251-968-7576	Roy Crabtree SERO 727-824-5301

Non-voting Members

Sam Hamilton USF&WS 404-679-4000	Larry Simpson GSMFC 228-875-5912
Radm Joel Whitehead Eighth USCG District 504-589-6223	David Hogan Foreign Affairs 202-647-2335

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

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SSC & AP Appointments Made for 2009-2011

At its April 2009 regular meeting, the Gulf Council selected members to its various panels and committees. The following persons were selected for each panel/committee:

Standing SSC

Charles	Adams	FL	UF
Luiz	Barbieri	FL	FWRI
Harry	Blanchet	LA	LDWF
Benjamin	Blount	TX	Retired
Shannon	Cass-Calay	FL	NMFS
James	Cowan	LA	LSU
Richard	Fulford	MS	USM
Douglas	Gregory	FL	UF-SG

Read	Hendon	MS	USM
Walter	Keithly	LA	LSU
William	Patterson	FL	UWF
Joe	Powers	LA	LSU
Sean	Powers	AL	USAL
Michael	Prager	NC	NMFS
Steven	Szedlmayer	AL	Auburn
Elbert	Whorton	TX	UTMB

Continued on page 5

Greenwise Newsletter Delivery Option

If you currently receive a hard copy of the *Gulf Fishery News* and would like to opt for a greener way of keeping apprised of fishery issues currently under consideration, you can sign up to receive the newsletter by e-mail. Simply send a blank e-mail with "Subscribe" in the subject line to: pressreleases@gulfcouncil.org and you will automatically be added to the e-mail list. Besides receiving a link to the newsletter, you will also receive updates on fishery issues, as well as meeting notices and other pertinent information.

To discontinue receipt of the newsletter (hard copy), please send an e-mail to charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org with "newsletter unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Upcoming Meetings

Standing SSC &
Special Reef Fish SSC
June 1 - 3, 2009
Tampa, Florida

Reef Fish Advisory Panel
June 1 - 2, 2009
Tampa, Florida

Gulf Council Meeting
June 15 - 18, 2009
Tampa, Florida

SEDAR 19 Data Workshop
Black Grouper
June 22 - 23, 2009

Reef Fish Amendment 31
Public Hearings

- May 26, 2009 - LaMarque, Texas
- May 27, 2009 - Panama City, FL
- May 27, 2009 - Galliano, Louisiana
- May 28, 2009 - Biloxi, Mississippi
- June 4, 2009 - Madeira Beach, FL
- June 8, 2009 - Florida Keys

For more information please call the Gulf Council at 813-348-1630.

Corky Perret, longtime Council member, to receive Charles H. Lyles Award

William S. "Corky" Perret was selected in March by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) to receive the prestigious *Charles H. Lyles Award*.

Perret's career has spanned over four decades. After receiving both a Bachelor of Science and Masters degrees from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, he went to work for Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries at its marine laboratory on Grand Terre.

He progressively held more and more responsible positions under several Louisiana Governors, culminating his time in Louisiana as the Assistant Secretary position in charge of all fisheries, both freshwater and marine, in 1995 under then Governor Foster. After 30 years of service, Perret went to work for the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources as Director of Marine Fisheries. He held that position until about two years ago when he advanced to Deputy Director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

The *Charles H. Lyles Award* is presented yearly by the GSMFC to an individual, agency, or organization that has contributed to the betterment of the fisheries of the

Gulf of Mexico through significant biological, industrial, legislative, enforcement or administrative activities.

The GSMFC has, since 1984, selected eminently qualified individuals active in marine fisheries whose careers and contributions to Gulf fisheries are worthy of being labeled "fishery giants." Perret will join the prestigious elite of Congressmen, scientists, administrators, enforcement, businessmen and fishermen who have received this award.



Corky Perret, Deputy Director, MDMR and Gulf Council Member

"I have always been fortunate enough to be associated with good, energetic people," said Perret.

Perret will be presented with the award during the October meeting of the GSMFC.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Closures

Recreational Closures:

Red Snapper

Recreational red snapper season closed at 12:01 a.m. local time August 5, 2008. The season will reopen June 1, 2009, the beginning of the 2009 federal recreational red snapper fishing season.

Commercial Closures:

King Mackerel

The commercial fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in the southern Florida west coast subzone is closed effective 12:01 a.m., local time, February 28, 2009, for commercial hook-and-line vessels. The closure will remain in effect through the end of the fishing year, June 30, 2009.

NOAA Fisheries Service reminds fishermen the boundary between the Atlantic and Gulf groups of king mackerel shifts, beginning April 1, 2009, from 29° 25' N. latitude (a line directly east of the Flagler/Volusia County line on the Florida east coast) to 25° 48' N. latitude (a line directly west of the Monroe/Collier County line on the Florida west coast). This change also affects daily commercial trip limits.

The commercial fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in the western zone is closed effective 12:00 noon (local time) March 27, 2009 through June 30, 2009.

The commercial run-around gillnet fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in the southern Florida west coast subzone is closed effective 6 a.m. local time, January 30, 2009, through January 19, 2010.

June Council Meeting Reminder

The Council will be meeting the week of June 15 - 18, 2009 at the Quorum Hotel in Tampa, Florida. Please make your reservation under the GMFMC room block to receive the special discounted room rate.

When the Council travels, the deadline for comments is moved up a day in order to accommodate packing and shipping of materials to our meeting location.


Submission of written comments and materials to be included as part of the briefing book materials for this meeting **MUST BE RECEIVED** by 5:00 p.m. EDT June 10, 2009

If you miss the deadline and bring your own copies to the meeting, please bring at least 30 copies for the Council. If you wish for your materials to be made available to the public, please bring additional copies.

A draft agenda can be found on page 6.



Advisory Panel Appointments *continued from page 3*

Coral AP				Habitat Protection AP (FL/AL)			
Mark	Berrigan	FL	FDAg	Pete	Barber	AL	CO
Billy	Causey	FL	NOAA	Roy	Lewis, III	FL	S
Henry	Feddern	FL	CF	Robert	McMichael	FL	SR
Ken	Heck	AL	S	Gary	Parsons	FL	Retired
Martin	Moe, Jr.	FL	S	William	Sierke, Jr.	AL	R
				LaDon	Swann	MS	SG
Habitat Protection AP (MS/LA)				Habitat Protection AP (Texas)			
Jan	Boyd	MS	MDNR	Bill	Baker	TX	S
Heather	Finley	LA	LDWF	Dana	Larson	TX	OIL
Richard	Hartman	LA	NMFS	Russel	Miget	TX	TAMU
Randy	Lanctot	LA	R	Burt	Mortiz	TX	R
Bethlyn	McCloskey	FL	R	L. Don	Perkins	TX	R
Paul	Necaise	MS	USFWS	Robert	Spain	TX	SR
David	Richard	LA	LM	Robert	Stickney	TX	TAMU
Cynthia	Sarthou	LA	EN	Rusty	Swafford	TX	NMFS
Pete	Umbdenstock	MS	R	Elbert	Whorton	TX	UTMB
Chuck	Wilson	LA	SG	Outreach and Education AP			
Outreach and Education AP				Red Drum AP			
Rich	Abrams	FL	FFWCC	Jeff	Chambliss	AL	CB
Kim	Amendola	FL	NMFS	Scott	Floyd	MS	CF
Dewey	Blaylock	FL	Retired	Peter	Gerica	LA	CF
William	Blome	TX	TOC	Scott	Green	FL	R
Tom	Harmening	FL	Pvt PR	Read	Hendon	MS	O
David	Rainer	AL	DCNR	Edward	Holder	TX	R
Chris	Snyder	MS	GCRL	Howard	Mason, Jr.	TX	R
R. Glenn	Thomas	LA	LSU	Burt	Moritz	TX	R
Lauren	Thompson	MS	DMR	Frank	Rawlings	MS	R
Mandy	Tumlin	LA	LDWF	James	Sibley	FL	R
Tonya	Wiley	TX	TPWD	Ed	Swindell	LA	O
SEDAR NGO				James	Williams	MS	CF-R
Pam	Baker	TX	ED	Ron	Young	TX	R
Marianne	Cufone	FL	EM	Stone Crab AP			
Chris	Dorsett	TX	TOC	Tim	Daniels	FL	CF
Elizabeth	Fetherston	FL	TOC	Gary	Graves	FL	CF
Claudia	Freiss	TX	TOC	Karl	Lessard	FL	CF
Judy	Jamison	FL	GSAFF	Robert	Robinson	FL	CF
Russel	Nelson	FL	CCA	Simon	Stafford	FL	CF
Darden	Rice	FL	Oceana	Scott	Zimmerman	FL	CO
Aaron	Viles	LA	GRN				

Continued on page 7

Committee Agenda Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

The Quorum Hotel
Tampa, FL
June 15 - 17, 2009

Monday, June 15, 2009

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Outreach and Education Committee

- * Report from the O&E AP Meeting
- * Update on Efforts to Provide Online Coverage of Council Meetings

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

AP Selection Committee

- * Review of Advisory Panels in Relation to Potential Reef Fish IFQ AP

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

Budget/Personnel Committee

- * Review of 2009 Budget
- * Review of 5-year Budget
- * Status of SSC Stipends
- * Report of the Administrative Officer's Meeting

3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Administrative Policy Committee

- * Comments on Proposed Rule on Council Operations

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Mackerel Management Committee

- * Scoping Document for Joint Mackerel Amendment 18
- * Selection of Scoping Meeting Locations

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

Spiny Lobster/Stone Crab Management Committee

- * Scoping Document for Joint Spiny Lobster Amendment 9
- * Selection of Scoping Meeting Locations

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Data Collection Committee

- * Report of the GSMFC FIN Meeting
- * Presentation on the Louisiana Pilot Charterboat Survey Program
- * Status Report from the SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting
- * Status Report on MRIP Program

10:30 a.m. - Noon and 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Reef Fish Management Committee

- * Final Action on Draft Reef Fish Amendment 31/DEIS
- * Status of the Emergency Rule for Longlining
- * Presentation on "Is There a Better Way to Manage U.S. Shared Commercial and Recreational Fisheries"
- * Presentation on "Evaluating Approaches to Managing Marine Recreational Fisheries"
- * Discussion of Initiating Action to Encompass all Remaining Reef Fish into an IFQ Program
- * Gag/Red Grouper Update Assessment
- * Discuss Holding SSC Workshop on Venting Fishes
- * Status of Goliath Grouper Research/Assessment Preparation

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Informal Q&A Session on Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Issues

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem Committee

- * Scoping Document for Generic ACL/AM Amendment
- * Selection of Scoping Hearing Locations
- * Report of the CRCP Meeting

¹The established times for addressing items on the Council and committee agendas, except for those setting times for public testimony or open public comment, may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the agenda items. Such adjustments may result in the meeting being extended from, or completed prior to the date established by these agendas.

Next Meeting:

August 11 - 14, 2009

Perdido Beach Resort

Orange Beach, Alabama

Council Agenda Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

The Quorum Hotel
Tampa, FL
June 17 - 18, 2009

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

- I. Call to Order and Introductions - Mcllwain
- II. Adoption of Agenda ¹ - Mcllwain
- III. Approval of Minutes - Mcllwain
(1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.)
- IV. Public Testimony ^{2,3} - Mcllwain
 - a. Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) (if any)
 - b. Final Action on Reef Fish Amendment 31
 - b. Open Public Comment Period ^{2,4}
(1:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.)

Thursday, June 18, 2009

- V. Committee Reports
 - a. Reef Fish Management - Minton
(8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)
 - b. Outreach and Education - Walker
(10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.)
 - c. AP Selection Committee - Perret
(10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)
 - d. Budget/Personnel Committee - Shipp
(11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.)
 - e. Administrative Policy Committee - Morris
(11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)
 - f. Mackerel Management - Teehan
(11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.)
 - g. Spiny Lobster Management - Teehan
(11:45 a.m. - Noon)
 - h. Data Collection - Riechers
(1:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.)
 - i. Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem - Gill
(1:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.)
- VI. Other Business
 - a. Report of the CCC Meeting
 - b. Written Reports
 - c. Other Items
(2:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

²Persons wishing to testify for either public testimony or open public comment must turn in a registration card before the beginning of the public testimony period; otherwise persons wishing to testify may be denied. One card must be completed for each issue on which persons wish to testify.

³Persons 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.

⁴The Council has set aside this time for open public comment regarding any fishery issue or concern. People wishing to speak before the Council should complete a public comment card, making sure to check the box marked Open Public Comment. A note about open public comment: In the interest of giving everyone an opportunity to speak, speakers are asked to limit comments to three minutes. If your sentiments are reflected in comments made by others, please state so and allow the next speaker to address the Council. Individuals may be asked to reduce speaking time even further in order to accommodate all those who wish to speak. The open public comment period will end no later than the time scheduled on the agenda regardless of the number of persons wishing to comment.

Advisory Panel Appointments *continued from page 5*

Red Snapper AP

Gary	Graham	TX	SG
Richard	Legnon	LA	R
Herbert	Malone	AL	O
Mike	Nugent	TX	CB
Gary	Parsons	FL	CF
Dale	Perkins	FL	CB
Tracy	Redding	AL	CB
Devlin	Roussel	LA	CB
TJ	Tate	FL	CO
Mike	Thierry	AL	CB
Russell	Underwood	FL	CF
Donny	Waters	FL	CF
Monty	Weeks	TX	R
Wayne	Werner	FL	CF
Mike	Whitfield	FL	CF

Reef Fish AP

Ralph	Allen	FL	CB
Irby	Basco	TX	R
Jim	Clements	FL	C
Marianne	Cufone	FL	EN
Martin	Fisher	FL	CF
Marty	Harris	FL	CF
Chris	Jenkins	LA	R
Brad	Kenyon	FL	R
Fred	Lifton	FL	CB
Gus	Loyal	FL	CB
Damon	McKnight	LA	CB
Dennis	O'Hern	FL	R
Mike	Rowell	AL	CB
Bob	Spaeth	FL	CF
TJ	Tate	FL	CO
James	Taylor	MS	R
Bill	Tucker	FL	CF
Tom	Turke	FL	CB
Wayne	Werner	LA	CF
Bob	Zales, II	FL	CB

Spiny Lobster

Robert	Gaitanis	FL	R
Karl	Lessard	FL	CF
Jerry	Sansom	FL	CO
Simon	Stafford	FL	CF
Rick	Superstein	FL	P
Scott	Zimmerman	FL	CO

VMS AP

Christopher	Blankenship	AL	E
Glen	Brooks	FL	CF
Jason	DeLaCruz	FL	CF
Martin	Fisher	FL	CF
Debbie	Foste	CA	O
Gary	Jarvis	FL	CB/CF
Michael	Kelly	MD	O
Brad	Kenyon	FL	R
Dan	MacMahon	FL	CF
Dave	McKinney	TX	EN
Bart	Niquet	FL	CF
Dennis	O'Hern	FL	R
Tracy	Redding	AL	CB
John	Schmidt	FL	CF
Robert	Spaeth	FL	CF
Russell	Stewart	FL	TX
Elbert	Whorton	TX	O

Shrimp AP

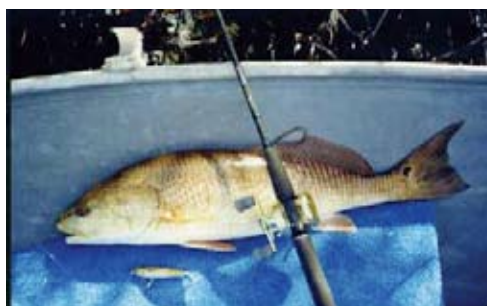
Wilma	Anderson	TX	TSA
Pete	Barber	AL	ASA
Vernon	Bates	TX	CF
Steve	Bosarge	MS	CF
Steve	Charpentier	LA	CF
Kimberly	Chauvin	LA	CF
Julius	Collins	TX	TSA
Glenn	Delaney	DC	O
Jashua	Dinh	LA	CF
Ivo	Goga	TX	P
Gary	Graham	TX	SG
Jack	Hemingway	TX	P
Dennis	Henderson	FL	CF
Harris	Lasseigne	TX	P
Patrick	Riley	TX	CO
Thomas	Shultz	FL	O
Russell	Stewart	FL	R
John	Williams	FL	SSA
Walter	Zimmerman	FL	P

Coastal Migratory Pelagics AP

Ben	Harvard	AL	CF
Read	Hendon	MS	O
Mike	Holmes	TX	CB
Wiley	Horton	FL	R
Chris	Jenkins	LA	R
Glenn	Martin	TX	CB
Tom	Marvel, Jr.	FL	CF/CB
Damon	McKight	FL	CB
George	Niles	FL	CF

Mike	Nugent	TX	CB
Ed	Presley	TX	R
Gene	Proulx	FL	R
Richard	Rice	LA	CB
James	Robinson	TX	R
Ed	Swindell	LA	O
Donald	Waters	FL	CV
Jack	Wilhite	AL	CB
Bob	Zales, II	FL	CB
Ed	Walker	FL	CB

See Special SSC Appointments, next page



Special SSC, SAP and SEP Appointments *continued from page 7*

Special Coral SSC

Thomas	Cuba	FL	Delta S. Inc
Richard	Dodge	FL	NCRI
Judith	Lang	VA	Retired
Richard	Ruzicka	FL	FWRI
George	Schmahl	TX	FGNMS

Special CMP SSC

Jason	Adriance	LA	LDWF
Karen	Burns	FL	
Douglas	DeVries	FL	NMFS

Special Red Drum

Mike	Buchanan	MS	MSDMR
Paul	Cook	LA	LDWF
Jessica	McCawley	FL	FFWCC
Jim	Tolan	TX	TPWD

Special Reef Fish

Robert	Allman	FL	NMFS
Barbara	Dorf	TX	TPWD
Bill	Lindberg	FL	UF
John	Mareska	AL	ANDR
Douglas	Peter	LA	LDWF

Special Shrimp SSC

Martin	Bourgeois	LA	LDWF
Mike	Brainard	MS	MSDMR
Wade	Griffin	TX	TA&M
Leslie	Hartman	TX	TPWD
Karen	Meador	TX	TPWD
James	Nance	TX	NMFS
William	Sharp	FL	FFWCC

Special Spiny Lobster

Rene	Buesa	FL	MSMC
John	Hunt	FL	FFWRI
William	Sharp	FL	FFWCC

Special Stone Crab

Theresa	Bert	FL	FFWRI
Tom	Matthews	FL	FFWRI
Harriet	Perry	MS	GCRL

Shrimp SAP

Mark	Fisher	TX	UDE
Wade	Griffin	TX	TA&M
Leslie	Hartman	TX	TPWD
James	Nance	TX	NMFS
Bill	Richardson	MS	MSDMR

Finfish SAP

Harry	Blanchet	LA	LDWV
Richard	Fulford	MS	USM
Behzad	Mahmoudi	FL	FWRI
Robert	Muller	FL	FWRI
Debra	Murie	FL	UF
Mike	Murphy	FL	FWRI
William	Patterson	LA	UCF
Kenneth	Rose	LA	LSU
Mark	Van Hoose	AL	ADNR
Carl	Walters	CAN	MoteM



Socioeconomic Panel

Lee	Anderson	DE	UDE
Hamady	Diop	LA	SU
Wade	Griffin	TX	TXA&M
Stephen	Holiman	FL	NMFS
Stephen	Holland	FL	UF
Steve	Jacob	PA	York PA
Diane	Keithly	LA	LSU
Sherry	Larkin	FL	UF
David	Lavergne	LA	LDWF
John	Ward	MD	NMFS
David	Yoskowitz	TX	TXA&M

Ecosystem SSC

Vernon	Asper	MS	USM
Columbus	Brown	GA	Retired
Felicia	Coleman	FL	FSU
Ken	Heck	AL	DI SeaLb
David	Hicks	TX	UT
Stephen	Holiman	FL	NMFS
Behzad	Mahmoudi	FL	FWRI
Joe	Powers	LA	LSU
Ken	Rose	LA	LSU
James	Simons	TX	TPWD
Carl	Walters	FL	MoteM
Priscilla	Weeks	TX	HARC
Wei	Wu	MS	USM
David	Yoskowitz	TX	TXA&M

Ad Hoc Marine

James	Bohnsack	FL	NMFS
Columbus	Brown	GA	Retired
Billy	Causey	FL	FKNNS
Felicia	Coleman	FL	FSU
Chris	Koenig	FL	FSU
Don	Leviton	FL	FSU
Walter	Milon	FL	UF
Hal	Robbins	FL	NMFS
Frederick	Whitrock	LA	LDWF

Reserve SSC

Ad Hoc Aquaculture

Dan	Allen	LA	Chevron
Jesse	Chappell	AL	Auburn
Marianne	Cufone	FL	EN
Dave	McKinney	TX	EN
Robert	Romaire	LA	LSU
Robert	Stickney	TX	TA&M
Ed	Swindell	LA	O
Richard	Wallace	AL	Auburn
Paul	Zajicek	FL	FSU

Ad Hoc Grouper

Glen	Brooks	FL	CF
Jim	Clements	FL	CF
Ken	Daniels	FL	R
William	Deadrick	FL	CO
Martin	Fisher	FL	CF
Ed	Maccini	FL	R
Tom	Marvel, Jr.	FL	R
Dave	McKinney	TX	EN
Ken	Roberts	LA	LSU
Bob	Spaeth	FL	CO
Bill	Tucker	FL	CF
Donald	Waters	FL	CF

Ad Hoc Red Drum

Harry	Blanchet	LA	LDWF
Mike	Buchanan	MS	DMR
Guy	Davenport	FL	NMFS
Mark	Fisher	TX	TPWD
Jessica	McCawley	FL	FFWC
Mike	Murphy	FL	FWRI
Ken	Rose	LA	LSU
Mark	Van Hoose	AL	Retired
Elbert	Whorton	TX	UTMB

Red Snapper *(continued from page 1)*

by approximately 1.2 million pounds, and Federal rules require a reduction in harvest when the quota is met or projected to be met.

Red snapper are overfished and undergoing overfishing in the Gulf. Shortening the fishing season will reduce the harvest of Gulf red snapper and help rebuild the fishery's population.

New Regulations for Gulf Grouper Effective May 18, 2009

NOAA Fisheries Service published a final rule implementing new regulations to end overfishing of gag and revise shallow-water grouper (SWG) management measures. The final rule published in the Federal Register on April 16, 2009, and becomes effective May 18, 2009.

These measures are outlined in Amendment 30B to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico submitted by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council).

Elements of the Rule

For the recreational fishery, the rule:

- Establishes annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs) for gag and red grouper.
- Reduces the gag bag limit to two fish per person per day and the aggregate grouper bag limit to four fish per person per day.
- Increases the red grouper bag limit to two per person per day.
- Extends the closed season for recreational shallow-water grouper to February 1 through March 31.

For the commercial fishery, the rule:

- Establishes ACLs and AMs for gag, red grouper, and SWG.
- Establishes a commercial quota for gag of 1.32 million pounds (mp) in 2009, 1.41 mp in 2010, and 1.49 mp in 2011.
- Increases the commercial quota for red grouper to 5.75 mp.
- Sets the SWG quota as the sum of the gag and red grouper quotas with an additional 0.41 mp allowance for other SWG species.
- Establishes an incidental bycatch allowance trip limit for commercial gag and red grouper of 200 pounds for the species that first reaches 80 percent of its quota.
- Reduces the commercial minimum size limit for red grouper from 20 inches to 18 inches total length to reduce bycatch.
- Ends the February 15 to March 15 season closure in favor of a four month closure of "The Edges" that applies to both commercial and recreational fishing. (see *The Edges Note*.)

The rule also:

- Eliminates the end date for the Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps marine reserves.
- Requires a person aboard a federally-permitted Gulf of Mexico commercial or for-hire reef fish vessel to comply with federal regulations for reef fish species regardless of where the fish are harvested to increase compliance with federal regulations.

The Edges Note

Because the proposed rule for Amendment 30B contained an error relative to the "The Edges" seasonal area closure, that measure was removed from the final rule. "The Edges" seasonal-area closure from January 1 through April 30, which applies to commercial and recreational fishing, is contained in a separate proposed rule published in the Federal Register on April 17, 2009 and has a 15-day comment period.



Gulf of Mexico Grouper	Current Regulations	New Regulations (as of 5/18/2009)
<i>Recreational measures</i>		
Grouper Aggregate Bag Limit	5 per person/day	4 per person/day
Gag Bag Limit	2 per person/day within 5-fish grouper aggregate	2 per person/day within 4-fish grouper aggregate
Red Grouper Bag Limit	1 per person/day within 5-fish grouper aggregate	2 per person/day within 4-fish grouper aggregate
Recreational Season	Red & black grouper closed 2/15-3/14 Gag closed 2/1-3/31	All shallow water grouper (gag, red, black, yellowfin, yellowmouth, rock hind, red hind, & scamp) closed 2/1-3/31
<i>Commercial measures</i>		
Red Grouper Minimum Size Limit	20" total length	18" total length
Gag Quota	1.32 mp (GW)*	1.32 mp (GW)
Red Grouper Quota	5.31 mp (GW)	5.75 mp (GW)
Shallow-Water Grouper Quota	7.48 mp (GW)	7.48 mp (GW)
Commercial Season	Gag, red & black grouper closed 2/15-3/14	No closed season

*GW – gutted weight; mp – million pounds



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 is encouraged to do so. Submissions may be mailed to Charlene Ponce, Public Information Officer, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607. Materials can also be sent via fax to 813-348-1711, or by e-mail to 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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