

# GULF FISHERY NEWS

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

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## **COUNCIL REQUESTS DECEMBER 6, 2003 CONTROL DATE FOR SHRIMP PERMIT ELIGIBILITY**

The Gulf Council reviewed a draft options paper for Amendment 13 to the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan (FMP) that also includes alternatives for setting status criteria and benchmarks for brown, white, pink, and royal red shrimp. The options paper also contains alternatives for improving the methodology used to estimate bycatch in the shrimp fishery and to further reduce bycatch. No action was taken, and these alternatives will be further refined prior to the development of an amendment. The Council did, however, request that alternatives be added to establish a bycatch quota, and that a scoping effort be initiated to improve management of the shrimp industry by looking at issues such as protected species, bycatch, excess capacity, and closures. In two other actions, the Council requested that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) publish a control date of December 6, 2003 for shrimp vessel permits in federal waters and that NMFS continue funding for the surveillance radar system for the Tortugas Shrimp Sanctuary. The purpose of the control date would be to put the public on notice that

if they did not have a federal shrimp vessel permit by the proposed date, they may or may not be eligible for one after this date. A control date provides notice to affected fishermen that if the Council chooses to proceed with a limited access program for the shrimp fishery, and if it chooses to use that date in specifying eligibility to participate in the limited access program, then persons entering the fishery (getting a permit) after that date could not participate in the program. The surveillance radar system is an enforcement tool used to monitor the closed areas of the Tortugas shrimp grounds.

### **NEXT COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**May 12-15, 2003**

**Edgewater Beach Resort  
11212 Front Beach Road  
Panama City Beach, Florida 32407**



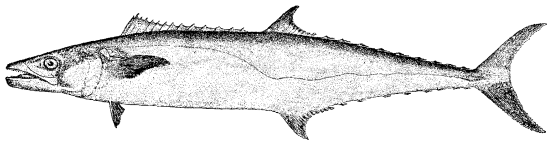
**June 5-6, 2003**

**New Orleans Airport Plaza Hotel  
2150 Veteran's Memorial Boulevard  
Kenner, Louisiana 70062**

## **COUNCIL SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON RULES TO ALLOW AND REGULATE OFFSHORE MARINE AQUACULTURE**

The Gulf Council is developing a discussion document for scoping meetings that will be held to solicit public opinion on whether offshore aquaculture should be allowed, and if it is to be allowed, what type of regulation should apply to aquaculture facilities and their operations. A couple of firms have attempted to obtain permits to allow them to raise finfish, such as cobia or snapper, in cages or pens and to sell these fish when they are harvested. However, these firms have learned that they can not raise any fish species managed by the Council in such a commercial operation unless the Council implements an amendment to its fishery management plans that permits and regulates such activity.

The Council will review a draft of the scoping document at its May meeting, and will schedule the public workshops when the document is completed. After the Council obtains that public input, they will decide whether to proceed with development of the amendment, and if so, what proposed rules would be considered for regulation of the operation of the offshore aquaculture facility.



## **GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL TAC TO REMAIN AT 10.2 MILLION POUNDS**

At its March 2003 meeting, the Gulf Council finalized its preferred alternatives for status criteria and benchmarks for managed species under the Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMP, including Gulf group king and Spanish mackerel and cobia. These estimates of maximum sustainable yield and optimum yield, as well as definitions of overfishing and the overfished condition for these stocks are required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. These criteria will be used to guide future decisions with regard to the management of these stocks. The regulatory amendment to implement these criteria also includes an analysis of alternatives for total allowable catch (TAC) for Gulf

group king mackerel, and the Council has chosen to retain TAC at the current level of 10.2 million pounds. Final approval for submission to NMFS and implementation is scheduled for the May 2003 Council meeting.

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## **COUNCIL SELECTS PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES FOR MADISON-SWANSON AND STEAMBOAT LUMPS RESERVES, FINAL ACTION SCHEDULED FOR MAY**

The Gulf Council reviewed draft Reef Fish Amendment 21, continuation of the Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps marine reserves, at the March Council meeting, and selected preferred alternatives for two of the three issues addressed in the amendment.

The reserves were initially implemented in June 2000 to provide protection to a portion of the gag spawning aggregations and offshore male population in response to the classification by NMFS that the gag stock was undergoing overfishing and scientific information that suggested that the proportion of male gag in the population had declined substantially since the 1970s. A 4-year time frame was set for the reserves to be in effect so that their effect on the fishery resources could be evaluated before deciding whether to proceed further. The purpose of Amendment 21 is to decide whether to continue the reserves beyond their current June 2004 expiration. A decision must be made now because once the Council submits a plan amendment to NMFS, the NMFS review and implementation process can take up to a year. In 2002, NMFS reclassified the gag stock as neither overfished nor undergoing overfishing. However, the stock was not at its optimum yield level. Three issues are addressed in this amendment regarding continuation of the reserves.

*1. Should the Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps reserves be continued, and if so, for how long?*

The Preferred Alternative is to continue the reserves for an additional 6 years, until June 2010.

*2. Should the existing regulations concerning what types of fishing are allowed and what types are*

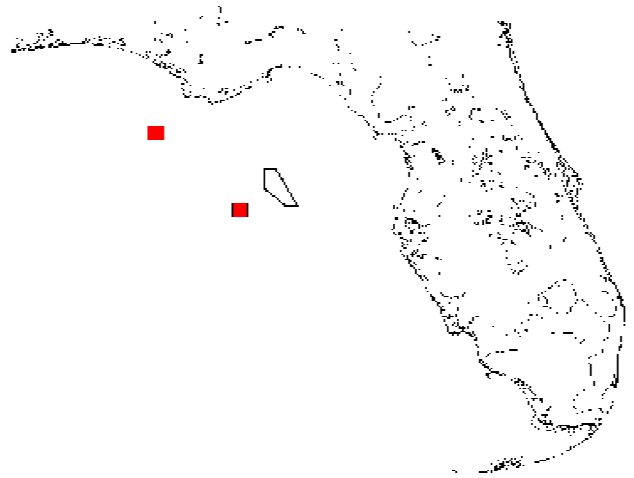
*prohibited be continued, or should the regulations within the reserves be changed?*

The Council did not select a Preferred Alternative for this section in the public hearing draft of this amendment. Current regulations within the Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps Marine Reserves allow fishing for species managed by the NMFS Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Division, i.e., billfish, swordfish, sailfishes, oceanic sharks, and tunas other than blackfin tuna. Fishing for all other species within the reserves is prohibited. When the reserves were established, the Council requested that the HMS Division implement compatible fishing restrictions for the species under their management. However, the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) filed a legal challenge maintaining that surface trolling does not impact reef fish species and should not be prohibited. As part of a settlement, NMFS agreed to hold the Council's request in abeyance while research is conducted into the effect of trolling on reef fish species and enforceability of regulations governing depth of fishing. Results of the research are scheduled to be presented to the Council at its May meeting in Panama City Beach. The Council did not feel it was appropriate to select a Preferred Alternative prior to hearing those reports.

*3. Should the reserves continue to be in effect year-round, or should they be seasonal?*

The Preferred alternative is to continue to have the reserves be in effect year-round in order to provide continuity for ongoing research into the effects of the reserves.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on this amendment on April 9, 2003 in Tampa, Florida. In addition, public testimony will be taken during the morning of May 14 at the May 12-15, 2003 Council meeting at the Edgewater Beach Resort, 11212 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach, Florida, after which a final decision will be made by the Council. Copies of the public hearing draft of Amendment 21 can be requested from the Council or downloaded from the Council website (<http://www.gulfcouncil.org>).



No-take zones created June 2002. Upper rectangle is Madison/Swanson site. Lower rectangle is Steamboat Lumps. Florida Middle Grounds HAPC is also shown for comparison.

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### **GULF COUNCIL TO HOLD TWO-DAY MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS JUNE 5-6 TO REVIEW EFH DEIS**

A two-day Gulf Council meeting is scheduled for June 5-6, 2003 at the New Orleans Airport Plaza Hotel to review the full Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and comments from NMFS and Habitat Panels. Revisions to the DEIS will include rewording the EFH alternatives with more geographically explicit language to better describe EFH for each FMP. The DEIS is being prepared by MRAG Americas under contract to the Gulf Council. Public testimony on the DEIS will be taken on the morning of June 5. An agenda for this meeting, as well as the Council's regular May 12-15, 2003 meeting in Panama City Beach, Florida, can be found in the back of this newsletter.

## **SMALLTOOTH SAWFISH DECLARED ENDANGERED**

On April 1, 2003, NMFS issued a final rule to list the distinct population segment (DPS) of smalltooth sawfish in the United States as an endangered species. This listing is effective May 1, 2003.

Prior to around 1960, smalltooth sawfish occurred commonly in shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico and eastern seaboard up to North Carolina, and more rarely as far north as New York. Subsequently their distribution has contracted to peninsular Florida, and the current distribution is centered in the Everglades National Park, including Florida Bay.

Smalltooth sawfish have historically been caught as bycatch in various fishing gears throughout their history. There are frequent accounts in early literature of smalltooth sawfish being entangled in fishing nets from areas where smalltooth sawfish were once common, but are now rare or extirpated. Their long, toothed rostrum makes it difficult to avoid entanglement in virtually any kind of large mesh gillnet gear. The saw penetrates easily through nets and causes the animal to become entangled when it attempts to escape. Shrimp trawling is another source of incidental mortality on smalltooth sawfish. Entangled specimens frequently have to be cut free, causing extensive damage to nets and presenting a substantial hazard if brought on board. For these reasons, most smalltooth sawfish caught by fishermen are either killed outright or released only after removal of their saws.

Commercial landings of smalltooth sawfish taken as bycatch have dropped continually from 1950 to 1978, ranging from a high of 9.3 metric tons to less than 0.1 metric tons during this time period. NMFS does not have any records of landings since 1978. Anecdotal information collected by NMFS port agents indicates that smalltooth sawfish are now taken very rarely in the shrimp trawl fishery.

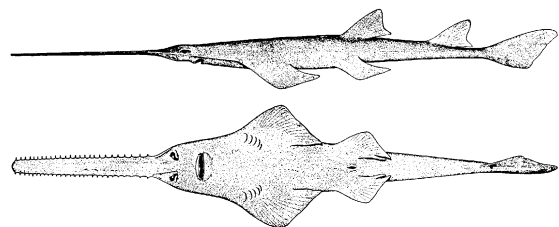
Recreational catches of smalltooth sawfish have occasionally occurred with harpoon or hook-and-line during the first half of the twentieth century. In Texas, many sawfish were reportedly taken incidentally by sport fishermen in the bays and surf prior to the 1960s. Most of these fish were released. However, prior to their live release the saws of many individuals

were removed. This practice may have contributed to the decline of smalltooth sawfish in Texas.

Today, recreational catches of sawfish are very rare, and poorly documented for the most part, except within the Everglades National Park. Smalltooth sawfish have been taken by collectors and sold live to aquaria. The recent high prices aquaria are willing to pay for this species (\$1,000 per ft.) may be providing increased incentive for their collection. The smalltooth sawfish has rarely been taken for scientific purposes.

The ESA defines an endangered species as one that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. NMFS has determined that the U.S. population of smalltooth sawfish is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Therefore, NMFS is listing the U.S. distinct population segment of smalltooth sawfish as endangered.

Under the ESA, it is illegal for any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to take (to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct), to import into, or export from, the United States, to ship in interstate or foreign commerce in the course of commercial activity, or to sell or offer for sale in interstate or foreign commerce any endangered wildlife. To possess, sell, deliver, carry, transport, or ship endangered wildlife that has been taken illegally is also prohibited. The ESA provides some exceptions to the prohibitions. ESA section 10(h) allows antique articles of listed species to be excluded from essentially all the ESA prohibitions as long as they are at least 100 years old and meet certain other specified conditions. Section 9(b)(1) provides a narrow exemption for animals held in captivity at the time of listing. However, the exemption for captive wildlife would not apply to any progeny of the captive animals that may be produced post-listing.



## **NEW PERMIT REQUIREMENT AND OTHER REGULATORY CHANGES FOR TUNAS, SWORDFISH, SHARKS AND BILLFISH**

Effective March 2003, new regulations have been put into effect for recreational anglers and charter boat operators who target highly migratory species in federal waters of the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and U.S. Caribbean. These conservation measures involve a recreational retention limit for swordfish, an inclusive recreational permit to fish for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, sharks and billfish and a new reporting system to monitor landings of billfish and swordfish.

**New Recreational Swordfish Catch Limit** - Anglers fishing in federal waters of the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico are limited to one swordfish per person, up to three per boat, per day. This limit applies to all recreational vessels, including charter/headboat vessels, and is intended to complement the swordfish rebuilding program.

**New Recreational Permit for Highly Migratory Species** - The existing permit requirement for owners of recreational fishing vessels fishing for Atlantic tunas (bluefin, yellowfin, bigeye, skipjack, and albacore, but not blackfin) has been expanded to include all regulated highly migratory fish, i.e., Atlantic sharks, swordfish, white marlin, blue marlin, sailfish and spearfish. The new Atlantic HMS angling permit costs \$22 and can be obtained by calling 1-888-872-8862 or online at <http://www.nmfspermits.com>. Fishermen can apply and pay for the permit online and print it to start fishing immediately. The permit application may also be printed and faxed or mailed.

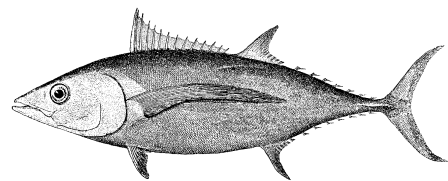
**New Reporting Requirements for Billfish and Swordfish** - HMS permit holders and charter/headboat permit holders are now required to report all landings of Atlantic blue and white marlin, sailfish and North Atlantic swordfish, including those landed on charter/headboats, to NOAA Fisheries by calling 1-800-894-5528 within 24 hours of the landing. Anglers will continue to report landings of bluefin tuna to 1-888-872-8862 or online at <http://www.nmfspermits.com>. Landings are considered those fish killed and brought to shore.

**Charter/Headboat Safety Gear Requirements** - Under the new rules, charter and headboat vessels in the highly migratory fishery are defined as

commercial vessels, and may need to meet safety gear requirements under the Fishing Vessel Safety Act. However, when on a for-hire trip, charter and headboat owners/operators must comply with recreational regulations, such as retention and size limits. Charter and headboat trips are deemed "for-hire" when carrying a fee-paying passenger or having on board more than three people (including captain and crew) for a vessel licensed to carry six or fewer. The definition of "for-hire" fishing will allow vessels with HMS charter/headboat permits to fish commercially when not engaged in for-hire fishing.

**State/Federal Jurisdiction for New Rules** - These new HMS rules apply in state waters for vessels fishing for Atlantic tunas. For other highly migratory species, the new rules will not be immediately applicable in state waters. However, NOAA Fisheries is considering initiating administrative processes to extend the new federal regulations to the shore in states that do not have compatible rules for HMS fisheries. State waters are from the shore to 3 miles in the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico, except Florida's west coast and Texas, whose state waters extend to 9 miles offshore. Federal waters begin where state jurisdictions end and extend to 200 miles offshore.

For more information, visit the NOAA Fisheries Highly Migratory Species Division website at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hmspg.html>.



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## **NOAA FISHERIES ENDORSES THE USE OF CIRCLE HOOKS IN RECREATIONAL FISHING**

Realizing that conservation is a team effort, NOAA Fisheries is working with the recreational fishing industry to encourage the use of circle hooks when targeting big gamefish. Studies have shown that the use of circle hooks promotes conservation in recreational highly migratory fisheries by helping reduce bycatch while increasing catch rates and lowering post-release mortality. But that's not all.

Recreational fishermen also could reduce the need for future regulation by simply changing hooks.

You may be wondering how you could stave off regulation by switching to circle hooks. Let's use white marlin as an example. Stocks of white marlin have been identified by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna as either over-exploited or fully exploited for more than two decades. The most current summaries of stock status for Atlantic marlin note high rates of fishing mortality observed in recent years.

NOAA Fisheries recently made a decision not to list white marlin as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but that doesn't guarantee it will remain unlisted down the road. The agency has placed white marlin on the ESA candidate list, will monitor white marlin populations and is slated to re-assess its ESA listing decision in 2007. Reducing catch and post-release mortality estimates would reduce the likelihood of a future ESA listing.

NOAA Fisheries has been studying the efficacy of circle hooks for many years and has supported training and outreach efforts in proper baiting and hooking techniques since the mid-90s. A study conducted by NOAA Fisheries in the spring and summer of 1999 evaluated the performance of circle and J hooks on Atlantic and Pacific sailfish and, to a lesser extent, Pacific blue marlin.

The study compared circle hook and similar sized J-hook performance, while trolling/pitching dead bait or drifting live bait for billfish (methods commonly used by anglers targeting these species). Rates of fishing success and hooking percentage were comparable or higher for circle hooks compared with J-hooks. Circle hooks used on sailfish had hooking percentages (i.e., fish hooked/fish bite) that were 1.83 times higher compared with J-hooks. More sailfish were hooked in the corner of the mouth using circle hooks (85 percent), as compared with J-hooks (27 percent). In addition, more sailfish were deep hooked in the throat and stomach with J-hooks (46 percent) as compared with circle hooks (2 percent). Additionally the study indicated that circle hooks reduce deep hooking and promote the live release of species.

Anglers can benefit from using circle hooks in tournaments too. The Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament is a prestigious event with forty-five

years of history. Beginning with the 2003 Tournament, additional release points will be awarded for using circle hooks in lieu of J-hooks. This rule change reflects a clear commitment by tournaments to support billfish conservation while still providing competitive anglers the excitement and thrill of top-notch tournament fishing.

Dr. Bill Hogarth, director of NOAA Fisheries, is working to improve interactions with billfish tournaments seeking to reduce or eliminate fish mortality. Dr. Hogarth, who has committed NOAA Fisheries to providing monetary support to the Big Rock to conduct bait rigging seminars to aid participants in the proper use of circle hooks, did so in these difficult budget times so that "this bold step will have every chance of success within this tournament and to promote the expansion of circle hook use in other tournaments on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts."

The Gulf Council, in 2000, endorsed the use of circle hooks when fishing for red snapper by issuing the following statement:

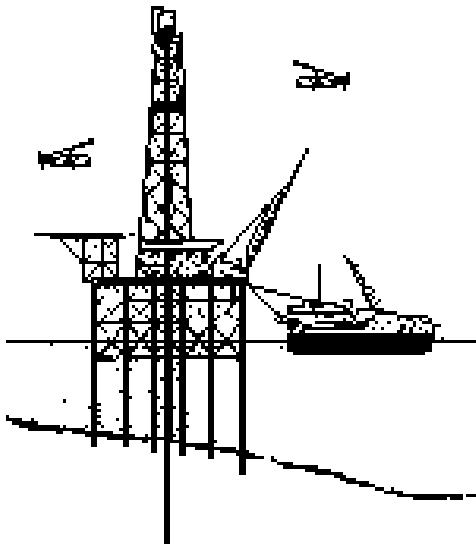
Since hooking injuries appear to be the major cause of red snapper release mortality in depths of less than 100 feet, the Council is encouraging red snapper fishermen to use circle hooks, which usually hook the fish in the mouth rather than the gut. The use of circle hooks is not currently required, but may be considered as a management tool in the future.



## COUNCIL EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER OIL AND GAS PLATFORM SECURITY ZONES

The Coast Guard is proposing to establish a 500-meter security zone around the Marlin TLP oil and gas platform, located approximately 80 nautical miles south of Mobile Bay, that would restrict vessels greater than 100 feet in length from access within that perimeter. While the Council recognizes that this may be necessary under homeland security, it does have some concerns over actions of this type. This concern relates to the fact that this and other rigs attract an assemblage of fish that are managed by the Council and these fish are public resources, upon which the recreational and commercial fisheries of the Gulf have become dependent. If these industries were denied access it would result in a major adverse economic impact on those firms and the fishing communities dependent on that fishery.

Only one platform is currently proposed for a security zone and the 100-foot vessel length criteria is unlikely to affect most recreational or commercial fishing vessels. However, if subsequent rules apply to most productive rigs, and, if the vessel's length criteria is reduced, the potential for adverse economic affects would become a reality. The Council has forwarded this concern to the Coast Guard.



## NEW ADVISORY PANEL AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS SELECTED - COMPLETE LIST OF MEMBERS

The Gulf Council reviewed the memberships of its advisory panels and scientific committees at its March meeting. This review process is conducted every two years to fill vacancies on the panels. This year, there were a total of 29 new appointments made to the various advisory panels, 7 new appointments to the scientific and statistical panels, and 6 new appointments to the stock assessment panels. The list of panel and committee members with their dates of appointment follows.

### Advisory Panels

#### \*Class Codes

BLM	Bureau of Land Management
R	Recreational fisherman
CB	Charterboat operator
CO	Commercial organization representative
CF	Commercial fisherman
EN	Environmental organization representative
GCCVB	Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adm.
Oil	Oil Industry
S	Scientist
State	State resource agency
SG	Sea Grant
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P	Seafood processor

Billfish AP			
Name	State	Class*	Appt.
Pamela Basco	TX	R	Mar 97
Gary Bonanno	LA	CB	Mar 03
Darlene Fischer	LA	R	Apr 99
Terry Gray	TX	R	Jan 03
Richard Gremillion	LA	R	Jan 98
John Milner	MS	R	Mar 03
Brad Parker	TX	R	Mar 03
Ellen Peel	FL	R	Jan 98
Brian Phillips	TX	R	Jan 98
E.R. "Smitty" Smith	LA	R	Mar 03
William Wagner, Jr.	FL	R	Jan 98

Butterfish AP			
Name	State	Class*	Appt.
Charles Bergmann, II	MS	NMFS	Apr 99
Steve Bosarge	MS	CF	Mar 89
Geir Monsen	RI	P	Mar 89

<b>Coastal Migratory Pelagics AP</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Class*</b>	<b>Appt.</b>
Randy Boggs	AL	CB	Mar 01
Greg DiDomenico	FL	CO	Mar 01
William Gibson, Jr.	FL	CF	Mar 93
Don Harper	FL	CF	Mar 01
Ben Harvard	AL	CF	Apr 99
Mike Holmes	TX	CB	Apr 99
Wiley Horton	FL	R	Mar 03
Chris Jenkins	LA	R	Mar 03
Richard Landry	LA	R	Mar 03
Leo Ledet, Jr.	LA	R	Mar 03
Glenn Martin	TX	CB	May 94
Tom Marvel, Jr.	FL	CB/CF	Jul 93
Mike Nugent	TX	CB	Mar 97
Bobby O'Barr	MS	R	Sep 82
Clair Pease	FL	CB	Mar 03
Richard Rice	LA	CB	Mar 03
Jim Twiggs	MS	CB	Mar 01
Charlie Walker	FL	CB	Mar 01
Don Walker	AL	CB	Mar 03
Donald Waters	FL	CF	Mar 03
Bob Zales, II	FL	CB	Jul 89

<b>Coral AP</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Class*</b>	<b>Appt.</b>
Kim Anaston	FL	EN	Mar 01
Mark Berrigan	FL	State	Mar 97
Billy Causey	FL	NOAA	Jul 78
Henry Feddern	FL	CF	Jul 78
Ken Heck	AL	S	Mar 93
Martin Moe, Jr.	FL	S	Jul 78
William Ward	FL	CF	Mar 99

<b>Deep-Water Crab AP</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Class*</b>	<b>Appt.</b>
Gary Graves	FL	P	Mar 01
Richard Nielson	FL	CF	Jul 01
Kenneth Ostebo	MA	CF	Jul 01
William Whipple	FL	CF	Jul 01

<b>Florida/Alabama Habitat Protection AP</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Class*</b>	<b>Appt.</b>
David Anthony	FL	R	Aug 94
Pete Barber	AL	CO	Mar 03
Roy Lewis, III	FL	S	Mar 95
Robert McMichael	FL	State	Mar 95
Bryan Pridgeon	FL	USFWS	Mar 00
Ric Ruebsamen	FL	NMFS	Mar 03
William Sierke, Jr.	AL	R	Mar 97
Alexander Stone	MD	EN	Apr 99
LaDon Swan	MS	SG	Feb 02
David Yeager	AL	EN	Mar 01

<b>Mississippi/Louisiana Habitat Protection AP</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Class*</b>	<b>Appt.</b>
Jan Boyd	MS	State	Mar 03
Heather Finley	LA	State	Nov 01
David Frugé	LA	USFWS	Sep 83
Randy Lanctot	LA	R	Sep 83
Bethlyn McCloskey	LA	R	Sep 83
David Richard	LA	BLM	Mar 95
Ric Ruebsamen	FL	NMFS	Mar 03
Cynthia Sarthou	LA	EN	Mar 97
Pete Umbdenstock	MS	R	Mar 03
Jack Van Lopik	LA	SG	Sep 83

<b>Texas Habitat Protection AP</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Class*</b>	<b>Appt.</b>
Bill Baker	TX	State	Mar 93
John Green	TX	R	Jul 92
Dana Larson	TX	Oil	Sep 83
Russell Miget	TX	State	Apr 99
Burt Moritz	TX	R	Sep 83
Brad Parker	TX	R	Mar 03
L. Don Perkins	TX	R	Jul 95
Ric Ruebsamen	FL	NMFS	Mar 03
Robert Spain	TX	State	Mar 95
Robert Stickney	TX	SG	May 00
Fred Werner	TX	USFWS	Mar 88

<b>Highly Migratory Species AP</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Class*</b>	<b>Appt.</b>
Pam Basco	TX	R	Mar 03
Brett Falterman	LA	CB	Mar 01
Darlene Fischer	LA	R	Apr 99
Jerald Horst	LA	SG	Jan 98
Steve Loga	LA	P	Apr 99
David Maginnis	LA	C	Mar 03
Peace Marvel	LA	CB	Mar 03
Mark Twinam	FL	CF	Jan 98
William Wagner, Jr.	FL	R	Jan 98

<b>Red Drum AP</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Class*</b>	<b>Appt.</b>
Jeff Chambliss	AL	CB	Mar 01
Peter Gerica	LA	CF	Sep 86
Scott Green	FL	R	Sep 98
Randolph Gros	LA	R	Apr 99
Edward Holder	TX	R	Sep 86
Doug Horn	MS	P	Jul 01
Howard Mason, Jr.	TX	R	Mar 95
Burt Moritz	TX	R	Apr 91
Harlon Pearce	LA	P	Sep 86
Frank Rawlings	MS	R	Mar 95
Frank Schiraldi	FL	CB	Sep 86
James Sibley	FL	R	Mar 01
Jim Twiggs	MS	CB	Mar 01
James Williams	MS	CF/R	Mar 95
Ron Young	TX	R	Sep 86



<b>Red Snapper AP</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Class*</b>	<b>Appt.</b>
Pam Baker	TX	EN	Mar 03
Gary Graham	TX	SG	Mar 95
Frank Hardison	LA	CB	Mar 03
Philip Horn	MS	P	Sep 98
Jacob Johnson	TX	R	Mar 03
Richard Legnon	LA	R	Mar 95
Herbert Malone	AL	GCCVB	Nov 97
Kim Nix	TX	CO	Nov 97
Mike Nugent	TX	CB	Mar 03
Bobby O'Barr	MS	R	Mar 95
Dale Perkins	FL	CB	Mar 03
Clair Pease	FL	CB	Mar 01
Robert Shipp	AL	S	Aug 00
Mike Thierry	AL	CB	Mar 95
RusselUnderwood	FL	CF	Mar 03
Donny Waters	MS	CF	Jan 98
Monty Weeks	TX	R	Mar 03
Wayne Werner	LA	CF	Sep 97
Mike Whitfield	FL	CF	Mar 95

<b>Shrimp AP</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Class*</b>	<b>Appt.</b>
Wilma Anderson	TX	CO	Mar 95
Pete Barber	AL	CO	Apr 99
Steve Bosarge	MS	CF	Mar 01
Steve Charpentier	LA	CF	Apr 91
Julius Collins	TX	CO	Sep 96
Byron Despaux	LA	CF	Mar 03
Julie Falgout	LA	CO	Mar 03
James Farrelly	LA	P	Feb 77
Ivo Goga	TX	P	Mar 03
Richard Gollott	MS	CF	Mar 03
Gary Graham	TX	SG	Mar 03
Jack Hemmingway	TX	P	Mar 03
Dennis Henderson	FL	CF	Mar 89
Bob Jones	FL	CO	Apr 99
Harold King	LA	P	Mar 03
Harris Lasseigne, Jr.	TX	P	May 85
Chris Nelson	AL	P	Apr 91
Jeff Noel	TX	CF	Mar 03
Walter Zimmerman	TX	P	Oct 81

<b>Reef Fish AP</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Class*</b>	<b>Appt.</b>
Ralph Allen	FL	CB	Mar 95
Marianne Cufone	FL	EN	Mar 03
Frank Hardison	LA	C	Mar 03
Marty Harris	FL	CF	Mar 93
Philip Horn	MS	P	Sep 98
Chris Jenkins	LA	R	Mar 01
Gus Loyal	FL	CB	Mar 95
Gilmer Nix	FL	R	Jul 95
Mike Rowell	AL	CB	Mar 01
Eric Schmidt	FL	CF	Mar 01
Robert Shipp	AL	S	Aug 00
Sue Smyrnios	FL	P	Mar 03
Bob Spaeth	FL	CO	May 84
Frank Stephenson	FL	R	Mar 95
Edwin Toomer	FL	CF	Apr 99
Bill Tucker	FL	CF	Mar 01
Tom Turke	FL	CB	Apr 99
William Ward	FL	CF	Apr 99
Wayne Werner	LA	CF	Jan 98
Bob Zales, II	FL	CB	Mar 95

<b>Stone Crab AP</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Class*</b>	<b>Appt.</b>
Tim Daniels	FL	CF	Apr 78
Bob Gill	FL	CF	Mar 01
Gary Graves	FL	CF	Apr 78
Karl Lessard	FL	CF	Aug 00
Kennetha Rhodes	FL	CF	Apr 99
Robert Robinson	FL	CF	Apr 86
Janalea Smyrnios	FL	P	Mar 03
Simon Stafford	FL	CF	Mar 93

<b>Law Enforcement AP</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Appt.</b>
Colonel Terry Bakker	MS DMR	Mar 93
Major Bruce Buckson	FL FWCC	Aug 94
Lieutenant Commander Dave Cinalli	USCG, 7 <sup>th</sup> Dist.	Aug 99
Major John Thomas Jenkins	AL DCNR	Mar 02
Special-Agent-in-Charge Dick Livingston	NMFS	Dec 01
Major Jeff Mayne	LA DWF	Aug 97
Ms. Karen Raine	NOAA/NMFS	Sep 94
Special-Agent-in-Charge Tom Riley	USFWS	Oct 00
Lieutenant John Sherlock	USCG, 8 <sup>th</sup> Dist.	Jul 02
Mr. Larry Young	TPWD	Oct 00

<b>Spiny Lobster AP</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Class*</b>	<b>Appt.</b>
Robert Gaitanis	FL	R	Jul 93
Karl Lessard	FL	CF	Aug 00
Skip Long	FL	R	Jul 93
B. Allen Patrick	FL	R	Jul 93
Jerry Sansom	FL	CO	Sep 82
Simon Stafford	FL	CF	May 85
Rick Superstein	FL	P	May 85

The members of the Law Enforcement AP are assigned by their respective agencies. They represent the resource law enforcement divisions of FL, AL, MS, LA, TX, NMFS, USFWS, USCG 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Districts, and NOAA General Counsel.

## Scientific and Statistical Committees

Standing SSC			
Name	State	Affiliation	Appt.
Charles Adams	FL	Univ. Florida	Jul 91
Robert Colura	TX	TPWD	Apr 97
James Cowan	LA	LSU	Mar 95
Sandra Diamond	TX	TX Tech	Mar 99
Billy Fuls	TX	TPWD	Apr 97
Douglas Gregory	FL	Univ. Fla.-SG	Jan 92
Albert Jones	FL	NMFS	Jun 79
Walter Keithly	LA	LSU	Jul 91
Stu Kennedy	FL	FMRI	Mar 97
John Roussel	LA	LDWF	Jul 92
Rocky Ward	TX	TPWD	Mar 03
James Wilkins	LA	LSU-SG	Mar 95
Charles Wilson, III	LA	LSU	May 95

Special Butterfish SSC			
Name	State	Affiliation	Appt.
Christopher Gledhill	MS	NMFS	Aug 89
Mike Murphy	FL	FMRI	Aug 89
Richard Waller	MS	GCRL	Aug 89

Special Coral SSC			
Name	State	Affiliation	Appt.
Richard Dodge	FL	NCRI	Jul 99
Walter Jaap	FL	FMRI	Jun 79
Judith Lang	VA		Jun 79
Pamela Muller	FL	USF	Jul 99

Special Mackerel SSC			
Name	State	Affiliation	Appt.
Karen Burns	FL	Mote ML	Mar 99
Paul Choucair	TX	TPWD	Jul 91
Douglas DeVries	FL	NMFS	Apr 97
James Franks, Jr.	MS	GCRL	Apr 97
Richard McBride	FL	FFWCC	Mar 95
Randall Pausina	LA	LDWF	Jan 92

Special Oceanic Migratory Species SSC			
Name	State	Affiliation	Appt.
Randy Blankenship	TX	TPWD	Jul 91
James Franks, Jr.	MS	GCRL	Apr 97
Bruce Thompson	LA	CFI-LSU	Mar 95

Special Red Drum SSC			
Name	State	Affiliation	Appt.
Paul Cook	LA	LDWF	Mar 99
Scott Nichols	MS	NMFS	Jul 91
Randall Pausina	LA	LDWF	Jan 03
Jim Tolan	TX	TPWD	Mar 03
Robert Vega	TX	TPWD	Jan 03

Special Reef Fish SSC			
Name	State	Affiliation	Appt.
Barbara Dorf	TX	TPWD	Mar 03
Gary Fitzhugh	FL	NMFS	Apr 97
Gene Huntsman	NC	NMFS Retired	May 87
Rick Kasprzak	LA	LDWF	Apr 97
Bill Lindberg	FL	Univ. Florida	Mar 99

Special Shark SSC			
Name	State	Affiliation	Appt.
Steve Branstetter	FL	NMFS	May 89
George Burgess, Jr.	FL	Univ. Florida	Oct 85
John Carlson	FL	NMFS	Mar 99
Jose Castro	FL	NMFS	May 89
Jim Duffy	AL	AL DNR	Mar 03
Rebecca Hensley	TX	TPWD	Mar 03
Robert Hueter	FL	Mote ML	Jul 91

Special Shrimp SSC			
Name	State	Affiliation	Appt.
Martin Bourgeois	LA	LWDF	Sep 00
Mike Brainard	MS	MS DMR	Mar 03
Wade Griffin	TX	TX A&M	May 89
Karen Meador	TX	TPWD	Sep 03
James Nance	TX	NMFS	May 93

Special Spiny Lobster SSC			
Name	State	Affiliation	Appt.
Rene Buesa	FL	MSMC	Oct 85
John Hunt	FL	FMRI	Aug 89
Bill Teehan	FL	FFWCC	Mar 03

Special Stone Crab SSC			
Name	State	Affiliation	Appt.
Teresa Bert	FL	FMRI	Dec 81
Tom Mathews	FL	FMRI	Mar 99
Harriet Perry	MS	GCRL	May 93

## Stock Assessment and Socioeconomic Panels

Mackerel Stock Assessment Panel			
Name	State	Affiliation	Appt.
John Carmichael	NC	NC DNR	Aug 98
Nelson Erhardt	FL	Univ. Miami	Aug 89
Douglas Gregory	FL	UF-SG	Mar 95
Robert Muller	FL	FMRI	Aug 89
William Patterson	AL	U South Al.	Apr 97
Joseph Shepard	LA	LDWF	May 93

## GULF COUNCIL INFORMATION LISTS

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has several mailing lists which any member of the public can request to be added to. They are:

Press Release list - announcements of upcoming Council meetings, public hearings, and other Council meetings and functions;

Regulations list - Usually mailed out once a year with all the updated summaries of fishing regulations for both the recreational and commercial sectors;

Newsletter list - Mailing list for the *Gulf Fishery News* (this newsletter), which is typically mailed out after each Council meeting and relates to what occurred at that Council meeting.

Anyone interested in being put on any of these lists should contact Lorna Evans, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 North U.S. Highway 301, Suite 1000, Tampa, Florida 33619-2272, or telephone 813-228-2815 ext. 225 (or toll-free 888-833-1844), or e-mail [lorna.evans@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:lorna.evans@gulfcouncil.org).

In addition to the above mailing lists, the Council also has several e-mail lists.

Press Release e-mail list - This provides the same information as the printed mail list, but as an e-mail. One difference is that subscribers to the e-mail press release list get all releases sent out by the Council, whereas recipients of the printed mail list may receive only releases pertaining to their geographic area. To subscribe, send a blank message to [pressreleases@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:pressreleases@gulfcouncil.org) with SUBSCRIBE as the subject line. If successful, you will within a few hours receive an automatically generated welcome message from the e-mail list software.

The following lists are used internally by the Council's scientific committees to facilitate scheduling meetings and drafting reports to the Council. Although these are not generally considered public e-mail lists, members of the public can, upon request, have their e-mail addresses added to these lists in read-only mode. To have your e-mail address added to any of these lists, contact Steven Atran ([steven.atran@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:steven.atran@gulfcouncil.org)):

Socioeconomic Panel e-mail list

Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel e-mail list

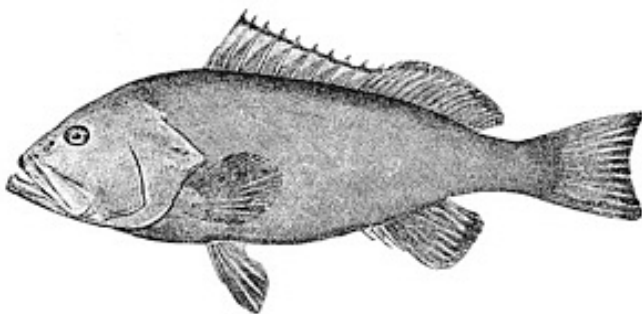
Mackerel Stock Assessment Panel e-mail list (coming soon)

Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel			
Name	State	Affiliation	Appt.
Mark Fisher	TX	TPWD	May 97
Mike Murphy	FL	FMRI	Aug 89
Joseph Shepard	LA	LDWF	Aug 89
Mark Van Hoose	AL	AL DNR	Aug 89
James Warren	MS	GCRL	Mar 95

Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel			
Name	State	Affiliation	Appt.
Harry Blanchet	PA	Penn St. Co-op	Aug 89
James Cowan	LA	LSU	Jul 92
Sandra Diamond	TX	TX Tech	Jul 99
Debra Murie	FL	Univ. Florida	Aug 98
Mike Murphy	FL	FMRI	Jul 99
William Patterson	AL	U South Al.	Jul 99
Jay Rooker	TX	TX A&M	Mar 03
Kenneth Rose	LA	LSU	Oct 98
Andy Strelcheck	FL	FFWCC	Mar 03
Carl Walters	Can.	Univ. BC ret.	Mar 03

Shrimp Stock Assessment Panel			
Name	State	Affiliation	Appt.
Mark Fisher	TX	TPWD	Mar 99
Wade Griffin	TX	TX A&M	Jul 91
Leslie Hartman	AL	ADCNR	Mar 99
James Nance	TX	NMFS	Jul 91
Scott Nichols	MS	NMFS	Jul 91
Bill Richardson	MS	MS DMR	Mar 03

Socioeconomic Panel			
Name	State	Specialty	Appt.
Lee Anderson	DE	Economist	Mar 99
Joselito Estrada	TX	Economist	Mar 03
Duane Gill	MS	Social Scientist	Jul 99
Wade Griffin	TX	Economist	Jan 00
Stephen Holiman	FL	Economist	May 97
Stephen Holland	FL	Social Scientist	Dec 91
Michael Jepson	FL	Social Scientist	Jun 94
Richard Kazmierczak	LA	Economist	Mar 03
Walter Keithly	LA	Economist	Jan 00
Diane Keithly	LA	Social Scientist	Mar 99
David Lavergne	LA	Economist	Sep 93
J. Walter Milon	FL	Economist	Dec 91
Robert Palmer	FL	Economist	Sep 93
John Ward	MD	Economist	Dec 91



# TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE MAY GULF COUNCIL MEETING

## COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

### Monday, May 12, 2003

#### Personnel Committee (CLOSED SESSION)

- Change Staff GS Levels

#### Administrative Policy Committee

- Revisions to Administrative Handbook

#### Reef Fish Management Committee

- Draft Reef Fish Amendment 21/EA
  - Madison/Swanson & Steamboat Lumps Evaluation Presentations
  - Trolling (CCA) Study
  - Public Hearing Comments
  - SSC Review Comments
  - AP Comments
  - Committee Recommendations
- FKNMS Presentation on Fish Traps
- NMFS Presentation on VMS

### Tuesday May 13, 2003

#### Shrimp Management Committee (Tab D)

- Draft Amendment 13 Options Paper
  - Staff Presentation
  - Committee Recommendations
  - Yantai Marine Fisheries Corporation Proposal

#### Law Enforcement Committee (Tab F)

- LEAP Report and Council Material on Criminal Penalties
- Approval of the Enforcement Operations Plan
- Worldwide Water Foundation Request for Fishery Regulations

#### Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel/Red Drum Management Committee (Tab E)

- Scoping Document for Generic Aquaculture Amendment
  - Staff Presentation
  - Committee Recommendations

#### Mackerel Management Committee (Tab C)

- Final Coastal Migratory Pelagic Regulatory Amendment/EA
  - Staff Presentation
  - Committee Recommendations
- Scoping Document for Draft CMP Amendment 15
  - Staff Presentation
  - Committee Recommendations

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## COUNCIL AGENDA

### Wednesday, May 14, 2003

- I. Call to Order and Introductions - Fensom
- II. Adoption of Agenda - Fensom
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Public Testimony<sup>1</sup>
  - a. Coastal Migratory Pelagics Regulatory Amendment
  - b. Reef Fish Amendment 21/EA
- V. IFQ Presentations
  - a. Macinko
  - b. Emerson
- VI. Committee Reports
  - a. Reef Fish Management
  - b. Personnel Committee (CLOSED SESSION)

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<sup>1</sup> Persons testifying must turn in the registration card prior to the start of the testimony period.

**Thursday, May 15, 2003**

- VI. Committee Reports (Continued)
  - c. Mackerel Management
  - d. Shrimp Management
  - e. Law Enforcement Committee
  - f. Administrative Policy Committee
  - g. Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel/Red Drum Committees
- VII. ICCAT Advisory Committee
- VIII. Gulf Safety Committee
- IX. Logo Selection Committee
- X. Enforcement Reports
- XI. Regional Administrator's Report
- XII. Directors' Reports
- XIII. Other Business

**Please note:** The above agenda is tentative and is not final until it becomes noticed. Updates to the agenda will be posted on the Gulf Council web site as they become available. Although non-emergency issues not contained in the agenda may come before the Gulf Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Gulf Council action during the meeting. The Gulf Council's actions will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the noticed agenda and any issues arising after publication of that notice that require emergency action under section 305 (c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Gulf Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

**TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE JUNE GULF COUNCIL MEETING**

**Thursday, June 5, 2003**

- I. Call to Order and Introductions
- II. Adoption of Agenda
- III. Public Testimony
  - Draft EIS for EFH Generic Amendment
- IV. Comments on Draft EIS for EFH Generic Amendment - Morris
  - a. Changes Incorporated into the DEIS
  - b. Recommendations of Technical Review Panel
  - c. Recommendations of User Review Panel
  - d. Recommendations of Standing SSC
  - e. Public Letters on DEIS
  - f. NMFS/NOAA Recommendations
- V. Section by Section Review and Revision of DEIS

**Friday, June 6, 2003**

- V. Section by Section Review and Revision of DEIS (Continued)
- VI. Other Business

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

*GULF FISHERY NEWS is a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Any material in this newsletter may be reprinted or reproduced. We would like to hear from you regarding fishery questions you would like to see covered in GULF FISHERY NEWS. GULF FISHERY NEWS or the Gulf Council office can be contacted at c/o Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, Florida, 33619-2266. Telephone: 813-228-2815 (toll-free 888-833-1844). Fax: 813-225-7015. E-mail: [gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org) Website: <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>*

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional fishery management councils that were established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 1976. The Council is responsible for the development and modification of fishery management plans (FMPs) that are designed to manage fishery resources in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico from state boundaries to the 200-mile limit. This is a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and financial assistance for this newsletter was provided by grant funds pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA03NMF4410028.

**May Meeting:**

May 12-15, 2003  
Edgewater Beach Resort  
11212 Front Beach Road  
Panama City Beach, FL 32407

**June Meeting:**

July 5-6, 2003  
New Orleans Airport Plaza Hotel  
2150 Veteran's Memorial Boulevard  
Kenner, Louisiana 70062

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GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Tampa, Florida 33619-2266

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