

remain the same. The effective date of February 25, 2007 remains the same.

**Sheryl D. Kennerly,**

*Director, Information Management.*

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**BILLING CODE 6353-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021607F]

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

**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 the Standing Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to address four issues (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**).

**DATES:** The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 15 & 16, 2007 and conclude by 3 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** *Meeting address:* The meeting will be held at the Four Points by Sheraton, 6401 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, LA 70003.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Wayne Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813-348-1630.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The SSC will address these issues:

Review and provide guidance on the draft provisions of Reef Fish Amendment 27 and Shrimp Amendment 14 which set management measures to rebuild the red snapper resource in the Gulf of Mexico.

Review the SEDAR 12 assessment of red grouper in the Gulf of Mexico. The SSC will determine if the SEDAR 12 Review Panel reports are based on the best available information. The SSC may provide guidance to the Council about the results of the assessment and research recommendations made by the SEDAR panels.

Examine the availability of new information on Gulf of Mexico red drum and provide guidance to the Council on whether a SEDAR benchmark assessment can be conducted and may comment on new research or data

collections would be necessary to adequately conduct such an assessment.

Review the provisions of the Scoping document for Reef Fish Amendment 30 which includes gag and red grouper, greater amberjack and gray triggerfish management measures to determine if they are scientifically sound based on the recent SEDAR assessments of these species.

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 Standing Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (M-SFCMA), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the Standing Statistical Committee (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 M-SFCMA, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

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: February 16, 2007.

**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

[Docket No. 060824225-6225-01; I.D. 021207A]

#### Fisheries in the Western Pacific; Western Pacific Crustacean Fisheries; 2007 Harvest Guideline

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

**ACTION:** Notification of harvest guideline for crustaceans.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces that the annual harvest guideline for the commercial lobster fishery in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI)

for calendar year 2007 is established at zero lobsters.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bob Harman, NMFS Pacific Islands Region, 808-944-2271.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NWHI commercial lobster fishery is managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Crustacean Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region (Crustaceans FMP). The regulations at 50 CFR 665.50(b)(2) require NMFS to publish an annual harvest guideline for lobster Permit Area 1, comprised of Federal waters around the NWHI.

The NWHI commercial lobster fishery, which operates almost exclusively within 50 nm of the NWHI archipelago, has been closed since 2000, initially as a precautionary action to prevent overfishing of spiny and slipper lobster resources while NMFS conducted biological research and assessed the status of the lobster stocks. In 2001, the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii ordered the fishery to remain closed until an environmental impact statement and a biological opinion were prepared for the Crustaceans FMP. Also in December 2000 and January 2001, the NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (Reserve) was established by Executive Order which, among other provisions, prohibited commercial lobster fishing in the Reserve. The boundary of the Reserve extended to a distance of 50 nm seaward from the islands of the NWHI. On June 15, 2006, Presidential Proclamation No. 8031 established the NWHI Marine National Monument. The Proclamation requires that any commercial lobster fishing permit shall be subject to a zero annual harvest limit. The Proclamation also prohibited unpermitted removal, moving, taking, harvesting, possessing, injuring, disturbing, or damaging; or attempting to remove, move, take, harvest, possess, injure, disturb, or damage any living or nonliving monument resource. Subsequently, NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service jointly promulgated regulations implementing the Proclamation, including these measures (71 FR 51134, August 29, 2006), to be codified at 50 CFR part 404.

Consistent with the regulatory provisions that establish the unpermitted removal of monument resources and zero annual harvest guideline (50 CFR 404.7 and 404.10(a), respectively), NMFS establishes the harvest guideline at zero lobsters for the NWHI commercial lobster fishery for calendar year 2007; thus, no harvest of NWHI lobster resources is allowed.

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