



GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL



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This is a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Award No. NA05NMF4410003.

Meeting Notice

For more information
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Law Enforcement Advisory Panel will convene to review a Draft Joint Amendment to the Reef Fish and Shrimp Fishery Management Plans – Amendment 27/14

Tampa, Florida – September 29, 2006

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene its Law Enforcement Advisory Panel (LEAP) to review a draft of Joint Reef Fish Amendment 27/ Shrimp Amendment 14. The amendment contains alternatives to regulate the harvest and bycatch of red snapper by both the directed commercial and recreational fisheries and the shrimp fishery in the Gulf of Mexico. The need for this amendment arose from the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) process through which a recent stock assessment shows that the red snapper stock in the Gulf continues to be overfished and experiencing overfishing.

In addition, the LEAP will review progress and possible actions with regard to an amendment to potentially allow offshore aquaculture and a reef fish amendment to address individual fishing quotas (IFQs) for grouper and possibly other reef fish species. Finally, the LEAP will review the status of various FMP amendments and other regulatory actions and approve the Operations Plan for 2007.

The LEAP consists of principal law enforcement officers in each of the Gulf States, as well as the NMFS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's General Counsel for law enforcement.

The panel will meet Tuesday, October 24, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Royal Sonesta, 300 Bourbon Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. A copy of the agenda and related materials can be obtained by calling the Council office at 813-348-1630.

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.

This 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 office 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 Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

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