

# GULF FISHERY NEWS

VOLUME 24, NO. 3

July-August 2002

*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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## NEW RED GROUPER REGULATIONS PROPOSED BY COUNCIL

At the July 8-12 meeting in Sarasota, Florida, the Gulf Council voted to make the following regulatory changes in order to implement a rebuilding plan for the overfished red grouper stock in the Gulf of Mexico:

- ! Raise the red grouper minimum size limit from 20 to 22 inches total length for both recreational and commercial fishermen;
- ! Within the recreational 5-grouper bag limit, no more than 2 can be red grouper;
- ! Move the commercial longline/buoy gear boundary east of 85°30' west longitude (near Cape San Blas, Florida) from the 20-fathom depth contour to 50 fathoms (the boundary is

already at 50 fathoms west of Cape San Blas);

- ! Repeal the commercial February 15 to March 15 closed season on gag, black and red grouper;
- ! Reduce the commercial quota for shallow-water grouper (all groupers except deep-water grouper) from 9.35 million pounds gutted weight to 7.08 million pounds gutted weight;

### NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

**September 9-12, 2002**  
**Doubletree Hotel**  
**Lakeside New Orleans**  
**3838 North Causeway Blvd.**



- ! Reduce the commercial quota for deep-water grouper (misty, snowy, yellowedge, warsaw, and speckled hind. Also, includes scamp after the shallow-water grouper quota is filled.) from 1.18 million pounds gutted weight to 1.02 million pounds gutted weight;
- ! Set a commercial tilefish quota of 0.44 million pounds gutted weight.

A Secretarial Amendment containing the proposed regulations will be submitted by the Council to NMFS, which must then go through its own review and public comment period before deciding whether to approve and implement them. The NMFS review process is expected to take 10 to 12 months.

A new red grouper stock assessment is being prepared by NMFS at this time, but it will not be ready before legal deadline for the Council and NMFS to submit a rebuilding plan. Therefore, the rebuilding plan being submitted is based on the 1999 assessment with some additional analyses conducted in 2000 and 2001. The new assessment will be reviewed by the Council and its advisory groups this fall. This assessment may or may not show results that are different from the 1999 assessment.

If the results of the new stock assessment warrant a different rebuilding strategy, the Council may choose to submit a revised rebuilding plan to NMFS at that time.

A stock assessment is also being prepared by NMFS for yellowedge grouper, the primary species in the commercial deep-water grouper harvest. This assessment will also be reviewed by the Council this fall. Depending upon the results of the assessment, the need for additional deep-water grouper management measures will be considered.

### **COUNCIL HEARS REPORT ON BIOECONOMIC MODEL APPLIED TO RED GROUPE**

Dr. Lee Anderson summarized the Socioeconomic Panel (SEP) report and went over his bioeconomic model for red grouper. The model combines biological information about the stock with economic information about the fishery to provide guidance for management considerations. The model was calibrated with a 76-24

landing split between the commercial and recreational fisheries, two steepness values for the stock recruitment relationship, and two commercial fleets (longline and bandit). Data were not available at this time to assess the economic effects on the recreational fishery. Caveats to the model are that it assumes all boats in a fleet are equal, no change in numbers of recreational participants, and the model does not take into account discards due to size and trip limits or closed seasons [i.e., changes in spawning stock biomass (SSB) are optimistic].

Conclusions from the model are as follows. From the biological side of the red grouper rebuilding plans, all alternatives will produce SSB growth in the near future. All commercial rebuilding paths will meet the 10-year goal if the recreational sector is constrained to its total allowable catch (TAC) and there is no increase in commercial fleet size. Finally, if the stock improves, so will profits. Given that the model produces somewhat optimistic SSB growth paths, it is likely that other restrictions will be necessary from the start if the SSB goals are to be met.

From the economic side of the rebuilding plans, the 50-fathom line and trip limits will have better net economic benefits than the seasonal closure and will result in significant redistribution effects. If the improved stock and profit conditions attract new entrants, then the economic benefit will be reduced. Additionally, a price decrease due to lost markets will reduce the economic benefits. Finally, based on an analysis of the expected season length, the season will start at about 250 days and decrease to 150 days at year 10 under a constant catch scenario; last about 200 days under a hard commercial TAC and 3-year interval rebuilding plan; and last about 300 days under a hard commercial TAC, 50 fathom longline boundary, and 3-year interval rebuilding plan.

### **COMMERCE SECRETARY EVANS ANNOUNCES 2002 GULF FISHERY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS**

Secretary of Commerce Don Evans announced the appointment of three members to the Gulf Council. The appointees for 2002 are for three at-large seats and include:

Maumus F. Claverie Jr. - recreational fisherman - New Orleans, Louisiana.

James B. Fensom - recreational fisherman - Panama City, Florida.

Joseph P. Hendrix Jr. - manager, shrimp aquaculture facility, seafood marketing - Harlingen, Texas

Dr. Claverie and Mr. Fensom are reappointments to the Council and Mr. Hendrix is a new appointee. The following are brief biographies on the appointees:

**Maumus F. Claverie, Jr.**, New Orleans, Louisiana. An attorney currently practicing in New Orleans, Louisiana. Dr. Claverie is a lifelong Gulf of Mexico recreational fisherman and is a current member of the Gulf Council. He has been an active member of many fishery management groups including being a past member of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Commerce, past member of various Gulf Council advisory panels (Billfish, Swordfish, Data Collection, Mackerel, Red Drum), a member of the L.S.U. Marine and Coastal Fisheries Advisory Board, and a member of the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Delegation to ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas).

**James B. Fensom**, Panama City, Florida. An attorney with Barron, Redding, Hughes, Fite, Bassett, Fensom, Sanborn, and Kiehn, P.A. Currently, he serves as Council Vice-chairman. Mr. Fensom lives on Florida's Gulf coast and has enjoyed recreational fishing most of his life. He understands the concerns of commercial and recreational fishermen and believes that a balance of harvest and conservation can be reached in a manner to satisfy all interests.

**Joseph P. Hendrix, Jr.**, Harlingen, Texas. Director for Aquaculture Projects, MCFI Foods/Caribbean Seafood of America, Inc., San Antonio, Texas. He also serves as the technical manager for Cultivos Morales, an MCFI shrimp production facility in operation along the Pacific coast of Mexico. Mr. Hendrix has experience in the international aquaculture/mariculture sector including seafood culturing and marketing. He is a member of both the World and Texas Aquaculture Associations, and has served on the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Program.

Council members apply their experience and knowledge of regional U.S. fisheries to the immense challenge of rebuilding and sustaining marine resources for future generations of Americans. The Council members represent diverse interests, including commercial and recreational fishermen.

Terms of the Council members expire annually on August 10. On behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, the Regional Administrator of NMFS solicits nominations from the governors of fishing states and oversees the annual appointment process. Governors must submit completed gubernatorial nominations by March 15, and the secretary announces the selections by June 27. New members will take their seats on August 11.



Pink Shrimp (*Penaeus duorarum*)

## **SHRIMP FISHERY RE-OPENED OFF TEXAS ON JULY 15, 2002**

Federal waters from 9 to 200 nautical miles off Texas were opened to shrimping 30 minutes after sunset on July 15, 2002. The Federal opening corresponded to when Texas opened its waters to shrimp trawling. The shrimp fishery is closed annually off Texas to allow brown shrimp to reach a larger and more valuable size prior to harvest, and to prevent waste of brown shrimp that would otherwise be discarded due to their small size. Current regulations establish a Federal closure from May 15 to July 15, each year, but provide an allowance for annual adjustments by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Based on a biological sampling program conducted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Texas opens state waters, and NMFS opens Federal waters to shrimp trawling when the mean size of shrimp leaving the estuaries is 112 mm total length, during a period of maximum duration ebb tides. Biological data collected by TPWD indicated that the criteria to end the Texas closure would be met on July 15, 2002.

## **COUNCIL HEARS REVIEW OF SHRIMP STOCKS**

Dr. James Nance of the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Pascagoula Lab gave a presentation to the Gulf Council on the 2001 Stock Assessment Report and the Status and Health of Gulf Shrimp Stocks for 2001. Dr. Nance reviewed the historical catch of penaeid shrimp noting that highest production occurred in 1986 at approximately 190 million pounds (MP) of shrimp tails. The year 2000 was a near record and for 2001, catches were slightly below the 2000 level. He noted that although catches were above average in 2001, value was very low. Brown shrimp catches in 2001 were slightly lower than 2000 at approximately 90 MP. White shrimp catches were also slightly lower at approximately 50 MP. Dr. Nance showed that pink shrimp catches dropped to their lowest levels in the early 1990s before reaching a near record high of around 17 MP in 1996. Catches have then trailed off through 2000, but increased slightly in 2001.

Catch per unit of effort (CPUE) has slowly declined from 1960 to the late 1980s for all three penaeid species. CPUE for brown shrimp for the period 1960 - 1985 was 600 pounds per day. It then dropped to around 400 pounds per day in the early 1990s before increasing. CPUE has remained at approximately 650 to 700 pounds per day in recent years. White shrimp CPUE has shown a general increase since 1989. Year 2000 CPUEs were the second highest level recorded; however, the CPUE for white shrimp fell to near the average levels in 2001 (450 pounds per day). Dr. Nance stated that since 1985, the pink shrimp CPUE has been below historical averages from the 1960s. He stated that this could be due to erroneously recording landings from catches in Mexico during the early years.

The size of shrimp (count in number of shrimp per pound) generally has declined through the late 1990s, meaning the count per pound was larger and there were smaller shrimp for both brown and white species. The average count over time for brown shrimp was an 84 count; for white shrimp was a 73 count, and for pink shrimp was a 65 count. In 2001, there was a slight increase in count for brown and pink shrimp, but white shrimp remained about the same.

The recruitment for brown and white shrimp has generally increased over time, with only a slight decrease in 2001. Pink shrimp recruitment steadily increased from 1991 to 1997, but has exhibited a downward trend thereafter until 2001 when it went up slightly. Relative to yield, recruitment/effort data has shown that an overall increase in effort leads to no increase in yield. For brown shrimp, a decrease in effort leads to a slight decrease in yield, and for white and pink shrimp, a decrease in effort leads to no decrease in yield.

Dr. Nance concluded that: (1) brown shrimp is the dominant species in the catch; (2) pink shrimp catch increased in 2001; (3) catches of other species of shrimp was variable; (4) there has been an increase in shrimp average count landed over time (smaller shrimp); (5) there has been a decrease in effort in recent years; and (6) CPUE has increased in recent years.

The status of the brown shrimp stocks indicates that the parent numbers have declined slightly over the last few years; however, they were well above the overfishing index of 125 million age 7+ months for the November through February period. For white shrimp, the parent numbers declined from a record high in 2000, but remained well above the overfishing index of 330 million age 7+ months for the May through August period. The parent stock number for pink shrimp has increased in 2001, but was still only slightly above the overfishing index of 100 million age 5+ months for the period July through June.

Dr. Nance concluded his presentation with a status report for royal red shrimp. Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) is currently 392,000 pounds. The fishery was close to harvesting this level in 1993-1994 with catches around 330,000 to 350,000 pounds. Catches had declined thereafter through 1998, but have increased to approximately 300,000 pounds in 2001. The cumulative trend in royal red shrimp catches by month showed a general increase from January through December for the 1997-2001 period with spikes in catches generally occurring in March and April for some years and in February for other years.

## **PROPOSED RULE PUBLISHED FOR A TRAP LIMITATION PROGRAM FOR THE STONE CRAB FISHERY IN FEDERAL WATERS OFF WEST FLORIDA**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced that it has published a proposed rule for Amendment 7 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Stone Crab Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico (FMP). Proposals in Amendment 7 would establish a Federal trap limitation program for the commercial stone crab fishery in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off Florida's west coast, including Monroe County. This proposed Federal program would complement the stone crab trap limitation program recently implemented by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC). The proposals would enhance the effectiveness of the FFWCC program and, thereby, help to reduce overcapitalization in the stone crab fishery.

In Amendment 7, the Gulf Council has proposed the following nine changes to the FMP to align Federal management of the stone crab fishery with the FFWCC trap reduction program:

- (1) Recognize, but not require, Florida's stone crab licenses and trap tags for vessels operating in the Federal management area.
- (2) Establish a Federal program to issue non-transferable (to other persons) vessel permits, trap certificates, and trap tags for EEZ use only.
- (3) Provide opportunity to apply for the proposed Federal vessel permit to those who could meet the qualifying criteria but could not or chose not to obtain the stone crab vessel license or tags issued by the FFWCC.
- (4) Allow applicants up to 90 days following the effective date of the final rule implementing Amendment 7 to apply for Federal permits and tags.
- (5) Determine the number of Federal trap tags to be issued to qualifying persons by dividing his/her highest seasonal landings of stone crab claws during one of three fishing seasons (1995/96, 1996/97, or 1997/98) by 5 lbs.
- (6) Charge a fee for the issuance of Federal trap tags and vessel permits and their annual renewals.
- (7) Establish a Federal appeals process for those denied a Federal permit.
- (8) Revise the Protocol (i.e., FMP Protocol and Procedure for an Enhanced Cooperative Management System) to reflect revisions to Florida's Constitution.

Written comments on this proposed rule must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., eastern daylight savings time, on August 9, 2002. They should be sent to Mark Godcharles, NMFS, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702. Comments also may be sent via fax to 727-570-5583. No comments submitted via e-mail or Internet will be accepted, nor will written comments received after close of business August 9, 2002.

If approved, implementation of this proposed Federal program would coincide with the planned implementation of the FFWCC program, i.e., October 1, 2002.

## **NEW MANAGEMENT MEASURES APPROVED TO ESTABLISH A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF CHARTER VESSEL OR HEADBOAT (FOR-HIRE) PERMITS**

On June 28, 2002, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a final rule to implement new management measures submitted by the Gulf Council to their Coastal Migratory Pelagic and Reef Fish fishery management plans (FMP) of the Gulf of Mexico. This news bulletin briefly describes these regulations. For complete details, interested parties should obtain a copy of the final rule by contacting the Southeast Regional Office.

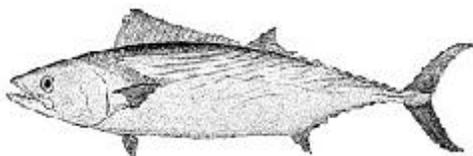
The regulations will establish a 3-year moratorium on the issuance of charter vessel or headboat (for-hire) permits for the reef fish fishery and coastal migratory pelagics fishery (hereafter referred to as Gulf charter vessel/headboat permits) in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico through July 29, 2005. The intended effect of the moratorium is to cap the number of for-hire vessels operating in these respective fisheries at the current level while the Council evaluates the need for further management actions that may be needed to rebuild these fisheries resources, and promote attainment of optimum yield. Also, as a consequence of the moratorium, the current charter vessel/headboat permit for coastal migratory pelagic fish is restructured to provide separate permits for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic. Questions regarding permits should be directed to the NOAA Fisheries permits team at 727-570-5326.

## **COUNCIL UPDATED ON STATUS OF EFH EIS**

The Gulf Council was updated on the status of the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by Ms. Heidi Lovett of MRAG Americas Inc., the contractor who is preparing the EIS. Ms. Lovett presented the work that MRAG Americas has completed to date, which includes sections on the purpose and need for the EIS, the alternatives for identifying EFH and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC), the affected environment, the environmental consequences of any actions taken, the human environment describing the fisheries and fishing communities in the Gulf of Mexico and impacts to habitat from fishing and non-fishing activities. She also described some of the technical aspects of the GIS mapping efforts as well as conceptual decision trees being used to help identify EFH, HAPC and habitat areas that may require additional actions to minimize impacts of fishing activities.

Ms. Lovett stated that the Technical and User Group Review Panels met and reviewed the first review draft during June. The User Group Review Panel emphasized that the introduction to the EIS should better describe the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, and what NEPA requires the Council to do. This group was also concerned with the importance of freshwater inflow to estuaries in the Gulf of Mexico and implications of Louisiana coastal marsh restoration efforts.

Ms. Lovett noted there were a few issues that the Council needed to resolve in selecting EFH definitions. These were ranking the various habitat types in terms of relative value or importance to Council managed fisheries, how artificial structures, particularly oil and gas platforms, should be treated with respect to identification as EFH, and how species that are prey for Council managed species, but not themselves species in FMP management units, should be dealt with in terms of identifying EFH for these (non-FMP) species. A second review draft will be completed this fall and will be presented to the user and technical group review panels.



## **COUNCIL LOGO CONTEST EXTENDED UNTIL AUGUST 26, 2002**

The Gulf Council is running a contest to select a logo. The Basco Construction Company (run by Texas Council member Irby Basco) has graciously offered a \$500 prize to the person who submits the logo that is selected as the best by the Council. This contest is open to everyone.

This contest was originally scheduled to end in June, with the Council reviewing logo submissions and selecting a winner at its July 8-12, 2002 meeting. However, due to a very full agenda, the Council was unable to review the logo submissions, and deferred the decision until the September 9-12, 2002 meeting. As a result of this change, the Council will continue to accept logo submissions until the mail-out date for the Council's September meeting briefing books, August 26, 2002.

The following should be considered in designing a logo: It should capture the mission of the Council, which is developing and monitoring fishery management plans (FMP) to provide for the best use of the fishery resources in the Gulf of Mexico (Florida to Texas). Fisheries that the Council manages include shrimp; coastal migratory pelagics (king and Spanish mackerels, cero, dolphin, cobia, and little tunny); reef fish (snapper, groupers, tilefishes, amberjacks, and triggerfishes.); corals and coral reefs; stone crab; red drum; and spiny lobster. A well designed logo should signal the existence of the organization, its strength, and services and products offered. It should be timeless and not become dated. It should be simple enough to be recognizable whether displayed as a full-page graphic or reduced to a size small enough to fit on letterhead. Finally, it needs to have a color scheme that holds up well in black and white because it will be copied and faxed.

Entries to the contest can be sent to the Gulf Council office (3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619) or e-mailed to the Council at <mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org>. Any logos in electronic format should be sent as GIF or JPEG files. Entrants can submit more than one logo. Submissions become the property of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. The new deadline for the contest is August 26, 2002.

## NOVAs ISSUED BETWEEN APRIL 1, 2002 AND JUNE 30, 2002

CASE NUMBER	RESPONDENT NAME	AREA	LE UNIT	CASE DESCRIPTION	NOVA AMOUNT	NOPF* AMOUNT	PROPOSED NOPS** DURATION
SE980912MS	Orlando Rioseco Waldo Rivera	FKNM S	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner to strike or injure coral, sea grass or other immobile organism	\$5,000.00		
SE981042MS	McCulley Marine Service Kevin M. Knox	FKNM S	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner to strike or injure coral, sea grass or other immobile organism	\$5,000.00		
SE990037FM	Martin J. Skrmetta	GOM	USCG	BRD violaton	\$3,000.00		
SE001260ES	Calvin O. Miller, Jr. Robert White	GOM	USCG	TED violation	\$2,000.00		
SE010150FM	Offshore Longliners, Inc. Thomas Baker Dunn	GOM	USCG	fish w/ pelagic longline in closed area (DeSoto Canyon)	\$12,000.00		30 days
SE010154FM	Tom Bui Anthony Van Nguyen	GOM	USCG	BRD violation	\$ 6,000.00		
SE010247FM	Sau Van Le Julie Nguyen	GOM	USCG	BRD violation	\$ 6,000.00		
SE010398FM	Paul Van Thai	GOM	USCG	possess shark fins without a carcass	\$ 7,500.00		
SE010507ES	Melvin Plash, Jr. Scotty Edward Conway	GOM	ADCNR	TED violation	\$ 500.00		
SE010508ES	Kim Nguyen Phuong Van Nguyen	GOM	ADCNR	deploy or fish a pelagic longline with live bait or set up well or tank to maintain live bait w/pelagic longline gear on board	\$12,000.00		30 days
SE010510FM	Philip Pham Nung Pham	GOM	NMFS/ USCG	deploy or fish a pelagic longline with live bait or set up well or tank to maintain live bait w/pelagic longline gear on board	\$15,000.00		45 days
SE010512FM	Richard Hien Thanh Vo Thanh Vo	GOM	NMFS/ USCG	deploy or fish a pelagic longline with live bait or set up well or tank to maintain live bait w/pelagic longline gear on board	\$15,000.00		45 days
SE010551ES	Hoang Van Le	GOM	ACDNR	TED violation	\$2,000.00		
SE010629FM (assessed individually)	Daniel Callahan James Elden Murphy, IV Rodney Boston Howard Horizon Marine, LLC	GOM	LADWF/ NMFS	exceed bag limit and excess fish not maintained intact through offloading (red snapper, amberjack and grouper)	<u>\$1,500.00</u> <u>\$ 500.00</u> <u>\$ 750.00</u> <u>\$1,000.00</u>		

SE015275MS	Claude C. Blake	FKNMS	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner to strike or injure coral, sea grass or other immobile organism	\$7,500.00		
SE015337MS	Zeno Suarez	FKNMS	FFWCC	speargun fishing	\$ 600.00		
SE015355MS	Robert Fazekas	FKNMS	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner to strike or injure coral, seagrass or other immobile organism	\$ 800.00		
SE015357MS	Frank G. Alster Jer-Flo Marine, Inc.	FKNMS	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner to strike or injure coral, sea grass or other immobile organism	\$2,500.00		
SE015358MS	Ralph Charles Crosby	FKNMS	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner to strike or injure coral, sea grass or other immobile organism	\$5,000.00		
SE015439MS	Harald H. Dett Willikam C. Hauck	FKNMS	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner to strike or injure coral, seagrass or other immobile organism	\$10,000.00		
SE010653ES	Robert W. Foots	GOM	ADCNR	TED violation	\$1,500.00		
SE020020ES	Calvin J. Guidry, Jr. Antoine Bailey	GOM	USCG	TED violation	\$2,500.00		
SE020033FM	G.A. Fish, Inc. Daniel James Fidler	GOM	LADFW/ NMFS	fish during red snapper commercial closure	\$12,000.00	\$337.50	30 days
SE020034ES/FM	Tham Truong Ngo D. Truong	GOM	USCG	i) TED violation ii) BRD violation	\$ 600.00 \$ 6,000.00		
SE020035FM	Gypsy Girl, Inc. Tony T. Ninh	GOM	USCG	BRD violation	\$ 6,000.00		
SE020050ES	Chau Minh Nguyen Chien Van Tran	GOM	USCG	TED violaton	\$ 600.00		
SE020055ES/FM	Miss Lori Dawn IV, Inc. Ante Crljenko	GOM	USCG	i) TED violation ii)BRD violation	\$10,000.00 \$ 6,000.00	\$8,203.50	
SE020062ES/FM	Rogelio Saldie Greg Seaman	GOM	USCG	i) TED violation ii) BRD violation iii) fail to maintain finfish intact through offloading ashore (red snapper) iv) possess spiny lobster at a time not authorized v) impede inspection or destroy/dispose of gear after communication w/officer	\$ 8,000.00 \$ 6,000.00 \$ 2,000.00 \$ 1,500.00 \$ 2,500.00	\$12,378.00	

SE020094ES/FM	Edward Garcia Jose Luis Arteaga	GOM	USCG	i) TED violation ii) BRD violation	\$ 8,000.00 \$ 3,000.00	\$11,004.10	
SE025027MS	Francis W. Wright Joseph Dennis Carrozo	FKNM S	FFWCC	harvest live rock from sanctuary	\$3,500.00		
SE025044MS	Charles F. Neal	FKNM S	FFWCC	operate vessel in such a manner to strike or injure coral, seagrass or other immobile organism	\$ 600.00		
SE025060MS	Francisco Javier Rosua	FKNM S	FFWCC	i) no dive flag ii) spearfishing iii) interfere with investigation	\$ 25.00 \$ 500.00 \$1,500.00		
SE025062MS	Rolando Garcia	FKNM S	FFWCC	harvest marine invertebrates (sponges) from ecological reserve	\$4,000.00		
SE025063MS	Marcos Daniel Broche	FKNM S	FFWCC	harvest marine invertebrates (sponges) from ecological reserve	\$4,000.00		
SE025064MS	Jose Torna	FKNM S	FFWCC	harvest marine invertebrates from ecological reserve (sponges)	\$4,000.00		
SE025068MS	Dorada Cruz, Inc. Sandalo Alaniz	FKNM S	FFWCC	i) fish in ecological reserve ii) enter Tortugas North area w/o access permit	\$12,000.00	\$10,850.89	
SE025080FM	Tu Van Pham	GOM	FFWCC	fish in Tortugas Shrimp Sanctuary	\$15,000.00		
SE025086MS	Louis M Terracina	FKNM S	FFWCC	operate vessel in such a manner to strike or injure coral, seagrass or other immobile organism	\$ 3,000.00		
SE025095MS	Taras Group, Inc. Michael Bryan Smith	FKNM S	FFWCC	enter Special Use Area	\$ 500.00		
SE025101MS	Jorge Moya	FKNM S	FFWCC	fish in research only area	\$1,500.00		
SE025124FM	Robert R. Hellmuth	GOM	NMFS	sell mako shark without permit	\$1,500.00	\$456.30	
SE025127MS	Paula Bickford Christopher Beard	FKNM S	FFWCC	operate vessel in such a manner to strike or injure coral, seagrass or other immobile organism	\$5,000.00		
SE025151MS	William H. Giles	FKNM S	FFWCC	operate vessel in such a manner to strike or injure coral, seagrass or other immobile organism	\$5,000.00		
SE025165MS	Bruce George Byrnes	FKNM S	FFWCC	operate vessel in such a manner to strike or injure coral, seagrass or other immobile organism	\$ 1,500.00		
SE025172MS	Christos Yachts, Inc. Charles Ramee	FKNM S	FFWCC	operate vessel in such a manner to strike or injure coral, seagrass or other immobile organism	\$ 2,500.00		

**SETTLEMENTS BETWEEN April 1, 2002 and June 30, 2002**

CASE NUMBER	RESPONDENT NAME	AREA	LE UNIT	CASE DESCRIPTION	FINAL AMOUNT	FORFEITED AMOUNT	PERMIT SANCTION
SE960358FM	Captain Snapper Seafood David Sims	GOM	NMFS	i) fish during closure ii) fail to submit reports iii) make false statements to officer	\$32,500.00		120 days
SE980912MS	Waldo Rivera Orlando Rioseco	FKNMS	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner as to strike or injure coral, seagrass or other immobile organism	\$ 5,000.00		
SE981039MS	Fenando Melendez	FKNMS	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner as to strike or injure coral, seagrass or other immobile organism	\$ 1,500.00		
SE990241FM	Elliot Clemence Rod Petty	GOM	USCG	i) possess reef fish without permit ii) possess undersize amberjack & red snapper	\$ 4,500.00	\$59.85	
SE000162FM	Luis RaulLinarte	GOM	USCG	fish in Tortugas Shrimp Sanctuary	\$12,000.00		
SE000338ES	Kenny Hoang	GOM	USCG	TED violation	\$ 750.00		
SE001038FM	Tommy L. Butler, Jr.	GOM	NMFS	i) operate charter without permit ii) fal to comply with sale/purchase restrictions iii) exceed bag limit	\$ 4,550.00		15 days
SE001247ES	Gregory Doyle Williams	GOM	NMFS	TED violation	\$ 750.00		
SE010241FM	Raffield Fisheries, Inc.	GOM	FFWCC	possess, sell or purchase prohibited shark (Atlantic angel)	\$ 1,500.00		
SE010248FM	Captain Salty, Inc. Wesley Drew	GOM	FFWCC	possess, sell or purchase prohibited shark (Atlantic angel)	\$ 1,500.00		
SE010249FM	Motor Vessel Fishermans Pride, Inc., Richard Wayne Lancaster	GOM	FFWCC	possess, sell or purchase prohibited shark (Atlantic angel)	\$ 1,500.00		
SE010402FM	Verna Bruner Gene;s Oyster Bar	GOM	USCG	fish during closure	\$ 2,500.00		
SE010458ES	Chin Ngo	GOM	ADCNR	i) TED violation ii) turtle take	\$1,000.00		
SE010579ES	Joseph R. Hill	GOM	ADCNR	TED violation	\$1,500.00		
SE010612FM	Don Van Dinh	South Atlantic	USCG	unlawfully possess rock shrimp in the Oculina Bank HAPC	\$12,000.00	\$2,333.60	30 days
SE010629FM	Daniel Callahan	GOM	LDWF	exceed bag limit	\$ 1,125.00		
SE010653ES	Robert W. Foots	GOM	ADCNR	TED violation	\$ 750.00		

CASE NUMBER	RESPONDENT NAME	AREA	LE UNIT	CASE DESCRIPTION	FINAL AMOUNT	FORFEITED AMOUNT	PERMIT SANCTION
SE015033MS	Peter Leslie Martin	FKNMS	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner as to strike or injure coral, seagrass or other immobile organism	\$1,500.00		
SE015062MS	Grady Sullivan	FKNMS	FFWCC	harvesting live rock	\$3,435.00		
SE015258MS	William Robertson	FKNMS	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner as to strike or injure coral, seagrass or other immobile organism	\$ 175.00		
SE015272MS	Benjamin Joseph White	FKNMS	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner as to strike or injure coral, seagrass or other immobile organism	\$8,000.00		
SE015304MS	Alvon Hukle	FKNMS	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner as to strike or injure coral, seagrass or other immobile organism	\$ 375.00		
SE015326MS	Neil Drew	FKNMS	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner as to strike or injure coral, seagrass or other immobile organism	\$1,500.00		
SE015343MS	Marc Salton	FKNMS	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner as to strike or injure coral, seagrass or other immobile organism	\$ 5,000.00		
SE015347MS	Zachary Allen Marquette	FKNMS	FFWCC	fish in sanctuary preservation area	\$ 500.00		
SE015357MS	Jer-Flo Marine, Inc. Frank G. Alster	FKNMS	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner as to strike or injure coral, seagrass or other immobile organism	\$2,500.00		
SE020001FM	Dean W. Phillips	GOM	USCG	dispose of fish after communication from officer	\$1,665.00		
SE025009MS	Perseverance 1 LLC Paul Andrew Mendres	FKNMS	USCG	i) fish in Ecological Reserve ii) enter Tortugas North w/o permit	\$12,000.00	\$9,891.75	
SE025010MS	Nhan Tran Son Truong Vo	FKNMS	USCG	i) fish in Ecological Reserve ii) enter Tortugas North w/o permit	\$ 6,000.00	\$2,600.40	
SE025011MS	G.F. Partnership Donald Andrew Tomko	FKNMS	USCG	i) fish in Ecological Reserve ii) enter Tortugas North w/o permit	\$12,000.00	\$6,958.90	
SE025027MS	Francis W. Wright Joseph Carrozo	FKNMS	FFWCC	harvest live rock from sanctuary	\$1,500.00		
SE025063MS	Marcos Daniel Broche	FKNMS	FFWCC	possess or harvest marine invertebrates from Western Sambo Ecological Reserve	\$3,000.00		
SE025064MS	Jose Torna	FKNMS	FFWCC	possess or harvest marine invertebrates from Western Sambo Ecological Reserve	\$ 3,000.00		
SE025068MS	Dorada Cruz, Inc. Sandolo Alaniz	FKNMS	FFWCC	i) fish in Ecological Reserve ii) enter Tortugas North w/o valid permit	\$ 5,500.00	\$10,850.89	
SE025085MS	Abeyas Barrios	FKNMS	FFWCC	fish in research only area	\$ 2,800.00		
SE025086MS	Louis M. Terracina	FKNMS	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner as to strike or injure coral, seagrass or other immobile organism	\$1,000.00		
SE025095MS	Taras Group, Inc. Michael Bryan Smith	FKNMS	FFWCC	enter the Conch Reef Special Use Area	\$ 350.00		

## CALENDER

The following are meetings hosted by the Gulf Council. The dates and locations for these meetings have been tentatively set. For specific meeting site information, contact the Gulf Council office (see below).

Ad Hoc Red Snapper Advisory Panel Meeting  
August 12 to 14 - Tampa, Florida

Shrimp Amendment 13 and Red Snapper Supplemental  
Environmental Impact Statement Scoping  
Hearings  
August 26 - Brownsville, Texas  
August 27 - Palacios, Texas  
August 28 - Galveston, Texas  
September 23 - New Orleans, Louisiana  
September 24 - Biloxi, Mississippi  
September 25 - Mobile, Alabama  
October 1 - Apalachicola, Florida  
October 2 - Tampa, Florida

Gulf Council September Meeting  
September 9 to 12 - Metairie, Louisiana

Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel  
September 17 to 20 - Miami, Florida

EFH-EIS Stakeholder Meeting  
September 24 - Washington, D. C.  
September 25 - Tampa, Florida

Socioeconomic Panel  
October 10 to 11 - Tampa, Florida

Reef Fish Advisory Panel  
October 21 to 22 - Tampa, Florida

Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee  
October 28 to 29 - Tampa, Florida

Copies of agendas, press releases, or other documents for these meetings can be obtained by calling the Council office at 813-228-2815 (toll-free 888-833-1844), or can be downloaded from the Council website (<http://www.gulfcouncil.org>).

These meetings are open to the public and are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office at least one week prior to the meeting.

Council news releases pertaining to these meeting can be

viewed at the Council's web site at <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>. In addition, Council press releases may be received via e-mail by sending a blank e-mail message to [pressreleases@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:pressreleases@gulfcouncil.org) with SUBSCRIBE as the subject.



## **PRESS RELEASEE-MAIL SUBSCRIBERS MAY NEED TO RE-SUBSCRIBE**

Several months ago, unknown persons managed to gain access to the Council's exchange server and use it as a relay to send unsolicited bulk e-mail, also known as spam. Once we discovered the security breach, we took steps to secure our server and prevent similar incidents in the future. However, as a consequence of this incident, several e-mail addresses were deleted from our press release e-mail list. So far in 2002, through July 19, we have sent 28 press releases through the press release e-mail list, with the last release having been sent on July 15. If you believe that you are subscribed to our press release list but have not received any press release e-mail in recent weeks, it may be necessary for you to re-subscribe. If you are not a current subscriber, you may want to consider signing up in order to receive all of our press releases (press releases sent via regular mail are frequently distributed only to the area where there is regional interest, but every e-mailed release is sent to all e-mail subscribers).

To re-subscribe, or to subscribe for the first time, send a blank e-mail with the subject line SUBSCRIBE to [pressreleases@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:pressreleases@gulfcouncil.org). (Please check your spelling, make sure the body of the message is blank, and that there is nothing else in the subject line. Otherwise, the listserver software will not recognize the request to subscribe. If the subscribe request is successful, you will receive an auto-reply confirmation within a few hours.)

# TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE SEPTEMBER GULF COUNCIL MEETING

## COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

### Monday, September 9, 2002

Orientation Session for New Members

Vessel Monitoring Committee

- NMFS VMS Presentation

Habitat Protection Committee

- Report on Sargassum as EFH (GCRL)
- Intermediate Draft of PEIS for EFH Amendment
  - S Presentation by MRAG
  - S Technical Review Panel Comments
  - S User Review Panel Comments
  - S Joint Habitat Protection Advisory Panel Comments
  - S Committee Recommendations

### Tuesday, September 10, 2002

Mackerel Management Committee

- Draft Regulatory Amendment for TAC & Status Determination Criteria
  - Mackerel Stock Assessment Panel Report
  - Socioeconomic Panel Report
  - AP & SSC Recommendations
  - Committee Recommendations
- SAFMC Action on Dolphin/Wahoo FMP

Budget Committee

- CY 2003 Budget

Reef Fish Management Committee

- Final Secretarial Reef Fish Amendment 2 for Greater Amberjack
  - Public Hearing Summaries
  - Public Letters
  - AP & SSC Recommendations
  - Committee Recommendations
- Draft Amendment 18 Options Paper
- SAW/SARC Process
- Letter to Secretary on Buy-Back Program
- Red Snapper Rebuilding Plan Regulatory Amendment Scoping Document

## COUNCIL SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, September 11, 2002

- I. Call to Order and Introductions

II. Adoption of Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Public Testimony<sup>1</sup>

- a. Secretarial Reef Fish Amendment 2
- b. Regulatory Amendment for Status Determination Criteria and King Mackerel TAC

V. Committee Reports

- a. Vessel Monitoring
- b. Habitat Protection
- c. SSC Selection (CLOSED SESSION)

### Thursday, September 12, 2002

V. Committee Reports (continued)

- d. Mackerel Management
- e. Reef Fish Management
- f. Budget

VI. Gulf Safety Committee Report

VII. Enforcement Reports

VIII. Regional Administrator's Report

IX. Directors' Reports

X. Other Business

XI. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

**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 (MSFCMA), 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 MSFCMA, provided the public has been notified of the Gulf Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

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

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

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The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional fishery management councils that were established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 1976. The Council is responsible for the development and modification of fishery management plans (FMPs) that are designed to manage fishery resources in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico from state boundaries to the 200-mile limit. This is a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and financial assistance for this newsletter was provided by grant funds pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA17FC2203.

**November Meeting:**

November 12-15, 2002  
Westin Beach Resort  
97000 South Overseas Hwy  
Key Largo, Florida 33037

**January Meeting:**

January 13-16, 2003  
Holiday Inn Riverwalk  
217 North St. Mary's  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

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GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
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