

Conflict of Interest Presentation**Essential Fish Habitat**

Habitat Mapping Efforts

Sustainable Fisheries Act Fishery Management Plan (FMP)**Reef Fish FMP**

Overfishing Definition based on Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)
Stock Assessment Needs

Queen Conch FMP Update

Monitoring Efforts

Coral FMP Update

Marine Conservation District
Monitoring Efforts
Report of SSC Meeting

Reef Fish FMP

Update
Overfishing Definition based on MSY

Other Issues

Trap Reduction Program
Seasonal Closure for Spiny Lobster
Banning SCUBA (Reef fish)
The AP will convene on Tuesday March 2, 1999, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The SSC will convene on March 3, 1999, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The meetings are open to the public, and will be conducted in English. However, simultaneous interpretation (Spanish-English) will be available during the AP meeting (March 2, 1999). Fishers and other interested persons are invited to attend and participate with oral or written statements regarding agenda issues.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and/or other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolon, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, PR 00918-2577, telephone: (787) 766-5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 9, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-3683 Filed 2-12-99; 8:45 am]

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

[I.D. 020899D]

Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold meetings of its Advisory Panel (AP) Selection, Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Selection, Administrative Policy, Personnel, Reef Fish Management, Marine Reserves, and Vessel Monitoring Committees; and a Council Session.

DATES: The meetings will be held from March 1-4, 1999. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Baton Rouge Hilton, 5500 Hilton Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA; telephone: 225-924-5000.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne E. Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Council Meeting Dates**

March 3, 1999, 1:00 p.m.—Council will convene.

March 3, 1999, 1:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.—Receive public testimony on the Draft Gag Regulatory Amendment Options Paper. The Gag Amendment includes alternatives for specification of a total allowable catch (TAC) for gag; minimum size limit increase for gag and black grouper from 20 to 24 inches total length; a two-fish recreational bag limit for gag as part of the existing five aggregate grouper bag limit; a zero bag limit of gag for the captain and crew of for-hire vessels; a commercial trip limit for gag; a closed season during peak gag spawning; and area closures at gag spawning aggregation locations.

March 3, 1999, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Receive a report from the Reef Fish Management Committee.

March 4, 1999, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.—(closed sessions)—Receive reports from the AP Selection, SSC Selection, and the Personnel Committees.

March 4, 1999, 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.—Receive a Council Report for the AP Selection, SSC Selection, and the Personnel Committees.

March 4, 1999, 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.—Receive a report from the Vessel Monitoring Committee.

March 4, 1999, 1:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.—Receive a report from the

Administrative Policy Committee.

March 4, 1999, 11:15 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.—Receive a report from the Marine Reserves Committee.

March 4, 1999, 11:30 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.—Receive the NMFS/Council policy meeting report.

11:50 a.m. - 12:00 noon—Receive the NOAA Strategic Planning Workshop report.

March 4, 1999, 2:00 noon - 12:15 p.m.—Receive a report on the NMFS/ Highly Migratory Species and Billfish AP meetings.

March 4, 1999, 12:15 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.—Receive enforcement reports.

March 4, 1999, 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.—Receive Director's reports.

March 4, 1999, 1:00 p.m.—Other Business: The Council may discuss a letter from the NMFS partially disapproving the Essential Fish Habitat plan amendment.

Committee Meeting Dates

March 1, 1999, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon—(closed session)—Convene the AP Selection Committee to appoint AP members.

March 1, 1999, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.—(closed session)—Convene the SSC Selection Committee to appoint SSC members.

March 1, 1999, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.—Convene the Administrative Policy Committee to approve the revised Statement of Organization Practices and Procedures (SOPPS).

March 2, 1999, 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.—Convene the Reef Fish Management Committee to review the draft Gag Regulatory Amendment Options Paper and develop recommendations to the Council for final action. The recommendations will be considered by the Council on Wednesday, March 3, 1999. The Committee will also hear a status report on the red snapper regulatory amendment and may take action.

March 2, 1999, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.—Convene the Marine Reserves Committee to review a draft scoping document on marine reserves.

March 2, 1999, 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.—(closed session)—Convene the Personnel Committee to discuss selection of a fishery biologist.

March 3, 1999, 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.—Convene the Vessel Monitoring

Committee to receive a NFMS progress report, and Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation (G&SAFDF) proposals.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council and its Committees for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council and Committee action during this meeting. Actions will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed in this notice.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are 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 February 22, 1999.

Dated: February 10, 1999.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020899E]

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 Law Enforcement Advisory Panel (AP), its Law Enforcement, Marine Reserves, Dolphin/Wahoo, Snapper-Grouper and AP Selection Committees; and a Council Session.

DATES: The meetings will be held from March 1-5, 1999. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meetings will be held at the Sea Palms Resort, 5445 Frederica Road, St. Simons Island, GA; telephone: (912) 638-3351.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306; Charleston, SC 29407-4699.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Buchanan, Public Information Officer; telephone: (843) 571-4366; fax:

(843) 769-4520; email: susan.buchanan@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Meeting Dates

*March 1, 1999, 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.—*Joint Law Enforcement

Committee and Law Enforcement AP:

The Law Enforcement Committee and Law Enforcement AP will hear a report on the South Carolina/NMFS cooperative law enforcement grant, develop recommendations on the use of tailing permits in the spiny lobster fishery, develop criteria for establishing marine reserves from a law enforcement perspective, discuss development of law enforcement threat analysis for marine reserves, review a request from Georgia to establish new special management zones, receive an update on the use of the forward looking infrared radar (FLIR) system by law enforcement, and hear a status report of vessel monitoring systems in the Southeast.

*March 2, 1999, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon—*Marine Reserves Committee:

The Marine Reserves Committee will review a proposal for the use of artificial reefs in the South Atlantic, as well as review a document outlining the Council's intent concerning the use of marine reserves as a management tool in the South Atlantic.

March 2, 1999, 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.;
*March 3, 1999, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon—*Dolphin/Wahoo Committee:

The Dolphin/Wahoo Committee will hear the status of the Council's request to be lead in management of the Dolphin/Wahoo Fishery Management Plan (FMP), hear the status of the Council's request for publication of a control date for the dolphin fishery, and hear a report on dolphin and wahoo data analysis. The Committee also will discuss the structure of the Dolphin Wahoo FMP, as well as review and revise FMP management options.

*March 3, 1999, 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.—*Snapper-Grouper Committee:

The Snapper-Grouper Committee will review the wreckfish assessment report and develop recommendations for establishing the annual wreckfish quota, as well as other framework measures, review the red porgy stock assessment report, and the Snapper-Grouper Assessment Group report.

*March 4, 1999, 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.—*AP Selection Committee (closed session):

The AP Selection Committee will review AP membership applications and develop appointment recommendations.

*March 4, 1999, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.—*Council Session:

The Council will hear reports from the AP Selection Committee (closed session), as well as the Executive and Snapper-Grouper Committees.

At 11:15 a.m., the Council will be briefed on conflict-of-interest and recusal regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

At 1:30 p.m. (closed session), the Council will appoint AP members.

At 2:00 p.m., the Council will discuss the outcome of the appeals process regarding Snapper-Grouper Amendment 8, as well as review the proposed format for stock assessment and fishery evaluation (SAFE) reports.

At 4:30 p.m., the Council will take public comment on the Gulf Council's Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) Amendment before considering amendment approval.

At 5:00 p.m., the Council will take public comment on the proposed 1999-2000 wreckfish quota and any proposed framework measures, as well as on resubmission of the rejected measure establishing an amberjack trip limit in Snapper-Grouper Amendment 9. The Council also will take action to establish the annual wreckfish quota, approve other wreckfish framework measures, and address the Snapper-Grouper Amendment 9 rejected measure concerning the greater amberjack trip limit.

*March 5, 1999, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon—*Council Session;

The Council will hear reports from the Marine Reserves, Dolphin/Wahoo and Law Enforcement Committees.

At 10:00 a.m., the Council also will hear status reports on from the NMFS on the Snapper-Grouper Amendment 9 emergency rule, the 1999 mackerel framework, as well as Mackerel Amendment 9 quotas for Atlantic king mackerel, Gulf king mackerel in the Eastern Zone, Atlantic Spanish mackerel, snowy grouper and golden tilefish, South Atlantic octocorals and greater amberjack.

At 10:30 a.m. the Council will hear reports on the Council/NMFS policy meeting, the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, the Council operations plan, and the status of the Savannah Harbor Project before hearing agency and liaison reports.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council, its APs, and Committees for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council, Committee and AP action during this meeting. Actions will be restricted to those issues specifically