

GULF FISHERY NEWS

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GULF FISHERY NEWS is a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council for persons interested in the Gulf's fishery resources. Editor: Peter Hood.

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GULF COUNCIL SENDS SHRIMP AMENDMENT 11 OUT FOR FURTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Gulf Council will hold further public hearings to review Draft Amendment 11 to the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan (FMP). This amendment contains alternatives for requiring shrimp vessel and boat permits, shrimp vessel and boat registration, operator permits, and prohibiting trap gear in the royal red shrimp fishery of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). A copy of the revised draft amendment will be available in mid December and can be obtained by contacting the Gulf Council office (see page 14 for Council addresses).

The requirement of a permit or registration for shrimp vessels and boats operating in the Gulf of Mexico EEZ

would provide a more accurate and more efficient method of identifying and quantifying the number of such craft. Currently this information can only be obtained using the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) shrimp landings file (SLF), vessel operating units file (VOUF), and state licensing data. The SLF and VOUF are only estimates, and the VOUF is oftentimes years behind in being updated.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

January 15-18, 2001
San Luis Resort
5222 Seawall Boulevard
Galveston Island, Texas 77551



One difference stated in previous public hearings between vessel permits and registrations was that permits could be sanctioned by law enforcement, while vessel registrations could not be. In a recent review of the draft amendment by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) General Counsel, it was determined that if a registration was required as a condition for participating in the shrimp fishery, then a vessel registration could be sanctioned similarly to a permit. Therefore, this perceived difference could have been misleading.

In public comment, either through public hearings or written statements, several persons stated that they preferred a vessel and boat registration system over a permit system. It is likely they made these comments in the belief that registrations could not be sanctioned. To give these persons a chance to change or retract their comments, and for others to share their comments on a revised amendment, further public hearings have been scheduled. These public hearings will be held at the following locations, dates, and times:

Wednesday, January 3, 2001, 7:00 p.m.

Laguna Madre Learning Center
Port Isabel High School
Highway 100
Port Isabel, TX 78578
956-943-0052

Thursday, January 4, 2001, 7:00 p.m.

Palacios Recreation Center
2401 Perryman
Palacios, TX 77465
361-972-3821

Monday, January 8, 2001, 6:00 p.m.

MS Department of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Drive
Biloxi, MS 39530
228-374-5000

Tuesday, January 9, 2001, 7:00 p.m.

Bayou La Batre Community Center
Padgett Switch Road
Bayou La Batre, AL 36509
334-824-7918

Wednesday, January 10, 2001, 7:00 p.m.

New Orleans Airport Hilton
901 Airline Drive
Kenner, LA 70062
504-469-5000

Wednesday, January 10, 2001, 7:00 p.m.

Madeira Beach City Hall
300 Municipal Drive
Madeira Beach, FL 33708
727-391-9951

COUNCIL ENDORSES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ASSESSMENT OF SHRIMP STOCKS

In the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) draft report to Congress on the status of three penaeid shrimp stocks, the Gulf Council endorsed Mr. Wayne Swingle's assessment that these stocks should not be characterized as "unknown", but as being "not recruitment overfished". Because these shrimp live only about 18 months, annual yield is largely dependent on the environmental conditions in the nursery area each year. Therefore, maximum sustainable yield (MSY) varies between years dependent on these environmental conditions. As a result, the Gulf Council was unable to specify in the Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) Amendment the maximum fishing mortality threshold (MFMT) in terms of an instantaneous fishing mortality rate (F) consistent with the biomass necessary to maintaining the capacity to produce a long-term average yield consistent with MSY.

NMFS has assessed the status of each of these stocks since the Gulf Council's Shrimp Stock Assessment Panel (SAP) developed the overfishing standards for brown, pink, and white shrimp. Not only is the condition of each stock analyzed in regard to the overfishing criteria for the previous year but the analyses also provides an assessment for the past 40 years for brown and white shrimp and the past 30 years for pink shrimp. During these extended periods the stocks have never been classified as undergoing recruitment overfishing, even for those years when effort was much higher than present conditions.

In light of these points, Mr. Swingle felt that it would be more appropriate for NMFS to designate that brown, white, and pink shrimp be designated as not having overfishing occurring rather than being designated as unknown and not overfished. Following the November Gulf Council meeting, a revised report has been received that concurs with Mr. Swingle's comments.



IT'S A GIRL

Jennifer Biggs, Transcription Specialist on the Gulf Council Staff, and her husband Jim had a baby girl on Saturday, November 25, 2000. Harper-Jo, a beautiful baby with a full head of black hair and striking blue eyes, weighed in at 8.4 pounds and was 21 inches long. Mother, daughter, and father are all doing well.

Congratulations Jenny!

CATCH LIMIT CHANGES PROPOSED FOR GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL

NMFS has published a proposed rule that would implement changes in the catch specifications for Gulf group king mackerel, as proposed by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils (Councils). The rule is intended to enhance the economic and social benefits from the Gulf group king mackerel fishery while rebuilding the stock. Measures include:

- ! Set total allowable catch (TAC) for Gulf group king mackerel at 10.2 million pounds (MP).
- ! Establish a 2-fish per person per day bag limit on Gulf group king mackerel for the captain and crew of for-hire vessels.
- ! Revise the commercial trip limit for Gulf group king mackerel in the Florida east coast subzone of the Eastern Zone (Miami-Dade through Volusia Counties, Florida) to maintain a 50-fish trip limit, except if the quota is not 75 percent filled as of February 1, the trip limit would increase to 75 fish.

In setting TAC, the Gulf Council considered the comments of its Mackerel Stock Assessment Panel (MSAP), Socioeconomic Panel, Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Mackerel Advisory Panel, public

testimony, and legal requirements of the Sustainable Fisheries Act. Based on the results of the MSAP evaluations, the range of acceptable biological catch (ABC) is between 8.2 to 12.8 MP. The Gulf Council chose TAC at the mid-point of the range (10.2 MP), which has a 50 percent chance of not exceeding the maximum fishing mortality threshold (MFMT).

The proposed TAC is a slight reduction from the existing TAC of 10.6 MP. The Gulf Council considers the reduction to 10.2 MP sufficient to allow continued rebuilding of the Gulf group king mackerel stock while minimizing the social and economic impacts of the TAC reduction. Additionally, the stock is benefitting from a reduced fishing mortality because of bycatch reduction devices in the shrimp fishery, and the 24-inch fork length minimum size limit.

The Gulf Council concluded that it was unnecessary to continue efforts to constrain the recreational harvest through the use of a zero-fish bag limit of Gulf group king mackerel for captains and crews of for-hire vessels, and has proposed to re-instate the two fish bag limit. The recreational sector is now harvesting Gulf group king mackerel within its allocation. The slight reduction to 10.2 MP is not likely to result in overfishing. The results of the 2000 stock assessment also indicate that the stock of Gulf group king mackerel is continuing to rebuild.

The commercial fishery in the Florida east coast subzone of the Eastern Zone had requested conservative measures regarding their trip limits to ensure a steady harvest of fish for the entire season. Under these lower trip limits, the fishery has not met its quota on Gulf group king mackerel in eight of the last ten years. The trip limit appears to be one factor restricting the opportunity to harvest the quota. To provide an opportunity for increased social and economic benefits, the South Atlantic Council proposed a more flexible system where the commercial trip limit would increase from 50 to 75 fish on February 1, if no more than 75 percent of the quota had been taken. This action is intended to allow fishermen a greater opportunity to meet their quota, while maintaining stability in the fishery for the majority of the season.

CHARTER VESSEL/HEADBOAT PERMIT MORATORIUM AMENDMENT SCHEDULED TO GO TO PUBLIC HEARINGS

At its November 2000 meeting, the Gulf Council reviewed new alternatives added by members in September meeting to the proposed Charter Vessel/Headboat Permit Moratorium Amending the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMP. These principally included alternatives for a charter vessel quota for red snapper based on charter vessel landings for various periods in lieu of implementing the permit moratorium. The Gulf Council retained all of the alternatives proposed by the Ad Hoc Charter Vessel/Headboat Advisory Panel along with preferred alternatives selected by the Gulf Council in September.

Mr. Jim Fensom, Council member from Panama City, Florida, proposed (and the Gulf Council concurred with this motion by a vote of 10 to 6) a simplified management system as an alternative that the Gulf Council can select after public hearings. Mr. Fensom's simplified management system is as follows (new alternatives indicated by asterisk) :

A. Duration of Moratorium

- *1. Establish a 5-year moratorium on the issuance of charter vessel permits with an effective date of January 1, 2002.
2. New permits will not be issued on or after the effective date of January 1, 2002.

B. A New Gulf Permit for the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fisheries

- *1. Create a new charter vessel/head boat permit for the Gulf exclusive economic zone (EEZ) which will consist of only one class of vessels.
2. Vessels will have endorsements for the following fisheries:
 - a. Reef fish; and
 - b. Coastal migratory pelagics.
3. Vessel decals for permitted vessels will be required.

C. Initial Eligibility Requirements for Permits and/or Endorsements

- *1. Provide a fully transferable endorsement to the vessel permit for reef fish and/or coastal migratory pelagic fisheries to vessel owners who held a charter vessel permit for either fishery on January 1, 2002.

D. Annual Permit and Endorsement Transfers During the Moratorium

1. The transfer of permits/endorsements is allowed with or without transfer of the vessel.

E. Vessel Passenger Restriction on Permit Transfer

1. Transfer of permits is allowed between vessels but without any increase in the number of passengers that can legally be carried under the U.S. Coast Guard Safety Certification, i.e., can be transferred to vessels certified to carry equal or fewer passengers.

F. Annual Reissuance of Permits Not Renewed (or Permanently Revoked)

1. Permits not renewed (or permanently revoked) will not be reissued by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) during the moratorium.

G. Appeals Process under the Moratorium

- *1. New permits will not be issued on or after January 1, 2002, and there is no appeals process.

H. Requirements to Maintain the New Gulf Permit/Endorsement

- *1. The fishing history of the permit/endorsements is transferred upon sale or transfer.
2. All vessels holding a Gulf charter vessel permit and endorsement must register to participate in one of the following surveys:
 - a. Charter boat telephone survey;
 - b. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) recreation fishing survey; or
 - c. NMFS Beaufort head boat survey.
 - d. Trip log.
3. When selected, the owner or captain must report fishing statistics.
4. Failure to participate in the approved surveys will result in the permits and endorsements not being reissued by NMFS the following year.
5. Gross income of \$20,000 - 25,000 per year from recreational for-hire fishing or an average of gross income \$20,000 to 25,000 per year for the three years immediately prior to renewal.

Public hearings on the revised amendment will be scheduled for February 2000. To obtain a copy of the amendment or request a list of public hearing dates, times, and locations, contact the Gulf Council Office (see page 14 for addresses and phone numbers).

COUNCIL SOLICITING FOR MEMBERS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

The Gulf Council will be appointing members to all Advisory Panels (AP), Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC), Stock Assessment Panels (SAP), and the Socio-Economic Panel (SEP).

- ! APs are comprised of recreational and commercial fishermen, charterboat operators, buyers, sellers, consumers, and others who are knowledgeable about a particular fishery. APs include Billfish, Butterfish, Ad Hoc Charter Vessel/Headboat, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, Coral, Dolphin/Wahoo, Habitat Protection (3 panels for Florida/Alabama, Mississippi/Louisiana, and Texas), Highly Migratory Species, Red Drum, Red Snapper, Reef Fish, Shrimp, Spiny Lobster, Stone Crab, and Special Bycatch Reduction Device.
- ! SSCs are comprised of economists, biologists, sociologists, and natural resource attorneys who are knowledgeable about the technical aspects of fisheries in the Gulf. Besides the standing SSC, special SSCs include Butterfish, Coral, Dolphin/Wahoo, Mackerel, Ad Hock Marine Reserves, Special Oceanic Migratory Species, Red Drum, Reef Fish, Shark, Shrimp, Spiny Lobster, and Stone Crab.
- ! SAPs are comprised of 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. SAPs include Ad Hoc Crustacean, Ad Hock Fishfish, Mackerel, Red Drum, Reef Fish, and Shrimp.
- ! The SEP is comprised of economists and sociologists who are trained to evaluate the economic and social costs associated with various management measures and advise the Council of the economic and social costs associated with these measures.

Persons interested in serving on either an AP, SSC, SAP, or SEP should submit a letter of interest, along with a vitae or resume containing relevant background information. This documentation should be sent to the

Gulf Council no later than March 5, 2001 (see page 14 for Council addresses).

NEW DEEPWATER CRAB ADVISORY PANEL AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE BEING FORMED

The Gulf Council is beginning the process of developing a fishery management plan (FMP) for deepwater crabs, a small but developing fishery. This fishery includes golden crab, red crab, and related species. As part of the process or creating a FMP, the Council will establish a Deepwater Crab Advisory Panel (AP) and a Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC).

The Council decided at its May 2000 meeting to begin the process of developing a Fishery Management Plan for the fishery of red crab, golden crab, and related species. The golden crab (*Chaceon fenneri*) and the red crab (*C. quinque-dens*) are slow-growing, long-lived crabs that are found in deep waters (> 300 fathoms) along the continental slope. Annual landings in the southeast region have averaged around one million pounds between 1995 and 1998.

At its May meeting, the Council heard about enforcement problems in the fishery, heavy metal concentrations in red crabs, gear conflicts between crab and royal red shrimp fishermen, and market changes. NMFS Enforcement has encountered problems in the golden crab fishery including alleged trap stealing, unlawful trap construction, and fishing without permits in the South Atlantic region. Part of the problem is that there are no parallel regulations between the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic regions. Measures that would help enforcement monitor the fishery would be permit requirements, official trap tags, limiting transit to Gulf waters if fishing has occurred in the Gulf, establishing a Gulf side trip reporting program, and requiring fishermen to pull traps if they halt fishing operations.

Persons interested in serving on the AP or SSC should submit a letter of interest, along with a vitae or resume containing relevant background information. This documentation should be sent to the Gulf Council no later than March 5, 2001 (see page 14 for Council addresses).

FALL 2000 COMMERCIAL RED SNAPPER LANDINGS - NOVEMBER UPDATE

The commercial red snapper Fall fishery is open from noon on the 1st to noon on the 10th of each month beginning in October, until the date that the quota is reached. The NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center has provided the following preliminary landings estimates for the Fall fishery for the October and November periods. All landings are preliminary, and have been converted to whole weight pounds.

Reporting Period	Texas	AL/MS/LA	Florida	Total
October 1-10	129,077	395,858	52,470	577,405
November 1-10	179,188	362,145	54,046	595,309
Total Fall	308,195	758,003	106,516	1,172,714

The total commercial quota for 2000 (Spring and Fall seasons combined) is 4.65 million pounds. During Spring season, an estimated 3.01 million pounds were harvested, leaving a Fall sub-quota of 1.64 million pounds. The amount harvested to date during the Fall season represents 72% of the Fall sub-quota.

Total commercial landings (including Spring season catches) through November 10, 2000 are estimated to be 4.19 million pounds (90% of total quota). This leaves 463,487 pounds for the remainder of the Fall commercial season. The season reopened at noon on December 1 and will remain open through noon on December 8 (not the 10th), 2000. This is the date when NMFS projects that the commercial quota will be reached. The commercial red snapper season will then remain closed until noon on February 1, 2001. The operator of a vessel with a valid reef fish permit having red snapper aboard must have landed and sold such red snapper prior to noon, local time, December 8, 2000.

The recreational fishery is currently scheduled to reopen on April 21, 2001, with a 16-inch minimum size limit and a 4-fish bag limit; however this could change pending Gulf Council action.

GULF COUNCIL'S REEF FISH STOCK ASSESSMENT PANEL TO MEET

The Gulf Council will convene a meeting of the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel (RFSAP) at the Miami Laboratory of the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The meeting will begin on Monday, December 4, 2000 and will conclude by Friday, December 8, 2000.

The RFSAP will review a sensitivity analyses of the 1999 red grouper stock assessment which was conducted by the NMFS at the request of the RFSAP, and recommend a range of acceptable biological catch (ABC) for 2001. This analyses was requested by the RFSAP at its previous meeting in August to examine the sensitivity of the stock assessment results to the inclusion or exclusion of older and possibly questionable landings data provided by Cuba for years prior to 1976, the assumed level of release mortality of undersized fish, and the shape of the red grouper stock-recruitment relationship. NMFS has completed the analyses and has declared the Gulf of Mexico stock of red grouper to be overfished based on the 1999 stock assessment and the results of the additional analyses. Because the RFSAP has not completed a peer review of the analyses, the severity of the overfished condition, and the ABC range needed to effect a recovery have yet to be determined.

Pending completion by NMFS of additional analyses requested by the RFSAP of the 1998 vermilion snapper assessment and 2000 assessment update, the RFSAP will review these analyses and may recommend a range of ABC for 2001 to stop overfishing from occurring in the vermilion snapper fishery. Some model scenarios from the 1998 stock assessment suggested that the stock was being fished at a rate that could result in it becoming overfished. It was, therefore, classified by NMFS as not overfished but approaching an overfished condition. The analyses requested by the RFSAP were to examine the robustness and relationship of the vermilion snapper assessment tuning indices to changes in the directed fishery for red snapper. The NMFS has indicated that, due to a heavy workload and attrition of personnel from the SEFSC, these analyses might not be completed.

The RFSAP will also review the results of additional red snapper recovery projections conducted by NMFS at the request of the Council. These additional projections are based on assumptions of juvenile red snapper shrimp trawl bycatch mortality and natural mortality suggested by Dr. Benny Galloway. In addition, the RDSAP will hear presentations on alternative estimates of MSY reference points and management implications for red snapper by Dr. Bill Gazey, and historical perspectives on red snapper stocks by Dr. Bob Shipp. These analyses must be peer reviewed by the RFSAP before they can be used as a basis for changing the red snapper TAC.

GULF COUNCIL APPROVES COASTAL WETLAND MANAGEMENT AND SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION POLICIES TO BE INCLUDED IN UPDATED HANDBOOK

The Gulf Council has finalized recent revisions to its Administrative Handbook of Policies and Procedures. Included in the new handbook are clarifications on advisory and scientific panel membership, comment procedures by the Gulf Council on habitat issues, procedures on how external reviews of stock assessments should be introduced to the Gulf Council, and new policies on coastal wetland management and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). The policies on coastal wetland management and SAV are listed below.

For a copy of the revised handbook, contact the Gulf Council (see page 14 for addresses and phone numbers for the Gulf Council office).

Coastal Wetland Management Policy - The Gulf Council defines coastal wetlands as forested and non-forested habitats, mangroves, and all marsh islands (including portions of barrier islands) that are exposed to tidal activity. Included in forested wetlands are hardwood hammocks, mangrove swamps, spoil banks, cypress-tupelo gum swamps, and bottomland hardwoods. Non-forested wetlands include fresh, brackish, and salt marshes. These areas directly contribute to the high biological productivity of coastal

waters by input of detritus and nutrients, by providing nursery and feeding areas for shellfish and finfish, and by serving as habitat for many birds and other animals. Realizing the ecological importance of coastal wetlands in the estuaries of the Gulf of Mexico, and as Essential Fish Habitat for the fishery resources that the Council manages or that are within the Council's jurisdiction, it is the policy of the Council to: **Promote the conservation, maintenance, and restoration of healthy coastal wetlands to sustain and enhance a diversity of marine resources.**

This policy shall be supported by the following objectives:

- ! Coastal wetland management should be directed towards sustaining the diversity and productivity of indigenous marine resources utilizing the area.
- ! Coastal wetland management should promote the long-term health and productivity of wetland habitats for the marine species utilizing the area.
- ! Coastal wetlands should generally not be impounded, although it is recognized that this may be necessary at times to control adverse impacts resulting from natural or human-induced hydrologic changes.
- ! Coastal wetland management should strive to balance the benefits to all forms of indigenous marine resources and plant communities currently utilizing the area.
- ! The Council supports the necessary planning and implementation to ensure adequate freshwater inflows to sustain coastal wetlands.
- ! Permitting or management plans for wetland activities should include sufficient detail to determine potential effects on marine fisheries. It should also include provisions for monitoring and/or mitigation to ensure the objectives of the plan are being met, and that non-target resources are not unacceptably impacted.
- ! Coastal wetland management activities should provide adequate ingress and egress for marine resources.

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- ! Coastal wetland management activities should allow adequate nutrient and sediment exchange as well as other important physical and chemical interactions with adjacent areas.

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Policy - The Gulf Council defines SAV as rooted vascular plants that, except for some flowering structures, live and grow below the water surface. Realizing the ecological importance of SAV to the ecosystem, and as Essential Fish Habitat for or impacting the fishery resources that the Council manages or that are within the Council's jurisdiction, it is the policy of the Council to: **Protect, restore, create, and otherwise improve SAV habitat in the Gulf of Mexico and adjacent estuaries and achieve a net gain in SAV distribution and abundance within these regions.**

This policy shall be supported by the following objectives.

- ! Conserve existing SAV beds and prevent further loss due to degradation of water quality, physical damage to the plants, or disruption to the local sedimentary environment.
- ! Strongly endorse and support actions affecting water and habitat quality that will result in restoration of SAV
- ! Endorse and support propagation and transplant efforts to restore and expand the acreage of SAV necessary to support fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico.
- ! Promote planning and education efforts that incorporate SAV as an integral part of the coastal ecosystem and link the habitat with the fishery resource.
- ! Work within state and federal regulatory processes to decrease or eliminate impacts to SAV.
- ! Promote SAV research and monitoring.

ENFORCEMENT REPORTS:

NMFS Increases Enforcement of Feeding Ban to Protect Wild Dolphins

Dolphin feeding by the public in Florida waters is having increasingly serious consequences for both animals and people, so the National Marine Fisheries Service's Office for Law Enforcement is stepping up its efforts to curtail this illegal activity. Increased efforts include stricter enforcement of the laws against the feeding and harassment of marine mammals, increased boater education efforts, and a town meeting with citizens in the Venice/Nokomis, Florida, area.

NMFS officials are concerned that many people, particularly Florida's tourist community, are unaware that feeding or harassing wild marine mammals is dangerous to animals and humans. It is also illegal under federal law. NMFS is especially concerned about people feeding a dolphin known as Beggar who frequently approaches boaters in the Nokomis, Florida, area to beg for food. More often than not, people have accommodated him. Unfortunately, Beggar has bitten several people who have attempted to feed or otherwise interact with him. Some of the injuries he has inflicted have required hospitalization.

"We have been working to solve this problem through education and community oriented policing," said NMFS Enforcement Special Agent-in-Charge Eugene Proulx. "However, we've had to increase our enforcement efforts because our concerted education activities have not been an effective deterrent. NOAA's Office of General Counsel recently brought charges against a recreational boater and assessed him with a \$100 fine for allegedly feeding Beggar."

"We understand that people find it tempting to feed and to interact with wild dolphins, and Beggar in particular," said Kathy Wang, a marine mammal biologist in NMFS Southeast Office of Protected Resources. "However, people must not feed wild dolphins because, although the food itself may not always harm them, doing so may adversely alter dolphins' behavioral patterns." The federal marine mammal viewing guidelines developed by NMFS recommend observing wild dolphins from a safe distance of at least 50 yards and using binoculars or telephoto lenses to get a good view of the animals.

NOVAs ISSUED BETWEEN JULY 1, 2000 AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2000

CASE NUMBER	RESPONDENT NAME	AREA	LE UNIT	CASE DESCRIPTION	NOVA AMOUNT	PROPOSED NOPS** DURATION
SE980219FM	Square Shooter, Inc. William R. Auld	GOM	USCG	BRD violation	\$ 3,000.00	
SE990034FM	Lyle G. Lecompte Carrol P. Rodrigue	GOM	USCG	BRD violation	\$ 6,000.00	
SE990252FM	Giang Huu Nguyen	GOM	USCG	BRD violation	\$ 6,000.00	
SE990675FM	Nung Pham and Phillip Pham	GOM	USCG	Take red snapper during closure	\$ 3,000.00	
SE990727ES	Arthur Isham Thomas Robert Avery Bates	GOM	USCG	TED violation	\$ 2,000.00	
SE9901283MS	Orlando Casariego	FKNMS	FWCC	Fish with, carry or possess a speargun	\$ 500.00	
SE991430MS	Richard Patrick Dwyer	FKMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike or injure coral or seagrass	\$ 850.00	
SE991433MS	Art H. Siegel	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike or injure coral or seagrass	\$ 3,500.00	
SE991435MS	Tradewinds Foundation, Inc. James Rubert Hildock	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike or injure coral or seagrass	\$ 1,500.00	
SE000216MS	Gulfstream Adventures, Inc. Wayne Coleman Carter	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike or injure coral or seagrass	\$ 1,750.00	
SE000217MS	Richard P. Campisi	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike or injure coral or seagrass	\$ 2,850.00	
SE000233MS	Marathon Boats, Inc. Samuel E. Culmer	FKNMS	FWCC	Fish in a sanctuary preservation area	\$ 2,500.00	
SE000348MS	Iason Hellenic Shipping Co. Ltd. Liberty Macavinta Delgado	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike or injure coral or seagrass	\$ 1,000.00	
SE000353MS	Tradewinds Foundation James L. Alexander	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike or injure coral or seagrass	\$ 2,500.00	
SE000355FM	James Hoffman	GOM	FWCC	1) Take or retention of red snapper 2) Fail to maintain fish intact 3) Make false oral statement to an authorized officer 4) Interfere with, obstruct, delay or prevent investigation, search or seizure	1) \$ 500.00 2) \$ 1,500.00 3) \$ 2,500.00 4) \$ 2,500.00	
SE000364ES	Juan Carlos Salinas La Bell Shrimp Co., Inc.	GOM	NMFS	TED violation	\$ 8,000.00	

SE000469ES	Julie Marie, Inc. Roy L. Nesmith	GOM	USCG	1) TED violation 2) BRD violation 3) Take an endangered or threatened species of fish or wildlife, sea turtle	1) \$ 8,000.00 2) \$ 6,000.00 3) \$ 2,000.00	
SE000474ES	Miss Lillie Inc. Leo V. Ray	GOM	NMFS	TED violation	\$ 2,000.00	
SE000490MS	Robert G. Courter	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike or injure coral or seagrass	\$ 2,500.00	
SE000491MS	Wendy Sue Schneider	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike or injure coral or seagrass	\$ 975.00	
SE000492MS	Robert E. Reckwerdt	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike or injure coral or seagrass	\$ 3,050.00	
SE000493MS	Michael I. Keller	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike or injure coral or seagrass	\$ 825.00	
SE000494MS	Nelson W. Fey	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike or injure coral or seagrass	\$ 3,000.00	
SE000495MS	James H. Middendorf	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike or injure coral or seagrass	\$ 750.00	
SE000496MS	Juan Gonzalez Morales	FKNMS	FWCC	Fish inside a research only area	\$ 1,000.00	
SE000498MS	Harry C. Morris Roger A. Lloyd	FKNMS	FWCC	Deposit unapproved material into waters of a Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary	\$ 2,000.00	
SE000499MS	Vidal Garza Guadalupe	FKNMS	FWCC	Enter into research only area in FKNMS	\$ 1,000.00	
SE000627MS	Zlvabin Kristic	FKNMS	FWCC	Fish in FKNMS Molasses Reef Sanctuary Preservation Area	\$ 2,500.00	
SE000693ES/FM	Bernardo B. Bautista Little Ernie Gulf Trawls, Inc.	GOM	USCG	1) TED violation 2) BRD violation 3) Fail to comply immediately with an authorized officer and/or destroy, stave, damage or dispose of gear or other matter after communication from authorized officer	1) \$ 8,000.00 2) \$ 6,000.00 3) \$ 6,000.00	
SE000848MS	Leon Lazaro	FKNMS	FWCC	Enter into conch research area without permit	\$ 750.00	
SE000898MS	Albar Shipping & Trading Co. Armando Tejada	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate a vessel of 50 meters in length within FKNMS area to be avoided	\$ 5,000.00	
SE000899MS	Raul Leon	FKNMS	FWCC	Fish with a speargun, interfere with law enforcement officer and did not have a dive flag	\$ 600.00	
SE000900MS	Richard Alexander O'Connell, Jr.	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike or injure coral or seagrass	\$ 2,025.00	
SE001032FM	Bill P. Archer	GOM	FWCC	1) Exceed bag or possession limit of red snapper; 2) Fail to maintain fish intact through offloading ashore; 3) Make false oral statement to authorized officer	1) \$ 1,500.00 2) \$ 1,500.00 3) \$ 2,500.00	45 days
SE001065MM	Steven C. Ollis	GOM	NMFS	Feed a dolphin	\$ 100.00	

*NOTICE OF PROPOSED FORFEITURE **NOTICE OF PERMIT SANCTION

NMFS urges citizens to report violations of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, during weekly business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern, to its Southeast Region Law Enforcement Division at (727) 570-5344, or after hours and weekends at its National Enforcement Hotline at (800) 853-1964.

SETTLEMENTS BETWEEN July 1, 2000 AND September 30, 2000

CASE NUMBER	RESPONDENT NAME	AREA	LE UNIT	CASE DESCRIPTION	FINAL AMOUNT	FORFEIT AMOUNT	PERMIT SANCTION
SE000216MS	Wayne C. Carter & Gulfstream Adventures Inc.	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike coral or seagrass	\$ 1,500.00		
SE000217MS	Richard P. Campisi	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike coral or seagrass	\$ 2,850.00		
SE000233MS	Marathon Boats, Inc. & Samuel E. Culmer	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike coral or seagrass	\$ 2,000.00		
SE000418FM	Robert M. Moore	GOM	FWCC	Take red snapper during closure	\$ 200.00		
SE000421FM	Joe R. Turner	GOM	FWCC	Take red snapper during closure	\$ 250.00		
SE000422FM	Dennis Bruce Emanuel Richard Carmichael Fowler	GOM	FWCC	Take red snapper during closure	\$ 500.00		
SE000491FM	Wendy Schneider	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate Vessel so as to cause damage to natural resource	\$ 975.00		
SE000494MS	Nelson W. Fey	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate Vessel so as to cause damage to natural resource	\$ 2,400.00		
SE980229FM	Richard Delaney & Armanda J. Inc.	GOM	FWCC	Sell red snapper after closure False reporting	\$10,500.00		8/1/00 - 8/25/00
SE980236FM	Kenneth D. Biles	GOM	NMFS	Sell red snapper after closure False reporting	\$20,001.00		
SE980246FM	Richard D. Wisler	GOM	NMFS	Sell red snapper after closure	\$ 900.00		
SE980248FM	Ricky E. Smith	GOM	NMFS	Sell red snapper during closure False reporting	80 HRS. OF COM-MUNITY SERVICE		
SE980438FM	Gary D. Bishop	GOM	NMFS	Sell red snapper after closure False reporting sell fish in excess of trip limit	\$ 3,600.00		PERMANENT /LIFELONG SANCTION
SE990052ES	Long Van Vo	GOM	USCG	TEDS violation	\$ 3,000.00		
SE990154ES	Bryant A. Shelvin Hoang Van Tran	GOM	USCG	TEDS violation	\$ 2,500.00		
SE990171ES	Long Van Vo	GOM	USCG	TEDS violation	\$ 3,000.00	\$5,150.35	
SE990173ES	Emmett & Larry Owens	GOM	USCG	TEDS violation	\$ 2,000.00		
SE990363FM	Janice Elaine, Inc.	GOM	USCG	1) Gear restrictions and restrictions on retention of fish; 2) Fail to maintain red grouper intact through offloading 3) Fail to maintain a shark in its proper form	\$ 9,900.00 \$ 990.00 \$ 990.00	\$1,698.80	
SE991317MS	Charles D. Thompson	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike or damage coral or seagrass	\$ 1,200.00		
SE991430MS	Richard P. Dwyer	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike or damage coral or seagrass	\$ 700.00		
SE991433MS	Art H. Siegel	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike or damage coral or seagrass	\$ 3,500.00		
SE991435MS	Tradewinds Foundation & James R. Hildock	FKNMS	FWCC	Operate vessel so as to strike or damage sea bottom	\$ 1,200.00		

**TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE JANUARY
GULF COUNCIL MEETING**

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Monday, January 15, 2001

Artificial Reef Committee

- National Artificial Reef Plan

Habitat Protection Committee

- Brownsville Weir and Reservoir Project
- Gulf Intercoastal Water Way (High Island to Freeport, Texas)
- Okaloosa County Artificial Reef Permit Issue

Reef Fish Management Committee

- Reef Fish TACs and Regulatory Action
 - RFSAP Report
 - AP Recommendations
 - SSC Recommendations
 - Dr. Shipp's Report
 - Dr. Gazey's Report
 - Committee Recommendations
- Reef Fish Amendment 18 Options Paper
 - Staff Presentation
 - Committee Recommendations

Tuesday, January 16, 2001

Reef Fish Management Committee (Continued)

Shrimp Management Committee

- Cooperative Texas Shrimp Closure
 - NMFS Report
 - AP Recommendations
 - Committee Recommendations
- Draft Shrimp Amendment 11
 - Public Hearing Summaries
 - Public Letters
 - AP Recommendations
 - SSC Recommendations
 - Federal Comments
 - Committee Recommendations
- Draft Shrimp Amendment 10 Options Paper
 - Staff Presentation
 - Committee Recommendations

Mackerel Management Committee

- Dr. Prager's Report
- Dolphin/Wahoo FMP
 - Staff Presentation
 - Committee Recommendations

Law Enforcement Committee

- Strategic Law Enforcement Plan

COUNCIL SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 17, 2001

- I. Call to Order and Introductions - K. Williams
- II. Adoption of Agenda - K. Williams
- III. Approval of Minutes- K. Williams
- IV. Public Testimony - K. Williams
 - a. Dolphin/Wahoo FMP
 - b. Shrimp Amendment 11
 - c. Reef Fish TACs and Regulatory Action
- IV. Public Testimony (Continued) - K. Williams
- V. Adoption of Logo - K. Williams

Thursday, January 18, 2001

- VI. Reef Fish Management Committee Report - Minton
- VII. Artificial Reef Committee Report - Basco
- VIII. Shrimp Management Committee Report - Aparicio
- IX. Mackerel Management Committee Report - R. Williams

Friday, January 19, 2001

- X. Habitat Protection Committee Report- Frugé
- XI. SAFMC Liaison Report - K. Williams
- XII. Enforcement Reports - Fiedler/Cinalli/Proulx
- XIII. Regional Administrator's Report - Powers
- XIV. Director Reports - R. Williams/Minton/Perret/Foote/Osburn/Simpson/Frugé
- XV. Other Business - K. Williams

The above agenda is tentative and is not final until it becomes noticed. Updates to the agenda will be posted on the Gulf Council web site as they become available. Although non-emergency issues not contained in the agenda may come before the Gulf Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), those issues may not be the subject of formal Gulf Council action during the meeting. Gulf Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the noticed agenda and any issues arising after publication of that notice that require emergency action under section 305 (c) of the MSFCMA, provided the public has been notified of the Gulf Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Following Meeting:

March 26-29, 2001
Adams Mark Hotel
Mobile, Alabama

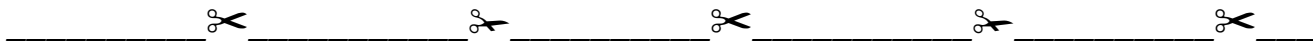
CLARIFICATION REGARDING COORDINATES FOR STEAMBOAT LUMPS CLOSED AREA

Two areas in the Gulf of Mexico were closed to all fishing, except fishing for highly migratory species (tuna, sharks, and billfishes) to provide additional protection for spawning aggregations of several grouper species during the peak period of gag spawning. The areas are located along the 40 fathom depth contour. The Madison and Swanson site is located south of Panama City and the Steamboat Lumps site is located west of Tarpon Springs.

During the unofficial compilation of Federal regulations dated June 15, 2000, August 2, 2000, and September 21, 2000, prepared in the Southeast Region, listed an incorrect north latitude coordinate for the southwest and southeast corners of the Steamboat Lumps closed area. The correct coordinates for the Steamboat Lumps closed area in the Gulf of Mexico off Florida are as follows:

NORTHWEST CORNER	28°14' N. LAT., 84°48' W. LONG.
NORTHEAST CORNER	28°14' N. LAT., 84°37' W. LONG.
SOUTHWEST CORNER	28°03' N. LAT., 84°48' W. LONG.
SOUTHEAST CORNER	28°03' N. LAT., 84°37' W. LONG.

Federal regulations, published in the Federal Register (65 FR 31827, May 19, 2000), that implemented the closed area and the Southeast Fishery Bulletin (NR00-022) that was distributed to all permit holders on May 17, 2000 contained the correct coordinates.



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The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional fishery management councils that were established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 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. This is a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and financial assistance for this news release was provided by grant funds pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA07FC0015.

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