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# 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: Peter Hood.*

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## **COUNCIL RECOMMENDS GULF-GROUP KING MACKEREL TAC AND BAG LIMITS**

The Council moved at their May meeting to recommend that the Gulf group king mackerel TAC be set at 10.2 million pounds and that the bag limit be set at 2 fish per person per day, including the captain and crew or for-hire vessels. Dr. Will Patterson presented the Mackerel Stock Assessment Panel's (MSAP) acceptable biological catch (ABC) ranges based on the current fishing mortality rate (F) at 30% spawning production ratio (SPR) and the target (recommended)  $F_{40\%SPR}$ . At  $F_{30\%SPR}$ , the point estimate was 10.2 million pounds (MP) within the 16<sup>th</sup> and 84<sup>th</sup> percentile range of 8.2 to 12.8 MP. At the recommended  $F_{40\%SPR}$  the point

estimate was 7.0 MP within the 16<sup>th</sup> and 84<sup>th</sup> percentile range of 5.5 to 8.8 MP. For Gulf group Spanish mackerel, he noted that the current TAC of 9.1 MP was greater than the 8.5 MP estimate of MSY, and considerably more than the 1999/2000 catch estimate of 3.7 MP. The MSAP recommended that for Gulf

### **NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

**July 10-14, 2000**

**Westin Beach Resort**

**97000 South Overseas Hwy**

**Key Largo, FL 33037**



group king mackerel, further research needs to include updated bycatch estimates, discard mortality, expanded fishery-independent and fishery-dependent sampling programs, and environmental influences on recruitment.

Dr. Steve Holland reported recommendations from the Socio-economic Panel (SEP) for king mackerel. Unfortunately, little data is available to assess social impacts of changing TACs. However, the SEP recommended that a status quo of 10.6 MP TAC for Gulf group king mackerel would be least disruptive to the users and would have the lowest affect on producer and consumer surpluses. He stated that the SEP would recommend a TAC of 8.8 MP (the upper limit of the ABC range) if the Council chose to use the  $F_{40\%SPR}$  target.



### **NEW CATCH LIMITS FOR GULF GROUP KING AND SPANISH MACKEREL - EFFECTIVE JUNE 12, 2000**

The following changes to Gulf group Spanish and king mackerel fishing regulations have been approved by NMFS and take effect June 12, 2000:

**Recreational Spanish Mackerel** - The bag limit for Gulf group Spanish mackerel is increased from 10 to 15 fish per person per day for the entire Gulf of Mexico EEZ.

**Commercial Spanish Mackerel** - The commercial quota for Gulf group Spanish mackerel is increased from 3.99 million pounds to 5.187 million pounds.

**Commercial King Mackerel** - The opening day for the Gulf group king mackerel fishery is changed from July 1 to 6:00 A.M. on the Tuesday following the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. The following weekend will be open as long as the quota has not been taken, but subsequent weekends and holidays will be closed from 6:00 A.M. Saturday to 6:00 A.M. Monday (or Tuesday if Monday is a holiday).

### **RESULTS OF EXPLORATORY STOCK ASSESSMENT OF DOLPHIN PRESENTED TO COUNCIL**

Dr. Will Patterson presented to the Council the

Mackerel Stock Assessment Panel (MSAP) recommendations on the dolphin stock assessment. The exploratory stock assessment conducted by NMFS indicated possible differences in biological parameters between the stock in the Gulf and that of the Atlantic. Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) was estimated at about 27 million pounds (MP) and current estimates of fishing mortality (F) were thought to be below  $F_{MSY}$  and spawning stock biomass (SSB) was thought to be above SSB at MSY. Dr. Patterson also indicated that there was a need for additional information on the stock structure, vital rates, and indices of abundance for this species.

The Council is currently working with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) on a "Draft Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Dolphin, *Coryphaena hippurus*, and Wahoo, *Acanthocybium solandri*, Fishery in the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico" (Dolphin/Wahoo FMP). The Dolphin/Wahoo FMP has been prepared by the SAFMC with assistance from the Gulf and Caribbean fishery management councils. The Council will discuss possible recommendations at its July meeting and public hearings are being scheduled throughout the Gulf for August.

### **COUNCIL TO CONSIDER A PERMIT/REGISTRATION SYSTEM FOR THE SHRIMP FISHERY**

Dr. Bill Hogarth of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) stated at the Council's May meeting that red snapper were considered to be overfished and the recovery of that stock was being significantly affected by the shrimp trawl bycatch. He explained that managers currently did not have sufficient information on effort and other aspects of the shrimp trawl fishery, including fishing locations, gear used, vessel characteristics, and others. He noted that virtually all of the other Gulf fisheries were required to have permits, and permits would provide the most effective way to gather the needed information. He stated that these effort data were needed to properly manage the red snapper fishery. At their May meeting, the Council to consider a shrimp fishery permit system through a plan amendment and that an options paper examining this issue be developed to include features of both registration and permit systems.

## **COUNCIL RECOMMENDS THAT AN FMP FOR THE DEEP-WATER CRAB FISHERY BE DEVELOPED.**

The Council decided at its May meeting to begin the process of developing a Fishery Management Plan for the fishery of red crab, golden crab, and related species. The golden crab (*Chaceon fenneri*) and the red crab (*C. quinquegens*) are slow-growing, long-lived crabs that are found in deep waters (> 300 fathoms) along the continental slope. Landings in the southeast region have averaged around one million pounds between 1995 and 1998.

At its May meeting, the Council heard about enforcement problems in the fishery, heavy metal concentrations in red crabs, and market change. NMFS Enforcement has encountered problems in the golden crab fishery including alleged trap stealing, unlawful trap construction, and fishing without permits. Part of the problem is that there are no parallel regulations between the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic regions. Measures that would help enforcement monitor the fishery would be official trap tags, limiting transit to Gulf waters if fishing has occurred in the Gulf, establishing a Gulf side trip reporting program, and requiring fishermen to pull traps if they halt fishing operations.

Ms. Harriet Perry from the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory presented information on heavy metal contaminants in red crabs to the Council. The area surveyed was the northern Gulf and both sediment and tissue samples were collected. In red crabs, most metals tended to concentrate in the hepatopancreas, followed by the gill and muscle tissues. Of the heavy metals, lead seemed most problematic with mean concentrations in the muscle over or at the FDA levels of concern for some portions of the public. However, she related that this information was based on a limited sample size and that she had not heard back from the EPA about the significance of these results.

The Council also heard what should be good news to the golden crab fishery. Golden crab prices are inversely linked to the Alaska snow crab fishery. When snow crabs are plentiful, the price for golden crabs is low. In recent years, landings of snow crabs have been decreasing and it is likely that for the 2001 fishing year, the fishery will be closed. Therefore, prices for golden crabs should increase.



## **RED DRUM ABC TO BE KEPT AT ZERO**

At its May meeting, the Council heard a report from the Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel (RDSAP). The panel evaluated the stock assessment performed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The assessment used an age-structured, forward projecting model that solves for parameters such as fishing mortality by finding the best fit of predicted lengths to observed length data. Most model runs found that red drum were in an overfished condition and that overfishing was occurring. Because of these results and uncertainty about the age structure and magnitude of the offshore stock, the RDSAP chose to recommend that the acceptable biological catch (ABC) remain at zero. The Council concurred with this evaluation and voted that the harvest and possession of red drum in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) be maintained at zero.

The RDSAP noted that to reduce uncertainty in the assessment, additional research needs to be conducted. Recommended research included that 1) the age composition of the adults in offshore waters needs to be known, 2) the absolute abundance of adult red drum in the Gulf of Mexico needs to be accurately measured, 3) random sampling of the commercial and recreational catches for age composition data is needed, 4) standardized stock assessment methodology needs to be developed that can accept area (state)-specific data and work with these within the context of a Gulf stock assessment, 5) the area (state)-specific contributions of the red drum to the offshore adult stock needs to be determined, 6) angler-release and shrimp-trawl bycatch mortality and the ages or lengths of caught-and-released fish needs to be determined, and 7) the length composition of the commercial catch needs to be measured. The Council agreed with these data needs and asked the RDSAP to recommend how this research should be conducted, estimate the research costs, and give an estimate of how long the research should take.

## NEW GROUPER REGULATIONS TO TAKE EFFECT JUNE 19, 2000

The following changes to gag, black, and red grouper have been approved by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and take effect June 19, 2000:

- ! Raise the commercial minimum size limit for gag/black grouper to 24 inches total length.

Division rather than the Council. The Council has asked NMFS HMS to issue a compatible rule prohibiting fishing for highly migratory species in these two areas, and that request is currently under consideration. The closed areas are shown on the adjacent map (the Florida Middle Grounds is also shown for reference). Their sizes and coordinates are:

- ! Madison and Swanson site (115 square nautical miles) - south of Panama City, Florida

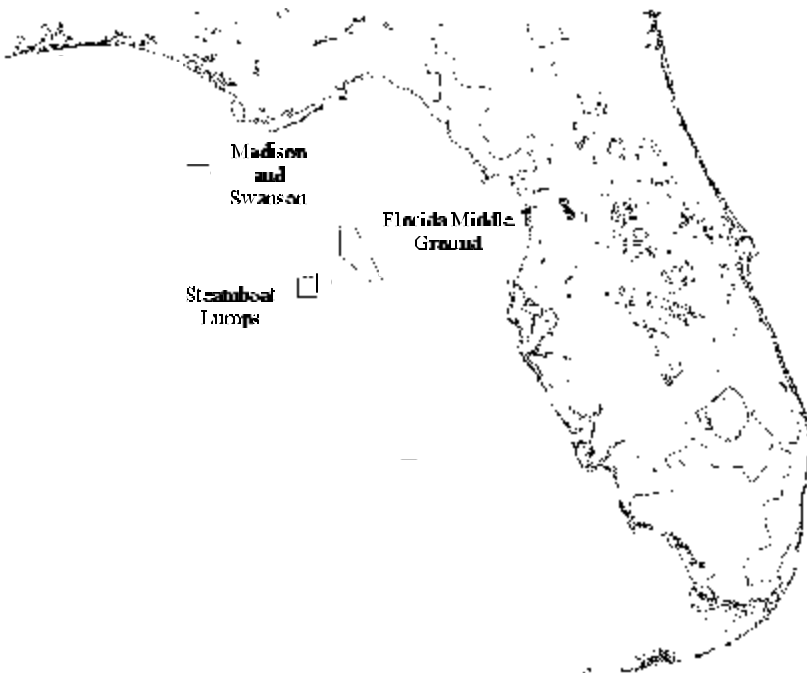
- ! North edge: 29 degrees 17 minutes north latitude  
South edge: 29 degrees 6 minutes north latitude  
East edge: 85 degrees 38 minutes west longitude  
West edge: 85 degrees 50 minutes west longitude

- ! Steamboat Lumps (104 square nautical miles) - west of Tarpon Springs, Florida

- ! North edge: 28 degrees 14 minutes north latitude  
South edge: 28 degrees 3 minutes north latitude  
East edge: 84 degrees 37 minutes west longitude  
West edge: 84 degrees 48 minutes west longitude

- ! Raise the recreational minimum size limit for gag/black grouper to 22 inches total length. (NMFS disallowed a proposal to subsequently increase the recreational size limit by one inch per year until it reaches 24 inches on the basis that such an increase would produce a disproportionately greater reduction in recreational harvest compared to commercial harvest.)
- ! Prohibit the sale of gag/red grouper/black grouper harvested from Gulf federal waters from February 15 to March 15 of each year.
- ! Establish two areas to be closed to fishing, except for highly migratory species (tunas, sharks, and billfishes), which are managed by the NMFS Highly Migratory Species (HMS)

While approving the above rules, NMFS Regional Administrator William Hogarth stated that, by themselves, these rules were not expected to be sufficient to prevent grouper overfishing. Consequently, the Gulf Council is in the early stages of developing a comprehensive grouper amendment to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan (Amendment 18). Development of Amendment 18, including the development of specific options, is expected to occur over Spring and Summer, with final action by the Council likely to occur early next year (public hearings will be scheduled prior to final action).



**COMMERCIAL RED SNAPPER 2000 LANDINGS TO DATE**

The Southeast Fisheries Science Center of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has provided the following preliminary commercial landings estimates for Gulf of Mexico red snapper for the season that started February 1, 2000 under a 3.06 million pound Spring sub-quota (out of a total 4.65 million pound annual commercial quota). The commercial red snapper season is open from noon on the first until noon on the tenth of each month or until the Spring sub-quota is filled. For May, NMFS projected the Spring sub-quota to be filled by May 8, and the season was therefore closed on the 8th rather than the 10th. All landings have been converted to whole weight. The period covered is February 1 through May 8, 2000. Given that estimated landings for the Spring red snapper season are usually about two percent below actual landings, it appears that the 2000 Spring sub-quota of 3.06 million pounds was either filled or exceeded by less than one percent.

The commercial red snapper fishery will remain closed until the Fall sub-season opens on September 1, 2000 (or October 1, 2000 if a change proposed by the Council is approved by NMFS). The Fall sub-quota is 1.59 million pounds, adjusted for any over or under harvest of the Spring sub-quota.

Red Snapper 2000 Commercial Landings (pounds)				
Time Period	Texas	LA, MS & AL	Florida	Weekly Total
Feb. 1 - Feb. 10	284,636	710,422	75,859	1,070,917
Mar. 1 - Mar. 10	230,310	617,276	64,772	912,358
April 1 - April 10	181,312	359,303	64,869	605,484
May 1 - May 8	137,913	186,285	100,842	425,040
<b>Total</b>	<b>834,171</b>	<b>1,873,286</b>	<b>306,342</b>	<b>3,013,799</b>



**COUNCIL MAIL UP IN SMOKE**

On May 19, 2000, the United States Post Office located in Ybor City, Florida burned to the ground. This facility handles mail being sent to and from the Gulf Council office. Fortunately the Council office did not send out much mail the day before and the day of the fire. Mail that was likely burned has been sent out again. However, some mail sent to the Council office was likely lost in the blaze. If you are either expecting a response from the Council or tried to contact the Council office by letter during this time period, but have not received a response yet, please contact us. We will do our best to correct this problem.

**PROPOSED NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH QUOTAS FOR 2000-2002; PROPOSED TRADE SANCTIONS FOR BLUEFIN AND SWORDFISH; PROPOSED REBUILDING OPTIONS FOR NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE TUNA**

The intent of these actions is to improve conservation and management of Atlantic swordfish, bluefin tuna, and albacore resources, while allowing harvests consistent with recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

As part of an international rebuilding program, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to reduce the annual landings quota for the north Atlantic swordfish stock from the current level of 2,333 metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) to 2,219 mt dw for each of the next three fishing years (2000, 2001, and 2002). Three hundred mt dw would be allocated for incidental catch and the remainder (1919 mt dw) would be allocated equally to each of

Swordfish quota continued:

the two semi-annual directed fishery seasons (June 1 through November 30 and December 1 through May 31). NMFS also proposes to establish an allowance for North Atlantic swordfish dead discards of 320 mt whole weight (ww) in 2000, 240 mt ww in 2001, and 160 mt ww in 2002.

Additionally, NMFS proposes several actions regarding import restrictions:

- Prohibit the importation of Atlantic bluefin tuna and its products from Equatorial Guinea;
- Prohibit the importation of Atlantic swordfish and its products from Belize and Honduras;
- Remove a prohibition on the importation of Atlantic bluefin tuna from Panama, which has become a member of ICCAT and taken steps to improve its compliance.

Finally, the draft Environmental Assessment for this action includes a proposed rebuilding plan for northern albacore tuna. Given that the United States represents only 2 to 3% of the annual north Atlantic catch, international cooperation will be an essential part of any rebuilding program.

NMFS has already held three public hearings to receive comments from fishery participants and other members of the public regarding these proposed regulations. Two other public hearings will be held in the following locations:

**Thursday, June 22, 7:00-9:30 pm:** NMFS Laboratory, 3500 Delwood Beach Rd, Panama City, FL

**Thursday, June 22, 7:00-9:30 pm:** Bamegat Light Firehouse, Bamegat Light, NJ

**Tuesday, July 11, 2000, 7:00-9:30 pm:** Civic Center, 1801 NE 6<sup>th</sup> St., Pompano Beach, FL.

Written comments will also be accepted through July 18, 2000. Send comments to: United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

For further information on this proposed action, please contact Rachel Rusted at (301) 713-2347.



## **PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR STONE CRAB FMP AMENDMENT**

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold public hearings on an amendment to the Stone Crab Fishery Management Plan (FMP) that proposes to extend the trap certificate program for the commercial stone crab fishery adopted by the state of Florida into the federal waters off west Florida. The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC), after working with the stone crab industry and Council over the past 4 years, has adopted by rule a trap certificate program that will gradually reduce the number of traps over a 30-year period. The Florida legislature has approved the portion of this program pertaining to licenses and fees.

The hearings will be held from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the following locations and dates:

Tuesday, June 6, 2000  
Naples Depot Civic Cultural Center  
1051 Fifth Avenue South  
Naples, Florida 34102

Wednesday, June 7, 2000  
Banana Bay Resort & Marina  
4590 Overseas Highway  
Marathon, Florida 33050

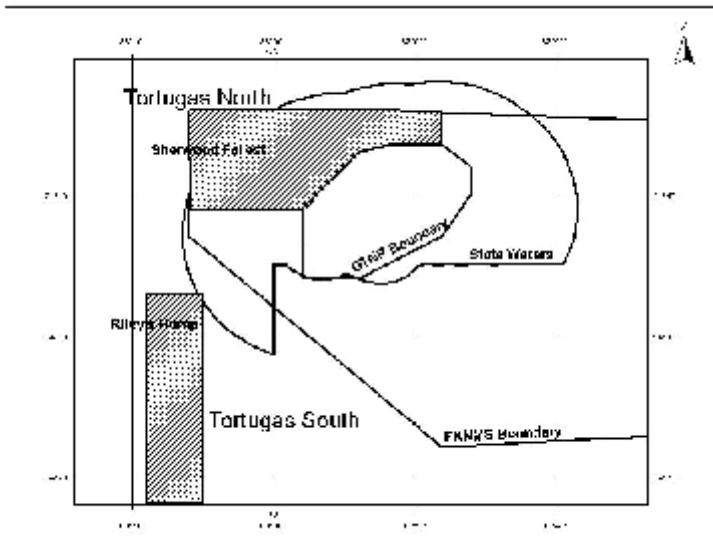
Tuesday, June 13, 2000  
Jaycee Building  
501 SE 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Crystal River, Florida 34429

Wednesday, June 14, 2000  
Steinhatchee Elementary School  
1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South  
Steinhatchee, Florida 32359

The Council will also hear public testimony before taking final action on the amendment on July 12, 2000 at its meeting in Key Largo, Florida. The Council will accept written comments received by June 26, 2000.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR TORTUGAS MARINE PRESERVE AMENDMENT

The Gulf Council will hold public hearings on a Generic Amendment Addressing the Establishment of Tortugas Marine Reserves (see map below), which proposes to establish the Tortugas South marine reserve that will



encompass the Riley's Hump mutton snapper spawning aggregation site established by the Council in 1994. The total area of the proposed Tortugas South marine reserve is 60 square nautical miles. The amendment also proposes to create the Tortugas North marine reserve cooperatively with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) program, the state of Florida, and the National Park system, which will encompass an area of 120 square nautical miles. The portion proposed to be established by the Council is 13 square nautical miles. The Council proposes that marine reserves be established for a period of at least 10 years, during which the ecological benefits of the reserve will be evaluated. The Council also proposes that fishing and anchoring be prohibited within the marine reserves.

The hearings will be held from 3:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the following locations and dates:

Wednesday, June 21, 2000  
Sombbrero Country Club  
4000 Sombbrero Boulevard  
Marathon, FL 33050

Thursday, June 22, 2000  
Holiday Inn Beachside  
3841N. Roosevelt Blvd.  
Key West, FL, 33040

The Council will also hear public testimony before taking final action on the amendment on July 12, 2000 at its

meeting in Key Largo, Florida. The Council will accept written comments received by June 30, 2000.

Additional public hearings will be held by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) and the National Park Service. For further information about these hearings or to submit written comments to these agencies, contact Mr. Billy Causey, FKNMS, P.O. Box 500368, Marathon, FL 33050 (ph: 305/743-2437 Fax: 305/743-2357).

## ENFORCEMENT REPORT

### Commercial Fisherman Sentenced for Destroying Evidence of Illegal Fishing and Making False Statements to Enforcement Agents.

Donna A. Bucella, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida and Eugene F. Proulx, Special Agent In Charge, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Office of Enforcement, announced that William Lee Dehmer, age 39, and a resident of St. Petersburg, Florida, was sentenced before United States District Judge Henry Lee Adams, Jr. in Tampa, Florida, to two years in federal prison, without parole, followed by three years of supervised release. Dehmer also was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$3,000.00 to the NMFS. Dehmer was convicted following a jury trial of knowingly and willfully throwing overboard, destroying, and removing property to prevent seizure by the United States Coast Guard (USCG). He was also convicted of knowingly making false statements to agents of NMFS.

The evidence at trial established that Dehmer was the captain of a commercial fishing vessel that used illegal longline fishing gear in a restricted area known as the "Reeffish longline and Buoy gear restricted Area." This area is federally protected and environmentally sensitive, serving as a fish spawning and nursery site in the Gulf of Mexico and is closed year-round to reefish longline fishing. Dehmer had been found guilty of instructing his crew members to cut the longline fishing gear which extended out approximately 4 nautical miles, and leaving it on the sea bottom to avoid seizure by the USCG. Dehmer also had been found guilty of lying to an official of NMFS by denying that he had been fishing in the restricted area and by providing the official with false documentation.

SETTLEMENTS BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2000 AND MARCH 31, 2000

CASE NUMBER	RESPONDENT NAME	AREA	LE UNIT	CASE DESCRIPTION	FINAL AMOUNT	FORFEITED AMOUNT	PERMIT SANCTION
SE970029FM	AN LUCKY NGUYEN	GOM	USCG	TED VIOLATION	\$3,000.00		
SE980103ES	THIEN THAI TRAN	GOM	USCG	TED VIOLATION	\$2,000.00		
SE980227FM	DANIEL LEE MEREDITH	GOM	NMFS	SELL RED SNAPPER AFTER CLOSURE	\$2,475.00		
SE980241FM	JOE LYNN INC. JOE MILLS	GOM	NMFS	1)SELL RED SNAPPER AFTER CLOSURE 2)SELL RED SNAPPER AFTER CLOSURE 3)FALSE REPORTING 4)FALSE REPORTING	\$6,270.00 \$1,650.00 \$8,910.00 \$2,475.00		1/1/00 - 4/14/00
SE980242FM	LESTER HARRIS RICHARD OWEN HARRIS	GOM	NMFS	1) SELL RED SNAPPER AFTER CLOSURE 2) FALSE REPORTING	\$1,125.00 \$1,125.00		2/1/00 - 2/10/00
SE980243FM	DANIEL LEE MEREDITH	GOM	NMFS	SELL RED SNAPPER AFTER CLOSURE	\$ 660.00		
SE980405ES	ANN NGOC DUONG DAVID LE	GOM	USCG	TED VIOLATION	\$4,500.00	\$3,817.60	
SE980411ES	RODDY AGUILLARD	GOM	USCG	TED VIOLATION	\$3,600.00		
SE990028FM	HAROLD LEE VONHARTEN VON HARTEN SHRIMP CO., INC.	GOM	USCG	SW FLORIDA SEASONAL CLOSURE	\$2,000.00		
SE990113FM	RONALD DEAN FOSTER	GOM	USCG	1)FAILURE TO DISPLAY & MAINTAIN IDENTIFICATION 2)FISHED IN VIOLATION OF PROHIBITIONS (FLORIDA MIDDLE GROUNDS) 3)FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH LIMITATIONS ON TRAPS 4)FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH LIMITATIONS ON TRAPS	\$ 750.00 \$3,750.00 \$3,000.00 \$1,125.00		1/15 - 1/30/00
SE990155ES	BRYON K. MCCAULEY	GOM	NMFS	TED VIOLATION	\$1,000.00		
SE990156FM	HIEU VAN TRAN	GOM	NMFS	TED VIOLATION	\$7,000.00		
SE990171ES	LONG VAN VO	GOM	NMFS	TED VIOLATION	\$3,000.00	\$5,150.35	
SE990195FM	ROYAL SEAS FISHERIES, INC.	GOM	NMFS/ USCG	1)ENGAGED IN GOLDEN CRAB WITHOUT VALID PERMIT 2)FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH TRAP REQUIREMENTS	\$1,000.00 \$5,000.00	\$14,482	



SE990196ES	FARON J. KILBURN	GOM	NMFS	TED VIOLATION	\$1,000.00		
SE990231ES	KHAOLOP PHONTHAASA	GOM	NMFS	TED VIOLATION	\$1,500.00		
SE990242ES	THANH VAN TRAN	GOM	NMFS	TED VIOLATION	\$1,250.00		
SE990272ES	HAI VAN NGUYEN	GOM	NMFS	TED VIOLATION	\$1,250.00		
SE990291ES	KELLY R. BURTON	GOM	NMFS	TED VIOLATION	\$2,000.00		
SE990297FM	TRAN BAU	GOM	TXP&W	UNLAWFUL HARVEST, TAKE, POSSESSION OF FISH	\$1,500.00		
SE990371ES	CURTIS S. KOONCE	GOM	NMFS	TED VIOLATION	\$2,250.00		
SE991279MS	TIMOTHY J. ANDERSON	FKNMS	FMP	FISHING IN SANCTUARY PRESERVATION AREA	\$ 750.00		
SE991316MS	LEO J. SOSA	FKNMS	FMP	FISHING IN ECOLOGICAL RESERVE	\$ 750.00		

Abbreviations: GOM - Gulf of Mexico, NMFS - National Marine Fisheries Service, USCG - United States Coast Guard, FKNMS - Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, FMP - Florida Marine Patrol, TXP&W - Texas Parks and Wildlife

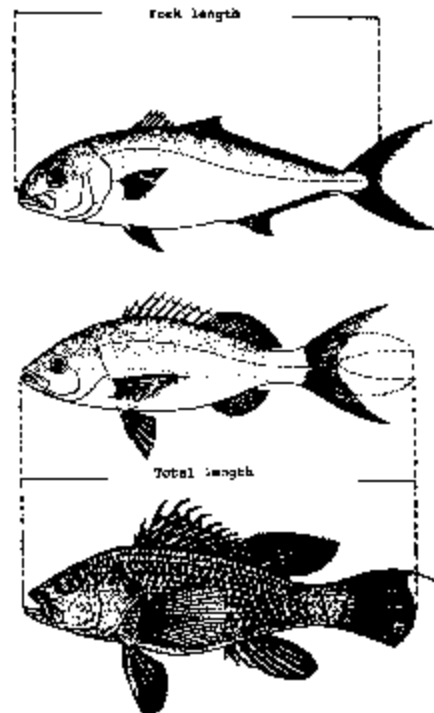
NOVAs ISSUED BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2000 AND MARCH 31, 2000

CASE NUMBER	RESPONDENT NAME	AREA	LE UNIT	CASE DESCRIPTION	NOVA AMOUNT	NOFF* AMOUNT	PROPOSED NOPS** DURATION
SE990013FM	JILL B. INC. DONALD CARL JONES	GOM	FMP	POSSESS FISH (RED SNAPPER) DURING CLOSURE	\$12,000.00	\$ 2,266	30 DAYS
SE990028FM	HAROLD LEE VONHARTEN VON HARTEN SHRIMP CO., INC.	GOM	USCG	SW FLORIDA SEASONAL CLOSURE	\$ 4,000.00	\$12,528	
SE990151FM	OUR GRANDKIDS, INC. ISRAEL ZAMORA	GOM	USCG	(1)POSSESS SEPARATED SPINY LOBSTERS (2)FAILURE TO MAINTAIN FISH INTACT	\$ 2,000.00 \$ 1,500.00		
SE990154ES	HOANG VAN TRAN & BRYANT A. SHELVIN	GOM	USCG	TED VIOLATION	\$2,500.00		
SE990186FM	ERNEST B. DAVIS GAIL DAVIS	GOM	USCG	1)FAILURE TO MAINTAIN FISH (GROUPER)INTACT 2)FAILURE TO MAINTAIN SHARK INTACT	\$3,000.00 \$3,000.00		30 DAYS
SE990200MM	KENNETH KEENE	GOM	FMP/ NMFS	ATTEMPT TO TAKE/HARRASS DOLPHIN	\$ 500.00		
SE990208FM	ROBERT W. PRITCHARD MISS COURTNEY, INC.	GOM	USCG	BRD VIOLATION	\$ 6,000.00		
SE990298ES	HUNG V. TRAN ROSA T. LE	GOM	TXP& W	TED VIOLATION	\$ 8,000.00		
SE990488ES	SUM V. TRAN	GOM	USCG	TED VIOLATION	\$4,000.00	\$9,268	
SE990642ES	HERMAN J. WILLIAMS, JR.	GOM	USCG	TED VIOLATION	\$4,000.00	\$4,215	
SE990670MS	FRANK SARIEGO	FKNMS	FMP	OPERATE A VESSEL SO AS TO INJURE CORAL/SEAGRASS	\$2,000.00		
SE990673MS	FRANK FASANO	FKNMS	FMP	OPERATE A VESSEL SO AS TO INJURE CORAL/SEAGRASS	\$1,500.00		

SE990683ES	SU HUU NGUYEN	GOM	USCG	TED VIOLATION	\$2,000.00		
SE991276MS	MARCO S. BACKHAUSEN	FKNMS	FMP	(1)ENTRY WITHOUT AUTHORITY INTO RESEARCH ONLY AREA (2)FISHING IN SANTUARY PRESERVATION AREA	\$ 350.00 \$ 0.00		
SE991279MS	TIMOTHY J. ANDERSON	FKNMS	FMP	(1)FISHING IN SANCTUARY PRESERVATION AREA (2)INTERFERE WITH INVESTIGATION,SEARCH,SEIZURE (3)POSSESS UNDERSIZED LOBSTER	\$ 750.00 \$ 0.00 \$ 0.00		UNKNOWN
SE991284MS	STEPHEN D. VANCIL	FKNMS	FMP	(1)FISHING IN SANCTUARY PRESERVATION AREA (2)POSSESS UNDERSIZED LOBSTER (3)POSSESS EGG-BEARING LOBSTER	\$ 500.00 \$ 0.00 \$ 0.00		
SE991315MS	CHARLES L. ROSALY	FKNMS	FMP	OPERATE A VESSEL>4 KNOTS NEAR DIVERS	\$ 150.00		
SE991316MS	LEO J. SOSA	FKNMS	FMP	FISHING IN ECOLOGICAL RESERVE	\$1,000.00		
SE991318MS	LARRY RUSSELL ROHR	FKNMS	FMP	OPERATE VESSEL SO AS TO STIKE/DAMAGE SEAGRASS	\$3,400.00		
SE991319MS	GARY BEYERLEIN	FKNMS	FMP	OPERATE VESSEL SO AS TO STIKE/DAMAGE SEAGRASS	\$1,800.00		
SE000003FM	ALBERT C. ADAMS	GOM	NMFS	(1)POSSESS RED SNAPPER DURING COMMERCIAL CLOSURE (2)POSSESSED UNDERSIZED FISH (RED SNAPPER) (3)MAKE FALSE STATEMENTS TO AGENT (4)INTERFERE,OBSTRUCT,DELAY INVESTIGATION	\$10,000.00 \$ 3,000.00 \$ 2,500.00 \$ 2,500.00	\$1,411	120 DAYS

## HOW TO MEASURE A FISH

Lengths most commonly used to measure fish are total and fork lengths. For both measures, it is best to lay the fish flat on a board with the jaws closed. Total length is a straight line measure between the tip of the snout and the extreme tip of the tail fin that has been squeezed together. Fork length is a straight line measure from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail. Other measures used to classify fish length include the lower jaw fork length (the length from the lower jaw tip to the fork of the tail), the curved fork length (the contoured length along the body from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail), and the carcass length (the length from the posterior edge of the gill opening to the anterior portion of the caudal keel). For information on size regulations for fish caught in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, contact the Gulf Council office to get a copy of either the commercial or recreational fishing regulation pamphlets (see page 12 on how to contact the Council office).



# TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR JULY MEETING

## COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

### Monday, July 10, 2000

#### Stone Crab Management Committee

##### Draft Amendment 7

- ! Summary of Public Hearings
- ! Public Letters
- ! AP Recommendations
- ! SSC Recommendations
- ! Federal Comments

#### Shrimp Management Committee

##### Options Paper for a Permitting Amendment

#### NMFS Report on Status of the Shrimp Stocks

#### Sustainable Fisheries Committee

##### SFA Amendment Bycatch Reporting Measures

#### Budget Committee

##### Progress Report on CY2000 Cooperative Agreements

### Tuesday, July 11, 2000

#### Reef Fish Management Committee

##### Report on Status of Jewfish Stock

##### SEFSC Red Snapper Stock Restoration Scenarios

##### SEFSC Grouper Stock Restoration Scenarios

##### Stock Assessments to be Completed by SEFSC in FY 2001

#### Joint Marine Reserves/Reef Fish Management Committees

##### Draft Amendment for Tortugas Reserves

- ! Summary of Public Hearings
- ! Public Letters
- ! SSC Recommendations
- ! Federal Comments
- ! Committee Recommendations

#### Habitat Protection Committee

##### Williams Gas Pipeline Project

##### Gulfstream Gas Pipeline Project

### Wednesday, July 12, 2000

#### Mackerel Management Committee

##### Approval of Letter to States and SAFMC on Sale of Fish

##### Approval of Dolphin/Wahoo FMP for Public Hearings

## COUNCIL MEETING

### Wednesday, July 12, 2000

- I. Call to Order and Introductions - Shipp
- II. Adoption of Agenda - Shipp
- III. Approval of Minutes - Shipp

#### IV. Public Testimony - Shipp

- a. Stone Crab Amendment 7
- b. SFA Amendment Resubmission Section on Bycatch Reporting
- c. Generic Amendment Addressing Establishment of Tortugas Reserves

### Thursday, July 13, 2000

#### IV. Public Testimony (Continued) - Shipp

- c. Generic Amendment Addressing Establishment of Tortugas Reserves

#### V. Committee Reports

- a. Stone Crab Management - Lessard
- b. Joint Marine Reserves/Reef Fish Management - K. Williams/Minton
- c. Reef Fish Management - Minton
- d. Mackerel Management - R. Williams
- e. Shrimp Management - Aparicio
- f. Sustainable Fisheries Management - Osburn
- g. Habitat Protection - Frugé
- h. Budget Committee - Perret

#### VI. Council Chairmen's Meeting - Shipp/Lessard/Swingle

#### VII. SAFMC Liaison Report - Fensom

#### VIII. Marine Recreational Symposium - Shipp

#### IX. Joint U.S./Canadian Observer Workshop - Aparicio

#### X. Enforcement Reports - Fiedler/Cinalli/Proulx

#### XI. Regional Administrator Report - Hogarth

#### XII. Director Reports - R. Williams/Minton/Perret/Foote/ Osburn/Simpson/Frugé

#### XIII. Other Business - Shipp

#### XIV. Election of Temporary Chairman and Vice Chairman - Shipp

The above agenda is tentative and is not final until it becomes noticed. Although non-emergency issues not contained in the agenda may come before the Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during the meeting. Council action 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 MSFCMA, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

#### Next Meeting

September 11-14, 2000

Adams Mark Hotel

64 South Water Street

Mobile, Alabama



## 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 news release was provided by grant funds pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA07FC0015.