

prohibit possession of horseshoe crabs on a vessel with a trawl or dredge gear aboard in the same Reserve.

Limuli Laboratories, in cooperation with the State of New Jersey's Division of Fish and Wildlife, submitted an application for an EFP on July 5, 2006. NMFS has made a preliminary determination that the subject EFP contains all the required information and warrants further consideration. NMFS has also made a preliminary determination that the activities authorized under the EFP would be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Federal horseshoe crab regulations and the Commission's Horseshoe Crab ISFMP.

Regulations at 50 CFR 600.745(b)(3)(v) authorize NMFS to attach terms and conditions to the EFP consistent with: the purpose of the exempted fishery, the objectives of horseshoe crab regulations and fisheries management plan, and other applicable law. NMFS is considering adding the following terms and conditions to the EFP:

1. Limiting the number of horseshoe crabs collected in the Reserve to no more than 500 crabs per day and to a total of no more than 10,000 crabs per year;

2. Requiring collections to take place over a total of approximately 20 days during the months of July, August, September, October, and November. Horseshoe crabs are readily available in harvestable concentrations nearshore earlier in the year, and offshore in the Reserve from July through November;

3. Requiring that a 5 1/2 inch (14.0 cm) flounder net be used by the vessel to collect the horseshoe crabs. This condition would allow for continuation of traditional harvest gear and adds to the consistency in the way horseshoe crabs are harvested for data collection;

4. Limiting trawl tow times to 30 minutes as a conservation measure to protect sea turtles, which are expected to be migrating through the area during the collection period, and are vulnerable to bottom trawling;

5. Restricting the hours of fishing to daylight hours only, approximately from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. to aid law enforcement. NMFS also is considering a requirement that the State of New Jersey Law Enforcement be notified daily as to when and where the collection will take place;

6. Requiring that the collected horseshoe crabs be picked up from the fishing vessels at docks in the Cape May Area and transported to local laboratories, bled for LAL, and released alive the following morning into the Lower Delaware Bay; and

7. Requiring that any turtle take be reported to NMFS, NERO Assistant Regional Administrator of Protected Resources Division (phone, (978) 281-9328) within 24 hours of returning from the trip in which the incidental take occurred.

Also as part of the terms and conditions of the EFP, for all horseshoe crabs bled for LAL, NMFS is considering a requirement that the EFP holder provide data on sex ratio and daily numbers, and tag 15 percent of the horseshoe crabs harvested. Also, the EFP holder may be required to examine at least 200 horseshoe crabs for: morphometric data, by sex (e.g., interocular (I/O) distance and weight), and level of activity, as measured by a response or by distance traveled after release on a beach.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: July 10, 2006.

**Alan D. Risenhoover,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071106E]

#### Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Closed Session Advisory Panel Selection Committee Conference Call.

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene its Advisory Panel Selection Committee via Conference Call to select participants for Ad Hoc Shrimp Effort AP, SEDAR NGO AP, and review AP Member Violations Material for recommendation to the Council.

**DATES:** The conference call will be held on Thursday, August 3, 2006, from 11 a.m. EDT to 12 noon EDT.

**ADDRESSES:** Meeting address: The meeting will be held via Closed Session conference call.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Wayne Swingle, Executive Director,

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813.348.1630.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene its Advisory Panel Selection Committee via Conference Call to select participants for Ad Hoc Shrimp Effort AP, SEDAR NGO AP, and review AP Member Violations Material in a closed session conference call on Thursday, August 3, 2006, at 11 a.m. EDT. The Committee recommendations will be presented to the Council at the August 14-18, 2006, Council Meeting in Baton Rouge, LA.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Tina Trezza at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least five working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: July 11, 2006.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071106C]

#### Fisheries of the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean; Southeastern Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) Steering Committee Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of the SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The SEDAR Steering Committee will meet to discuss the SEDAR schedule; consider modifications to the SEDAR process; discuss the assessment update process; and establish the assessment schedule for 2006 and 2007. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The SEDAR Steering Committee will meet on Tuesday, August 1, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Wednesday, August 2, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Marriott Frenchman's Reef, 5 Estate Bakkeroe, St. Thomas, USVI, 00802. Phone: (340) 776-8500 / Fax: (340) 715-6191.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Carmichael, SEDAR Coordinator, SEDAR/SAFMC, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, S.C., 29407; phone (843) 571-4366 or toll free (866) SAFMC-10; FAX (843) 769-4520.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils; in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; implemented the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks. The SEDAR Steering Committee provides oversight of the SEDAR process, establishes assessment priorities, and provides coordination between assessment efforts and management activities. The SEDAR Steering Committee meets twice annually.

During this meeting the Steering Committee will consider benchmark assessments during 2007-2011 and update assessments in 2007 and 2008. The Committee will receive the report of the king mackerel mixing subcommittee and the evaluation of research and monitoring needs for scheduled assessments. The Committee will review the update process, consider the time allotted to complete benchmark assessments, evaluate options for securing review panel chairs, evaluate review panel products, and clarify assessment presentation procedures.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council office at the address listed above at least 5 business days prior to the meeting.

Dated: July 11, 2006.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071106D]

#### Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico; Southeastern Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper

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

**ACTION:** Notice of SEDAR Data, Assessment, and Review Workshops for Gulf of Mexico red grouper.

**SUMMARY:** The SEDAR assessment of the Gulf of Mexico stock of red grouper will be developed through a series of three workshops: a Data Workshop, an Assessment Workshop, and a Review Workshop. This is the twelfth SEDAR. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**DATES:** The Data Workshop will take place July 24-28, 2006; the Assessment Workshop will take place October 16-20, 2006; the Review Workshop will take place January 29-February 2, 2007. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**ADDRESSES:** The Data Workshop will be held at the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront, 333 First Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. Phone (727) 894-5000. The Assessment Workshop will be held at the Doubletree Coconut Grove, 2649 South Bayshore Drive, Miami, FL 33133. Phone (305) 858-2500. The Review Workshop will be held at the Doubletree Atlanta Buckhead, 3342 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta GA 30326. Phone (404) 231-1234.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steven Atran, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC), 2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa FL 33607. Phone: (813) 348-1630. John Carmichael, SEDAR Coordinator, One Southpark Circle # 306, Charleston, SC 29414. (843) 571-4366.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions have implemented the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR includes three workshops: 1) Data Workshop, 2) Stock Assessment Workshop and 3) Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop is a data report which compiles and evaluates potential

datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The product of the Stock Assessment Workshop is a stock assessment report which describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The assessment is independently peer reviewed at the Review Workshop. The products of the Review Workshop are a Consensus Summary documenting Panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data, and an Advisory Report summarizing stock status and recommending management criteria. Participants for SEDAR Workshops, appointed by the regional Fishery Management Councils, the SERO, and the SEFSC, include data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and NGO's; International experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies. SEDAR workshops are open to the public.

#### SEDAR 12 Workshop Schedule

*July 24-28, 2006; SEDAR 12 Data Workshop*

July 24, 2006: 1 p.m.-8 p.m.; July 25-27, 2006: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; July 28, 2006: 8 a.m.-1 p.m. An assessment data set and associated documentation will be developed during the Data Workshop. Participants will evaluate all available data and select appropriate sources for providing information on life history characteristics, catch statistics, discard estimates, length and age composition, and fishery dependent and fishery independent measures of stock abundance.

*October 16-20, 2006. SEDAR 12 Assessment Workshop*

October 16, 2006: 1 p.m.-8 p.m.; October 17-19, 2006: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; October 20, 2006: 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Using datasets provided by the Data Workshop, participants will develop population models to evaluate stock status, estimate population benchmarks and Sustainable Fisheries Act criteria, and project future conditions. Participants will recommend the most appropriate methods and configurations for determining stock status and estimating population parameters. Participants will prepare a workshop report, compare and contrast various assessment approaches, and determine