

## References Cited

Royer, R.A., and G.M. Marrone. 1992. Conservation status of the Dakota skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*) in North and South Dakota. Report to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Svc., Denver, CO. 44 pp.

## Author

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## Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: February 16, 1995.

Mollie H. Beattie,

*Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

## 50 CFR Part 641

[I.D. 021595A]

## Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Regulatory Amendment Public Hearings

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

**ACTION:** Public hearings; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene two public hearings on a draft

proposed Regulatory Amendment to the regulations implementing the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico. The draft proposed Regulatory Amendment, developed under an FMP framework procedure for adjusting management measures, would decrease the current 20 inch minimum size for red grouper to 18 inches for both commercial and recreational fisheries. A reduction of the current five fish daily bag limit for red grouper in the recreational fishery (five fish for all grouper species combined) may also be considered along with the proposed minimum size limit change. A final Regulatory Amendment to reduce the minimum size limit for red grouper to 18 inches was previously submitted to NMFS for review, approval, and implementation. NMFS subsequently informed the Council that it should consider new fishery information regarding the impacts of the proposed regulatory changes which became available to the Council. Also, NMFS requested that the Council evaluate more completely the expected biological and regulatory impacts of the proposed measures. At the public hearings, the Council will make available for public review and comment the draft proposed Regulatory Amendment and other available information. Based on the public hearing testimony and on a consideration of the new fishery information, the Council intends to make the appropriate changes in the Regulatory Amendment and resubmit it to NMFS.

**DATES:** Written comments on the draft proposed Regulatory Amendment or on the additional fishery information from NMFS will be accepted until March 10, 1995. The hearings are scheduled from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. as follows:

1. Thursday, March 9, 1995, in Tampa, FL; and

2. Thursday, March 9, 1995, in Sarasota, FL

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the draft proposed Regulatory Amendment are available from, Mr. Steven M. Atran, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 5401 West Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 331, Tampa, FL 33609; FAX: 813-225-7015. Written comments on this document should be addressed to the same individual.

The hearings will be held at the following locations:

1. Tampa, FL—Ramada Airport Hotel, 5303 West Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33609

2. Sarasota, FL—Holiday Inn Lido Beach, 233 Ben Franklin Drive, Sarasota, FL 34236

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steven M. Atran, Populations Dynamics Statistician, 813-228-2815.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Julie Krebs (see **ADDRESSES**) by March 1, 1995.

Additional opportunity for public testimony on this issue will be scheduled at the Council meeting in New Orleans on Wednesday, March 15, beginning at 8:45 a.m. Persons testifying at this meeting must turn in registration cards before the start of the testimony.

Dated: February 21, 1995.

David S. Crestin,

*Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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