

have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the affected marine mammal stocks for subsistence uses. In addition, NMFS finds that, under its previous LOA, BPXA has met the requirements contained in the implementing regulations, including monitoring and reporting requirements.

This LOA remains valid until November 30, 2002, provided BPXA is in conformance with the conditions of the regulations and the LOA and the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements described in this document and in the LOA are undertaken.

Dated: December 14, 2001.

**David Cottingham,**

*Deputy Director Office of Protected Resources National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121801C]

#### 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 meetings.

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

**DATES:** The AP will meet beginning at 8:30 a.m. on January 7, 2001 and will conclude by 3 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the New Orleans Airport Hilton, 901 Airline Highway, Kenner, LA; telephone: 504-469-5000.

*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, at the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813-228-2815.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Shrimp AP will receive reports from NMFS on the status and health of shrimp stocks in the Gulf and the effects of the 2001 Cooperative Shrimp Closure with the state of Texas. The Shrimp AP may make recommendations for a cooperative closure with Texas for 2002. The Shrimp AP will also review an

Options Paper for Amendment 13 to the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan (FMP) that includes alternatives to add rock shrimp to the Shrimp FMP and establishment of status criteria for shrimp stocks including maximum sustainable yields (MSY), optimum yields (OY), as well as criteria for determining if any of the shrimp stocks are undergoing overfishing or should be classified as overfished. The Options Paper may also contain alternatives for bycatch quotas.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the AP for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the AP will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

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

#### 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 December 31, 2001.

Dated: December 18, 2001.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121801B]

#### 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 public meetings of the Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Reef Fish Advisory Panel

(AP) from January 7 through January 11, 2002.

**DATES:** The Council's Reef Fish AP will convene at 9 a.m. (EST) on Monday, January 7, 2002 and conclude by 5 p.m. Wednesday, January 9, 2002. The Council will also convene a meeting of the Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC at 8:30 a.m. (EST) on Thursday, January 10, 2002 and conclude by 5 p.m. on Friday, January 11, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Hilton Tampa Airport Hotel, 2225 Lois Avenue, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: 813-877-6688.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813-228-2815.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The AP and the SSC will review a report from the Council's Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel (RFSAP) summarizing recent NMFS stock assessments, recommendations for allowable biological catch (ABC) and thresholds for status determination for gag, vermilion snapper, and gray triggerfish. They will also review a report from the Council's Socioeconomic Panel (SEP) summarizing the available economic and social information and implications of setting recommended ABC levels for those stocks. The SSC will comment on the scientific validity of these reports, and both the SSC and AP may make recommendations for setting total allowable catch (TAC) or other management measures for these stocks.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the AP/SSC for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the AP/SSC will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agendas and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

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