



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

October 4, 2010

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Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to Meet in Baton Rouge, Louisiana

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will meet October 25 - 29, 2010, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Council Committees will convene Monday at 1:00 p.m. and will meet through Thursday morning. The full Council will convene at 1:30 p.m. Thursday afternoon. The Council is expected to adjourn by 5:00 p.m. Friday. Agenda highlights are summarized below. For a copy of the detailed agenda or to review briefing book materials, please visit the Council web site at www.gulfcouncil.org or call 888-833-1844.

The Sustainable Fisheries/Ecosystem Committee will meet Monday afternoon to discuss an options paper for the Generic Annual Catch Limit/Accountability Measure Amendment. Other items up for discussion include:

- Crew size limit on for-hire vessels when fishing commercially
- Reef fish permit earned income requirement
- Report on Deepwater Horizon input on subsea sampling plan

Beginning Tuesday morning at 8:30, the Administrative Policy Committee will meet to discuss modifications to the Administrative Handbook, followed by the Shrimp Management Committee, which will receive several reports on the status and health of the shrimp stocks, shrimp effort, and latent permits.

The Data Collection Committee meets from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and will discuss a fish tag system for recreational grouper and the SEAMAP Report. SEAMAP – Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program – is a state/federal program designed to collect, manage, and disseminate fishery-independent data in the southeastern U.S.

The Reef Fish Management Committee will begin meeting at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the following issues:

- Final framework action for greater amberjack
- Final regulatory amendment for red snapper total allowable catch for 2011 and 2012
- Individual fishing quota share transfers between sectors
- Pros and cons of regionalized management
- Pros and cons of management based on number of fish versus pounds of fish
- Individual fishing quota finance program

The Reef Fish Management Committee will adjourn at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday and reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

The Budget/Personnel Committee is scheduled to convene at 1:00 p.m. to review the year-to-date budget, followed by the Spiny Lobster/Stone Crab Management Committee. That committee will hear a report on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's actions on Joint Amendment 10 for Spiny Lobster, as well as review an analysis to repeal the Stone Crab fishery management plan.

Also meeting Wednesday are the Habitat Protection Committee, which will receive an update on Essential Fish Habitat, and the Mackerel Management Committee, to review a scoping document

for king mackerel latent permits. The committee will also hear a report on Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 18.

Immediately following committee recess on Wednesday, the Council and NOAA Fisheries will host an informal Question and Answer Session on Gulf of Mexico fishery management issues.

On Thursday morning, beginning at 8:30 a.m., the Council's Joint Law Enforcement Committee/Law Enforcement Advisory Panel/Law Enforcement Committee will meet to discuss the following:

- Status report on Council activities
- Status report on Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission activities
- Review and approve the 2011-2012 Operations Plan
- State/Federal Enforcement Reports

The full Council will convene Thursday at 1:30 p.m. beginning with *Fisheries 101*, followed by the U.S. Navy Environmental Impact Statement presentation.

Public testimony will begin at 2:30 p.m., and will be accepted on exempted fishing permits (if any); a final framework action for greater amberjack; and a final regulatory amendment for red snapper total allowable catch for 2011 and 2012. The Council will also hold an open public comment session to give members of the public an opportunity to address the Council on fishery issues that may not be on the agenda. Open public comment will be taken immediately following public testimony until 5:30 p.m. Comment cards must be completed before the start of public testimony.

Beginning Friday at 8:30 a.m., the Council will deliberate and take action on committee recommendations made earlier in the week. The meeting is expected to conclude by 5:00 p.m.

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 O'Hern at the Council office five days prior to the meeting.

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