



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Airport Executive Center

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Meeting Notice

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Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to convene its Ecosystem SSC, Standing SSC, Special Reef Fish SSC, and Reef Fish Advisory Panel in St. Petersburg, Florida

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a joint meeting of its Ecosystem Scientific and Statistical Committee, Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC and Reef Fish Advisory Panel in St. Petersburg, Florida on September 24 - 28, 2007. The meetings will be held at the Hilton, 333 First Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

The Ecosystem SSC meeting will begin at 9:00 am on Monday, September 24, 2007 and conclude by 3:00 pm on Wednesday, September 26, 2007. The Joint Standing and Special Reef Fish meeting will begin at 9:00 am on Wednesday, September 26 and conclude by 3:00 pm on Friday, September 28, 2007. The Reef Fish Advisory Panel meeting will begin at 8:30 am on Thursday, September 27, 2007 and conclude by 3:00 pm on Friday, September 28, 2007.

Beginning Monday, September 24, 2007, the Ecosystem SSC, along with invited ecosystem modeling experts and other workshop attendees, will continue evaluating the feasibility of using an ecosystem modeling approach to address fishery management related issues. The group will document data sources used in the Ecopath with Ecosim model of the Gulf of Mexico, and they will identify uncertainties associated with the model.

Assessment biologists from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center will be available to discuss with the Ecosystems SSC differences between ecosystem modeling and single species stock assessments and, if possible, resolve contradictory results between single species assessments and ecosystem modeling results. The group will also begin developing a proposal for integrating ecosystem modeling activities into the process for evaluating potential management measures.

Wednesday, September 26, the Ecosystem SSC will meet jointly with the Joint Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC to summarize the ecosystem modeling process, preliminary results, and differences with single species assessment results. The Joint Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC will review and comment on the adequacy of the science, and may provide other comments as it deems appropriate.

Beginning Thursday, September 27, the Joint Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC will meet with the Reef Fish AP to hear presentations on Public Hearing Draft Reef Fish Amendment 30A (greater amberjack/gray triggerfish), an options paper for Reef Fish Amendment 30B (red grouper/gag), and a scoping document for Reef Fish Amendment 29 (grouper/tilefish limited access). The Joint Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific SSC and the Reef Fish AP will then meet separately - each will discuss Amendment 30A, the Amendment 30B options paper, and the Amendment 29 scoping document, and make recommendations to the Council. Each will also discuss possible adjustments to the deep-water grouper and tilefish TACs and, time permitting, will review the proposed goliath grouper cooperative research program. The Reef Fish AP will also elect a new Chair and Vice-chair.

For complete agendas 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.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional fishery management councils that were established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council prepares fishery management plans that are designed to manage fishery resources in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

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