



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. NA05NMF4410003-06.

Meeting Notice

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Gulf Council to convene its Ecosystem Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for a modeling workshop

Tampa, Florida – April 11, 2007 - The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene its Ecosystem SSC, along with other invited ecosystem modeling experts to conduct a three-day workshop to demonstrate the feasibility of ecosystem modeling as a tool to address fishery management issues.

While numerous fishery-related issues could potentially be addressed through an ecosystem modeling approach, the SSC has identified three primary issues for the focus of the workshop. Those issues include:

1. Red snapper/shrimp interactions;
2. Multi-species effects on snapper/grouper;
3. Effects of the Gulf of Mexico hypoxic area on demersal and pelagic ecosystems.

Other issues identified by the Ecosystem SSC that may also be evaluated include the role of menhaden as a forage base in the Gulf, the impacts of red tide on Gulf of Mexico ecosystems, and the impacts of artificial reefs on Gulf of Mexico ecosystems.

Using a preliminary ecosystem model, the workshop will address as many of these issues as practicable within the time and data constraints of the workshop. Additional issues may be addressed if time and data permit. A final report on the results of the workshop will be presented to the Council later in the year.

The Ecosystem SSC, a committee of biologists, economists, biologists, and sociologists knowledgeable about the biological and human aspects of Gulf of Mexico ecosystems, is appointed by the Council and will provide advice to the Council on ways to add ecosystem considerations to the fishery management plans and actions, as well as advice on other ecosystem related issues.

The ecosystem approach to fishery management takes into account the protection of marine ecosystems and fosters the long-term sustainable use of marine resources in an ecologically and culturally sensitive manner through the use of a science-based ecosystem approach to resource management. The ecosystems approach does not replace current management, but instead supplements and enhances it.

The workshop will be held at the Florida Fish & Wildlife Research Institute, 100 8th Avenue, SE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701, and begins at 9 a.m. Tuesday, May 8, 2007, concluding by 3:00 p.m. Thursday, May 10, 2007.

Copies of meeting materials can be obtained by calling the Council office at 813-348-1630. Meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be made at least five days prior to the meeting date.

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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