



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

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MEETING NOTICE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Gulf Council Seeks Public Input on Proposed Reef Fish Amendment 30A - Greater Amberjack and Gray Triggerfish – and Reef Fish Amendment 29 – Grouper Effort Management

Tampa, Florida – August 20, 2007 - The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) has scheduled a series of Gulf wide public hearings and scoping meetings to solicit public comment on two proposed Amendments.

The first amendment - Amendment 30A to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan - contains potential management measures to modify the rebuilding plan for greater amberjack and to establish a rebuilding plan for gray triggerfish in order to end overfishing and rebuild the stocks of both species. These measures would reduce the directed greater amberjack harvest by 32% and reduce harvest of gray triggerfish by 49%.

Greater amberjack have been under a rebuilding plan since 2003, but a new stock assessment concludes the stock remains overfished and is undergoing overfishing. Gray triggerfish are also overfished and undergoing overfishing, according to another recent stock assessment.

Amendment 30A also contains management measures that consider re-allocation of the greater amberjack and gray triggerfish resources between commercial and recreational fishers, as well as accountability measures to ensure compliance with the rebuilding plans.

The second amendment - Reef Fish Amendment 29 - is in the scoping phase and aims at rationalizing effort and reducing overcapacity in the commercial grouper fishery. Included in the draft document are five options for making the grouper fishery more efficient. These options include:

- Eliminating latent permits
- A buyback or buyout program
- Permit endorsements
- Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ)
- Individual Transferable Effort Quota (ITEQ)

Interested parties are encouraged to participate in this process. While written comments on both documents should be received no later than October 25, 2007, comments on the Amendments will be accepted throughout the process. Copies of the [scoping document for Amendment 29](#) and the draft public hearing document for Amendment 30A can be obtained by calling the Council at 813-348-1630, or by e-mailing the Council at gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org.

For stakeholders and other interested parties who are unable to participate in the meetings, comments and suggestions can be submitted to the Council via e-mail: Amendment29scoping@gulfcouncil.org for Amendment 29, and Amendment30A@gulfcouncil.org for Amendment 30A. Comments may also be submitted via US mail: 2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607, or by fax: (813) 348-1711. Other opportunities to provide input on these amendments will include a series of public hearings for Reef Fish Amendment 29, final public hearings on both issues, and open public comment sessions held during each Council meeting.

All public hearings begin at 6:00 p.m. with Amendment 30, followed by the scoping hearing for Amendment 29. Meetings will conclude by 10:00 p.m.

Meeting dates and locations are as follows:

September 10, 2007

W Hotel
333 Poydras Street
New Orleans, Louisiana
501-525-9444

Wingate Inn
12009 Indian River Road
Biloxi, Mississippi
228-396-0036

September 11, 2007

Courtyard by Marriott
3750 Gulf Shores Pkwy
Gulf Shores, Alabama
251-968-1113

Holiday Inn
5002 Seawall Blvd.
Galveston, Texas
409-740-3581

September 12, 2007

Palacios Recreational Center
2401 Perryman
Palacios, Texas
361-972-2387

Edgewater Beach Resort
11212 Front Beach Road
Panama City, Florida
800-331-6338

September 13, 2007

Holiday Inn Emerald Beach
1102 S. Shoreline Blvd.
Corpus Christi, Texas
361-883-5731

September 17, 2007

Radisson Hotel
12600 Roosevelt Boulevard
St. Petersburg, FL 33716
727-572-7800

September 18, 2007

Sombrero Cay Club Resort
19 Sombrero Blvd.
Marathon, Florida
305-743-2250

September 19, 2007

Clarion Hotel
12635 S. Cleveland Avenue
Ft. Myers, Florida
239-936-4300

Meetings are open to the public and are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office within five business days of 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council prepares fishery management plans designed to manage fishery resources in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

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