

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN: 0648-XP26

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a joint meeting of the Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC).

DATES: The meeting will convene at 1 p.m. on Monday, June 1, 2009 and conclude by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3, 2009.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hilton, 2225 N. Lois Ave., Tampa, FL 33607, telephone: (813) 877-6688.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician; Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SSC will meet jointly with the Reef Fish Advisory Panel (AP) on the first day of the meeting. The SSC and AP will receive a brief orientation for new members, and will hear presentations on update assessments for gag and red grouper. The last full benchmark assessments for these stocks were completed in 2007 (SEDAR 10 for gag and SEDAR 12 for red grouper). The SSC and AP will also hear a presentation on the issues and preferred alternatives in Reef Fish Amendment 31 that address bycatch of sea turtles in the bottom longline reef fish fishery.

Following the presentations, the SSC and AP will reconvene separately. The SSC will review the role of the SSC as described in the Council's Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures (SOPPs) and proposed changes in the operations and administration of SSCs that are in a NMFS Proposed Rule (74 FR 13386), including financial disclosure requirements.

The SSC will also discuss the gag and red grouper update assessments, and determine if they are the best available scientific information. They will recommend an allowable biological catch (ABC) for each stock that must be

equal to or less than the overfishing limit (OFL) specified in the update assessments after taking into account scientific uncertainty. The SSC may also make other comments and recommendations concerning the update assessments.

The SSC will also discuss and provide recommendations on the issues and preferred alternatives in Reef Fish Amendment 31. In addition, they will review a recently published scientific report that suggests that venting of fish may decrease rather than increase survival of fish caught from deeper waters, and will consider recommending that they convene a future workshop to review current research on venting and other safe release methods. The SSC will also elect a new Chair and Vice-chair. The comments and recommendations of the SSC will be presented to the Council at its June 15-18, 2009 meeting in Tampa, FL.

Copies of the agenda and other related materials can be obtained by calling (813) 348-1630.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the SSCs for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the SSCs will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Tina O'Hern at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: May 13, 2009.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E9-11472 Filed 5-15-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN: 0648-XP31

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council's (Council) Herring Oversight Committee will meet to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The two-day meeting will be held on Thursday, June 4, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. and on Friday, June 5, 2009 at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Clarion Hotel, 1230 Congress Street, Portland, ME; telephone: (207) 774-5611; fax: (207) 871-0510.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The items of discussion in the committee's agenda are as follows:

Thursday, June 4, 2009 beginning at 9:30 a.m. and Friday, June 5, 2009 beginning at 9 a.m.

1. Continue development of management alternatives to be considered in Amendment 4 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP) development of alternatives may include discussion related to measures to establish annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs); a catch monitoring program for the herring fishery; measures to address river herring bycatch; measures to establish criteria for midwater trawl access to groundfish closed areas; and measures to address interactions with the mackerel fishery
2. Review/discuss recommendations from Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), Enforcement Committee, Herring Advisory Panel, and Herring Plan Development Team (PDT)
3. Finalize alternatives for establishing ACLs and AMs
4. Continue discussion of management measures related to catch monitoring, including but not limited

to: specific monitoring and reporting requirements for herring vessels and processors, observer coverage and at-sea monitoring, shoreside/dockside monitoring and sampling, vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirements, as well as other measures related to catch monitoring

5. Review information related to Northeast Fishery Science Center study fleet program and discuss applicability of study fleet technology to herring catch monitoring alternatives in Amendment 4

6. Discuss/develop options for industry-funded catch monitoring programs (dockside and/or at-sea)

7. Review draft dockside sampling program and develop Committee recommendations

8. Review timeline for Amendment 4 and develop Committee recommendations for Council consideration in June 2009 regarding alternatives for inclusion in the Amendment 4 Draft EIS

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: May 13, 2009.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN: 0648-XP32

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings of its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), Golden Crab Advisory Panel, Wreckfish Advisory Panel, Limited Access Privilege Program (LAPP) Committee, Golden Crab Committee, SSC Selection Committee (Closed Session), a joint meeting of its Executive and Finance Committees, Dolphin/Wahoo Committee, Spiny Lobster Committee, Mackerel Committee, Advisory Panel Selection Committee (Closed Session), Standard Operating, Policy and Procedure (SOPPs) Committee, SouthEast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) Committee, Ecosystem-Based Management Committee, Snapper Grouper Committee, and a meeting of the full Council. The Council will conduct a workshop with the SSC and Golden Crab Advisory Panel (AP) and a separate workshop with the SSC and Wreckfish AP. The Council will also hold an informal public question and answer session with NMFS Regional Administrator and Council Chairman as well as an open public comment period relative to agenda items. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for additional details.

DATES: The meeting will be held June 7–12, 2009. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hutchinson Island Marriott, 555 NE Ocean Boulevard, Stuart, FL 34996; telephone: (800) 775-5936 or (772) 225-3700; fax: (772) 225-0003. Copies of documents are available from Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer; telephone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free at (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates

1. *Golden Crab Advisory Panel and SSC Workshop: June 7, 2009, 9 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.*

The Golden Crab Advisory Panel and SSC will review the biology of the golden crab and red crab fisheries, available data, and receive a presentation on the fishery from AP members.

2. *Wreckfish Advisory Panel and SSC Workshop: June 7, 2009, 10:30 a.m. until 12 p.m.*

The Wreckfish Advisory Panel and SSC will review the biology of wreckfish, available data, and receive a presentation on the fishery from the Wreckfish AP.

3. *Scientific and Statistical Committee: June 7, 2009, 1:30 p.m. until 5 p.m.; June 8, 2009, 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.; and June 9, 2009, 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.*

The SSC will receive updates on the status of Amendments 15B, 16 and 18 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan (FMP), the Fishery Ecosystem Plan, the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 1, Amendment 18 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMP, and the Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Amendment. The SSC will also review the Council's Research and Monitoring Plan and consider for approval. The SSC will receive presentations regarding the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule, discuss applications, and finalize an ABC Control Rule document. The SSC will also receive an update on Amendment 17 to the Snapper Grouper FMP, discuss area closures, and receive a report regarding possible implementation of a monitoring plan under Amendment 17. The SSC will prepare a written report for presentation to the Council.

4. *Golden Crab Advisory Panel Meeting: June 8, 2009, 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.*

The Golden Crab Advisory Panel will discuss the Golden Crab and SSC Workshop, develop recommendations on Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and Accountability Measures (AMs) and other management measures, and will receive an update and discuss the Golden Crab LAPP.

5. *Wreckfish Advisory Panel Meeting: June 8, 2009, 10:30 a.m. until 12 p.m.*

The Wreckfish Advisory Panel will discuss the Wreckfish and SSC Workshop, develop recommendations on ACLs and AMs, and discuss Amendment 18 wreckfish Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) changes and develop recommendations.

6. *LAPP Committee Meeting: June 8, 2009, 1:30 p.m. until 4 p.m.*

The LAPP Committee will receive an update on meetings with the Golden Crab and Wreckfish Advisory Panels, review options and provide direction to staff.