

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene public meetings of the Mackerel Advisory Panel (AP) and Standing and Special Mackerel Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC).

DATES: The meetings are scheduled as follows: Standing and Special Mackerel SSC will meet on April 30, 1997, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Mackerel AP will meet on May 1, 1997, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the New Orleans Airport Radisson Hotel, 2150 Veterans Boulevard, Kenner, LA 70062; telephone: 504-467-3111.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Standing and Special Mackerel SSC will review the 1997 stock assessment updates for both king and Spanish Mackerel and the report of the Socioeconomic Panel (SEP) that includes economic and social information related to setting an allowable biological catch range and bag limits for mackerels in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic. Based on this review, the SSC may recommend to the Council levels for total allowable catch, bag limits, size limits, commercial quotas, and other measures for these species for the 1997-98 season.

The Mackerel AP will also review the 1997 stock assessment updates for both king and Spanish Mackerel and the report of the SEP. The AP will also provide recommendations to the Council based on their perspectives as users of these resources.

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 April 23, 1997.

Dated: April 1, 1997.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 033197G]

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 via conference call on April 22, 1997, beginning at 10:00 a.m. eastern standard time (EST)/9:00 a.m. central standard time (CST) to resolve inconsistencies in their advice to the Council on vermilion snapper minimum size limits and allowable biological catch recommendations. The Council is considering an increase in the vermilion snapper minimum size limit from 8-inches to 10-inches total length in order to stop a decline in the vermilion snapper stock and prevent the stock from becoming overfished. In November 1996, the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel (RFSAP) had stated that changes in the minimum size limit would have very little impact on the resource, but in February 1997, the RFSAP concluded that increasing the minimum size limit to 10-inches total length would reduce overall harvest by about 33 percent.

DATES: The meeting will be held on April 22, 1997, beginning at 10:00 a.m. EST/9:00 a.m. CST.

ADDRESSES: A listening phone will be located at each of the following locations:

1. NMFS Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL; telephone: 813-570-5335;
2. NMFS Panama City Laboratory, 3500 Delwood Beach Road, Panama City, FL; telephone: 904-234-6541;
3. NMFS Miami Laboratory, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL; telephone: 305-361-4487.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Atran, Population Dynamic Statistician; telephone: 813-228-2815.

Special Accommodations

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the

Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by April 15, 1997.

Dated: April 1, 1997.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 033197F]

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 Reef Fish Advisory Panel (AP).

DATES: The meeting will be held on May 2, 1997, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the at the Radisson Bay Harbor Inn, 7700 Courtney Campbell Causeway, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: 813-281-8000.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Reef Fish AP will review draft Reef Fish Amendment 15 which contains: proposals for a red snapper commercial license limitation system; limits on harvest of reef fish from crustacean traps; a vermilion snapper minimum size limit increase; removal of sea bass, grunts, and porgies from Federal management; and removal of several reef fish species from the aggregate bag limit rule. The Red Snapper AP may also provide recommendations to the Council, and the AP will also hear a presentation on marine reserves from NMFS.

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 April 25, 1997.