



# 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](mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org) Web: <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>



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Meeting Notice

Contact: Charlene Ponce  
813-348-1630

## Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to Meet in San Antonio, Texas

**Tampa, Florida – July 9, 2007** - The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet July 30 – August 2, 2007 at El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio, Texas. Several Committees will meet before the full Council convenes on Wednesday.

The Reef Fish Management Committee will review a public hearing draft of Reef Fish Amendment 30A and an options paper for Reef Fish Amendment 30B. Amendment 30A proposes to reduce the harvest of both greater amberjack and gray triggerfish in order to end overfishing and rebuild the stocks. It also will adjust the allocation between recreational and commercial sectors for both species. Public hearing will be held sometime in September.

Amendment 30B will co-manage gag and red grouper. For gag, total allowable catch (TAC) and other management measures will be aimed at ending overfishing. For red grouper, the TAC may be increased since the most recent stock assessment shows a larger stock size. Adjustments to the recreational and commercial allocations for both species will also be reviewed. In addition, additional restricted areas, similar to the Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps marine reserves, may be considered to provide additional protections for spawning gag and other reef fish.

The Committee will also review and discuss:

- A preliminary scoping document for a grouper/tilefish individual fishing quota (IFQ) and limited access alternatives
- Scheduling of the Ad Hoc Recreational Red Snapper Advisory Panel Meeting
- A response from the offshore oil and gas companies and operatives on actions for compliance with fishery rules
- Initiating geographic management measures for red snapper

The Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel/Red Drum Management Committee will review public hearing summaries of the Aquaculture Amendment public hearings held around the Gulf, as well as recommendations from the Scientific and Statistical Committee. The Aquaculture amendment proposes to develop a regional permitting process for regulating environmentally sound and economically sustainable aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and will apply to all Gulf fishery management plans.

The Red Drum Management Committee will meet to hear recommendations from the Ad Hoc Review Panel for Red Drum. The newly formed panel is meeting for the first time July 23 – 24, to discuss its charge of assessing the availability of information needed to conduct a SEDAR stock assessment for red drum and proposing data collection activities for that information.

The Administrative Policy Committee meets to discuss proposed options for Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and Accountability Measures (AMs). ACLs and AMs are now a requirement of the newly reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (M-SFCMA). Regional fishery management councils are required to have in place ACLs and AMs to help end and prevent overfishing by 2010 for stocks subject to overfishing, and by 2011 for all others. The committee will also hear a report from the NOAA Fisheries regarding proposed referendum guidelines for Gulf of Mexico Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPS).

Public testimony is scheduled for Wednesday, August 1, 2007, from 9:45 am to 11:30 am, and will be accepted on Exempted Fishing Permits (if any). The Council will also hold an open public comment session for citizens to address the Council on any fishery issue beginning immediately following public testimony.

Wednesday evening, from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm, staff from the Gulf Council and NOAA Fisheries Service 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.

The remainder of Wednesday's agenda includes a presentation by NOAA Fisheries on proposed shark regulations, as well as Council deliberation and action on committee recommendations made earlier in the week. Before adjourning Thursday, the Council will announce its appointments to the SEDAR 16 (King Mackerel) Panels chosen during closed session, and will conclude with the discussion of any items under *Other Business*.

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.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Council and Committees for discussion, in accordance with the 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.

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2203 N. Lois Avenue  
Suite 1100  
Tampa, FL 33607

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