

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Richard L. Leard, Senior Fishery Biologist; telephone: 813-228-2815.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the meeting will be to review Draft Amendment 9 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico, U.S. Waters with Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), Regulatory Impact Review (RIR), Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA), and Social Impact Assessment (SIA). The amendment addresses the Council's commitment to reduce the bycatch mortality of juvenile red snapper from shrimp trawls. The amendment includes a review of previous actions and their effects on bycatch as well as various alternatives.

The AP will review the draft amendment with various management alternatives for bycatch reduction including the Council's "preferred alternatives." Measures being considered include: (1) Status Quo - no change to existing regulations; and (2) Require the installation of Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) in all trawls used in the penaeid shrimp fishery of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). They will also review area specific usage of BRDs including requiring BRDs: (1) inside the 100-fathom contour; (2) inside the 100-fathom contour and west of Cape San Blas, FL; (3) between the 10- and 100-fathom contours; and (4) between the 10- and 100-fathom contours and west of Cape San Blas, FL. Other alternatives that will be discussed include: bycatch reduction criteria; seasonal closures; and a framework procedure for modifying bycatch reduction criteria, BRD certification, and testing requirements. The Shrimp AP will also consider an RIR, which mainly reviews the economic ramifications of the proposed amendment; an SIA; and any environmental consequences. Also considered will be the effects of other Federal laws and regulations.

The AP is comprised of fisherman and other user groups who advise the Council on fishery issues.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by October 21, 1996.

Dated: September 30, 1996.  
Bruce Morehead,  
*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 96-25588 Filed 10-4-96; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 3510-22-F**

[I.D. 092796J]

#### Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a public meeting of the Red Snapper Advisory Panel (AP).

**DATES:** This meeting will be held on October 31, 1996 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held at the Grand Casino, 265 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, MS 39530; telephone: (800) 946-2946.

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 5401 West Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 331, Tampa, FL 33609.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician; telephone: (813) 228-2815.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the meeting will be to review the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel (RFSAP) and Socioeconomic Panel (SEP) reports regarding a new stock assessment for vermilion snapper, an update of the 1995 stock assessment for red snapper, and discussions regarding biological information and landings data for amberjack species. The AP will review any recommendations of the RFSAP and SEP regarding allowable biological catch (ABC) ranges for these species, and they may develop recommendations of ABC or total allowable catch (TAC) for submission to the Council. The AP may also recommend future data gathering and research needs.

Under the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan's framework procedure for setting TAC, when an ABC range has been specified, the Council may implement through a regulatory amendment a TAC, which is then allocated between the recreational and commercial sectors, and quotas, bag limits, size limits, and other measures needed to attain TAC. If an ABC range and TAC are not specified, the Council must use the more lengthy process of a

full plan amendment to implement any changes to management measures.

The AP is comprised of fisherman and other user groups who advise the Council on fishery issues.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by October 21, 1996.

Dated: September 30, 1996.  
Bruce Morehead,  
*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 96-25589 Filed 10-4-96; 8:45 am]  
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[I.D. 092796J]

#### Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a public meeting.

**DATES:** The meetings are scheduled as follows: Standing and Special Shrimp Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), October 29, 1996, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), October 30, 1996, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Grand Casino, 265 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, MS 39530; telephone: 800-946-2946.

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 5401 West Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 331, Tampa, FL 33609.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Richard L. Leard, Senior Fishery Biologist; telephone: 813-228-2815.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 29, beginning at 8:00 a.m., the Shrimp SSC will review Draft Amendment 9 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico, U.S. Waters with Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), Regulatory Impact Review (RIR), Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA), and Social Impact Assessment (SIA). The amendment addresses the Council's commitment to reduce the bycatch mortality of juvenile red snapper from