



GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Meeting Notice

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TO CONVENE ITS REEF FISH ADVISORY PANEL AND ITS STANDING AND SPECIAL MACKEREL AND REEF FISH SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEES

Tampa, Florida – July 12, 2006 - The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene its Reef Fish Advisory Panel (AP), its Standing and Special Mackerel Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), and its Reef Fish SSC.

The Standing and Special Mackerel SSC will convene at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, August 8, 2006, to consider and possibly make recommendations on a report on mixing and other aspects of a previous stock assessment for king mackerel developed by a special joint SSC made up of SSC members from the Gulf Council and the South Atlantic Council.

The Reef Fish AP and the Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC will convene a joint meeting Tuesday, August 8, 2006, beginning at 1:00 p.m. to receive presentations of stock assessment results for vermilion snapper, greater amberjack, gray triggerfish, and gag grouper.

Both the Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC and the Reef Fish AP will reconvene in separate meetings Wednesday, August 9, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. to discuss and possibly make recommendations regarding those stock assessments. Also up for discussion and possible recommendations are the alternatives contained in Draft Reef Fish Amendment 27/Shrimp Amendment 14. Those alternatives could: (1) change the total allowable catch (TAC) for red snapper, (2) change the minimum size limit for red snapper, (3) change the recreational fishing season and bag limit for red snapper, (4) reduce the bag limit of red snapper for captains and crew of for-hire vessels to zero, (5) modify allowable fishing gear to possibly include changes to the type and size of hooks used to harvest red snapper, and (6) cap effort in the shrimp fishery to further reduce bycatch.

The meetings will be held at the Quorum Hotel, 200 N. Westshore Boulevard, Tampa, Florida. For more information, or for copies of meeting agendas, please call 813-348-1630.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before these panels and committees, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (M-SFCMA), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of these panels and committees will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the M-SFCMA, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action.

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Tina Trezza at the Council at least five working days prior to the meeting.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional fishery management councils established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Council prepares fishery management plans designed to manage fishery resources in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

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