



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management

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

2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100

Tampa, FL 33607

Phone: 813.348.1630 • Toll free: 888.833.1844 • Fax: 813.348.1711

www.gulfcouncil.org

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For More Information Contact:

Charlene Ponce at 813-348-1630

2011 Gag Fishing Season - Important Reminder to Recreational Fishermen

The recreational gag fishing season put in place through a temporary rule established a 2011 recreational season for gag that opens at 12:01 A.M. on September 16 and closes at 12:01 A.M. on November 16. The current bag limit of two gag within the four fish aggregate grouper bag limit and the minimum size of 22-inches total length will be in effect during the fishing season.

Gag is considered overfished (population abundance is too low) and undergoing overfishing (rate of removal too high). The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires action to rebuild overfished stocks and to end overfishing. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) requested NOAA Fisheries Service implement this temporary rule to revise 2011 commercial and recreational measures in light of the rerun of the gag update stock assessment. The Council has developed a long-term plan to address gag stock rebuilding through Amendment 32 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico.

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 prepares fishery management plans designed to manage fishery resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

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