

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

[I.D. 011200A]

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Scoping Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of scoping meetings; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will conduct scoping meetings to receive comments on a Draft Options Paper for Amendment 10 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico (Shrimp Amendment 10).

DATES: Written comments will be accepted until 5 p.m. on March 6, 2000. The scoping meetings will be held from February 2 through February 10, 2000. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301, North, Suite 1000, Tampa, Florida 33619; telephone: (813) 228-2815. Copies of the Draft Options Paper are also available from the Council.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The scoping meetings will be convened to receive comments on the need for additional bycatch reduction requirements for the shrimp fishery in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) south and east of 85°30' W. long. Amendment 9 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico (FMP), approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on July 30, 1997, and implemented by final rule on May 14, 1998 (April 14, 1998; 63 FR 18139), required the use of a NMFS-certified bycatch reduction device (BRD) in shrimp trawls used in the EEZ from Cape San Blas, Florida (85°30' W. long.) to the Texas/Mexico border and provided for the certification of the Fisheye BRD in the 30 mesh position. The purpose of this action was to reduce the bycatch mortality of juvenile red snapper by 44 percent from the average

mortality for the years 1984-89. Amendment 9 to the FMP exempted shrimp trawls fishing for royal red shrimp outside of 100 fathoms, as well as groundfish and butterfish trawls. It also excluded small try nets and no more than two ridged frame roller trawls that do not exceed 16 feet (4.9 m). Amendment 9 to the FMP did not require BRDs south and east of 85°30' West long, because few juvenile red snapper were found as bycatch in this area. Because of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act's requirement to reduce bycatch to the extent practicable, the Council is considering the need for additional measures to reduce bycatch.

Scoping meetings for the Draft Options Paper on Shrimp Amendment 10 will begin at 7:00 p.m. and end at 10:00 p.m. at all of the following locations:

1. Wednesday, February 2, 2000—Harbormaster's Office, 1407 Main Street, Palacios, TX 77465;

2. Thursday, February 3, 2000—Port Isabel Community Center, 213 Yturria, Port Isabel, TX 78578;

3. Monday, February 7, 2000—Holiday Inn La Concha Hotel, 430 Duval Street, Key West, FL 33040;

4. Tuesday, February 8, 2000—Edison Community College, Hendry Hall—K143—Parking Lot 8—Lee County Campus, 8099 College Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33919;

5. Wednesday, February 9, City Hall Auditorium, 300 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach, FL 33708; and

6. Thursday, February 10, 2000—Apalachicola Reserve Visitors Center, 261 7th Street, Apalachicola, FL 32320.

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**).

Dated: January 27, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers****Release of Remedial Investigation (RI), Feasibility Study (FS), and Proposed Plan (PP) for Cleanup of Radiological Contamination at the Madison Site for Public Review**

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The St. Louis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), in consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), propose to clean up contaminants resulting from the extrusion of uranium metal at the Madison Site. This site is one of several being addressed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Alternatives, which identify the range of cleanup options, have been developed and evaluated in the Madison Site Feasibility Study (FS). USACE has identified Alternative 4 as the preferred remediation alternative described in the Proposed Plan (PP) based on the information available at this time. The final decision on the remedy to be implemented will be documented in a Record Decision (ROD) only after consideration of all comments received and any new information presented.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions regarding the Madison RI/FS/PP may be directed to Mr. Lou Dell'Orco, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, FUSRAP Project Office, 9170 Latty Avenue, Berkeley, Missouri 63134, by phone (314) 524-4083, or by e-mail at Louis.A.Dellorco@mvs02.usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**1. Proposed Action**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), St. Louis District, is issuing the Remedial Investigation (RI), Feasibility Study (FS), and Proposed Plan (PP) for public comment. The site became contaminated as a result of activities in support of the nation's early atomic energy program. During the late 1950s and early 1960s, the site was used to perform extrusions of uranium metal and straightening of extruded uranium rods for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). The cleanup of this site is being managed by the Corps of Engineers under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program