



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 Regularly Scheduled Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana

Tampa, Florida – May 15, 2007 - The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet June 4-7, 2007 at the W Hotel, 333 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA.

During the weeklong meeting, the Joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Management Committee will review comments and recommendations from the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), the Socioeconomic Panel, and the Red Snapper Advisory Panel related to Joint Reef Fish Amendment 27/Shrimp Amendment 14. Public hearing comments on the amendment will also be considered. The Council is expected to take final action on the Amendment after hearing public testimony.

The joint amendment proposes to reduce directed and incidental fishing mortality on the red snapper stock and manage effort in the shrimp fishery to prevent excessive bycatch of juvenile red snapper. Under consideration are alternatives to reduce total allowable catch (TAC) for red snapper, as well as other regulatory changes designed to keep the red snapper stock on track with its rebuilding plan.

The Reef Fish Management Committee will discuss bag limits for vermilion snapper, as well as a public hearing draft of Reef Fish Amendment 30A for gray triggerfish and greater amberjack, along with a draft Reef Fish Amendment 30B for gag and red grouper. Both amendments propose new rebuilding plans for those stocks. Additionally, Council staff will present an update on the amendment addressing the grouper allocations issue.

A proposed public hearing draft of an Aquaculture Amendment will be discussed by the Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel/Red Drum Management Committee. The Committee will also consider comments from the Ad Hoc Aquaculture Advisory Panel before taking any action.

The Data Collection Committee will hear a presentation from Dr. John Boreman, Director, NMFS Office of Science and Technology, regarding the actions of the National Committee on Recreational Data Surveys.

Finally, the Mackerel Management Committee will meet to consider actions recommended by the Joint Special Mackerel Group, and the Budget/Personnel Committee will meet to consider the issue of increasing the liaison grant to the states.

Tuesday evening, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, NOAA Fisheries Service and Gulf Council staff will hold an open public forum/question and answer session on Gulf Reef Fish. This forum, while not a public hearing, will provide the public an opportunity to ask questions and discuss Gulf Reef Fish science and management issues in a less formal setting. The forum is intended to increase dialogue between constituents and fishery managers.

Public testimony is scheduled for Wednesday, June 6, 2007, from 11:45 am to noon, and from 1:30 pm – 5:30 pm and will be accepted on Exempted Fishing Permits (if any), final Reef Fish Amendment 27/Shrimp Amendment 14, and final Vermilion Snapper Regulatory Amendment. The Council will also hold an open public comment session for citizens to address the Council on fishery issues that may not be on the agenda. Those comments will begin immediately following public testimony.

Thursday's agenda includes Council deliberation and action on committee recommendations made earlier in the week.

For complete agendas – [Committee Agenda](#) and [Full Council Agenda](#) - or for copies of documents pertaining to any of these issues, please call or E-mail the Council office. Anyone wishing to testify before the Council should register prior to the start of the scheduled public comment period.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Council and Committees 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 Council and Committees will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas 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.

The established times for addressing items on the agenda may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the agenda items. In order to allow for such adjustments and completion of all items on the agenda, the meeting may be extended from, or completed prior to the date established in this notice. Meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Tina Trezza at the Council five 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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