

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30103, 30162; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Issued on: June 7, 1999.

L. Robert Shelton,

Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[I.D. 052599C]

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources; Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico; Public Hearings

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

ACTION: Notice of public hearings; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene public hearings to receive comments on its "Draft Amendment 12 to the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic, Including Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Impact Review," and "Draft Amendment 17 to the Fishery Management Plan for Reef Fish

Resources, Including Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Impact Review."

DATES: Written comments on the Draft Amendments will be accepted by the Gulf Council through July 14, 1999, but are preferred by July 1, 1999. The public hearings will be held in June. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times of the public hearings.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to, and copies of the draft amendments are available from, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301, North, Suite 1000, Tampa, Florida 33619. The public hearings will be held in Florida, Alabama, and Texas. See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for specific locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Richard Leard, Senior Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Draft Amendment 12 contains provisions for extending the commercial king mackerel permit moratorium for 3 or 5 years from its current expiration date of October 15, 2000, in order to provide time for the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils to develop and implement a controlled access system for the king mackerel fishery. Draft Amendment 17 contains provisions for extending the commercial reef fish permit moratorium by 3, 4, or 5 years from its current expiration date of December 31, 2000, in order to provide time for the Gulf Council to develop and implement a controlled access system for the reef fish fishery.

A total of 4 public hearings on both draft amendments will be held to obtain public comments on these draft amendments. The public comment period for these draft amendments ends on July 14, 1999; however, the Council prefers to receive written comments by July 1, 1999.

Public hearings will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at all of the following locations:

1. Monday, June 14, 1999—City Hall Auditorium, 3001 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach, FL;
2. Tuesday, June 15, 1999—National Marine Fisheries Service Panama City Laboratory, 3500 Delwood Beach Road, Panama City FL;
3. Wednesday, June 16, 1999—Orange Beach Community Center, 27235 Canal Road, Orange Beach, AL; and
4. Thursday, June 17—Ellis Memorial Library, 700 West Avenue A, Port Aransas, TX.

Copies of the draft amendments can be obtained by calling 813-228-2815.

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 June 7, 1999.

Dated: June 7, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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