The Council’s Joint Reef Fish Amendment 27/Shrimp Amendment 14 is about ready to go to public hearings.

At its March meeting, the Council continued to move forward with the amendment, finalizing its preferred alternatives for the public hearing document. Public hearings are scheduled for mid-May. The rule would become effective in 2008.

Among the preferred alternatives chosen is an option to maintain a constant total allowable catch (TAC) of 5.0 million pounds (mp) between 2008 and 2010 in an effort to end overfishing of red snapper by 2009/2010.

At a 5.0 mp TAC, the commercial quota would be set at 2.55 mp, and the recreational quota at 2.45 mp.

In order to achieve a 2.45 mp recreational quota, a two-fish bag limit, 16” size limit, and a fishing season of June 1—September 15 (107 days) were selected.

But recognizing the desire among the recreational fishermen to achieve the longest season possible, while at the same time meeting the goals of the rebuilding plan, the Gulf Council requested additional analyses for a new alternative that looks at both a 14” and 16” size limit with a season opening of May 1. The season closure date will depend on the analyses.

The draft public hearing document is currently under revision and will be made available to the public by late April.

In related news, a Federal judge last month overturned Amendment 22 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan—the latest red snapper rebuilding plan—and ordered the approval of a new plan within 9 months.

What does this mean for the interim rule?

See Red Snapper, page 5
Amendment 30-A and 30-B continued from page 1

The greater amberjack stock is not recovering as projected. It remains overfished and continues to undergo overfishing. Meanwhile, gray triggerfish are also undergoing overfishing, according to a 2006 stock assessment.

Amendment 30-A will set TAC and management measures to end overfishing of both species, bring the greater amberjack rebuilding plan back on course for recovery within a ten year time frame, and set management targets and thresholds for gray triggerfish.

Amendment 30-B, as it stands, will co-manage gag and red grouper. For gag, TAC and other management measures will be aimed at ending overfishing. For red grouper, the TAC may be increased, since the most recent stock assessment found the stock to be above its maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and slightly below optimum yield (OY).

MSY is the largest average catch that can be continuously taken from a stock under existing environmental conditions. OY is the harvest level below MSY that achieves the greatest overall benefits.

However, because both of those assessments are being given a second look, Council and staff will revise the goals of the amendment accordingly, once the reevaluation results are available in June.

Shrimping in Portion of LA Offshore Territorial Waters Reopens

Louisiana—April 10, 2007

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Secretary Bryant O. Hammett, Jr. announced the shrimp season in a portion of the offshore territorial waters south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line from the eastern shore of the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island will reopen to shrimping April 17, 2007 at 6 a.m.

Coordinates

Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the Channel red buoy line to the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at 29 degrees 03 minutes 10 seconds north latitude and 90 degrees 50 minutes 27 seconds west longitude.

According to the most recent trawl samples, small white shrimp, which have occupied portions of state outside waters from January through early April, are no longer present in the area to be opened.

Coordinates

West of Atchafalaya River Ship Channel to the western shore of Freshwater Bayou Canal at longitude 90 degrees 18 minutes 33 seconds west longitude.

Significant numbers of small white shrimp remain in state outside waters west of the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel to the western shore of Freshwater Bayou Canal. The area will remain closed until further notice.

Preliminary LDWF trip ticket report data indicate that 2006 Louisiana shrimp landings (all species combined) through November, 2006, totaled approximately 128.3 million pounds. White shrimp landings totaled 81.1 million pounds and accounted for 63 percent of total shrimp landings.

Although landings figures for December remain incomplete, white shrimp landings for the year exceeded the previous 2000 record of 75.9 million pounds by over 5 million pounds.

The opening dates for the 2007 spring inshore shrimp season will be considered by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission its May 3, 2007 meeting.
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Closures

Commercial Closures:

Vermilion Snapper:
The commercial fishery for vermilion snapper will close at 12:01 a.m., local time, on April 22, 2007, and reopen at midnight, local time, on May 31, 2007. NOAA Fisheries Service is currently reviewing a regulatory amendment submitted by the Gulf Council that includes an action to eliminate the commercial closure.

The length of time the closure remains in effect will be shortened if the closure is eliminated through a final rule before May 31, 2007. If this occurs, NOAA Fisheries Service will publish another fishery bulletin to announce the fishery is reopening early.

Tilefish:
The commercial tilefish fishery in Gulf of Mexico federal waters will close at 12:01 a.m., local time, April 18, 2007, when the quota of 440,000 pounds, gutted weight, is projected to be reached. The fishery will remain closed until 12:01 a.m., local time, January 1, 2008.

King Mackerel:
The seasonal boundary shift between the Atlantic and Gulf groups of king mackerel off of Florida shifts south and west from the Flagler/Volusia County boundary on the Florida east coast to the Monroe/Collier County boundary on the Florida west coast beginning April 1, 2007. The southern subzone for Gulf group king mackerel is reduced to the area off Collier County, Florida, between 25° 48’ N. lat. and 26° 19.8’ N. lat. From now until July 1, 2007, or until the quotas are met, the trip limits for the northern subzone on Florida’s west coast is reduced to 500 pounds. And from now until July 1, 2007, the king mackerel fishery is closed from Alabama west to Texas.

Additionally, the commercial hook-and-line fishery for king mackerel in the southern Florida west coast subzone off Collier County is closed effective 12:01 a.m. local time, April 10, 2007, until 12:01 a.m., July 1, 2007.

The Commercial run-around gillnet fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in the southern Florida west coast subzone is closed. The gillnet fishery will remain closed in the EEZ through 6:00 a.m., local time, January 22, 2008, unless changed by future notice in the Federal Register.

Red Drum Ad Hoc Review Panel to Form

An Ad Hoc Scientific Review Panel for Red Drum is now forming to review all red drum data currently available. The panel will also review current research and monitoring programs that include red drum and design short-term research that could be completed before 2009 so that it may be used to conduct a stock assessment of red drum.

The panel will consist of two members of the Special Red Drum SSC, two members of the Finfish SAP, one member from each state knowledgeable of state data collection programs and the analysis of state red drum escapement rates, NMFS staff, as designated, for data collection programs, and two stakeholders.

The Council agreed to convene the panel after receiving the recommendation from its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC).
Tentative Committee Schedule
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
The W Hotel (Poydras Street)
New Orleans, LA
June 4–6, 2007

Monday, June 4, 2007
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel/Red Drum Management Committee (Tab J)
- Ad Hoc Aquaculture Advisory Panel Comments
- Committee Action

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Administrative Policy Committee (Tab I)
- NMFS/CCC Recommendations for ACL and Accountability Measures
- NMFS Guidelines for ACL and Accountability Measures
- SSC Charge in MSRA
- Proposed Referendum Guidelines for Gulf LAPPs

Tuesday, June 5, 2007
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Mackerel Management Committees (Tab C)
- Report from the Joint Special Mackerel Group Meeting

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Data Collection Committee (Tab H)
- Presentation by Dr. Boreman on the actions of the National Committee on Recreational Data Surveys
- Report of the Select SSC for the Data Analyses Group

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Budget/Personnel Committee (Tab F)
- Budget Overview
- State Liaison Budget Increases

1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Management Committees (Tab E)
- Joint Reef Fish 27/Shrimp 14 Amendment
  - SEP Comments
  - SSC Comments
  - Red Snapper AP Comments
  - Public Hearing Summaries
  - Committee Action

Wednesday, June 6, 2007
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Reef Fish management Committee (Tab B)
- Update on Grouper Allocation Issue—NMFS SEFSC
- Public Hearing Draft for Reef Fish Amendment 30—Part A for Gray Triggerfish/Greater Amberjack
  - Discard mortality for Greater Amberjack
  - Fractional bag limits for Greater amberjack
- Management of Gray Triggerfish in East/West Gulf of Mexico
- SFA Status Criteria for Reef Fish Stocks
- Committee Action
- Draft Amendment 30—Part B for Gag and Red Grouper
- SSC Recommendations on SEDAR Review Assessment for Gag and Red Grouper
- Committee action
- Selection of Public Hearing Locations
- Bag Limits for Vermilion Snapper

- Recess -

Wednesday, June 6, 2007
1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Committee Action
- Public Hearing Draft of Aquaculture Amend
- Committee Action

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Administrative Policy Committee (Tab I)
- NMFS/CCC Recommendations for ACL and Accountability Measures
- NMFS Guidelines for ACL and Accountability Measures
- SSC Charge in MSRA
- Proposed Referendum Guidelines for Gulf LAPPs

Wednesday, June 7, 2007
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Mackerel Management Committees (Tab C)
- Report from the Joint Special Mackerel Group Meeting

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Ad Hoc Aquaculture Advisory Panel Comments
- Committee Action

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Management Committees (Tab E)
- Joint Reef Fish 27/Shrimp 14 Amendment
  - SEP Comments
  - SSC Comments
  - Red Snapper AP Comments
  - Public Hearing Summaries
  - Committee Action

Thursday, June 7, 2007
11:30 a.m. – 1:40 p.m.
Ad Hoc Aquaculture Advisory Panel Comments
- Committee Action

5:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.
Committee Action

1The Council has set aside this time for open public comment regarding any fishery issue or concern. People wishing to speak before the Council should complete a public comment card, making sure to check the box marked Open Public Comment. A note about open public comment: In the interest of giving everyone an opportunity to speak, speakers are asked to limit comments to three minutes. If your sentiments are reflected in comments made by others, please state so and allow the next speaker to address the Council. Individuals may be asked to reduce speaking time even further in order to accommodate all those who wish to speak. The public comment period will end no later than the time scheduled on the agenda, regardless of the number of persons wishing to comment.
Red Snapper continued from page 1

“The interim rule is not inconsistent with the ruling,” said Roy Crabtree, Southeast Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries and Council member.

The interim rule published in the Federal Register April 2, 2007. And, with the exception of the 13” commercial size limit which became effective immediately, the measures become effective May 2, 2007.

The interim measures will:

- reduce the daily recreational bag limit to two fish (effective May 2, 2007);
- prohibit captain and crew of for-hire vessels from retaining a recreational bag limit (effective May 2, 2007);
- reduce total allowable catch (TAC) to 6.5 million pounds (mp) – 3.315 mp commercial and 3.185 mp recreational (effective May 2, 2007);
- reduce the commercial size limit to 13 inches;
- establish in the shrimp fishery a red snapper bycatch mortality reduction goal of 50% of the 2001-2003 average (effective May 2, 2007).

Since most of the interim rule does not become effective until May 2, 2007, during the first 11 days of the 2007 recreational season, captain and crew may retain a bag limit, and the four-fish bag limit will apply.

In the meantime, the Council must move forward quickly to ensure final action on Reef Fish Amendment 27/Shrimp Amendment 14 meets the December 12 deadline set by the court.

Public Hearing Schedule for Joint Reef Fish Amendment 27/Shrimp Amendment 14

May 14, 2007
Holiday Inn Brownsville
3777 N. Expressway
Brownsville, Texas
956-547-1500

May 15, 2007
Plantation Suites
1909 Highway 361
Port Aransas, Texas
361-749-3866

Four Points Sheraton New Orleans
6401 Veterans Memorial Blvd.
New Orleans, Louisiana
504-885-5700

May 16, 2007
Palacios Recreational Center
2401 Perryman Avenue
Palacios, Texas
361-972-2387

Chauvin Parish Recreational Center
215 Angel Street
Chauvin, Louisiana
985-594-2020

May 17, 2007
Hilton
5400 Seawall Boulevard
Galveston, Texas
409-744-1500

LSU Agricultural Center
1105 W. Port Street
Abbeville, Louisiana
337-898-4335

May 21, 2007
Embassy Suites Hotel
570 Scenic Gulf Drive
Destin, Florida
850-337-7000

Clarion Hotel
12635 S. Cleveland Avenue (US 41)
Ft. Myers, Florida
239-936-0931

May 22, 2007
Foley Community Center
407 E. Laurel Avenue
Foley, AL 36535
251-943-1545

Quorum Hotel
700 North Westshore Blvd.
Tampa, Florida
813-289-8200

May 23, 2007
Riverview Plaza Hotel
64 S. Water Street
Mobile, Alabama
251-438-4000

May 24, 2007
Donald Snyder Community Center
2520 Pass Road
Biloxi, Mississippi
228-435-6281

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.
Please contact the Gulf Council to confirm dates and locations.

A Note About Public Comment

Public input is an important part of the amendment process, particularly during the scoping phase. It offers the public an opportunity to have ideas heard and possibly included as alternatives presented to the Council for consideration.

Therefore, the Council strongly encourages public participation.

Please contact the Gulf Council at 813-348-1630 for more information on how you can become part of the process.
Shrimp Vessel Cited by Mississippi DMR

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources’ (DMR) Marine Patrol issued a federal Enforcement Action Report (EAR) to a shrimp vessel captain and his crew for possession of 93 shark fins, possession of filleted king mackerel and cobia and for not having a shark permit.

The boat was stopped on the north side of Ship Island just north of the Ship Island pier on April 3, 2007 at 11:50 a.m. The boat had been fishing in federal waters about 95 miles south of Biloxi.

Marine Patrol Sgt. Jack Ewing, Pvt. Will Freeman and Lt. Olin Gunter were out on patrol in federal waters as part of the DMR’s Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and boarded the Gypsy Wind, a 92-foot shrimping vessel for a routine inspection. The boat’s captain, Giao V. Tran of Pass Christian, along with his boat crew, was escorted to Biloxi and turned over to NOAA Enforcement Officer Rick Stifle for review and civil penalty assessment.

The shark fins and fish fillets were seized and held for evidence. The practice of finning, which is removing only the fins and returning the remainder of the shark to the sea is illegal in both state and federal waters. All fish except for bait and oceanic migratory species taken from state and federal waters must have heads and fins intact through landing.

The Department of Marine Resources entered into an agreement with the Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 2001 to provide law enforcement of Federal regulations in both state and federal waters.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the State by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.state.ms.us.

Grouper Limited Access Privilege Program (LAPP) Under Consideration

Council staff will soon begin developing a draft scoping document to address overcapacity of the Gulf of Mexico Grouper Fishery.

At its March meeting, the Council directed staff to begin working on the document, which will include the work of the Grouper IFQ Advisory Panel, who recommended prioritized objectives, prerequisites for an industry-supported multispecies grouper IFQ program, management alternatives; and the referendum process.

The document will also consider other management alternatives, such as license limitation, a grouper endorsement, and/or a grouper longline vessel endorsement.

The draft document will go before the Council in August, where the Council will select a slate of alternatives. A series of scoping meetings will then be held to solicit public input on the document, which will be available on our web site—www.gulfcouncil.org—upon its completion.
Upcoming Meetings

May 3—4, 2007
Socioeconomic Panel
Grand Bay Hotel
Miami, Florida

May 8—11, 2007
Council Coordination Committee
The W Hotel (Poydras Street)
New Orleans, Louisiana

May 8—10, 2007
Ecosystem Modeling Workshop
FWRI
St. Petersburg, Florida

May 8—10, 2007
SEDA R Gag Review Workshop
St. Petersburg, Florida

May 14—17, 2007
May 21—24
Reef Fish 27/Shrimp 14
Public Hearings
See page 5 for details

May 30—31, 2007
Ad Hoc Aquaculture AP
Wyndham Westshore
Tampa, Florida

June 4—8, 2007
Gulf Council Meeting
The W Hotel (Poydras Street)
New Orleans, Louisiana

For more information on these or other meetings, please visit the Council web site at www.gulfcouncil.org, or call the Council office toll free at 888-833-1844.
At its March 2007 regular meeting, the Gulf Council selected members to its various panels and committees. The following persons were selected for each panel/committee:

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| COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS AP |
| Dumont  | Dan         | AL    | R     | 07/15/04 |
| Fischer | Myron       | LA    | CB    | 08/18/06 |
| Harper  | Don         | FL    | CF    | 03/28/01 |
| Harvard | Ben         | AL    | CF    | 04/01/99 |
| Holmes  | Mike        | TX    | CB    | 04/01/99 |
| Horton  | Wiley       | FL    | R     | 03/13/03 |
| Jenkins | Chris       | LA    | R     | 03/13/03 |
| Ledet, Jr. | Leo      | LA    | R     | 03/13/03 |
| Martin  | Glenn       | TX    | CB    | 05/17/94 |
| Marvel, Jr. | Tom       | FL    | CF/CB | 07/01/93 |
| Niles   | George      | FL    | CF    | 03/13/03 |
| Nugent  | Mike        | TX    | CB    | 03/12/97 |
| Presley | Ed          | TX    | R     | 03/10/05 |
| Proulx  | Gene        | FL    | R     | 03/29/07 |
| Rice    | Richard     | LA    | CB    | 03/13/03 |
| Twiggs  | Jim         | MS    | R     | 03/28/01 |
| Waters  | Donald      | FL    | CF    | 03/13/03 |
| Zales, Il | Bob        | FL    | CB    | 07/13/89 |

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| DEEP-WATER CRAB AP |
| Graves | Gary        | FL    | P     | 03/28/01 |
| Ostebo | Kenneth     | MA    | CF    | 07/12/01 |
| Whipple | William    | FL    | CF    | 07/12/01 |

| HABITAT PROTECTION FL/AL AP |
| Anthony | David       | FL    | R     | 08/10/94 |
| Barber  | Pete        | AL    | CO    | 03/13/03 |
| Lewis, III | Roy       | FL    | S     | 03/16/95 |
| McMichael | Robert     | FL    | SR    | 03/16/95 |
| Pridgeon | Bryan       | FL    | USFWS | 03/27/00 |
| Sierke, Jr. | William    | AL    | R     | 03/12/97 |
| Swann* | LaDon       | MS    | SG    | 02/11/02 |
| Thompson | Mark       | FL    | NMFS  | 04/15/04 |
| Yeager* | David       | AL    | NOS   | 03/28/01 |

| HABITAT PROTECTION MS/LA AP |
| Boyd * | Jan         | MS    | MDNR  | 03/13/03 |
| Finley | Heather     | LA    | LDWF  | 11/26/01 |
| Hartman* | Richard     | LA    | NMFS  | 04/15/04 |
| Lancot | Randy       | LA    | R     | 09/14/83 |
| McCluskey | Bethlyn    | LA    | R     | 09/14/83 |
| Necaise* | Paul        | MS    | USFWS | 04/15/04 |
| Richard | David       | LA    | LM    | 03/16/95 |
| Sarthou | Cynthia     | LA    | EN    | 03/12/97 |
| Umbdenstock | Pete      | MS    | R     | 03/13/03 |
| Wilson* | Chuck       | LA    | SG    | 01/05/05 |

* Ex-Officio Member
### Appointments continued

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**HABITAT PROTECTION TEXAS AP**

- Baker, Bill TX S 03/22/93
- Huffman*, John TX USFWS 06/22/06
- Larson, Dana TX OIL 09/14/83
- Miget*, Russell TX TPWD 04/14/99
- Moritz, Burt TX R 09/14/83
- Perkins, L. Don TX R 07/20/95
- Spain*, Robert TX SR 03/16/95
- Stickney*, Robert TX SG 05/16/00
- Swafford*, Rusty TX NMFS 04/15/04
- Whorton, Elbert TX UTMB 03/29/07

### HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES AP

- Basco, Pam TX R 03/13/03
- Falterman, Brett LA CB 03/28/01
- Fischer, Darlene LA R 04/01/99
- Marvel, Peace LA CB 03/13/03
- Robinson, James TX R 03/10/05
- Stout, John TX U1 03/10/05
- Twinam, Mark FL CF 01/22/98
- Wagner, Jr., William FL R 01/22/98

**HABITAT PROTECTION TEXAS AP**

- Baker, Bill TX S 03/22/93
- Huffman*, John TX USFWS 06/22/06
- Larson, Dana TX OIL 09/14/83
- Miget*, Russell TX TPWD 04/14/99
- Moritz, Burt TX R 09/14/83
- Perkins, L. Don TX R 07/20/95
- Spain*, Robert TX SR 03/16/95
- Stickney*, Robert TX SG 05/16/00
- Swafford*, Rusty TX NMFS 04/15/04
- Whorton, Elbert TX UTMB 03/29/07

### RED SNAPPER AP

- Graham, Gary TX SG 03/16/95
- Hardison, Frank LA CB 03/13/03
- Johnson, Jacob TX R 03/13/03
- Legnon, Richard LA R 03/16/95
- Maharaj, Vishwanie TX EN 03/29/07
- Malone, Herbert AL O 11/12/97
- Nix, Kim TX CO 11/12/97
- Nugent, Mike TX CB 03/13/03
- Perkins, Dale FL CB 03/13/03
- Thierry, Mike AL CB 03/16/95
- Underwood, Russel FL CF 03/13/03
- Waters, Donny FL CF 01/22/98
- Weeks, Monty TX R 03/13/03
- Werner, Wayne FL CF 09/10/97
- Whittlefield, Mike FL CF 03/16/95
- Williams, Kay MS CO 08/18/06

**RED DRUM AP**

- Chambliss, Jeff AL CB 03/28/01
- Floyd, Scott MS 03/29/07
- Gerica, Peter LA CF 09/10/86
- Green, Scott FL R 09/17/98
- Holder, Edward TX R 09/10/86
- Mason, Jr., Howard TX R 03/16/95
- Moritz, Burt TX R 04/24/91
- Rawlings, Frank MS R 03/16/95
- Sibley, James FL R 03/28/01
- Twiggs, Jim MS R 03/28/01
- Williams, James MS CF-R 03/16/95
- Young, Ron TX R 09/10/86

### REEF FISH AP

- Allen, Ralph FL CB 03/16/95
- Basco, Irby TX R 07/15/04
- Clements, Jim FL C 03/29/07
- Cufone, Marianne FL EN 03/13/03
- Fischer, Myron LA CB 08/18/06
- Harris, Marty FL CF 03/11/93
- Jenkins, Chris LA R 03/28/01
- Kenyon, Brad FL R 03/29/07
- Lifton, Fred FL CB 03/29/07
- Loyal, Gus FL CB 03/16/95
- O'Hern, Dennis FL R 03/10/05
- Rowell, Mike AL CB 03/28/01
- Schmidt, Eric FL CF 03/28/01
- Spaeth, Bob FL CO 05/10/84
- Taylor, James MS R 03/10/05
- Tucker, Bill FL CF 03/28/01
- Turke, Tom FL CB 04/01/99
- Werner, Wayne LA CF 01/22/98
- Williams, Kay MS CO 08/18/06
- Zales, II Bob FL CB 03/16/95

* Ex-Officio Member
## Appointments continued

### SHRIMP AP

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### SPECIAL CORAL SSC

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### SPECIAL COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGIC (MACKEREL) SSC

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When reviewing potential rule changes the Council draws upon the services of its advisory panels and committees. Advisory bodies include advisory panels, management teams, technical teams, the Scientific and Statistical Committee, Socioeconomic Panel, and other committees. Advisory bodies provide comments, both written and oral, on relevant issues being considered by the Council.
Advisory Panels (APs) - Recreational and commercial fishermen, charter boat operators, buyers, sellers, NGO members and consumers who are knowledgeable about a particular fishery.

Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs) - Economists, biologists, sociologists and population dynamics personnel who are knowledgeable about the technical aspects of fisheries in the Gulf.

Stock Assessment Panels (SAPs) - Biologists who are trained in the specialized field of population dynamics, and who assess the available biological data and advise the Council on the status of stocks and level of acceptable biological catch.

Socioeconomic Panel (SEP) - Anthropologists, sociologists and economists who review the findings of the SAPs and advise the Council of the social and economic impacts of setting total allowable catches at the various levels recommended by the SAPs.

There are also ad hoc committees or APs, which focus on specific timely topics, then disband.

Meetings of the various panels and committees are open to the public. Anyone may attend and provide comments for the public record. Written comments are also accepted and considered by the Council.
The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Protecting our marine resources

2203 Lois Avenue
Suite 1100
Tampa, FL  33607

Phone: 813-348-1630
Fax: 813-348-1711
E-mail: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org

GMFMC wants your news and views

The Gulf Council would like to hear from you! Please contact us regarding fishery questions, comments, or concerns you would like to see covered in the Gulf Fishery News. Anyone interested in submitting information, such as articles, editorials, or photographs pertaining to fishing or fisheries management are encouraged to do so. Submissions may be mailed to Charlene Ponce, Public Information Officer, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL  33607. Materials can also be sent via fax to 813-348-1711, or e-mail; charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org.

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 Council is responsible for the development and modification of fishery management plans (FMPs) that are designed to manage fishery resources in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico from state boundaries to the 200-mile limit.

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