



# 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 –November 3, 2006** - The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has scheduled the second round of training workshops for the Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) System.

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 November workshops will begin at 6:30 p.m. and conclude no later than 10:00 p.m. at the locations listed below. Vietnamese translators will be available in both Lake Charles and Corpus Christi.

November 27, 2006  
Comfort Suites  
19001 Emerald Coast Parkway  
Destin, Florida  
850-654-8611

November 28, 2006  
Hilton Garden Inn/Paradise Ballroom  
23092 Perdido Beach Boulevard  
Orange Beach, Alabama  
251-974-1600

November 29, 2006  
Best Western/Jean Lafitte 1&2  
2600 Moeling St.  
Lake Charles, Louisiana  
337-433-5213

November 30, 2006  
Holiday Inn Emerald Beach/Marlin Room  
1102 S. Shoreline Boulevard  
Corpus Christi, Texas  
361-883-5731

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 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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