
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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NEW GULF COUNCIL MEMBERS APPOINTED

Deputy Secretary of Commerce Robert L. Mallett appointed three new members to the Gulf Council, and reappointed two members whose 3-year terms were up for renewal. Appointed members serve 3-year terms, and can be reappointed until they have served a maximum of 3 consecutive terms. Appointments are to either obligatory or at-large seats. Obligatory seats are state-specific, while at-large seats can be filled by representatives from anywhere in the region. This year's

appointees will begin their terms on August 11, 2000. Their terms will expire on August 10, 2003.

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NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

September 11-14, 2000

Adam's Mark Hotel and Resort

64 South Water Street

Mobile, Alabama 36602



Karen Bell, a seafood dealer and restaurateur, is from Cortez, Florida, and is currently a member of the Gulf Council's Reef Fish Advisory Panel and Red Drum Advisory Panel. Ms. Bell comes from a tradition of commercial fishing that her family has been a part of since the late 1800s. Today the family still owns and operates a commercial fish house which was established in Cortez around 1940. "When I was little I would answer the phone over the summer months or play on the net spreads that seemed to be everywhere. I have slowly learned more and more about the business and have come to have a great deal of respect and pride in what we do."

Ms. Bell feels that she has learned a great deal about the management of Gulf fisheries through her participation in Gulf Council advisory panels and is looking forward to assuming her duties as a Council member. "Foremost, I am a good listener and I like to think that I am fair-minded when making decisions. I prefer scientific information based on good data to help guide me. I look forward to working with the Gulf Council. I know I will learn a lot and hopefully, I can help ensure that my family's business has a healthy resource base so it will be here another 60 years."

Ms. Bell has been appointed to the Florida obligatory seat to replace Mr. Karl Lessard, who has completed his second term and declined to be nominated to another term.

Dan Dumont is an attorney from Mobile, Alabama and is presently the Executive Director and in-house Counsel for the Alabama Forest Resources Center. Mr. Dumont has been very active in trying to craft and pass Alabama fisheries and conservation legislation. He is a registered lobbyist and has had success with the passage of the Uniform Conservation Easement Act, a distinctive license plate for the Alabama Wildlife Federation, compromise legislation to create a Limited Entry System to limit the number of gill nets in use in Alabama coastal waters, and an amendment to the oil and gas industry's Risk Compensation Bill to protect the rights of private landowners against unreasonable force integration of their lands into drilling units without adequate compensation. He has also worked extensively to achieve game fish status for speckled trout and red drum in Alabama and a moratorium on the purse-seining of brood stock red drum in Federal waters.

Mr. Dumont has also been active in fishing and conservation organizations. Among his involvement with many organizations, he has co-founded and been a past president of the Alabama Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association and the Alabama Sportsman Political Action Committee; been on the board of directors for the Mobile County Wildlife and Conservation Association, the Alabama Forest Resources Center, and Ducks Unlimited; and was

appointed to the Alabama Oil Response Task Force and the Alabama Management Improvement Program.

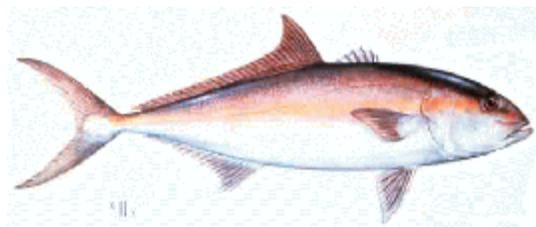
Mr. Dumont was appointed to the Alabama obligatory seat to replace Dr. Bob Shipp, who has completed three consecutive terms and is not eligible to be reappointed.

Bobbi M. Walker is a charterboat owner from Orange Beach, Alabama and currently a member of the Gulf Council's Reef Fish Advisory Panel, Red Snapper Advisory Panel, and Ad Hoc Charter Vessel/Headboat Advisory Panel. Ms. Walker has been actively involved with marine fisheries management. She is a member of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) which makes recommendations to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce; serves as the chairman of the Orange Beach Fishing Commission; serves as president of the Gulfwide Association of Finfish Fishermen (GAFF) that represents recreational and for-hire recreational interests in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas; is on the board of directors representing fishing interests of the Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau; and is president of the Orange Beach Fishing Association.

Ms. Walker says that she hopes to bring to the Gulf Council "the ability to make sound decisions that will protect the resources and the fisherman who depend on them." She also hopes to involve the people who are affected by fishing regulations so that they can understand the need for management. "These people need to be given the opportunity to participate in developing options to guarantee their future and sustainable fisheries. I am very excited about this appointment and look forward to working with all the professional and talented people involved."

Ms. Walker has been appointed to an at-large seat to replace Mr. Albert King, Sr. (Alabama), who has completed three consecutive terms and is not eligible to be reappointed.

In addition to the new appointees, **Myron Fischer** (Louisiana) and **Kay Williams** (Mississippi) were each reappointed to a second term.



TEMPORARY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN ELECTED

The Gulf Council normally elects a new Chairman and Vice-chairman each year at the conclusion of its September meeting. However, the current Chairman (Dr. Bob Shipp) and Vice-Chairman (Mr. Karl Lessard) are completing their Council appointments in August. In order that there be a Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the September 2000 meeting, the Council has elected **Ms. Kay Williams** (Mississippi) to serve as temporary Chairman, and **Mr. Irby Basco** (Texas) to serve as temporary Vice-Chairman. They will serve in their respective positions from August 11, 2000 until the conclusion of the September 11-14, 2000 Council meeting, at which time the Council will elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman to serve full one-year terms.

DR. BILL HOGARTH APPOINTED DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF NMFS

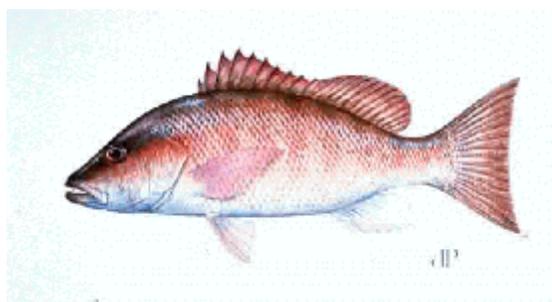
NOAA Administrator Dr. D. James Baker announced that Dr. Bill Hogarth, who heads the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Southeast region, will assume the number two position at the agency. Dr. Hogarth replaces Dr. Andrew Rosenberg, who will leave NMFS to become Dean of the College of Life Sciences and Agriculture at the University of New Hampshire. "We're very pleased to welcome Bill Hogarth to NMFS headquarters. He has served NOAA well in several capacities and his expertise will be critical to us," Baker said.

Dr. Hogarth comes to the deputy director's position with a wealth of knowledge about marine issues along both coasts. For the past year, he has managed the agency's Southeast region, where he has been working with fishermen and the management councils to rebuild Gulf of Mexico red snapper stocks. Previously, Dr. Hogarth was the Southwest Region Administrator, where he dealt with a variety of national and international issues, including listing of some salmon species under the Endangered Species Act and working to improve protections for dolphins during tuna fishing in the Eastern Tropical Pacific. Dr. Hogarth also coordinated NMFS' intergovernmental and recreational fisheries programs, was chief of the highly migratory species management division, and was director of marine fisheries for the state of North Carolina for more than eight years.

"During his tenure at NOAA Fisheries, Bill has proven that he can deal with any tough fish problem that we throw at him - from saving Pacific salmon habitat to rebuilding Gulf Red Snapper," said Penny Dalton, NOAA Fisheries Director. "He's the right person for the job, and we're excited that he's agreed to accept it."

"It's difficult to leave the Southeast region, a lifetime management goal of mine, and also difficult to follow in the footsteps of Andy, who I believe is one of the best scientists in fisheries management," said Dr. Hogarth. "We've made tremendous strides in protecting marine resources in the Southeast region, through the hard work of an excellent staff, and with the cooperation of resource users, the three fishery management councils, state directors and the two state commissions. I plan to apply the knowledge and experience I've gained to my new position at headquarters. Working together we can accomplish a great deal."

Dr. Hogarth will assume the Deputy Director's position beginning August 1. Carol Ballew, Deputy Regional Administrator, will temporarily take over management of the Southeast region.



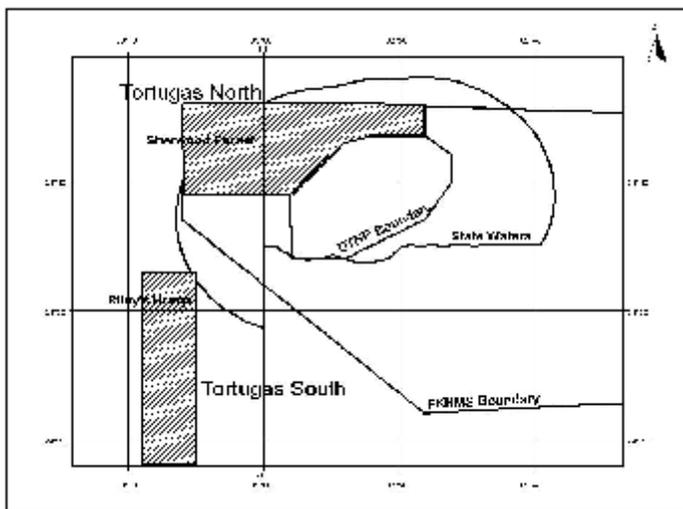
COUNCIL READDRESSES BYCATCH REPORTING SECTION OF THE GENERIC SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENT

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) asked the Gulf Council to readdress the two proposed actions for reporting, or collecting, bycatch information in Section 7.2.1 of the Generic Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) Amendment for the Fishery Resources of the Gulf of Mexico. The Gulf Council adopted Proposed Alternative 1: *As part of the reporting requirements for each of the Fishery Management Plans (FMP), NMFS is authorized to collect bycatch information from fishermen, and vessel operators, using the most practical reporting requirements and methodology. Such reporting is mandatory for persons selected to report.* The Council also adopted a replacement Proposed Alternative 2: *If a mandatory observer program is deemed necessary by the Secretary of Commerce (SOC), the Council shall propose or provide or recommend such a program to the SOC for approval.*

This revision of Section 7.2.1. of the Generic SFA Amendment will be resubmitted to NMFS for approval.

COUNCIL APPROVES TORTUGAS MARINE RESERVES

The Gulf Council at its July meeting held in Key Largo, Florida voted to approve the Generic Amendment Addressing the Establishment of Tortugas Marine Reserves. The amendment proposes to establish two marine reserves. The Tortugas South marine reserve will encompass approximately 60 square nautical miles and will include the Riley's Hump mutton snapper spawning aggregation site established by the Council in 1994. 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. This area will encompass approximately 120 square nautical miles, of which the portion proposed to be established by the Council is 13 square nautical miles.



The Gulf Council recommended that the reserves be established for a period of at least 10 years and be evaluated at the same intervals the state of Florida evaluates the FKNMS (i.e., every 5 years starting in 2002, 2007, etc.). During these periods, the future status of the marine reserves will be considered by the Gulf Council and FKNMS. Additional preferred alternatives recommended by the Gulf Council included the prohibition of fishing for any species in the marine reserves and the prohibition of all fishing vessels to anchor in the marine reserves (except in emergencies).

After final revisions of the amendment by the Gulf Council, it will be forwarded to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for approval by the Secretary of Commerce. Once received, NMFS will announce an additional period for further public comment on the proposed rules.

GULF COUNCIL HEARS REVIEW OF THE 1999 SHRIMP STOCK ASSESSMENT REPORT

Dr. James Nance presented the Gulf shrimp stock assessment report to the Gulf Council at its July meeting in Key Largo, Florida. Dr. Nance noted that brown shrimp were the dominant species throughout for the period 1960-1999, followed by white shrimp and pink shrimp. He reported that overall Gulf catches were about 150 million pounds (MP) in 1999, slightly below 1998 landings. Brown shrimp catches for 1999 were 81.3 MP, compared to a high in 1990 of 103.4 MP and a low in 1994 of 67.3 MP. White shrimp catches for 1999 were about 55 MP and have ranged from a high in 1986 of 70.7 MP to a low in 1996 of 34.8 MP. Catches of pink shrimp for 1999 were about 14 MP and have been declining for the past three years.

Overall effort for brown shrimp has been declining since the 1980s from over 200,000 24 hour days fished to about 130,000 days fished in the late 1990s. White shrimp effort has also declined. Pink shrimp effort steadily declined from the early 1980s to early 1990s and then has increased in the late 1990s. Current effort for pink shrimp is about 24,000 days. Overall catch-per-unit-effort for shrimp has declined since the 1960s; however, in the last 10 years, a slight increase has been observed.

Levels of recruitment and parent stock size have generally been good. Dr. Nance stated that recruitment levels for 1998 and 1999 for brown shrimp were the highest since 1991. White shrimp recruitment has fluctuated since 1986 and the 1999 level was slightly below the 1997 and 1998 levels. Pink shrimp recruitment showed a slight decreasing trend over the past 3 years, following an increasing trend from 1991 through 1995. The parent stock levels for brown shrimp were up in 1999 at over 300 million age 7+ month shrimp for November through February, well above the 125 million overfishing threshold and the highest level since 1994. For white shrimp, the parent stock number has been highly variable since the mid 1980s and the number dropped slightly in 1999 to around 800 million individuals age 7+ months for May through August. However, this level is still well above the 330 million individuals overfishing threshold. Pink shrimp parent stock numbers were up in 1999 following a slight decline in 1998 to nearly 250 million age 5+ month individuals for July through June and were well above the 100 million overfishing threshold.



CONTROL DATE PUBLISHED FOR GEAR TYPES IN COMMERCIAL REEF FISH FISHERY

The Gulf Council is considering whether there is a need to limit participation by gear type in the commercial reef fish fishery in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. If there is a need, the Gulf Council will consider management measures intended to limit participation. Possible measures include modifications to the existing limited entry program to control fishery participation, or effort, based on gear type. Gear types which may be included are longlines, buoy gear, handlines, rod-and-reel, bandit gear, spearfishing gear, and powerheads used with spears. Limits on the use of some gears may be needed to ensure a fair and equitable allocation of the available resources, prevent overfishing and habitat destruction, and minimize bycatch mortality.

This notice is intended to inform commercial fishermen that anyone not using a particular gear by **July 12, 2000**, (as indicated by reef fish logbook records) may not be eligible to use that gear if a gear-type effort control program is established. This announcement of a control date for gear eligibility is intended to discourage the use of different gear based on economic speculation during the Council's deliberation on the issues.

JEWFISH STATUS UPDATED - JEWFISH TO REMAIN PROTECTED

It has been ten years since a moratorium was imposed on the harvest of jewfish. This moratorium was in response to a decline in landings and a precipitous decline in numbers of jewfish seen at spawning aggregation sites in the 1980s. Some fishermen have suggested that the jewfish population has now recovered enough that the fishery could be reopened. However, at the July Gulf Council meeting, NMFS biologist Dr. Anne-Marie Ecklund recommended against reopening of the fishery. Although more jewfish are being seen in the Gulf, the numbers are still small relative to historical anecdotal information. Jewfish are long-lived (37 years or more) and take a long time to reach maturity (4 to 7 years). They display an aggregating behavior and are unafraid of divers. These factors make jewfish vulnerable to overexploitation. For these reasons, NMFS biologists feel that it is premature to say that the stock has recovered.

Dr. Ecklund indicated that some fishermen feel that jewfish are eating snappers and groupers on reefs and that this predation has depressed the numbers of these species. To address this concern, she has examined stomach contents of some jewfish and found that jewfish in the areas sampled feed mainly on crabs, molluscs, and slow moving bottom fishes. She also found fish remains that were clearly used as bait. In addition, visual fish

censuses in six sites where jewfish were seen were compared to censuses in nearby areas where jewfish were not seen. No significant differences in the number of fish or number of species could be detected between the sites where jewfish were present from sites where they were absent. Interestingly, there were significantly greater numbers of groupers (other than jewfish) in areas where jewfish were present. Based on these observations, Dr. Ecklund concluded that there was no evidence of depressed grouper and snapper populations due to the presence of jewfish.

NEW CATCH LIMITS FOR KING AND SPANISH MACKEREL

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has approved a number of changes in the catch specifications for king and Spanish mackerel. The approved catch specifications are summarized below. For specific information on the current regulations, interested persons should contact the Gulf Council office (see page 16 for details) or contact the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702 (ph. 727/570-5305, fax 727/570-5583; web page <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>).

Gulf Group King Mackerel

Fishing Year The fishing year for Gulf group king mackerel is July 1 through June 30, except for the run-around gillnet fishery (see below). Commercial seasons close when the respective quotas are met.

TAC, Allocation, and Quota The total allowable catch (TAC) for this group is 10.6 million pounds (MP). The recreational allocation is 7.21 MP, and the commercial quota is 3.39 MP.

Bag Limits The daily bag limit is 2 king mackerel per person, except for a zero-fish bag limit for captains and crews of for-hire vessels.

New Subzones and Quotas The Florida west coast subzone has been divided into a northern and southern area. The northern area extends in Federal waters from the Alabama/Florida boundary to the Lee/Collier County line year-round. The southern area extends in Federal waters from the Lee/Collier County line to the Monroe/Miami-Dade County line (i.e., off Collier and Monroe counties) from November 1 through March 31, and from the Lee/Collier County line to the Collier/Monroe County line (i.e., off Collier County) from April 1 through October 31. A specific quota is in effect for each of the subzones.

Gillnet Fishery: Changes Affecting Operational Area and Fishing Season The run-around gillnet fishery for Gulf group king mackerel is restricted to
continued on next page

the Florida west coast southern area, and the fishery is subject to a new opening date. The fishery opens at 6:00 a.m. eastern standard time on the Tuesday following the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday in January. The following weekend will be open if the quota has not been taken. All subsequent weekends and holidays will be closed. Weekend and holiday closures would be from 6:00 a.m. Saturday to 6:00 a.m. Monday, eastern standard time (or to Tuesday if Monday is a holiday). During these closures, a person aboard a vessel using or possessing a gillnet with a stretched-mesh size of 4.75 inches (12.1 cm) or larger in the Florida west coast subzone will not be allowed to fish for or possess Gulf group king mackerel.

Commercial Trip Limits Commercial trip limits for Gulf group king mackerel vary by season and area.

Atlantic Group King Mackerel

Fishing Year The fishing year for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel is April 1 through March 31. For the area between the Volusia/Brevard and Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundaries, king mackerel are considered to be part of the Atlantic group from April 1 through October 31.

TAC, Allocation, and Quota The total allowable catch (TAC) for this group will increase from 8.4 MP to 10.0 MP, effective August 2, 2000. Under the 10.0 MP TAC, the recreational allocation will be 6.29 MP, and the commercial quota will be 3.71 MP.

Bag Limits The recreational daily bag limit is 3 king mackerel per person from New York through Georgia, and 2 king mackerel per person off Florida.

Commercial Trip Limit Commercial trip limits for Atlantic migratory group king mackerel vary by season and area. For commercial vessels fishing for Atlantic group king mackerel between the Volusia/Brevard and Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundaries between April 1 and October 31, the trip limit is 50 fish, but effective August 2, 2000, will increase to 75 fish.

Gulf Group Spanish Mackerel

TAC, Allocation, and Quota The TAC for this group is 9.1 MP. The recreational allocation is 3.913 MP and the commercial quota is 5.187 MP.

Bag Limit The daily bag limit is 15 fish per person in federal waters of the Gulf from Florida through Texas.

Atlantic Group Spanish Mackerel

TAC, Allocation, and Quota The TAC for this group will increase to 7.04 MP, effective August 2, 2000. The recreational allocation will be 3.17 MP, and the commercial quota will be 3.87 MP.

Bag Limit The daily bag limit is currently 10 fish per person. Effective August 2, 2000, the bag limit will increase to 15 fish per person in federal waters from New York through southeast Florida.

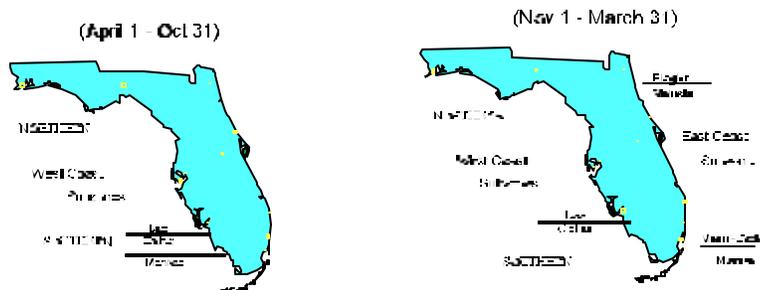
Commercial Trip Limits The daily trip limit off the Florida east coast is 1,500 pounds from April 1 through August 1. Effective August 2, 2000, the trip limit regime for the fishery off the Florida east coast will be simplified. Effective August 2, 2000, for the first part of the fishing year (Stage I), the daily trip limit will be 3,500 pounds from April 1 to November 31. Beginning December 1 (Stage II), unlimited daily harvest is allowed on Monday through Friday, with a 1,500 pound trip limit on Saturday and Sunday. When 75 percent of the adjusted quota is taken (Stage III), trip limits reduce to 1,500 pounds. Once the adjusted quota is met (Stage IV), trip limits are further reduced 500 pounds for the remainder of the fishing year.

For All Areas

Retention and Sale of Cut-Off (damaged) king and Spanish mackerel To reduce waste in the commercial fisheries, possession of cut-off (damaged) king or Spanish mackerel that comply with the minimum size limits and the trip limits will be allowed in the Gulf, Mid-Atlantic, or South Atlantic EEZ. Sale of such cut-off fish will be allowed. This is in addition to the existing allowance for possession and retention of a maximum of five cut-off (damaged) king mackerel that are not subject to the size limits or trip limits, but that cannot be sold or purchased, nor counted against the trip limit.

Size Limits The minimum size limit for king mackerel is 24 inches, and 12 inches for Spanish mackerel.

Gulf Group King Mackerel Seasonal Boundaries



REEF FISH STOCK ASSESSMENT PANEL TO BE CONVENED

The Gulf Council will convene a meeting of the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel (RFSAP) to review the following information provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS):

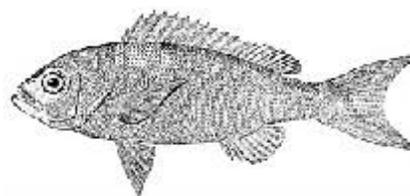
- 2000 Greater amberjack stock assessment
- 2000 Update to the 1998 vermilion snapper stock assessment
- 1999 Red grouper stock assessment with corrected tables
- Draft red snapper restoration scenario
- Microsoft Excel spreadsheet for calculating biological targets and thresholds for groupers and tilefish

The meeting is scheduled for August 28 - September 1, 2000 at the Miami Laboratory of NMFS, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Florida 33149. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 28, 2000 and will conclude by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, September 1, 2000.

Based on its review of the greater amberjack and red grouper stock assessments, and the vermilion snapper assessment update, the RFSAP may recommend a range of allowable biological catch (ABC) for 2001 for each stock, and may recommend management measures to achieve the ABC. The greater amberjack stock is presently classified as not overfished based on the previous 1996 stock assessment. However, there were concerns that the sampling program had excluded older and larger fish, making the results of that assessment questionable. The red grouper stock was classified as status unknown due to problems discovered with the age and growth data used in the 1993 assessment. A new assessment in 1999, initially reviewed by the RFSAP in the Fall of 1999, indicated that the red grouper stock was overfished. However, the Council's Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) had a number of concerns about the data and methods used by NMFS. The NMFS response to the SSC concerns will be part of the RFSAP's reevaluation of the 1999 red grouper assessment. The vermilion snapper stock was classified as not overfished based on a 1998 assessment, but some model scenarios from the assessment suggested that the stock was being fished at a rate that could result in it becoming overfished. Therefore, it was classified by NMFS as approaching an overfished condition.

In addition, the RFSAP will also review a draft red snapper restoration scenario proposed by NMFS and a method developed by NMFS for determining management targets and thresholds for groupers and tilefish based on the technical guidance recommended

for compliance with the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996. The resulting RFSAP recommendations will be presented to the Council's Socioeconomic Panel, Reef Fish Advisory Panel, and SSC. Restoration scenarios of grouper stocks will be presented to the Reef Fish Committee of the Gulf Council at its September 11-14 meeting in Mobile, Alabama and the recommendations of the RFSAP will be presented to the Gulf Council at its November 13-16, 2000 meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi.



RED DRUM STOCK ASSESSMENT PANEL TO REVIEW RESEARCH NEEDS FOR RED DRUM VIA CONFERENCE CALL

The Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel (RDSAP) will be convened via conference call on August 14, 2000 beginning at 10:00 a.m. EDT. At the request of the Gulf Council, the RDSAP was asked to recommend how research needs listed in the RDSAP's most recent final report would be accomplished, including cost estimates and a timeline for completion. Research needs included: 1) the age composition of the adults in offshore waters, 2) accurate absolute abundance estimates of adult red drum in the Gulf of Mexico, 3) random sampling of the commercial and recreational catches for age composition data, 4) standardized stock assessment methodology that can accept area (state)-specific data and work with these within the context of a Gulf-wide stock assessment, 5) determination of the area (state)-specific contributions of red drum to the offshore adult stock, 6) determination of angler-release and shrimp-trawl bycatch mortality and the ages or lengths of caught-and-released fish, and 7) the length composition of the commercial catch.

The recommendations of the RDSAP will be reviewed by the Council at its next meeting held from September 11 to 14, 2000 in Mobile, Alabama. The public may listen to the RDSAP conference call at a listening station located at the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702 (ph. 727/570-5305)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Draft Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery Management Plan

The Gulf Council will hold public hearings on a "Draft Fishery Management Plan 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 South Atlantic, Gulf, and Caribbean fishery management councils. The first 10 actions, with options, of the Dolphin/Wahoo FMP contain measures that are applicable to the dolphin and wahoo stocks in the jurisdictions of all 3 councils. These include measures to: define the management units; address dealer, vessel, and operator permits; consider data reporting requirements; identify estimates of maximum sustainable yield, optimum yield, and overfishing/overfished criteria; and, framework options to enable seasonal adjustments to the management structure. Other actions, with options, are separately applicable to each council's area of jurisdiction, and include actions that may be implemented through the framework procedures, e.g. minimum size limits, bag limits, trip limits, and allocations, among others. Copies of the draft amendment will be available for distribution in early September and can be obtained by contacting the Gulf Council office (see page 16 for details).

While most hearings have already been held, hearings will still occur from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the following locations and dates:

Monday, August 14, 2000
City Hall Auditorium
300 Municipal Drive
Madeira Beach, FL 33708
727-391-9951

Tuesday, August 15, 2000
Edison Community College
Corbin Auditorium, Room J-103
8099 College Parkway
Fort Myers, FL 33919
941-489-9412

Wednesday, August 16, 2000
Pier House
1 Duval Street
Key West, FL 33040
305-296-4600

The Gulf Council will also hear public testimony before taking final action on the Dolphin/Wahoo FMP which is scheduled for September 2000. The Gulf Council will accept written comments until the time that final action is taken.

Charter Vessel/Headboat Permit Moratorium

Public hearings have been tentatively scheduled for the

Draft Amendment for a Charter Vessel/Headboat Permit Moratorium Amending the: Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMP.

Over the past 20 years the number of charter vessels increased by 147 percent and the number of charter vessels increased by 31 percent over the past decade. The number of individual angler charter vessel trips has increased by about 51 percent from the previous decade. This indicates that over the past two decades the charter vessel/headboat sector has increased in terms of the number of vessels, the number of vessel trips, and percent of the recreational catch taken. Over the same period, the overfished status of several of the major stocks targeted by the recreational sector have been identified. This amendment will principally limit any future expansion while the Council considers the need for a more comprehensive limited access system. Currently the NMFS permit system does not provide for transfer of permits between vessels or between persons, and is viewed as a problem by the industry. The amendment will provide alternatives for such transfers and the amendment will also include alternatives for reissuing permits not renewed as well as an appeals process. Copies of the draft amendment will be available for distribution in early September and can be obtained by contacting the Gulf Council office (see page 16 for details).

Public hearings are tentatively scheduled for the following locations and dates:

October 2, 2000
Port Isabel, Texas

October 3, 2000
Port Aransas, Texas

October 5, 2000
Galveston Texas

October 9, 2000
Larose, Louisiana

October 10, 2000
Biloxi, Mississippi

October 11, 2000
Orange Beach,
Alabama

October 12, 2000
Panama City, Florida

October 23, 2000
Key West, Florida

October 24, 2000
Naples, Florida

October 26, 2000
Tampa, Florida

For information on specific times and locations, contact the Council office (see page 16 for details).

Shrimp Vessel Permits/Registration

Public hearings have been tentatively scheduled for the Amendment Number 11 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico, U.S. Waters.

The purpose of this amendment is to consider the need for requiring permits or some mandatory form of registration of shrimp vessels and permits for operators of shrimp vessels in the Gulf of Mexico. Mandatory

vessel permitting has been shown to be an effective way of obtaining information on the number of active participants in other commercial and for-hire fisheries operating in the Gulf, including the reef fish and coastal migratory pelagics fisheries. These data provide managers with valuable information that is used to determine effort, catch, bycatch, and other important parameters for both targeted shrimp stocks, as well as bycatch species that may be under separate management regimes. Without permits or registration, the numbers of vessels operating in the shrimp fishery can only be estimated.

Public hearings are tentatively scheduled for the following locations and dates:

<u>October 2, 2000</u> Port Isabel, Texas	<u>October 4, 2000</u> Palacios, Texas
<u>October 5, 2000</u> Galveston Texas	<u>October 6, 2000</u> Cameron, Louisiana
<u>October 9, 2000</u> Larose, Louisiana	<u>October 10, 2000</u> Biloxi, Mississippi
<u>October 10, 2000</u> New Orleans, Louisiana	<u>October 11, 2000</u> Mobile, Alabama
<u>October 12, 2000</u> Apalachicola, Florida	<u>October 23, 2000</u> Key West, Florida
<u>October 25, 2000</u> Fort Myers, Florida	<u>October 26, 2000</u> Tampa, Florida

Stone Crab Trap Certificate Program

The Gulf Council has been working on an amendment to the Stone Crab Fishery Management Plan (FMP) that proposes to create a federal trap certificate program for vessels fishing in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) to complement the trap certificate program for the commercial stone crab fishery adopted by the state of Florida for waters off Florida. The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC), after working with the stone crab industry and the Gulf 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. However, NOAA General Counsel, in a legal opinion for the Gulf Council, concluded that implementation of the state program into the EEZ without providing persons who could not obtain the Florida license an opportunity to participate in a similar trap certificate program in the EEZ, would violate the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable law. However, such a federal program could be structured to achieve the same objectives as the state program, and could have similar eligibility criteria. The provisions of the proposed federal program are as follows:

- Recognize the state license and tags for use in the EEZ, but not require them.

- Persons who could not obtain or chose not to obtain, the state license could apply for a federal vessel permit.
- The same qualifying criteria would apply, i.e., 300 pounds of claws landed in one of the six fishing seasons 1993/1994 through 1998/1999. May 15, 1999 is end of the qualifying period.
- Persons would have 90 days to apply after the effective implementation date of the final rule.
- Persons qualifying would be issued a trap certificate and federal trap tags based on their highest seasonal landings in one of the six seasons during the 1993-99 period divided by 5 pounds which is the annual harvest level that would occur when the number of traps is reduced to the optimum level of 600,000 traps.
- Federal vessel permits, trap certificates, and tags would be non-transferrable.
- It is anticipated that the cost of the federal trap tags would be higher than the cost of the state trap tags, i.e., \$1.10 vs \$0.50.
- Inclusion of a second alternative for a federal appeals process that tracks the language of the appeals process in the Alaskan FMP for crabs.

A revised amendment will be reviewed at the Gulf Council's September meeting and is tentatively scheduled to be presented at public hearings on the following dates and locations:

<u>October 16, 2000</u> Marathon, Florida	<u>October 18, 2000</u> Crystal River, Florida
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For information on specific times and locations of these hearings, contact the Gulf Council office (see page 16 for details).

REMINDER - TWO-DAY BAG LIMITS FOR OVERNIGHT TRIPS APPLY ONLY TO CHARTER VESSELS AND TO SELECTED SPECIES

Federal regulations allow possession of a two-day bag limit for Spanish mackerel, king mackerel, and reef fish (snappers, groupers, hogfish, gray triggerfish, greater amberjack, lesser amberjack, banded rudderfish, and tilefish) **ONLY** by persons on a qualified charter vessel that is out more than 24 hours. A trip that qualifies for the two-day bag limit is defined as one that spans more than 24 hours, provided such trip is on a vessel that is operating as a charter vessel or headboat, the vessel has two licensed operators aboard, and each passenger is issued and has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel that verifies the length of the trip. Recreational fishermen on vessels other than qualified charter vessels, or catching species other than those listed, regardless of the type or length of trip, are limited to a single bag limit.

ENFORCEMENT REPORTS
NOAA Fines Two Texas Fishermen \$439,000 and Imposes New Sanctions Against Them

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NOAA has charged the owner and operators of two fishing vessels with significant violations of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Lacey Act, and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act for fishing while they were prohibited from doing so.

NOAA has assessed a penalty of \$235,000 and a permit sanction of 105 days against the fishing vessel Northern Star, and a penalty of \$204,000 and a permit sanction of 170 days against the fishing vessel Sao Mai. The Northern Star, owned by Cuong Vo and operated by his brother Duong Vo, both of Houston, allegedly made numerous fishing trips between April and September 1999, harvesting yellowfin tuna and swordfish, while their federal fishing permits were sanctioned. In addition, the Northern Star made 10 fishing trips into Mexican waters without a Mexican permit and Cuong Vo filed a falsified bluefin tuna landing report with the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Sao Mai, also owned and operated by

Cuong Vo, allegedly made 17 fishing trips between March and September 1999, harvesting primarily red snapper, vermilion snapper, and mackerel.

These cases originated when NOAA Office for Law Enforcement personnel discovered on September 21, 1999 that the Northern Star was docked in Galveston, Texas offloading fish. NOAA officers boarded the Northern Star and conducted an investigation that revealed both vessels had been fishing illegally for the previous seven months. The Northern Star's permit was originally suspended because Cuong Vo did not pay a fine levied by an administrative law judge for fisheries violations in December 1998. The Sao Mai's permit was suspended because Cuong and Duong Vo failed to honor the terms of a settlement agreement they entered into with NOAA in 1998.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) urges citizens to report fishery violations during weekly business hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EDT, to its Southeast Region Law Enforcement Division at (727) 570-5344, or after hours and weekends at its National Enforcement Hotline at (800) 853-1964.

SETTLEMENTS BETWEEN APRIL 1, 2000 AND JUNE 30, 2000

CASE NUMBER	RESPONDENT NAME	AREA	LE UNIT	CASE DESCRIPTION	FINAL AMOUNT	FORFEITED AMOUNT	PERMIT SANCTION
SE970163FM	Mark L. Vogel	GOM	NMFS/LA W&F	5 counts of retain/sell large coastal shark during closure; 5 counts of falsify/fail to report information 1 count of possess shark in excess of the trip limit	\$ 20,000.00		PERMANENT
SE970164FM	Sharkco Seafood International, Inc.	GOM	NMFS/LA W&F	5 counts of purchase large coastal shark during closure; 6 counts of falsify/fail to provide information 1 count of unlawful possession of shark	\$150,000.00	\$8,759.37	
SE980234FM	Northern Gulf Corp., and Donald Qualls	GOM	NMFS	2 counts of sale of red snapper during closure; 2 counts of falsifying log books	\$ 11,250.00		6/20/00 - 10/18/00
SE990151FM	Our Grandkids, Inc. and Israel Zamora	GOM	USCG	1 count of possess separated spiny lobsters 1 count of fail to maintain fish intact	\$ 1,020.00 \$ 765.00		

CASE NUMBER	RESPONDENT NAME	AREA	LE UNIT	CASE DESCRIPTION	FINAL AMOUNT	FORFEITED AMOUNT	PERMIT SANCTION
SE990186FM	Ernest B. Davis and Gail Davis	GOM	USCG	1 count of failure to maintain fish (grouper) intact 1 count of failure to maintain shark intact	\$ 1,980.00 \$ 1,980.00		9/1/00 - 9/15/00
SE990195FM	Gunnar Gudjonsson	GOM	NMFS/ USCG	1 count of engage in golden crab fishery without valid permit 1 count of failure to comply with trap requirements	\$ 1,000.00 \$ 5,000.00		
SE990197ES	Khen T. Nguyen Thanh Truc Pham Toan B. Pham	GOM	NMFS	TED violation	\$ 2,500.00		
SE990200MM	Kenneth Mitchell Keene	GOM	NMFS/ FWCC	attempt to take/harrass dolphin	\$ 500.00		
SE990208FM	Wallace R. Pritchard and Miss Courtney, Inc.	GOM	USCG	BRD violation	\$ 3,000.00		
SE990243ES	Eva Ramirez and Manuel Soria Ramirez	GOM	NMFS	TED violation	\$ 1,250.00		
SE990364FM	Hattie Mac, Inc. and Charles McCann	GOM	USCG	1) fail to maintain grouper intact 2) fail to maintain shark in proper form	\$ 2,640.00		
SE990455ES	Daryl G. Gazzier	GOM	NMFS	TED violation	\$ 2,000.00		
SE990509ES	Earl Paul Chauvin	GOM	NMFS/ USCG	TED violation 1 count of fail to comply with instructions from an authorized officer and/or destroy/dispose of gear	\$ 2,000.00 \$ 3,000.00		
SE990676FM	Peaceful Orchid, Inc. and Hoa Dinh Nguyen	GOM	USCG	1 count of failure to comply with restrictions after closure of red snapper season; 1 count of dispose of fish or parts after communication from authorized officer	\$ 3,300.00		
SE990918MS	Joseph Mitchell Gay and Strand Loper Charters	FKNMS	FWCC	operate a vessel so as to strike or damage seagrass	\$ 550.00		
SE991320MS	Frederico Pollicina	FKNMS	FWCC	operate a vessel so as to strike or damage seagrass	\$ 900.00		
SE000419FM	Ronald Vincent Trapp	GOM	FWCC	take red snapper during closure	\$ 500.00		
SE000420FM	Steven A. Evans	GOM	FWCC	take red snapper during closure	\$ 500.00		

NOVAs ISSUED BETWEEN April 1, 2000 AND June 30, 2000

CASE NUMBER	RESPONDENT NAME	AREA	LE UNIT	CASE DESCRIPTION	NOVA AMOUNT	PROPOSED NOPS** DURATION
SE970961MS	Bela K. Zeky	FKNMS	FWCC	operate a vessel so as to strike or injure coral	\$ 5,000.00	
SE990142ES	Hill Cong Nguyen	GOM	NMFS	TED violation	\$ 2,000.00	
SE990173ES	Emmett E. Owens & Larry B. Owens	GOM	USCG	TED violation	\$ 3,000.00	
SE990328FM	Matthew Brennan & Brengold Fishery, Inc.	GOM	NMFS/USCG	1) fail to maintain fish intact 2) possess undersized fish 3) interfere, obstruct or delay invest. search or seizure	1) \$ 2,000.00 2) \$ 1,500.00 3) \$ 3,000.00	90 days
SE990363FM	Janice Elaine Inc. and Perry G. Turner	GOM	NMFS/USCG	1) fail to comply with gear restrictions and restrictions on retention of fish 2) fail to maintain a fish intact through offloading 3) fail to maintain a shark in its proper form	1) \$15,000.00 2) \$ 1,500.00 3) \$ 1,500.00	30 days
SE990364FM	Hattie Mac, Inc. and Charles C. McCann	GOM	USCG	1) fail to maintain grouper intact through offloading 2) fail to maintain a shark in its proper form	1) \$2,000.00 2) \$2,000.00	30 days
SE990369ES	David L. Richard	GOM	NMFS	TED violation	\$2,000.00	
SE990435FM	Cuong Vo and Duong Vo	GOM	USCG	6 counts harvest and sell mixed fin fish during permit sanction 10 counts fish within Mexico EEZ 1 count falsify Bluefin Tuna landing report	1) \$120,000.00 2) \$100,000.00 3) \$ 15,000.00	105 days
SE990436FM	Cuong Vo	GOM	USCG	17 counts harvest mixed fin fish during permit sanction	\$204,000.00	170 days
SE990455AES	Daryl G. Gazzier	GOM	NMFS	TED violation	\$2,000.00	
SE990520FM	Capt. Dave's Restaurant, Inc. and James T. Westbrook	GOM	NMFS/USCG	1) no Gulf Reef fish/Charter vessel permit 2) take red snapper during closure	1) \$1,500.00 2) \$1,500.00	
SE990676FM	Peaceful Orchid, Inc. and Hoa Dinh Nguyen	GOM	USCG	1) take red snapper during closure 2) dispose of fish or parts after communication with officer	1) \$3,000.00 2) \$5,000.00	30 days
SE990729ES/FM	Tuan Ngoc Nguyen and Ly Le	GOM	USCG	1) TED violation 2) BRD violation	1) \$8,000.00 2) \$6,000.00	
SE991317MS	Charles D. Thompson	FKNMS	FWCC	operate vessel so as to strike or damage sea grass	\$1,500.00	

CASE NUMBER	RESPONDENT NAME	AREA	LE UNIT	CASE DESCRIPTION	NOVA AMOUNT	PROPOSED NOPS** DURATION
SE991318MS	Larry Russell Rohr	FKNMS	FWCC	operate vessel so as to strike or damage sea grass	\$3,400.00	
SE000418FM	Robert M. Moore	GOM	FWCC	take red snapper during closure	\$ 500.00	
SE000419FM	Ronald Vincent Tapp	GOM	FWCC	take red snapper during closure	\$ 500.00	
SE000420FM	Steven A. Evans	GOM	FWCC	take red snapper during closure	\$ 500.00	
SE000421FM	Joe Ramsey Turner	GOM	FWCC	take red snapper during closure	\$ 500.00	
SE000422FM	Richard C. Fowler	GOM	FWCC	take red snapper during closure	\$ 500.00	

*NOTICE OF PROPOSED FORFEITURE **NOTICE OF PERMIT SANCTION

NMFS IMPLEMENTS PROHIBITED SPECIES PROVISIONS AND CHANGES ATLANTIC LARGE COASTAL SHARK FISHERY CLOSURE

On June 12, 2000, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) received a Court Order from U.S. District Court Judge Steven D. Merryday relative to a joint motion permitting NMFS to proceed with implementation and enforcement of the prohibited species provisions. This action implements the 1999 prohibited species provisions of the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks, and changes the closure of the large coastal shark commercial fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, to August 15, 2000, 11:30 p.m. local time. This action complies with a court order.

Therefore, effective July 1, 2000, the 1999 prohibited species provisions including species designations and prohibitions of possession are in effect in all commercial and recreational fisheries and will be enforced. Possession of the following sharks is prohibited in all commercial and recreational fisheries: dusky, sand tiger, bigeye sand tiger, whale, basking, white, bignose, Galapagos, night, Caribbean reef, narrowtooth, Caribbean sharpnose, smalltail, Atlantic angel, longfin mako, bigeye thresher, sevengill, sixgill, bigeye sixgill.

Due to implementation of the prohibited species provisions and, based on catch rate data from the second semiannual fishing seasons from 1997, 1998, and 1999 for LCS species, NMFS has determined that the available LCS quota of 542.5 mt dw will be attained within 46 days. NMFS estimates that the available LCS quota will not be harvested as quickly when the prohibited species provisions are implemented because the available quota is unchanged but fewer species can be harvested against that quota. Accordingly, the available quota for the 2000 second semiannual season for LCS in or from the Western North Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea (which opens July 1, 2000), will be attained as of **August 15, 2000**. This closure date is 8 days later than the previously announced

closure date of August 7, 2000.

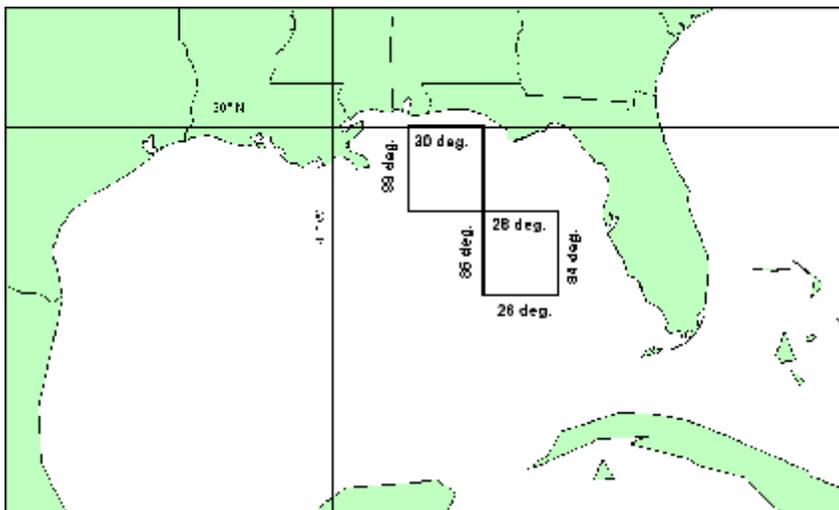
During a closure, it is unlawful for persons aboard vessels issued a Federal Atlantic shark permit to fish for, retain, possess, land, or sell those species of sharks for which the fishery has closed. If the vessel has not been issued a Federal limited access permit, the recreational retention limit and minimum size restrictions apply and the sharks may not be sold, subject to the provisions of the FMP for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks. All sharks not retained must be released in a manner that will ensure maximum probability of survival, but without removing the fish from the water. Closure rules do not apply to a shark harvested from a vessel that has not been issued a Federal limited access permit and that fished exclusively in state waters or to sharks that were harvested, offloaded, and sold, traded or bartered prior to the closure and were held in storage.

FINAL RULE ON MEASURES TO REDUCE BYCATCH AND BYCATCH MORTALITY FROM THE ATLANTIC PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERY

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is publishing final regulations amending the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) on Tuesday August 1, 2000. The final regulations establish time/area closures and gear restrictions to reduce bycatch and bycatch mortality by U.S. commercial fishermen who hold Federal highly migratory species permits and use pelagic longline gear in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico. A Final Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) was completed and made available to the public on June 14, 2000. The FSEIS included an analysis of a wide range of management options and associated biological, social, economic and community impacts, to consider alternatives aimed at maximizing reduction of bycatch and bycatch mortality while minimizing, to the extent practicable, effects on target species and incidental catch. Final management actions include:

Time/Area Closures

Three time/area closures to Atlantic HMS pelagic longline gear occur in the Atlantic Ocean. The East Florida Coast and DeSoto Canyon (northeast Gulf of Mexico) are closed year-round; the Charleston Bump is closed on a seasonal basis (February through April of each year). Exact latitude-longitude coordinates can be obtained from the NMFS by calling 727-570-5447.



DeSoto Canyon area in the northeastern Gulf of Mexico.

Although the final rule was published on August 1, 2000, the time/area closures will not be effective for the DeSoto Canyon area until **November 1, 2000** and not be effective for the Charleston Bump and East Florida Coast area until **February 1, 2001**. Fishing by vessels holding Atlantic HMS permits and using pelagic longline gear in the two closed areas will be prohibited year-round after these respective effectiveness dates.

Gear Restrictions

In the Gulf of Mexico, pelagic longline fishermen will not be allowed to use live bait as of **September 1, 2000**. Setting up a live well or maintaining live baitfish on board a vessel with pelagic longline gear is prohibited. The primary purpose of this prohibition is to reduce the bycatch of billfish that occur more frequently on pelagic longline sets that utilize livebait.

The closed areas and gear restrictions apply only to commercial fishermen who hold Federal permits for Atlantic HMS. While un-permitted vessels may fish for other species with pelagic longline gear in these areas, no tunas, swordfish, billfish, or sharks may be retained on board those vessels. However, NMFS is working with the Regional Councils to ensure consistency between regulations for all pelagic longline fisheries. As a reminder, effective **September 1, 2000** operators of vessels permitted in the Atlantic swordfish and shark fisheries are required to install and activate a vessel monitoring system (VMS) whenever they leave port with pelagic longline gear on board.

TWO ADDITIONAL SCOPING WORKSHOPS ANNOUNCED FOR HMS FMP SEIS

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) previously announced five scoping workshops as part of the implementation of the June 30, 2000 Biological Opinion (BO). NMFS announced additional scoping workshops in North Carolina and Florida.

NMFS has determined that preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) is appropriate for the Atlantic tunas, swordfish, and shark (highly migratory species HMS) fisheries to address requirements identified in the BO, which concluded that the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery jeopardizes the continued existence of loggerhead and leatherback sea turtles. To avoid jeopardy, NMFS may need to implement time/area closures, gear restrictions, crew training, monitoring and reporting requirements. The combination of measures implemented must reduce the number of loggerhead and leatherback turtles that are incidentally captured, injured, and killed by pelagic longline gear by 75 percent to meet the performance standard of the BO.

Given the jeopardy opinion, NMFS must take prompt action to reduce takes of loggerhead and leatherback sea turtles. Therefore, NMFS is considering issuing regulations under the emergency provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act on an interim basis. In particular, immediate action may be required for the pelagic longline fishery operating on the Grand Banks, an area of high turtle takes during the summer and early fall. These emergency regulations would serve to implement provisional take reduction measures until more comprehensive approach can be developed under the framework procedures of the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish and Sharks. Input from constituent groups is sought regarding both the short-term and long-term solutions for reducing turtle interactions. NMFS requests input on the issues to be addressed in the SEIS. Interested parties should contact the HMS offices (301-713-2347) regarding suggested times and locations for additional scoping meetings. Two remaining scheduled scoping meetings will occur:

Wednesday - August 16, 2000 7:00-9:30 p.m.

North Carolina Aquarium Roanoke Island, 374 Airport Road, Manteo. North Carolina 27954.

Thursday - August 17, 2000 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Radisson Resort at the Port, 8701 Astronaut Blvd., Cape Canaveral, Florida 32920.

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Monday, September 11, 2000

Council Member Orientation Session

Administrative Policy Committee

- Amendments to Magnuson Act

Budget Committee

- CY 2001 Budget

Mackerel Management Committee

- Final Dolphin/Wahoo FMP
 - Public Hearing Summaries
 - Public Letters
 - AP/SSC Recommendations
 - Federal Comments
 - Committee Actions

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Reef Fish Management Committee

- Dr. Szedlmayer's Juvenile Red Snapper Study Update
- RFSAP Recommendations on Grouper Complex Rebuilding Scenarios

Shrimp Management Committee

- Approval of Draft Amendment 11 for Public Hearings

Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel Management Committee

- Approval of Draft Amendment for Charter Vessel Permit Moratorium for Public Hearings

Stone Crab Management Committee

- Approval of Draft Amendment 7 for Public Hearings

Red Drum Management Committee

- RDSAP Recommendations

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

- I. Call to Order and Introductions - K. Williams
- II. Adoption of Agenda - K. Williams
- III. Approval of Minutes- K. Williams
- IV. Public Testimony - K. Williams
 - a. Dolphin/Wahoo FMP
- V. Mackerel Management Committee Report-

R. Williams

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Reef Fish Management - Minton
- b. Shrimp Management - Aparicio
- c. Stone Crab Management - Fischer
- d. Red Drum Management - Foote
- e. Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel Management - Minton/R. Williams
- f. Budget - Perret

Thursday, September 14, 2000

VI. Committee Reports (Continued)

- g. Administrative Policy - Fensom
- VII. Report on Coral Reef Task Force - Barnette
- VIII. ICCAT Advisory Committee Meeting - Claverie
- IX. Enforcement Reports - Fiedler/Cinalli
- X. Regional Administrator's Report - Hogarth
- XI. Director Reports - R. Williams/Minton/Perret/Foote/Osburn/Simps on/Frugé
- XII. Other Business - K. Williams
- XIII. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman - K. Williams/Basco

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 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.

Following Meeting

November 13-16, 2000
Isle of Capri Casino Hotel
151 Beach Boulevard
Biloxi, Mississippi

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 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.