

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to hold its first series of Fisher Forums

Friday, July 14, 2006

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council staff has scheduled the first three in a series of Fisher Forums.

In an attempt to increase awareness of the Gulf Council and the fishery management process, and to provide a forum for stakeholders and other interested parties to interact with Gulf Council staff to present ideas and concerns, a series of Fisher Forums have been scheduled in Key West, Naples, and Madeira Beach, Florida.

"We think it's important for us to take steps toward ensuring the public not only has sufficient opportunity to become involved in the process, but that they also are equipped with the knowledge and information necessary to become effectively involved," said Wayne Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf Council.

The forums will be "Town Hall" style, and participants will have opportunities to introduce issues and ideas that may not currently be under consideration, and to learn about the Gulf Council.

"We're basically reaching out to our stakeholders and the general public," said Rick Leard, Deputy Director, Gulf Council.

Up for discussion is anything from the Council's mission, to what the Council can do to improve the process in general, to recommendations on specific management plans.

For more information, please call Charlene Ponce, Public Information Officer, 888-833-1844, extension 229.

Meeting Schedule

August 29, 2006	The Harvey Government Center 1200 Truman Avenue Key West, FL 33040	Session I: 2pm-5pm Session II: 6pm-10pm
August 30, 2006	Rookery Bay 300 Tower Road Naples, FL 34113	Session I: 2pm-5pm Session II: 6pm-10pm
August 31, 2006	City of Madeira Beach City Hall Auditorium 300 Municipal Drive Madeira Beach, FL 33708	Session I: 7pm-10pm