

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

RIN 0648–XG342

**New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Research Steering Committee to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** This meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 8, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Meeting address:* The meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 100 High Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801; telephone: (603) 431–1499.

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Agenda**

The Research Steering Committee will develop Council recommendations regarding the Research Review Policy and the purpose and functions of the RSC. They will also receive updates on improving the functionality of how research priorities are listed, Council Coordination Committee discussion, and other developments; develop any additional Council recommendations. The Committee will meet the NEFSC new Fishery Monitoring & Research Division Chief and receive updates on cooperative research activities; develop Council recommendations as well as receive an overview of the NEFMC's ongoing review of the Research-Set-Aside programs; develop Council recommendations. The Research Steering Committee will review completed research project on: An experimental fishery for silver hake/whiting in Small Mesh Area I and the Western Raised Footrope Exemption Area; develop Council recommendations. Address other business as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after the 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 final 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 Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465–0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date. This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

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

Dated: July 16, 2018.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

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

RIN 0648–XG347

**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 will hold a one day meeting of its Standing, Reef Fish, Mackerel and Shrimp Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC).

**DATES:** The meeting will convene on Thursday, August 2, 2017, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EDT.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore Hotel, located at 2225 N Lois Avenue, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 877–6688.

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4701 W Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348–1630.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. John Froeschke, Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; [john.froeschke@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:john.froeschke@gulfcouncil.org), telephone: (813) 348–1630.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Thursday, August 2, 2018: 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

- I. Introductions and Adoption of Agenda
- II. Approval of May 31–June 1, 2018 SSC Minutes
- III. Selection of SSC representative at August 20–23, 2018 Council meeting in Corpus Christi, TX

**Standing and Mackerel SSC Session**

- IV. Options Paper—Modifications to Gulf of Mexico Migratory Group Cobia Size and Possession Limits
  - a. Updated catch-per-unit effort indices for Gulf cobia
  - b. Review of draft options paper

**Standing, Reef Fish and Shrimp SSC Session**

- V. Update on Council Request regarding shrimp effort threshold reduction in the area monitored for juvenile red snapper bycatch

**Standing and Reef Fish SSC Session**

- VI. Review of Procedure for Red Grouper Interim Analysis
  - VII. Overview of revised SEDAR process: Research, operational, and interim tacks
  - VIII. Council staff proposed modifications to the SEDAR process
  - IX. Determine need for a red snapper research track assessment in 2020, followed by an operational assessment in 2021
  - X. Selection of Workgroup Appointees for SEDAR 64—Yellowtail Snapper Benchmark Assessment
  - XI. Specify the TORs for the 2020 operational assessments for gag and greater amberjack
  - XII. Review of Gray Snapper Global SPR Analysis
  - XIII. Draft Reef Fish Amendment 48/Red Drum Amendment 5
    - a. Review of revised reference sheet
    - b. Action 1–MSY proxies issues and alternatives
      - i. Summary of MSY Proxies Working Group meeting
      - ii. Revised MSY proxies alternatives
    - c. Action 4–OY alternatives
      - i. Draft OY buffer spreadsheet
      - d. Actions 2 and 3 (MSST and MFMT)
  - VI. Tentative 2018/19 SSC Meeting Dates
  - VII. Other Business
- Meeting Adjourns
- The meeting will be broadcast via webinar. You may register for the