

- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department;
- Texas General Land Office;
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;
- U.S. Department of the Interior, as represented by National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management;
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, on behalf of the U.S. Department of Commerce;
- U.S. Department of Agriculture; and
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

This restoration planning activity is proceeding in accordance with the PDARP/PEIS. Information on the Restoration Types being considered in the Draft RP/EA, as well as the OPA criteria against which project ideas are being evaluated, can be viewed in the PDARP/PEIS (<http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/gulf-plan>) and in the Overview of the PDARP/PEIS (<http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-planning/gulf-plan>).

### Background

On July 6, 2016, the Texas TIG posted a public notice at <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov> requesting new or revised proposals by August 31, 2016, regarding natural resource restoration in the Texas Restoration Area for the 2016–2017 planning years. The notice stated that the Texas TIG is prioritizing restoration planning efforts on Restoration Types that were not addressed previously by Early Restoration: (1) restore and conserve wetland, coastal, and nearshore habitats; (2) restore water quality through nutrient reduction (nonpoint source); and (3) replenish and protect oysters.

### Overview of the Draft RP/EA

The Draft RP/EA is being released in accordance with OPA, the OPA NRDA regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 15 CFR part 990, and NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*).

In the Draft RP/EA, the Texas TIG proposes preferred project alternatives for the following Restoration Types: (1) Wetland, coastal, and nearshore habitats; and (2) oysters. For the water quality (nonpoint source) Restoration Type, the Texas TIG has determined additional restoration planning is necessary, and does not propose any restoration projects in this Draft RP/EA.

For wetland, coastal, and nearshore habitats, the Draft RP/EA proposes the following preferred project alternatives:

- Bird Island Cove Habitat Restoration Engineering,
- Essex Bayou Habitat Restoration Engineering,
- Dredged Material Planning for Wetland Restoration,
- McFaddin Beach and Dune Restoration,
- Bessie Heights Wetland Restoration,
- Pierce Marsh Wetland Restoration,
- Indian Point Shoreline Erosion Protection,
- Bahia Grande Hydrologic Restoration,
- Follets Island Habitat Acquisition,
- Mid-Coast Habitat Acquisition,
- Bahia Grande Coastal Corridor Habitat Acquisition, and
- Laguna Atascosa Habitat Acquisition.

For oysters, the Draft RP/EA proposes Oyster Restoration Engineering as the preferred project alternative.

The Draft RP/EA also evaluates a no action alternative. One or more alternatives may be selected for implementation by the Texas TIG.

The Texas TIG has examined the injuries assessed by the DWH Trustees and evaluated restoration alternatives to address the injuries. In the Draft RP/EA, the Texas TIG presents to the public its draft plan for providing partial compensation to the public for injured natural resources and ecological services in the Texas Restoration Area. The proposed projects are intended to continue the process of restoring natural resources and ecological services injured or lost as a result of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. The total estimated cost of the proposed projects is \$49,466,000. Additional restoration planning for the Texas Restoration Area will continue.

### Next Steps

The public is encouraged to review and comment on the Draft RP/EA. Public meetings are scheduled to facilitate the public review and comment process. After the close of the public comment period, the Texas TIG will consider and address the comments received before issuing a final RP/EA. A summary of comments received and the Texas TIG's responses and any revisions to the document, as appropriate, will be included in the final document.

### Public Meeting Schedule

The Texas TIG will conduct public meetings to provide information and seek input on the Draft RP/EA:

- June 7, 2017, at 6 p.m. at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412;

- June 8, 2017, at 6 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Galveston County Office, 4102–B Main Street (FM 519), La Marque, Texas 77568.

Written and oral comments on the Draft RP/EA may be submitted at the public meetings. Persons with disabilities may request special accommodations at the public meeting by contacting the Texas TIG by July 1, 2017 (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above).

### Invitation to Comment

The Texas TIG seeks public review and comment on the Draft RP/EA (see **ADDRESSES** above). Before including your address, telephone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, will become part of the public record.

### Administrative Record

The documents comprising the Administrative Record for the Draft RP/EA can be viewed electronically at <http://www.doi.gov/deepwaterhorizon/adminrecord>.

### Authority

The authority for this action is OPA (33 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*) and the OPA NRDA regulations at 15 CFR part 990.

Dated: May 12, 2017.

### Christopher Meaney,

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Habitat Conservation, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648–XF437**

### 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 (Council) will hold a four-day meeting to consider actions affecting the Gulf of Mexico fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Monday, June 5 through Thursday, June 8, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will take place at the Naples Grande Beach Resort, located at 475 Seagate Drive, Naples, FL 34103; telephone: (239) 227-2182.

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Douglas Gregory, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Agenda**

*Monday, June 5, 2017; 8 a.m.–5:15 p.m.*

The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. in a CLOSED SESSION of the Full Council to discuss appointments to the Coastal Migratory Pelagics (CMP) and Red Drum Advisory Panel Appointments. The meeting is expected to open to the public around 8:30 a.m. The Administrative/Budget Committee will review and approve the Final 2017 Budget Funding Report; and review the MSA Legislation: H.R. 200 & H.R. 2023 Potential Impacts. The Sustainable Fisheries Committee will receive an overview on Barotrauma from Florida Sea Grant; review and discuss an options paper for a framework action that require possession of descending devices or venting tools on board vessels possessing reef fish and an options paper for carryover of unharvested quota; and any Scientific and Statistical (SSC) recommendations. The Gulf SEDAR Committee will review the meeting summary from the May 2017 Steering Committee; the assessment schedule; and a draft letter on NOAA's Updated Stock Assessment Improvement Plan. The Spiny Lobster Committee will review the Final Joint Spiny Lobster Regulatory Amendment 4. The Joint Coral/Habitat Protection & Restoration Committees will review and discuss an options paper for Coral Amendment 7. The Reef Fish Management Committee will review and discuss final action items: Amendment 44—Minimum Stock Size Threshold for Reef Fish Stocks, and Amendment 47—Vermilion Snapper Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) Proxy and Annual Catch Limit (ACL).

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017; 8 a.m.–5 p.m.*

The Reef Fish Management Committee will review and discuss taking final action on Abbreviated Framework Action to Modify the Number of Unrigged Hooks Carried Onboard Bottom Longline Vessels, Draft

Framework Action to modify the ACT for Red Snapper Federal For-hire and Private Angler Components, and a Draft Framework Action for Greater Amberjack ACL and Management Measures; and receive a report from the Ad Hoc Red Snapper Private Angler Advisory Panel (AP) meeting. The committee review and discuss red snapper allocation issues, an options paper on Amendment 36B—Commercial Reef Fish Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQ) Modifications; Draft Amendment 41—Federal Charter-for-Hire Red Snapper Management; and Draft Amendment 42—Federal Reef Fish Headboat Management.

*Question and Answer Session With SERO Regional Administrator, Roy Crabtree, Immediately Following Reef Fish Committee*

*Wednesday, June 7, 2017; 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.*

The Data Collection Committee will receive a presentation by Gulf states on procedures to estimate recreational landings; and review draft comments on Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Strategic Plan.

The Full Council will convene mid-morning (approximately 10:15 a.m.) with a call to order, announcements, introductions; adoption of agenda; approval of minutes; and review of Exempt Fishing Permit (EFPs) Applications, if any. The Council will receive presentations from Florida Law Enforcement, the Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP), and a Summary of Anecdotal Data Efforts. After lunch, the Council will listen to public testimony from 1:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. on the following agenda items: Final Action on Amendment 44—Minimum Stock Size Threshold for Reef Fish Stocks; Final Action on Amendment 47—Vermilion Snapper MSY Proxy and ACL; Final Action on Abbreviated Framework Action to Modify the Number of Unrigged Hooks Carried Onboard Bottom Longline Vessels; Final Action on Joint Spiny Lobster Amendment 4 to Increase Spiny Lobster Annual Catch Limits and Triggers; and, open testimony on any Other Fishery Issues or Concerns.

*Thursday, June 8, 2017; 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.*

The Council will receive reports from the following Management Committees: Reef Fish, Gulf SEDAR, Administrative/Budget, Spiny Lobster, Joint Coral/Habitat Protection & Restoration, Data Collection, and Sustainable Fisheries. The Council will announce the Advisory Panel Membership for the Red

Drum and CMP, and vote on Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Applications, if any.

The Council will receive updates from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of State. Lastly, the Council will discuss any other business.

—*Meeting Adjourns.*

You may listen in to the June 2017 Council Meeting via webinar by registering on: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/860199915509219074>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

The timing and order in which agenda items are addressed may change as required to effectively address the issue. The latest version will be posted on the Council's file server, which can be accessed by going to the Council's Web site at <http://www.gulfcouncil.org> and clicking on FTP Server under Quick Links. For meeting materials, select the "Briefing Books/Briefing Book 2017-06" folder on Gulf Council file server. The username and password are both "gulfguest". The meetings will be webcast over the internet. A link to the webcast will be available on the Council's Web site, <http://www.gulfcouncil.org>.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subjects of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided that 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 Kathy Pereira (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 15, 2017.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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