



# GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Meeting Notice  
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## Training Workshops Scheduled for Red Snapper IFQ System

**Tampa, Florida – August 25, 2006** - The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council announced today a series of Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) System training workshops.

The workshops will be conducted by NOAA Law Enforcement and provide an interactive demonstration of the on-line Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) system. The intent is to provide IFQ shareholders and dealers, who possess a Gulf red snapper IFQ dealer endorsement, the information necessary to use the system. The workshops will also solicit input from and provide answers to potential system users.

“We want to make this tool as user friendly, concise, and responsive as possible,” said Dave McKinney, NOAA Enforcement.

Since red snapper transactions must be recorded electronically, three series of four workshops are planned throughout the Gulf coast to educate the users on the system.

“This is as much about explaining the program as it is about reducing confusion that may lead to unintentional violations,” said McKinney.

The first series is scheduled in September, the second in November, and the third is tentatively scheduled for December.

The September workshops will begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude no later than 10:00 p.m. at the following locations:

September 11, 2006  
Marriott Bay Pointe Hotel  
4200 Marriott Drive  
Panama City, FL

September 12, 2006  
Holiday Inn  
5465 Highway 90 West  
Mobile, Alabama

September 13, 2006  
Best Western New Orleans Airport  
1021 Airline Drive  
Kenner, LA

September 14, 2006  
Holiday Inn Galveston  
5002 Seawall Boulevard  
Galveston, TX

Following the demonstration will be a question and answer session. While the workshops are open to the public, it is important to note that anyone wishing to comment specifically on Amendment 26 should officially submit those comments by 5 p.m. Eastern Time, October 2, 2006, in any of the following methods:

- E-Mail: [0648-AS67.NOA@noaa.gov](mailto:0648-AS67.NOA@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line the following document identifier: 0648-AS67-NOA.
- Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>.
- Mail: Phil Steele, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
- Fax: 727-824-5308 – Attention: Phil Steele

Reef Fish Amendment 26, which establishes an IFQ system for commercial red snapper, is currently under review by the Secretary of Commerce. Approval is expected by the end of the year. Under the IFQ, individual quotas will be assigned to shareholders based on historical landings. The intended effect of the amendment is to reduce overcapacity in the commercial fishery, lengthen the fishing season, lower operating costs by giving vessel owners more flexibility, improve market conditions, and increase safety at sea.

The workshops are 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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