



Gulf Fishery News

Volume 27, Issue 3

August–September, 2005

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The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council *Protecting our marine resources*

Red grouper update

At the August meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, recreational fishermen and charter boat captains from around the west coast of Florida gave testimony on the GMFMCs proposed changes to the recreational regulations for red grouper.

After hearing more than 5 hours of public testimony, the Council continued its work on refining a regulatory amendment for red grouper that will aid in the successful recovery of that fishery, as prescribed by the ten-year rebuilding plan that began in 2003.

While testimony ran the gamut, the general consensus among anglers was that any type of closure will be detrimental to the recreational fishing industry. Many, however, agreed that if a closure is imminent it should be for red grouper only, rather than the entire grouper complex.

The Council is considering several management alternatives for both the commercial and recreational regulations for red grouper that take these concerns into consideration, while at the same time trying to preserve the fishery.

On the recreational side, the draft document includes proposed changes to bag and size limits; implementing various vessel limits; restricting the catch of for-hire vessels to paying customers; prohibiting Captain and Crew of for-hire vessels to keep a bag limit of grouper while under charter; reducing the aggregate grouper bag limit; and a possible fishery closure.

For the commercial fishery, the Council is considering alternatives that change the trip limits. They added to the slate of management alterna-

See Grouper, page 4

Recreational red grouper interim rule now in effect

- Reduced aggregate bag limit from 5 to 3
- Reduced red grouper bag limit from 2 to 1 (included in aggregate)
- Recreational fishery closure for grouper from Nov. 1 through Dec. 31, 2005

New members appointed to the Council

Bill Daughdrill of Panama City, Florida, and Dr. Bob Shipp of Mobile, Alabama, are the two newest members of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Both Daughdrill and Shipp were gubernatorial nominees and were selected by the Department of Commerce.

Shipp is returning after a five-year break. He previously served nine years on the Council, serving as its Chair

during 1996-97 and again from 1999-2000. He replaces Maumus Clavarie, who left the Council due to term limits.

Daughdrill is new to the council and replaces Jim Fensom, of Florida.

"I'm honored to serve and eager to begin a productive year on the Council," said Daughdrill, who has no ties to any fishing organizations or

regulatory agencies.

"I just love to fish, and I want to do what I can to help preserve the fisheries," said Daughdrill.

Daughdrill is a small business owner who manufactures home accessories. In his spare time - well, you can find him fishing in the Gulf of Mexico.

See New Members, page 11



Bill Daughdrill



Dr. Robert Shipp

Red snapper IFQ closer to reality

The commercial red snapper fishery is not only overfished, but is also marked by over-capitalization. In a step toward addressing the problems associated with the status of the stock, the GMFMC took action this month to select preferred alternatives for Amendment 26 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The action establishes an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program for red snapper.

By a unanimous vote, the Council adopted a preferred alternative which implements an IFQ program in the Gulf of Mexico commercial red snapper fishery.

Preferred alternatives were also selected for program duration; ownership caps, transfer restrictions on IFQ share certificates and allocations; eligibility requirements;

adjustments in commercial quota; and the use of Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS), among other program details.

Under the current management system of limited entry and season closures, fishermen are encouraged to engage in derby-type fishing, where participants race to harvest as many fish as possible before the quota is taken and the fishery closed. The fleet is also overcapitalized. There are more boats, gear and crew, than necessary to efficiently harvest the total allowable catch (TAC).

Under an IFQ program, fishermen are allocated percentages of a total allowable catch (TAC), and quota holders will possess some of the privileges of property rights, but not others. For example, shareholders could

decide when and how to take their share of the quota, but previous landings will control the amount of individual quota allocated. They can also purchase or lease quota shares from other holders.

IFQ programs are designed to reduce overcapacity in the commercial fishery, lengthen the fishing season, lower operating costs by giving vessel owners more flexibility, improve market conditions, and increased safety at sea.

In some cases IFQ programs have increased product quality by improving fishing and handling methods. They have also been known to reduce bycatch by allowing fishermen greater flexibility in operations.

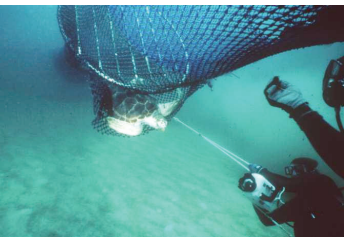
It is hoped that harvest privileges provided by the program will give fishermen a

long-term interest in the health and productivity of the fishery, creating an incentive for conservation.

The GMFMC is scheduled to adopt the public hearing document at its meeting scheduled for October 3-6, 2005, in St. Petersburg, FL. Public hearings will be held in October (see schedule on page 10), and the Council will take final action on approval of the amendment at its November 14-17, 2005, meeting. Copies of the draft and final attachments will be available from the Council.

From there, a second referendum will be held among the commercial fishers, the results of which will determine whether the IFQ is implemented. If approved by qualified voters, the IFQ will become effective some time in 2006.

NOAA GCEL Southeast Notice of Violation & Assessment (NOVA) Report



NOAA photo credit

Sea turtles are a protected species and turtle excluder devices are required by law.

For the full NOAA NOVA report, see pages 6-10.

The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released its latest violation and assessment report for the period of April 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005. For the Gulf of Mexico, NOAA reported 18 cases, some of which include multiple infractions. Total NOVA fines come to more than \$230,000.

Violations ranged from selling recreational caught Gulf reef fish, to possessing undersized fish. However, the

most frequent breach of regulations were TED and BRD violations, which totaled 15.

TEDs—turtle excluder devices - and BRDs—bycatch reduction devices—are designed to allow sea turtles and other marine life, such as red snapper, an easy escape when caught up in shrimp trawls.

Many sea turtles are listed on the endangered species list and are protected by Federal Law. Bycatch—the harvest of fish

or shellfish other than the species for which the fishing gear is set—can result in a decrease in juvenile fish reaching adulthood when spawning occurs, therefore negatively impacting the fishery.

Both TEDs and BRDs are required by law.

To report fisheries violations, please call the NOAA National Hotline toll free at 800-853-1964, or visit www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/Southeast.htm

More productive, less costly BRDs under review

During its August meeting, the Council approved an action that could modify the bycatch reduction criterion for Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) through the development of a regulatory amendment.

The regulatory amendment would also examine reductions in both red snapper and total finfish, and consider the certification of three funnel-type BRDs, such as the Expanded Mesh and the Extended Funnel. The Fisheye BRD could be eliminated altogether.

This action, once implemented, will give shrimpers additional BRD choices.

According to a presentation made by Dr. Dan

Foster of NMFS, Pascagoula, Mississippi, the Expanded Mesh and the Extended Funnel BRDs are more effective than the Fisheye BRD, and will also result in higher shrimp retention for the shrimpers.

The actions were recommended after the Council heard a presentation by Dr. Foster regarding the BRD performance and development, in which he expressed a need for new data on funnel BRDs and for new BRD technology.

An options paper for the amendment will be presented to the Council at its regular meeting scheduled for October 3-6, 2005.



NOAA photo credit

The value of the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey, aka MRFSS

In the early years of marine fishery management, data collection and management efforts focused mainly on commercial fishing. Little was known about recreational catches, but it was assumed by most managers and fishermen alike that recreational harvests had little impact on the resource.

That changed beginning in 1979, when the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) initiated a program to collect data on marine recreational participation, catch, and effort through a statistically rigorous sampling program. That program is called the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey, or MRFSS.

MRFSS is a large-scale regional survey used to evaluate the sustainability of recreational fisheries, as well as the effectiveness of regulations. It has been a valuable data collection tool for more than 25 years. It consists of two independent, but complemented surveys: a telephone survey of households and an intercept survey of anglers at fishing access sites.

Some argue that the random telephone survey, which is conducted region-wide, should be more in-depth and should include questions such as the type and number of fish caught. The telephone survey, however, is designed to determine fishing effort only.

Questions asked during the telephone survey are designed to gather information about effort and participation, such as the presence of marine recreational anglers within a household, the number of anglers per household, the number of fishing trips taken, the mode of each trip—head/charter boat, private/rental boat, or shore based, and the location or county in which the trip occurred.

Methodological studies conducted during the development of MRFSS showed that this type of information can be reliably collected by telephone for trips made in the previous two months, but that recall becomes less reliable beyond two months.

Consequently, the telephone surveys are conducted during the last two weeks of each two-

month period, or wave, and continuing into the first week of the following months.

The surveys are conducted at random using “random digit dialing,” allowing each telephone number in a target area equal probability of selection. This is important, because using a random sampling reduces the likelihood of bias.

Questions about actual catch are not asked because studies indicate that such information cannot be reliably collected by telephone. That information is collected through the intercept survey.

The dockside intercept piece of the MRFSS survey is designed to gauge catch and participation. It is conducted by trained interviewers stationed at fishing access sites. Unlike the telephone survey, the intercept survey is conducted continuously throughout the year. These interviews consist of questions regarding the fishing trip just completed, a thorough examination of the catch, and measurement of lengths and weights from all of the fish of each species in the catch. If the

catch is particularly large, it may be necessary to measure a random sampling, rather than each fish.

Combining the telephone survey with the intercept survey produces estimates of overall catch in two-month intervals.

Adjustment to MRFSS have been made over the years, and while it is a reliable system and represents the best available science, evaluation of the survey is ongoing.

The Fisheries Information Network (FIN), a state-federal cooperative program to coordinate the collection and dissemination of statistical data and information on the commercial and recreational fisheries of the region, is evaluating ways to improve the current sampling protocols, including changes such as night time sampling and telephone surveys based on a random sampling of recreational state fishing license holders.

For more information on MRFSS visit:

<http://www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/recreational/overview/overview.html#general>

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Wayne Swingle
Executive Director

Richard Leard
Deputy Director

Voting Members

Appointed Members

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Larry Simpson
GSMFC
(228) 875-5912

Radm Robert Duncan
Eighth Coast Guard
District
(504) 589-6223

David Hogan
Foreign Affairs Officer
(202) 647-2335

Gulf Council seeks members for Ad Hoc Grouper IFQ Advisory Panel

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is seeking members of the industry to serve on an Ad Hoc Grouper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Advisory Panel (AP). Successful candidates will have the opportunity to advise the Council on matters pertaining to development of an IFQ program for the grouper fishery resources in the federal waters of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico. The profile will examine the benefits and consequences of using IFQs to manage the commercial grouper fishery.

Members of the AP are compensated for travel and per diem expenses for all meetings. The voting members of the AP will consist of four vertical line fishermen, four longline fishermen, one trap fisherman, one diver with a reef fish permit, one multi-species/multi-gear

fisher (grouper, kingfish, charter), and three dealers. AP members are assisted by five non-voting members, one each with expertise in economics, fishery science, and law enforcement, and two representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Anyone interested in serving on the Ad Hoc Grouper IFQ AP, should submit a résumé and/or letter of qualification to the Gulf Council, by mail; Meg Kosick, 2203 Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, Florida 33607; by email; Meg.Kosick@gulfcouncil.org or by fax; 813-348-1711.

The Council will consider all résumés and/or letters of qualification at its November 14-17, 2005 meeting. All résumés and/or letters of qualification must be received by October 28, 2005.

Grouper *from page 1*

tives two alternatives: a 5,500 pound trip limit; and a 4,000 pound trip limit, allowing for adjustments during the year in order to project a 335-day fishing year. The Council selected as its preferred alternative the 5,500 pound trip limit.

Other commercial trip limit alternatives in the draft document include: an initial trip limit of 10,000 pounds, followed by a reduced trip limit of 7,500 pounds or 5,500 pounds, depending on the rate of harvest; and an initial trip limit of 7,500 pounds followed by a reduced limit of 5,000 pounds.

Work on the regulatory amendment is in its final stages and the Council will

take final action Wednesday, October 5, 2005.

A public hearing is scheduled for September 7, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. It will be held at the Best Western, 1200 North Westshore Blvd., in Tampa.

Final public testimony will be heard Wednesday, October 5, 2005, from 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Hilton Bayfront Hotel, St. Petersburg Ballroom in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Written comments will be accepted up until the final vote. E-mail comments to gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org, or mail them to: GMFMC, 2203 N. Lois Ave., Ste. 1100, Tampa, FL 33604.

**COMMITTEE SCHEDULE
GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

**THE HILTON BAYFRONT
ST. PETERSBURG BALLROOM
ST. PETERSBURG, FL**

OCTOBER 3-4, 2005

Monday, October 3, 2005

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

- Reef Fish Management Committee (**Tab B**)
- Final Review of Reef Fish Amendment 18A/EA
 - Public Hearing Draft Reef Fish Amendment 26 (Red Snapper IFQ)
 - Final Red Grouper Regulatory Amendment

-recess

1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

- Joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Management Committee (**Tab F**)
- Red Snapper Management Scenarios
 - Scoping Document for Regulatory Amendment for BRD Certification and certification of BRDs
 - Scoping Document for Amendment addressing Bycatch Reduction, Rebuilding of Red Snapper stock and Shrimp Amendment 14

-recess

Tuesday, October 4, 2005

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Management Committees (Continued)

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

- Mackerel Management Committee (**Tab C**)
- Draft Control Date Letter for Spanish Mackerel

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

- Budget/Personnel Committee (**Tab L**)
- Draft CY 2006 Operating Budget

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- Migratory Species Management Committee (**Tab E**)
- Proposed HMS Amendment (Dunn/Rilling)

-recess

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

- Administrative Policy (**Tab I**)
- SSC Operations
 - Pros and Cons of Limiting Council Meetings to 4 or 5 Per Year
 - Joint SSC/Council Meeting
 - Joint AP/Council Meeting
 - 2-year Term for Council Chair & Vice-Chair

3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

- Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel/Red Drum Committees (**Tab G**)
- New Hampshire Offshore Aquaculture (Langan)
 - Administrative Aquaculture Bill (Rubino)
 - Options Paper for Aquaculture Handbook

-recess

**COUNCIL AGENDA
GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

**THE HILTON BAYFRONT
ST. PETERSBURG BALLROOM
ST. PETERSBURG, FL**

OCTOBER 5-6, 2005

Wednesday October 5, 2005

- I. Call to Order and Introductions - Morris
(8:30 a.m. - 8:35 a.m.)
- II. Adoption of Agenda - Morris
(8:35 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.)
- III. Approval of Minutes (**Tab A**) - Morris
(8:40 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.)
- IV. Public Testimony ¹²- Morris
- a. Final Reef Fish Amendment 18A
 - b. Final Red Grouper Regulatory Amendment
 - c. Exempted Fishing Permits (if any)
(8:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
- recess
- V. Committee Reports
- a. Reef Fish Management (**Tab B**) - Minton
(1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
 - b. Joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Management (**Tab F**) - Minton/Perret
(3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.)
- recess

Thursday, October 6, 2005

- VI. Litigation Briefing (**CLOSED SESSION**)
(8:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m.)
- V. Committee Reports (Continued)
- b. Joint Reef Fish/Shrimp Management (**Tab F- Continued**)
(9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.)
 - b. c. Migratory Species Management (**Tab E**) - B. Walker
(10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)
 - d. Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel/Red Drum (**Tab G**) - Minton/
Fischer/Foote
(11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.)
 - e. Administrative Policy (**Tab I**) - Hendrix
(11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)
 - f. Budget/Personnel (**Tab L**) - K. Williams
(11:30 a.m.—11:45 a.m.)
 - g. Mackerel Management (**Tab C**) - Fischer
(11:45 a.m.—12:00 p.m.)
- VII. Enforcement Reports - Keister/Rogers/McKinney
(12:00 p.m. - 12:15 p.m.)
- VIII. Regional Administrator's Report - Crabtree
(12:15 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.)
- IX. Director's Reports - R. Williams/Minton/Perret/Foote/Riechers/
Brown/Fruge/Simpson
(12:30 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.)
- X. Other Business (**Tab K**) - Morris
(12:45 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
- XI. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair - Morris
(1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.)

¹Persons wishing to testify must turn in a registration card before the beginning of the public testimony period.

²Persons wishing Council members to have copies of written testimony or information should provide 30 copies to staff for distribution to members. All written information shall include a statement of the source and date of such information. Oral or written statements shall include a brief description of the background and interests of the person testifying.

**NOAA GCEL SOUTHEAST
NOVA
QUARTERLY REPORT
April 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005**

Case No.	Respondent's Name	Vessel Name	Area	LE Unit	Case Description	NOVA * Amount	NOFF** Amount	NOPS*** Duration
SE035405ES	Joseph Spears Charles C. Abner	LACYE BRYN	S. ATL.	USCG	TED violation	\$ 2,500.00		
SE040276FM	John Tabor, Jr.	N/A	GOM	LADWF NMFS	sell recreational caught Gulf reef fish	\$ 5,000.00		
SE043022FM	Rio San Marcos, Inc. Isaias A. Rodriguez	RIO SAN MARCOS RIO SAN MARCOS	GOM GOM	TP&W NMFS TP&W NMFS	fish or possess shrimp without a Gulf shrimp permit fish or possess shrimp without a Gulf shrimp permit	\$30,000.00 \$ 1,500.00		
SE043040FM	George H. Donaldson, Jr.	N/A	GOM	LADWF NMFS	1) possess spiny lobster during closed season 2) sell recreational caught Gulf reef fish	1) \$ 500.00 2) \$ 5,000.00		
SE043057FM	John P. Haggmann	N/A	GOM	LADWF NMFS	sell recreational caught Gulf reef fish	\$ 5,000.00		
SE043058FM	John A. Langlois	N/A	GOM	LADWF NMFS	sell recreational caught Gulf reef fish	\$ 5,000.00		
SE043084ES	Cong-An, Inc. Cong V. Phan	MAGNOLIA	GOM	MDMR	TED violation	\$ 8,500.00		

* NOVA = Notice of Violation and Assessment
** NOFF = Notice of Proposed Forfeiture
*** NOPS = Notice of Permit Sanction

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**NOAA GCEL SOUTHEAST
NOVA**

QUARTERLY REPORT

April 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005

Case No.	Respondent's Name	Vessel Name	Area	LE Unit	Case Description	NOVA * Amount	NOPF** Amount	NOPS*** Duration
SE045384MS	Stanley Marcel Gauthier Steven Alan Jernigan/MSS, LTD.	SOUTHERN STAR	FKNMS	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner as to strike or otherwise injure coral, sea grass or other immobile organism, including prop-scarfing	\$ 5,000.00		
SE045399MS	Bernard O'Brien	FL1276ML	FKNMS	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner as to strike or otherwise injure coral, sea grass or other immobile organism, including prop-scarfing	\$ 2,000.00		
SE045401MS	Robert E. Ellis	AT LAST	FKNMS	FFWCC	operate a vessel in such a manner as to strike or otherwise injure coral, sea grass or other immobile organism, including prop-scarfing	\$ 2,500.00		
SE045414MS	Delta Towing, LLC Lawrence Lambar	DELTA RANGER	FKNMS	FFWCC	ATBA	\$10,000.00		
SE050042MS	Phu Steve Nguyen Nhin Van Nguyen	LUCKY LADY	FKNMS	FFWCC NMFS	1) fish in the North Tortugas Ecological Reserve 2) anchor in the North Tortugas Ecological Reserve	1) \$25,000.00 2) \$ 2,500.00	\$10,648.55	

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**NOAA GCEL SOUTHEAST
NOVA
QUARTERLY REPORT
April 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005**

Case No.	Respondent's Name	Vessel Name	Area	LE Unit	Case Description	NOVA * Amount	NOPF ** Amount	NOPS *** Duration
SE050051ES	Julissa II, Inc. Quincy Lee Delarosa	CLARISA	GOM	USCG	1) TED violation 2) BRD violation 3) fish for red snapper during closed season and/or possess red snapper smaller than minimum size limit	1)\$8,500.00 2)\$6,000.00 3)\$2,500.00	\$12,000.00	45 days
SE050073ES/FM	Den Van Nguyen L&D, Inc. Saul E. Lara	SEA COMMANDER II	GOM	USCG	1) TED violation 2) BRD violation 3) fish for red snapper during closed season and/or possess red snapper smaller than minimum size limit	1)\$8,500.00 2)\$6,000.00 3)\$2,500.00	\$ 8,455.00	90 days
SE050078ES	B&B Shrimp Company Bruce E. Reiger	ENOLA B	GOM	USCG	TED violation	\$ 8,500.00	\$12,000.00	
SE050083ES	G.R. LeBlanc Trawlers, Inc. Ervin A. Adams	MISS LYDIA	GOM	USCG	TED violation	\$ 6,000.00		
SE050090FM	Dus & Derrick, Inc. Donald Gonzales	ORIENTAL VISITOR	GOM	USCG	BRD violation	\$ 3,000.00		30 days

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**NOAA GCEL SOUTHEAST
NOVA
QUARTERLY REPORT
April 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005**

Case No.	Respondent's Name	Vessel Name	Area	LE Unit	Case Description	NOVA * Amount	NOPF** Amount	NOPS*** Duration
SE050107ES/FM	Trung Ba Le Thang Quoc Bui	OCEAN PROWLER	GOM	USCG	1) TED violation 2) BRD violation 3) fish for or possess shrimp without a Gulf shrimp permit 4) harvest or possess a prohibited species (red drum)	1)\$ 8,000.00 2)\$ 6,000.00 3)\$ 2,500.00 4)\$ 2,000.00		60 days
SE050110ES/FM	Khiem Quang Nguyen	LOVELY MOTHER	GOM	USCG	1) TED violation 2) BRD violation 3) fish for or possess shrimp without a Gulf shrimp permit	1)\$ 4,000.00 2)\$ 1,500.00 3)\$ 2,500.00		45 days
SE050116ES	Richard C. Morris	BIG BOY	GOM	USCG	TED violation	\$ 7,000.00		
SE053002ES	Sang Tran Nam Van Hoang	MISS THANH MAI (now known as CAPTAIN C.T.)	GOM	MDMR	TED violation	\$ 5,500.00		
SE053003ES	Stanley R. Byrd	DRAGON WAGON	GOM	MDMR	TED violation	\$ 3,000.00		
SE053015FM	Vilco 15, Inc.	VILCO 15	FKNMS	FFWCC NMFS	fish in the Tortugas North Ecological Reserve	\$15,000.00	\$ 4,354.85	

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Παγε 4

Development of a joint reef fish/shrimp FMP amendment given the go ahead

Both the Reef fish and the Shrimp Management Committees of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, in separate action, approved identical motions to begin development of a joint reef fish/shrimp fishery management plan (FMP) amendment to address bycatch in the shrimp fishery and directed red snapper fishery, and to address rebuilding of the red snapper stock. The recommendation was subsequently approved by full Council.

GMFMC staff is preparing a draft scoping document for Amendment 14 to the Shrimp FMP and Amendment 27 to the Reef Fish FMP. A scoping document is a working document that outlines the issues being considered in the proposed FMP and gives a brief discussion or history of the fishery being reviewed.

The draft document will focus on three areas—proposing alternatives to actions that are designed to: reduce bycatch in the directed reef

fish fishery; reduce the bycatch in the shrimp fishery; and actions affecting the shrimp fishery that do not have direct effects on bycatch, but could have bycatch implications.

The scoping document is an important step in the FMP process and anyone with an interest in the reef fish and/or shrimp fisheries is encouraged to become involved in the process.

The draft document will be reviewed jointly by the Reef Fish and Shrimp Management Committees during the October Council meeting. In addition, scoping meetings are scheduled for October—see tentative schedule.

In the meantime, the Council has also requested that NOAA conduct additional analysis related to the red snapper stock assessment in order for the Council to better evaluate total allowable catch (TAC) under different management scenarios.

The council will hear a presentation on this information during its October meeting.

Tentative Schedule Scoping Meetings And Hearings for Reef Fish Amendment 26 (IFQ)

Date	Location
10/13/05	Key West, FL
10/17/05	Larose, LA
10/18/05	Orange Beach, AL
10/19/05	Panama City, FL
10/24/05	Brownsville, TX
10/25/05	Port Aransas, TX
10/26/05	Galveston, TX
10/27/05	Madeira Beach or Tampa, FL

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

NOAA GCEL SOUTHEAST NOVA QUARTERLY REPORT April 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005

Case No.	Respondent's Name	Vessel Name	Area	LE Unit	Case Description	NOVA * Amount	NOPF** Amount	NOPS*** Duration
SE053017FM	Ly Van Nguyen	MGB	GOM	FFWCC NMFS	1) possess undersized red grouper 2) fail to maintain fish intact through offloading ashore 3) engage in shark finning 4) possess large coastal sharks during closed season 5) fish for red snapper without a red snapper class 1 or class 2 license	1) \$25,000.00 2) \$ 4,000.00 3) \$ 6,000.00 4) 6,000.00 5) 2,000.00	\$13,128.30	135 days
SE053026FM	Bieu Pham Thuy Trang, Inc.	SEA EAGLE	GOM	LADWF NMFS	Possess undersized amberjack	\$5,000.00	\$443.30	30 days

Limited Access System for Charter Boats

Over the past few years there has been a significant increase in the number of charter vessels in the Gulf of Mexico. On top of that, several major reef fish species and Gulf group king mackerel are either undergoing overfishing or have not fully recovered.

These are the issues that led to the 2003 Charter vessel/headboat permit moratorium. The moratorium, which is set to expire in June of 2006, has been in effect since June 16, 2003. Since then, the GMFMC has been working to address the problems that led to the initial permit freeze.

At its August meeting the Gulf

Council, by a unanimous vote, approved a motion to submit to the Secretary of the Department of Commerce for implementation an amendment with a preferred alternative which continues the moratorium as a limited access system on for-hire reef fish and CMP permits.

This means that vessels that currently have permits will be allowed to remain in the fishery. Those permits will be renewable and transferable in the same manner as currently prescribed under the moratorium.

Dr. Richard Leard, Deputy Director, GMFMC, said that, "this action will prevent participation in the for-hire sector



NOAA photo credit

from increasing on several stocks that are most susceptible to overfishing from an increase in effort."

The Council will conduct periodic reviews at least every 10 years on the effectiveness of the limited access system.

New Members *from page 1*

He is an avid saltwater fisherman who fishes year round.

"I brought my rod with me (to his first council meeting)," he said.

Daughdrill thinks of himself as just a regular guy trying to make a living. He spent his first meeting listening to hours of public comment, mostly on the red grouper interim rule.

"I loved it. It was invigorating," he said after the meeting.

He says he understands why hard decisions have to be made but hopes to maintain the delicate balance that exists between protecting the fisheries without hurting the people who fish them.

Daughdrill, who was born in Mccomb, MS, is 52 years old. He and his wife, Jann, have lived in Florida for over 25 years.

Dr. Bob Shipp is a fishery scientist and has taught at the University of Alabama since 1972. He was born in

Tallahassee, Florida, and grew up with his time split between New Orleans and Ft. Walton Beach, Florida.

"I'm very anxious to get back to the Council. We have a lot of heady issues to deal with," he said, referring in particular to the red grouper and red snapper issues.

"I've been working on red snapper for 20 years," he added.

Shipp's research interests are fish systematics and zoogeography, and ecology of artificial reef systems. He has testified at both Senate and Congressional hearings and has presented numerous papers at conferences including two at the recent international reef conference in San Remo, Italy.

Shipp lives in Mobile, Alabama with his wife, Linda. They have three children and two grandchildren.

Both gentlemen are serving three-year terms.

Texas Governor Appoints Dr. Larry McKinney to Council

Governor Rick Perry, Texas, has appointed Dr. Larry McKinney, Director of Coastal Fisheries, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, as the Texas State representative to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

McKinney has more than 80 scientific and technical publications and reports to his credit. He has worked on water issues as diverse as the Aral Sea in Central Asia and diversion of the Mississippi River.

Currently, Dr. McKinney oversees the management of coastal fisheries resources, assessing and securing freshwater inflows to estuaries and instream flows for rivers and reservoirs, wetland conservation and restoration, endangered species conservation, and other issues related to the ecological health of Texas aquatic ecosystems.

McKinney completed his Ph.D. at Texas A&M University in 1976 and was a Smithsonian Fellow that same year.

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, 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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A publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NAO5NMF4410003

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