

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Meeting Notice

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Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management council Will convene its standing scientific and statistical committee (SSC)

Tampa, Florida – February 16, 2007 - The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a meeting of its Standing Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to review and provide guidance on the draft provisions of Joint Reef Fish Amendment 27/Shrimp Amendment 14, which sets management measures to rebuild the red snapper resource in the Gulf of Mexico.

Also on the agenda is a review of the SEDAR12 red grouper assessment. The SSC will determine whether the Review Panel reports are based on the best available information and may provide guidance to the Council regarding both the results of the assessment and the research recommendations made by the SEDAR panels.

The SSC will also examine the availability of new information on Gulf of Mexico red drum and provide guidance to the Council on whether a SEDAR benchmark assessment can be conducted, as well as comment on any new research or data collection that might be necessary to adequately conduct such an assessment.

Finally, the SSC will review the provisions of the scoping document for Reef Fish Amendment 30 to determine if the management measures contained in the draft document are scientifically sound, based on the recent SEDAR assessments. Amendment 30 includes management measures for gag and red grouper, greater amberjack, and gray triggerfish.

The Standing SSC is made up of economists, biologists, sociologists, and natural resource attorneys who are knowledgeable about the technical aspects of fisheries in the Gulf.

The meeting will be held at the Four Points by Sheraton, 6401 Veterans Memorial Boulevard, Metairie, Louisiana, March 15 - 16, 2007, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding no later than 3:00 p.m. Copies of the agenda can be obtained by calling 813-348-1630.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the SSC for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (M-SFCMA), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the SSC will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the M-SFCMA, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

This meeting is 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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