



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

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Meeting Notice
December 14, 2007

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Gulf Council convenes Shrimp Advisory Panel to discuss status of shrimp stocks, the Texas closure, and a proposed Generic Offshore Aquaculture Amendment

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a meeting of the Shrimp Advisory Panel (AP) on Thursday, January 9, 2008 at the Hilton Houston Hobby Airport, 8181 Airport Boulevard, Houston, Texas, at 8:30 a.m. The Shrimp AP will receive reports from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on the status and health of the shrimp stocks as well as a report on the biological and economic aspects of the 2008 Cooperative Shrimp Closure with the state of Texas. The panel may make recommendations for a cooperative closure with Texas for 2008. The management objectives of the Texas closure regulation (as specified in the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan) are to increase the yield of brown shrimp and eliminate the waste of the resource caused by discarding undersized shrimp caught during a period of rapid growth.

The AP will also receive a presentation on the current number of moratorium permits that have been issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service and preliminary estimates of offshore shrimping effort in 2007.

Finally, the panel may discuss a Generic Offshore Aquaculture Amendment currently under development by the Gulf Council, possibly making recommendations to the Council.

Membership on the Shrimp AP is primarily commercial shrimp fishermen, dealers, and association representatives.

Copies of the agenda can be obtained by calling 813-348-1630, or E-mailing a request to gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org. Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Shrimp AP 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 by the Shrimp AP will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda 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 APs intent to take action to address the emergency.

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. 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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