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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration**

[I.D. 022206A]

**Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management
Council; Public Meeting**

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery
Management Council (Council) will
convene its Law Enforcement Advisory
Panel (LEAP).

DATES: The meeting will be held on
Monday, March 13, 2006, from 1 p.m. to
5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at
the Holiday Inn Downtown/Market
Square, 318 W. Durango Boulevard, San
Antonio, TX.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico
Fishery Management Council, 2203
North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa,
FL 33607.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr.
Richard Leard, Deputy Executive
Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery
Management Council; telephone: (813)
348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
Council will convene the LEAP to
review an Options Paper for Joint
Amendment 27 to the Reef Fish Fishery
Management Plan (FMP)/Amendment
14 to the Shrimp FMP. This amendment
contains alternatives to regulate the
harvest and bycatch of red snapper by
both the directed commercial and
recreational fisheries and the shrimp
fishery in the Gulf of Mexico. The need
for this amendment arose from the
Southeast Data, Assessment and Review
(SEDAR) process through which a
recent stock assessment showed that the
red snapper stock in the Gulf was
overfished and overfishing was
continuing.

In addition, the LEAP will discuss the
Automated Identification System that
will soon be required of many fishing
vessels in the Gulf. The LEAP will
review a discussion paper that may
ultimately be used as the basis for

developing Individual Fishing Quota
(IFQ) programs for the grouper and
potentially other commercial reef fish
fishing operations in the Gulf. Finally,
the LEAP will review the status of
various FMP amendments and other
regulatory actions and report on the
various activities of participating
organizations.

The LEAP consists of principal law
enforcement officers in each of the Gulf
States, as well as the NMFS, U.S. Fish
and Wildlife Service (FWS), the U.S.
Coast Guard, and the NOAA General
Counsel. A copy of the agenda and
related materials can be obtained by
calling the Council office at (813) 348-
1630.

Although other non-emergency issues
not on the agendas may come before the
LEAP for discussion, in accordance with
the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
Conservation and Management Act
(Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues
may not be the subject of formal action
during this meeting. Actions of the
LEAP 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.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible
to people with disabilities. Requests for
sign language interpretation or other
auxiliary aids should be directed to
Dawn Aring at the Council (see
ADDRESSES) at least 5 working days prior
to the meeting.

Dated: February 22, 2006.

Helen Troupas,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration**

[I.D. 021706D]

**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management
Council; Public Meetings**

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery
Management Council (Council), its

Ecosystems Committee, Surfclam/Ocean
Quahog/Tilefish Committee, its Squid,
Mackerel, Butterfish Committee, and its
Executive Committee will hold public
meetings.

DATES: The meeting will be held on
Tuesday, March 14, 2006 through
Thursday, March 16, 2006. See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for meeting
agenda.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at
Congress Hall Hotel, 251 Beach Avenue,
Cape May, NJ; telephone: (608) 884-
8421

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery
Management Council, 300 S. New
Street, Dover, DE 19904, telephone:
(302) 674-2331.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Daniel T. Furlong, Executive Director,
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management
Council; telephone: (302) 674-2331, ext.
19.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

The Ecosystems Committee will meet
from 10 a.m. – 12 noon. The Committee
will review final draft of Mid-Atlantic
Fishery Management Council's
Ecosystem Report regarding ecosystem
based fishery management and address
strategy regarding introduction of circle
hooks as the hook of choice in
recreational sector.

The Surfclam/Ocean Quahog/Tilefish
Committee will meet from 1 p.m.–1:30
p.m. The Committee will review 2006
Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)
reimbursement program / conditions,
and address timing of tilefish
specifications adjustments.

The Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish
Committee will meet from 1:30 p.m.–4
p.m. This Committee will review status
of Amendment 10 and discuss and
adopt rebuilding schedules developed
by Fishery Management Action Team
(FMAT) for the butterfish stock.

The Executive Committee will meet
from 4 p.m.–4:30 p.m. The Committee
will review status of 2006 and 2007
budgets, and review criteria for Ricks E
Savage Award.

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

The Council will convene at 9 a.m.
The Council will conduct its regular
business session from 9 a.m. to 11:30
a.m., to approve December and January
Council meeting minutes, approve
actions from January meeting and
receive various reports. From 12:30
p.m.–5:30 p.m., the Council will discuss
Amendment 9 to Squid, Mackerel,
Butterfish Fishery Management Plan
(FMP), review and adopt the public
hearing document (PHD) for
Amendment 9 and associated draft
environmental impact statement (DEIS).