

inventory on February 22, 2016, and was scheduled to expire in February 2021.

On November 13, 2019, NOAA issued a document (84 FR 61546) to clarify procedures for evaluating and updating a nomination as it approaches the five-year mark. The clarified procedure ensures the inventory contains nominations that remain relevant and responsive to the 11 SNP national significance criteria and management considerations (“SNP Criteria”). The 11 SNP Criteria can be found at <https://nominate.noaa.gov>.

On January 12, 2021, NOAA issued a request for public comments on this nomination (86 FR 2384). NOAA requested relevant information pertaining to the 11 SNP Criteria that NOAA applied to evaluate the Lake Erie Quadrangle NMS nomination for inclusion in the national inventory of areas that NOAA may consider for future designation as a national marine sanctuary. No public comments were received during this public comment period, however, the nominator did provide additional information which NOAA has used in evaluating the nomination. In analyzing this material, particular attention was given to new scientific information about the national significance of natural and cultural resources, as well as increases or decreases in the threats to resources originally proposed for protection, and changes to the management framework of the area. NOAA also assessed the level of community-based support for the nomination from a broad range of interests.

Following NOAA’s review of information provided regarding the nomination’s merit for remaining on the inventory after five years, it was determined that new information shows: There are still significant threats to the area; it is still an area of national significance; and, there is still broad community support for the nomination remaining on the inventory of possible designations, among other criteria that the nomination still continues to meet. Therefore, the ONMS Director has determined the nomination for the Lake Erie Quadrangle NMS should remain on the inventory. NOAA is not proposing to designate Lake Erie Quadrangle NMS or any other new national marine sanctuary with this action. This notice serves to inform the public of this decision to extend the nomination on the inventory.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*

**John Armor,**

*Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XA930]

#### 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 hold a four-day meeting via webinar of its Standing, Reef Fish, and Socioeconomic Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 30 to Friday, April 2, 2021, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., EDT.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will take place via webinar; you may register by visiting [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org) and clicking on the SSC meeting on the calendar.

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4107 W Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348–1630.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ryan Rindone, Lead Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; [ryan.rindone@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:ryan.rindone@gulfcouncil.org), telephone: (813) 348–1630.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Tuesday, March 30, 2021–Thursday, April 1, 2021; 9 a.m.–12 p.m., EST**

Meeting will begin with Introductions and Adoption of Agenda. The Committees will review the Great Red Snapper Count (GRSC) Project, including: The Review Terms of Reference; summary presentations about the GRSC including but not limited to study design and sampling approaches; statistics and data analysis; and results. The SSC will be provided with the independent consultant’s initial findings. The first portion of the meeting will end with consultant and SSC deliberations on the GRSC Project.

**Thursday, April 1, 2021–Friday, April 2, 2021; 1 p.m.–12 p.m., EST**

The Committees will then begin the SSC meeting portion of the webinar with the Approval of Verbatim Minutes and Meeting Summary: January 5–7, 2021 webinar meeting; Scope of Work; Selection of SSC Representative for the April 12–15, 2021 Gulf Council Meeting via webinar.

**Friday, April 2, 2021; 1 p.m.–5 p.m., EST**

The Committees will then review the GRSC-informed Catch Analysis from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC); and then the Red Snapper Interim Analysis including but not limited to the National Marine Fisheries Service Bottom Longline fishery-independent index. The SSC will determine BSA and make new overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations for Gulf of Mexico red snapper, as appropriate.

Lastly, the Committees will receive public comment; and discuss any Other Business items.

#### Meeting Adjourns

The meeting will be broadcast via webinar. You may register for the webinar by visiting [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org) and clicking on the SSC meeting on the calendar.

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org) as they become available.

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

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

Dated: March 10, 2021.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

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