

GULF FISHERY NEWS

VOLUME 25, NO. 4

July-August 2003

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 PROPOSES 6-YEAR EXTENSION OF MADISON-SWANSON AND STEAMBOAT LUMPS RESERVES, AND ALLOWING SURFACE TROLLING IN THE RESERVES MAY-OCTOBER

The Gulf Council took final action on Reef Fish Amendment 21 at its July 14-17, 2003 meeting in Naples, Florida. This amendment contains proposals to continue the marine reserves at Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps, which are scheduled to expire June 16, 2004. These reserves were created in June 2000 to provide protection for a gag spawning aggregations and a portion of the male gag population, which tends to remain offshore year-round, and were also expected to provide conservation benefits for other reef fish species, such as scamp, which utilize the habitat. The reserves were initially established for four years in order to evaluate their effect. Preliminary results from research conducted by NMFS and Florida State University suggest that fish are more abundant within the reserves, but the initial time frame is too short to determine if there is a significant impact. However, fishermen testified to the Council that fishing in the waters surrounding the reserves since their establishment is great, suggesting that there may be at least a localized benefit to fishermen from the reserves.

The Council proposed a six-year extension of the reserves, until June 2010, during which additional research on the effectiveness of the area closures will be carried out. In a change from the current fishing restrictions, during the extension, fishing will be allowed by surface trolling only during the months of May through October for coastal pelagic species (king and Spanish mackerels, cero, dolphin, cobia, and little tunny) and for highly migratory species (billfish, swordfish, marlin, sharks, and tunas other than blackfin tuna). Fishing for all other species or by any other fishing method will be prohibited, and all fishing will be prohibited during November through April, which includes most of the gag spawning season. To improve enforceability, the possession of reef fish will be prohibited aboard all vessels in the reserves except those that are in continuous transit.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETINGS

September 8-11, 2003



**Baton Rouge Marriott
5500 Hilton Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70808**

Currently, fishing is allowed year-round for highly migratory species using any lawful fishing method, and fishing is prohibited for all other species (including coastal pelagic species).

Highly migratory species are managed by the NMFS Highly Migratory Species Division rather than by the Gulf Council. Therefore, the Council will request that the Highly Migratory Species Division implement compatible regulations to control fishing for those species within the reserves.

The final amendment, plus a minority report from several Council members opposed to allowing surface trolling in the reserves, has been submitted to NMFS for review and implementation before the expiration of the existing four-year time period.

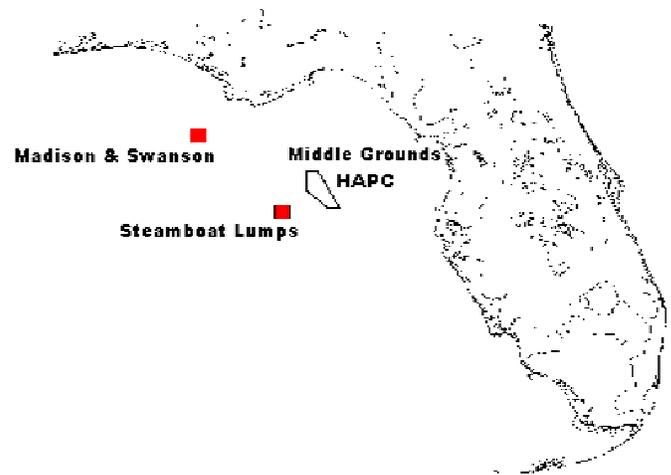
The marine reserves at Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps are each slightly over 100 square nautical miles in size. Madison-Swanson is approximately 40 nautical miles south of Apalachicola, Florida, and Steamboat Lumps is approximately 95 nautical miles west of Tarpon Springs, Florida, slightly west of the Florida Middle Grounds, as shown on the accompanying 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° 17' north latitude
- South edge: 29° 6' north latitude
- East edge: 85° 38' west longitude
- West edge: 85° 50' west longitude

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

- North edge: 28° 14' north latitude
- South edge: 28° 3' north latitude
- East edge: 84° 37' west longitude
- West edge: 84° 48' west longitude



REMINDER: SEPTEMBER 15, 2003 IS THE DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR CHARTER VESSEL OR HEADBOAT PERMITS UNDER THE MORATORIUM

Operators of charter vessels and headboats in the Gulf of Mexico reef fish and coastal migratory pelagic fisheries are reminded that, under a new 3-year charter vessel/headboat permit moratorium, an applicant who is qualified and who wants a Gulf moratorium charter vessel or headboat (for-hire) permit for the reef fish and coastal migratory pelagics fishery in the Gulf of Mexico must submit an application for such permits to the NOAA Fisheries Permits Team, postmarked or hand-delivered not later than September 15, 2003. Applications available from the Permits Team. Applications postmarked or hand-delivered after September 15, 2003, will not be accepted. **Any person, who is eligible for moratorium permits and fails to submit an application by September 15, 2003, will lose their eligibility under the current final rule. There are no exceptions to this deadline.**

Applicability:

Beginning November 13, 2003, moratorium permits will be required for all charter vessels and headboats fishing in the Gulf of Mexico. All currently existing Gulf open access for-hire permits (not issued under the moratorium) will become void and cannot be used starting on November 13, 2003.

Initial Eligibility:

Under the moratorium, initial eligibility for a Gulf charter vessel/headboat permit(s) is limited to the following:

(1) An owner of a vessel that had a valid Gulf charter vessel/headboat permit(s) for Gulf reef fish or coastal migratory pelagic fish on March 29, 2001, or held such permit during the preceding year or whose application for such permit had been received by NOAA Fisheries by March 29, 2001;

(2) any person who can provide NOAA Fisheries with documentation verifying that, prior to March 29, 2001, he/she had a for-hire vessel under construction and that the associated expenditures were at least \$5,000 as of that date; the owner must provide NOAA Fisheries with receipts for the required expenditures;

(3) a historical captain, defined as a person who provides NOAA Fisheries with documentation verifying that (A) Prior to March 29, 2001, he/she was issued either a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessel license (commonly referred to as a 6-pack license) or a USCG Masters license; operated, as a captain, a federally permitted for-hire in the Gulf reef fish and/or coastal migratory pelagic fisheries; but does not have a fishery permit issued in their name or the name of a corporation in which he/she was a shareholder; and (B) At least 25 percent of his/her earned income was derived from for-hire fishing in one of the years 1997, 1998, 1999, or 2000.

If you currently have an open access charter permit for Gulf coastal migratory pelagics and you want to charter fish in the South Atlantic after November 13, 2003, you must apply for and obtain a separate open access charter permit for the South Atlantic.

Questions regarding permits should be directed to the NOAA Fisheries' Permits Team at 727-570-5326.

NMFS REINSTATES VMS REQUIREMENT FOR PELAGIC LONGLINE VESSELS

Effective September 1, 2003, NMFS is reinstating a rule to require a vessel monitoring system (VMS) unit installed and operating on any vessel leaving port to fish for highly migratory species (HMS) with pelagic longline gear on board.

On May 28, 1999, NMFS issued a regulation requiring all commercial pelagic longline vessels fishing for Atlantic HMS to install a NMFS-approved VMS unit. Due to litigation, the requirement was stayed indefinitely on October 1, 2000. On October 15, 2002, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued a final order upholding the VMS regulation. Following the favorable court ruling, NMFS began working to reinstate the VMS requirement.

The placement of VMS units on fishing vessels in this fishery will enable NMFS to determine vessel locations and will complement the Agency's efforts to monitor and enforce compliance with applicable regulations. NMFS originally published an amendment of effective date on June 25 to notify fishermen of its intent to have the VMS requirement be effective on September 1, 2003, and to provide fishermen approximately 60 days to purchase and install VMS to come into compliance.

To obtain copies of the list of NOAA-approved VMS mobile transmitting units and NOAA-approved VMS communications service providers, write to NMFS Office for Law Enforcement (OLE), 8484 Georgia Avenue, Suite 415, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or contact Mark Oswell, Outreach Specialist, phone 301-427-2300, fax 301-427-2055.

GULF OF MEXICO SHRIMP STOCKS CONTINUE TO BE IN GOOD SHAPE

The Gulf Council received a report on the status of the Gulf of Mexico shrimp stocks from Dr. Jim Nance (NMFS Galveston Laboratory) at the July Council meeting. Brown Shrimp (*Farfantepenaeus aztecus*), white shrimp (*Litopenaeus setiferus*) and pink shrimp (*Farfantepenaeus duorarum*) comprise the bulk of the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fisheries, and are essentially annual crops. Annual harvests vary considerably due to fluctuations in environmental conditions experienced by larvae and juveniles. Due to the environmental fluctuations seen to date, catches above maximum sustainable yield (MSY), even if persisting over several years, must not of themselves be taken as evidence of overfishing.

The best way to define overfishing for the three major shrimp species in the Gulf of Mexico is in terms of spawning population size. Maintaining parent stock

numbers above minimum levels of spawning stock believed to be compatible with maximum productivity under current environmental conditions should be sufficient to prevent overfishing on each of the shrimp stocks. The lower limit of spawning stock size for each of the shrimp stocks is:

- brown shrimp: 125 million shrimp of age 7+ (months) shrimp during November through February;
- white shrimp: 330 million shrimp of age 7+ (months) shrimp during May through August;
- pink shrimp: 100 million shrimp of age 5+ (months) shrimp during July through June.

Each of the three major penaeid shrimp species was above the overfishing index level during 2002 (Figures 1-3). Brown and white shrimp parent levels were well above the overfishing index, while pink shrimp parent stock estimates were closer to the index level.

Besides the three major penaeid shrimp species, royal red shrimp (*Hymenopenaeus robustus*) is the only other commercial shrimp species in the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Overfishing is defined as fishing greater than MSY, which was estimated to be 392,000 pounds of tails over 1,290 days fished. During 2002, a total of 321,941 pounds of royal red shrimp (tail weight) were caught in the Gulf of Mexico (Figure 4), so the royal red shrimp stock is not undergoing overfishing.

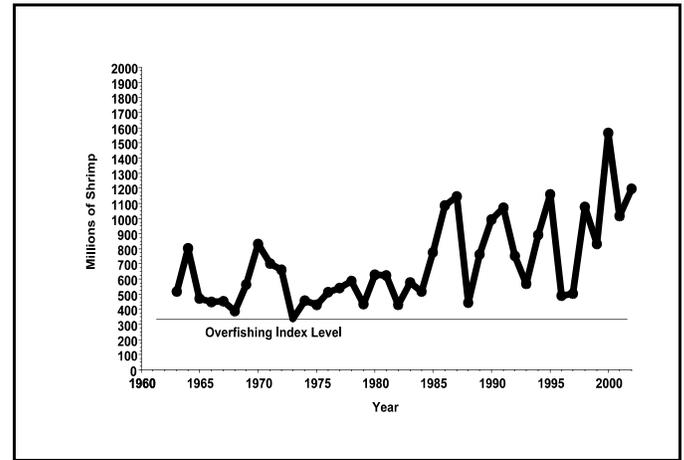


Figure 2. White shrimp parent stock levels over the past 40 years.

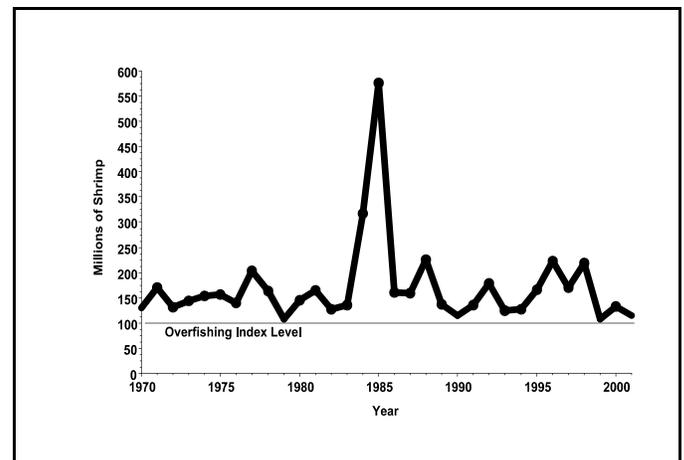


Figure 3. Pink shrimp parent stock levels over the past 33 years.

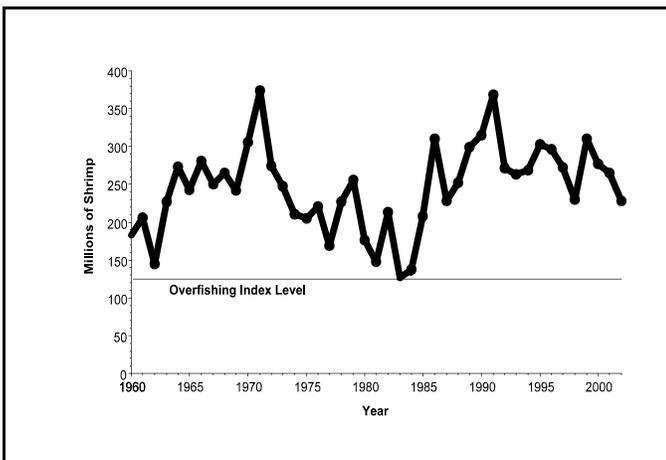


Figure 1. Brown shrimp parent stock levels over the past 43 year.

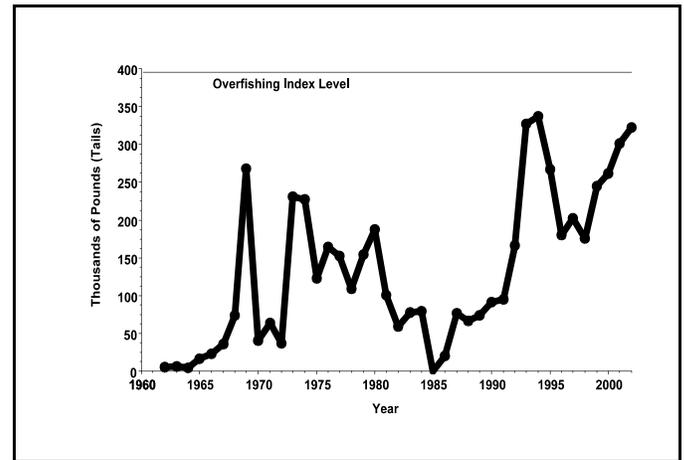


Figure 4. Royal red shrimp landing levels of the past 43 years.

LIST OF SPECIES IN GULF COUNCIL FMPS

The Gulf Council manages fishery resources through seven fishery management plans. Species listed in the FMPS may be either “in the management unit” (subject to federal fishing regulations) or “in the management unit for data collection only” (landings are monitored but the species is not subject to federal fishing regulations). Species may be periodically added or removed from the FMPS, or their classification within the FMP may be changed. The current list of species included in the Council’s FMPS is as follows:

Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMP (Gulf and South Atlantic Councils joint plan)

Species in the Management Unit

king mackerel	<i>Scomberomorus cavalla</i>
Spanish mackerel	<i>Scomberomorus maculatus</i>
cobia	<i>Rachycentron canadum</i>

Species in the Management Unit for Data Collection Only

cero	<i>Scomberomorus regalis</i>
little tunny	<i>Euthynnus alletteratus</i>
dolphin	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>
bluefish	<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i> (Gulf of Mexico only)

Red Drum FMP

Species in the Management Unit

red drum	<i>Sciaenops ocellatus</i>
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Reef Fish FMP

Species in the Management Unit

Snappers - Lutjanidae Family

queen snapper	<i>Etelis oculatus</i>
mutton snapper	<i>Lutjanus analis</i>
schoolmaster	<i>Lutjanus apodus</i>
blackfin snapper	<i>Lutjanus buccanella</i>
red snapper	<i>Lutjanus campechanus</i>
cupera snapper	<i>Lutjanus cyanopterus</i>
gray (mangrove) snapper	<i>Lutjanus griseus</i>
dog snapper	<i>Lutjanus jocu</i>
mahogany snapper	<i>Lutjanus mahogoni</i>
lane snapper	<i>Lutjanus synagris</i>
silk snapper	<i>Lutjanus vivanus</i>
yellowtail snapper	<i>Ocyurus chrysurus</i>
wenchman	<i>Pristipomoides aquilonaris</i>
vermillion snapper	<i>Rhomboplites aurorubens</i>

Groupers - Serranidae Family

rock hind	<i>Epinephelus adscensionis</i>
speckled hind	<i>Epinephelus drummondhayi</i>
yellowedge grouper	<i>Epinephelus flavolimbatus</i>
red hind	<i>Epinephelus guttatus</i>

goliath grouper	<i>Epinephelus itajara</i>
red grouper	<i>Epinephelus morio</i>
misty grouper	<i>Epinephelus mystacinus</i>
warsaw grouper	<i>Epinephelus nigritus</i>
snowy grouper	<i>Epinephelus niveatus</i>
Nassau grouper	<i>Epinephelus striatus</i>
black grouper	<i>Mycteroperca bonaci</i>
yellowmouth grouper	<i>Mycteroperca interstitialis</i>
gag	<i>Mycteroperca microlepis</i>
scamp	<i>Mycteroperca phenax</i>
yellowfin grouper	<i>Mycteroperca venenosa</i>

Tilefishes - Malacanthidae (Branchiostegidae) Family

goldface tilefish	<i>Caulolatilus crysops</i>
blackline tilefish	<i>Caulolatilus cyanops</i>
anchor tilefish	<i>Caulolatilus intermedius</i>
blueline tilefish	<i>Caulolatilus microps</i>
tilefish	<i>Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps</i>

Jacks - Carangidae Family

greater amberjack	<i>Seriola dumerili</i>
lesser amberjack	<i>Seriola fasciata</i>
almaco jack	<i>Seriola rivoliana</i>
banded rudderfish	<i>Seriola zonata</i>

Triggerfishes - Balistidae Family

gray triggerfish	<i>Balistes capriscus</i>
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Wrasses - Labridae Family

hogfish	<i>Lachnolaimus maximus</i>
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Sand Perches - Serranidae Family

dwarf sand perch	<i>Diplectrum bivattatum</i>
sand perch	<i>Diplectrum formosum</i>

Shrimp FMP

Species in the Management Unit

brown shrimp	<i>Farfantepenaeus aztecus</i>
white shrimp	<i>Litopenaeus setiferus</i>
pink shrimp	<i>Farfantepenaeus duorarum</i>
royal red shrimp	<i>Hymenopenaeus robustus</i>

Spiny Lobster FMP

Species in the Management Unit

spiny lobster	<i>Panulirus argus</i>
slipper lobster	<i>Scyllarides nodifer</i>

Species in the Management Unit for Data Collection Only

spotted spiny lobster	<i>Panulirus guttatus</i>
smooth tail lobster	<i>Panulirus laeviscauda</i>
Spanish slipper lobster	<i>Scyllarides aequinoctialis</i>

Stone Crab FMP

Species in the Management Unit

stone crab	<i>Menippe mercenaria</i>
stone crab (Cedar Key north)	<i>Menippe adina</i>

Coral and Coral Reefs FMP (Gulf and South Atlantic Councils joint Plan)

Species in the Management Unit

corals of the class Hydrozoa (stinging and hydrocorals)
corals of the class Anthozoa (sea fans, whips, precious coral, sea pen, stony corals)

ADDITIONAL SSC AND AP APPOINTMENTS MADE

The Council made additional appointments to its Standing Scientific and Statistical Committee and to two of its Advisory Panels during the July Council meeting.

Dr. Luis Barbieri (Florida Marine Research Institute) and Dr. Andrew Kemmerer (former NMFS Southeast Regional Administrator, now retired) were appointed to the Standing SSC. Stu Kennedy, who was a member of the Standing SSC, is now on the Council staff.

Calvin Nguyen (president, Viet-American Commercial Fishermen's Union), Darlene Nguyen (commercial shrimper from Mississippi), Jill Jensen (Gulf Restoration Network), and Dan Dumont (outgoing Alabama Council member) were appointed to the Shrimp AP.

Dan Dumont was also appointed to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics AP.

REGIONAL COUNCILS ASK FOR STIFFER PENALTIES FOR FEDERAL FISHING VIOLATIONS

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (M-SFCMA) currently provides for only civil penalties for the majority of marine, fishery-related violations (see Penalty Schedule). These civil penalties are limited to monetary fines, permit sanctions, and the forfeiture of vessels (in extreme cases). The criminal sanctions available under the M-SFCMA are limited in scope to falsification of documents, resisting arrest with violence, and certain, very limited instances wherein the Lacey Act is utilized for the imposition of criminal penalties. In short, it is rare that a violator is charged with a crime for violation of the M-SFCMA.

Most violations of state marine fishery laws and regulations carry criminal convictions, either misdemeanor or felony (in the case of severe repeat violations) and there are numerous violations that carry criminal convictions under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service laws and regulations. Violations of federal wildlife regulations can, depending upon the violation, carry criminal penalties of up to five years imprisonment and fines of up to \$250,000.

At a meeting of the Chairs of the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils held May 26-29, 2003, the Council Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Executive Directors discussed penalties for fishery violations, and felt that the imposition of criminal penalties would add a significant deterrent to potential violators. They voted unanimously to recommend the inclusion of criminal penalties for M-SFCMA violations. Among the reasons given requesting this change were:

1. Federal marine fishery violations are equally, if not more serious than similar violations in state waters and violations of federal wildlife laws. Two examples include: shrimping in closed areas off south Florida can earn a violator thousands of dollars in a given night and potentially cause irreparable harm to coral resources with only the potential for civil fines and other potential sanctions. Also, a commercial red snapper fisherman may pay over \$40,000 for a permit to fish on a limited quota; whereas a nonpermitted violator can harvest from this quota without such an investment and only be subject to civil penalties.
2. Notices of Violations and Assessment (NOVAs) are issued to the captain and owner of a vessel for most fishery related M-SFCMA violations. Frequently, captains are incapable of paying the civil assessment and move to another area or work for another owner leaving the owner to pay the fine and in reality, the actual violator receives absolutely no penalty. Even serious repeat violators of the M-SFCMA who are not permit owners or vessel owners are in actual fact unpunished. If criminal penalties are available under M-SFCMA, then the captain and crew members could receive appropriate criminal sanctions.

3. Violators who have a prior criminal record (fishery or otherwise) would be appropriately punished if criminal convictions of M-SFCMA violations are allowed.
4. Criminal sanctions could include probation, or potential incarceration, which, would discourage some repeat violators.
5. Criminal sanctions are appropriate for importers/smugglers of marine resources and criminalization of these activities under the M-SFCMA will simplify the prosecution of such cases.
6. Criminal penalties provide a significant enforcement tool and serve as a deterrent to potential violators.
7. Because potential gains from violating some M-SFCMA regulations are so substantial, they far outweigh the potential penalties under civil prosecution. Some fishers view it as the “cost of doing business.”

Marine fisheries represent multi-million dollar industries, and these stocks are the property of all U.S. citizens and resident legal aliens. Illegal harvesting can jeopardize the health of these stocks, prolong or prohibit their recovery, and it is tantamount to stealing from the people of the U.S.

For the above reasons, the Council Chairs sent a letter to Commerce Secretary Donald Evans on July 2, 2003, requesting that criminal penalties similar to those that can be imposed for wildlife violations also be imposed for fishery violations of the M-SFCMA.



SOUTHEAST REGION MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT PENALTY SCHEDULE

(as of 6/13/2003)

VIOLATION	VIOLATION HISTORY -- PENALTY AMOUNT		
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
VIOLATIONS REGARDING SIZE/CONDITION/QUANTITY OF FISH	\$500 - \$50,000 Permit Sanctions 0 - 45 days	\$2,500 - \$90,000 Permit Sanctions 30 - 90 days	\$5,000 - STATUTORY MAXIMUM Permit Sanctions 60 days- revoke
VIOLATIONS REGARDING FISHING/POSSESSING/DEALING AT THE WRONG TIME/PLACE (<i>e.g.</i> , Area/Season/Quota Closures; Zero bag limit; Limited entry fishery; HAPCs [including SMZ, Oculina Banks])	\$500 - \$50,000 Permit Sanctions 0 - 45 days	\$2,500 - \$90,000 Permit Sanctions 30 - 90 days	\$5,000 - STATUTORY MAXIMUM Permit Sanctions 60 days - revoke
VIOLATIONS REGARDING THE METHOD OF FISHING/GEAR (including but not limited to illegal methods of fishing [<i>e.g.</i> , poisons, explosives, etc.], illegal gear [<i>e.g.</i> , powerheads, traps, trawls - such as in the gear separation zones, longlines, spearguns, etc.], unauthorized gear; gear illegally constructed [<i>e.g.</i> , traps, net size, mesh size]; exceeding the maximum quantity [<i>e.g.</i> , traps]; failure to call in, return, tend; method of release of catch; gear stowage; disabled gear; VMS)	\$500 - \$50,000 Permit Sanctions 0 - 45 days	\$2,500 - \$90,000 Permit Sanctions 30 - 90 days	\$5,000 - STATUTORY MAXIMUM Permit Sanctions 60 days - revoke
VIOLATIONS REGARDING GEAR/VESSEL IDENTIFICATION	\$250 - \$2,000	\$1,000 - \$5,000	\$2,000 - STATUTORY MAXIMUM

VIOLATION	VIOLATION HISTORY -- PENALTY AMOUNT		
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
VIOLATIONS REGARDING PERMITS, REPORTING, DOCUMENTATION, ETC.			
Falsify/fail to provide information	\$500 - \$30,000 Permit Sanctions 0 - 45 days	\$1,000 - \$75,000 Permit Sanctions 30 - 90 days	\$2,000 - STATUTORY MAXIMUM Permit Sanctions 60 days- revoke
Act without a permit/limited entry share/endorsement/LOA/EFP etc. or in violation of a condition/restriction of such (dealers, fishermen, and vessels)	\$1,500 - \$30,000 Permit Sanctions 0 - 45 days	\$3,000 - \$75,000 Permit Sanctions 30 - 90 days	\$5,000 - STATUTORY MAXIMUM Permit Sanctions 60 days - revoke
Misuse or mishandling of limited entry documents or quota coupons	\$1,500 - \$30,000 Permit Sanctions 0 -45 days	\$3,000 - \$75,000 Permit Sanctions 30 - 90 days	\$5,000 - STATUTORY MAXIMUM Permit Sanctions 60 days- revoke
VIOLATIONS REGARDING FAILING TO MAKE FISH OR RECORDS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION	\$500 - \$30,000 Permit Sanctions 0 -45 days	\$1,000 - \$75,000 Permit Sanctions 30 - 90 days	\$2,000 - STATUTORY MAXIMUM Permit Sanctions 60 days - revoke

VIOLATION	VIOLATION HISTORY -- PENALTY AMOUNT		
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
VIOLATIONS REGARDING TRANSFER, PURCHASE, TRADE, SALE (AND ATTEMPTS)	\$1,500 - \$30,000 Permit Sanctions 0 -45 days	\$3,000 - \$75,000 Permit Sanctions 30 - 90 days	\$5,000 - STATUTORY MAXIMUM Permit Sanctions 60 days- revoke
VIOLATIONS REGARDING OBSERVERS			
Failing to embark/provide information/falsify information	\$1,500 - \$30,000 Permit Sanctions 0 -45 days	\$3,000 - \$75,000 Permit Sanctions 30 - 90 days	\$5,000 - STATUTORY MAXIMUM Permit Sanctions 60 days - revoke
Violations against the observer (e.g., assault, prohibiting an observer from his/her duties, failing to provide the required necessities, etc.)	\$10,000 - \$50,000 Permit Sanctions 0 -45 days	\$20,000 - \$90,000 Permit Sanctions 30 - 90 days	\$40,000 - STATUTORY MAXIMUM Permit Sanctions 60 days- revoke
VIOLATIONS REGARDING FAILING TO COMPLY WITH MORE RESTRICTIVE LAW	\$1,500 - \$30,000 Permit Sanctions 0 - 45 days	\$2,500 - \$75,000 Permit Sanctions 30 - 90 days	\$3,500 - STATUTORY MAXIMUM Permit Sanctions 60 days- revoke

VIOLATION	VIOLATION HISTORY -- PENALTY AMOUNT		
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
VIOLATIONS REGARDING INTERFERENCE/ DISPOSAL/OTHER GENERAL PROHIBITIONS	See, General Magnuson Act Domestic Penalty Schedule		
VIOLATIONS REGARDING FALSE STATEMENTS TO AN AUTHORIZED OFFICER	\$1,500 - \$30,000 Permit Sanctions 0 - 45 days	\$3,000 - \$75,000 Permit Sanctions 30 - 90 days	\$5,000 - STATUTORY MAXIMUM Permit Sanctions 60 days - revoke
VIOLATIONS REGARDING ANOTHER'S GEAR, VESSEL, ETC. (e.g., tending another's gear without prior written consent, placing articles in the EEZ with intent to interfere, interfere with fishing or obstruct or damage fishing gear or the fishing vessel of another)	\$1,500 - \$30,000 Permit Sanctions 0 - 45 days	\$3,000 - \$75,000 Permit Sanctions 30 - 90 days	\$5,000 - STATUTORY MAXIMUM Permit Sanctions 60 days - revoke

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

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Monday, September 8, 2003

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Orientation Session for New Members

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

AP Selection Committee (**Tab G**) (**CLOSED SESSION**)

- NMFS Enforcement Records

– recess –

1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Reef Fish Management Committee (**Tab B**)

- Vermilion Snapper Regulatory Amendment Options Paper
- Review of Scoping Comments
- Review of Alternatives
- Recommendations for Use of Advisory Groups in SEDAR Process
- Reef Fish Amendment 18 Options Paper
- AP For IFQ Preparation (Amendment 23)

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Budget Committee (**Tab F**)

- CY2004 Budget

– recess –

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

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

Mackerel Management Committee (**Tab C**)

- Options Paper for Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 15

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Shrimp Management Committee (**Tab D**)

- Draft Shrimp Amendment 13/EA Options Paper
- Draft Shrimp Amendment 14/SEIS Options Paper

– recess –

2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Migratory Species Management Committee (**Tab H**)

- HMS Amendment 2 and Billfish Amendment 2 Scoping Issues
- ICCAT Draft Recommendations on Integrated Monitoring and Control Measures
- HMS AP Recommendations on Amendment 1
- Shark Bycatch in Menhaden Purse Seine Fishery

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Habitat Protection Committee (**Tab J**)

- Florida Offshore Aquaculture Inc. Permit

COUNCIL AGENDA

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

- I. Call to Order and Introductions - Fensom (8:30 a.m. - 8:35 a.m.)
- II. Adoption of Agenda - Fensom (8:35 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.)
- III. Approval of Minutes (**Tab A**) - Fensom (8:40 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.)
- IV. Address by RADM Robert Duncan (8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.)
 - Presentations of MARFIN Reports on Red Snapper (**Tab I**) (9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)
 - a. Stock Structure of Red Snapper in the Northern Gulf of Mexico: Is Their Management as a Single Stock Justified Based on Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Growth Rates and Reproduction? *and* Age, Size, and Mortality of Red Snapper Regulatory Discards - Wilson/Nieland

b. Stock Structure of Red Snapper in the Northern Gulf of Mexico: Is Their Management as a Single Stock Justified Based on Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Otolith Microchemistry? – Cowan/Patterson

c. Stock Structure of Red Snapper in the Northern Gulf of Mexico: Is Their Management as a Single Stock Justified Based on Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Genetic Variation? – Gold

d. Overview and Summary – Wilson

- Committee Reports
- Habitat Protection (**Tab J**) - Morris (11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)

-recess-

- Committee Reports (Continued)
- Reef Fish Management (**Tab B**) - Minton (1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.)
- Mackerel Management (**Tab C**) - Fischer (3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
- d. Shrimp Management (**Tab D**) - Perret (4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

CLOSED SESSION

e. AP Selection (**Tab G**) - B. Walker (4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

h. Budget (**Tab F**) - Saucier (9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.)

VII. Enforcement Reports - Sherlock/Rogers/Livingston (9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.)

VIII. NMFS Regional Administrator's Report - Crabtree (10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.)

IX. Directors' Reports - R. Williams/Minton/Perret/Foote/Riechers/Simpson/Frugé (10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.)

X. Other Business (**Tab K**) - Fensom (10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

XI. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman - Fensom (11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.)

Please note: The above agenda is tentative, pending adoption by the Council.

- recess -

Thursday, September 11, 2003

- Committee Reports (Continued)
- f. Migratory Species Management (**Tab H**) - Basco (8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.)
- g. Logo (**Tab N**) - Basco (9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.)

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. NA03NMF4410028.

September Meeting:

September 8-11, 2003
Baton Rouge Marriott
5500 Hilton Avenue
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

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