



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

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Meeting Notice

April 27, 2010

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Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to Convene its Standing and Special Reef Fish and Special Red Drum Science and Statistical Committees

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a meeting of its Standing and Special Reef Fish and Special Red Drum Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) May 19-21, 2010 at the Gulf Council Office, 2203 N. Lois Avenue, Tampa, Florida. The meeting will convene at 9:00 a.m. local time, Wednesday May 19, and conclude by 3:00 p.m. Friday, May 21. Every attempt will be made to broadcast the meeting over the Internet.

The Committee will meet to discuss a number of issues related to the development of Reef Fish Amendment 32 (gag rebuilding and gag and red grouper adjustments to annual catch limits), and the Generic Annual Catch Limits/Accountability Measures Amendment.

During part of the meeting, the Standing SSC will meet jointly with the Special Red Drum SSC to review available information to determine if a red drum acceptable biological catch (ABC) can be established in the exclusive economic zone. The remainder of the meeting will be a joint meeting of the Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC.

The following items are on the agenda:

- Review updated yield projections for gag and red grouper
- Review decision-making spreadsheet of bag limit, size limit, slot limits and closed seasons, for the recreational gag fishery to determine if it represents best available scientific information
- Review a critique by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center of a species groupings analyses and consider possible revisions to proposed groupings for purposes of setting annual catch limits
- Develop a strategy for assigning acceptable biological catches (ABC) to species and species groupings that require an ABC under the Generic Annual Catch Limit and Accountability Measures (ACL/AM) Amendment
- Continue the process of developing and ABC control rule for assigning future ABCs
- Review tentative ABC values used by the Council on an interim basis in order to develop alternatives for allowable octocorals, stone crab claws, royal red shrimp, and the Peneid shrimp species in the Generic ACL/AM Amendment options paper; and

- Discuss possible strategies to resolve differences between the Gulf Council SSC and the South Atlantic Council SSC in ABC recommendations for the black grouper stock, which straddles jurisdictional boundaries.

Copies of the agenda and related materials can be obtained by calling 813-348-1630, or by visiting the Council's FTP site - <ftp.gulfcouncil.org>.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Committee for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the Committees 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 Magnuson Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Tina O'Hern at the Council at least five working days prior to the meeting.

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