



GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Airport Executive Center
2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100 • Tampa, Florida 33607
(813) 348-1630 • FAX (813) 348-1711

e-mail: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org Web: <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>



This is a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Award No. NA05NMF4410003-06.

News Bulletin
Release: Immediate

Contact: Charlene Ponce
813-348-1630

Red Snapper IFQ Training Session Scheduled

Tampa, Florida –December 6, 2006 - The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council announces the scheduling of a Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Training Session.

The training session will be conducted by NOAA Law Enforcement and is scheduled for January 11, 2007. It replaces the third round of training workshops that was tentatively scheduled for December. The session will be held at the National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office - 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. Staff will be available from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to provide an interactive demonstration of the online Red Snapper IFQ system and to take comments and answer questions. Participants will also learn how to set up an account and navigate through the online system.

An online tutorial is also under development for anyone who is interested in the training but cannot attend the January 11, 2007 session. Stakeholders will be notified once that training module goes online. In the meantime, an **IFQ Help Desk** has been established and can be reached by calling, toll free, **866-425-7627**.

“Workshop participation has waned, so we’re trying other forms of outreach. These are just other ways to provide IFQ shareholders and dealers an opportunity to learn how the system works,” said Dave McKinney, NOAA Enforcement.

For more information, please contact John Reed at **727-551-5750**.

Reef Fish Amendment 26, which establishes an IFQ system for commercial red snapper, has been approved. The final rule published in the Federal Register November 26, 2006, and the system becomes effective January 1, 2007.

Under the IFQ plan, individual quotas are 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 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.

XXX

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

2203 N. Lois Avenue

Suite 1100

Tampa, FL 33607

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Official Business

Penalty for Private Use \$300

FIRST CLASS MAIL

«ONAME»

«STRT»

«CITY», «STATE» «ZIPCODE»

«LNAME»

«LSTR»

«LCTY», «LST» «LZIP»