



GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL



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Meeting Notice

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Texas Habitat Protection Advisory Panel to discuss fishery habitat issues

Tampa, Florida – August 31, 2006 - A panel of concerned representatives of Texas recreational and commercial fishing groups, conservation organizations, academia, and state and federal resource agencies will gather at the Hobby Airport Hilton, 8181 Airport Boulevard, Houston, Texas to review and discuss fishery habitat issues. The meeting will convene at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 26, 2006 and is expected to adjourn by 4:00 p.m. that same day.

The advisory panel (AP) is scheduled to discuss the deepening of the Matagorda Ship Channel, the Bahia Grande restoration project, the Texas Artificial Reef Program, the Beacon Port LNG project, dredging associated with the Calhoun LNG facility in Lavaca Bay, as well as review the Gulf Council's Ecosystem Management Plan. An update on the Sabine-Neches waterway deepening project will also be presented. For a copy of the agenda, please call 813-348-1630.

The group is part of a three unit Habitat Protection AP of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. The principal role of the AP is to assist the Council in its attempt to maintain optimum conditions within the habitat and ecosystems supporting the marine resources of the Gulf of Mexico. Advisory panels serve as a first alert system and calls to the Council's attention proposed projects being developed, as well as other activities that may adversely impact the Gulf marine fisheries and supporting ecosystems. The panels may also provide advice to the Council on its policies and procedures for addressing environmental affairs.

Although other issues not on the agenda may come before the panel for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal panel action during this meeting. Panel action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed as available by this notice.

The meeting is open to the public and is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council five working days prior to the meeting.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is 1 of 8 regional fishery management councils that were established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Council prepares fishery management plans that are designed to manage fishery resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

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