

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Richard L. Leard, Senior Fishery Biologist; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting will be to review Draft Amendment 9 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico, U.S. Waters with Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), Regulatory Impact Review (RIR), Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA), and Social Impact Assessment (SIA). The amendment addresses the Council's commitment to reduce the bycatch mortality of juvenile red snapper from shrimp trawls. The amendment includes a review of previous actions and their effects on bycatch as well as various alternatives.

The AP will review the draft amendment with various management alternatives for bycatch reduction including the Council's "preferred alternatives." Measures being considered include: (1) Status Quo - no change to existing regulations; and (2) Require the installation of Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) in all trawls used in the penaeid shrimp fishery of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). They will also review area specific usage of BRDs including requiring BRDs: (1) inside the 100-fathom contour; (2) inside the 100-fathom contour and west of Cape San Blas, FL; (3) between the 10- and 100-fathom contours; and (4) between the 10- and 100-fathom contours and west of Cape San Blas, FL. Other alternatives that will be discussed include: bycatch reduction criteria; seasonal closures; and a framework procedure for modifying bycatch reduction criteria, BRD certification, and testing requirements. The Shrimp AP will also consider an RIR, which mainly reviews the economic ramifications of the proposed amendment; an SIA; and any environmental consequences. Also considered will be the effects of other Federal laws and regulations.

The AP is comprised of fisherman and other user groups who advise the Council on fishery issues.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by October 21, 1996.

Dated: September 30, 1996.
Bruce Morehead,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 96-25588 Filed 10-4-96; 8:45 am]
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[I.D. 092796J]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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 a public meeting of the Red Snapper Advisory Panel (AP).

DATES: This meeting will be held on October 31, 1996 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Grand Casino, 265 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, MS 39530; telephone: (800) 946-2946.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 5401 West Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 331, Tampa, FL 33609.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Atran, Population Dynamics Statistician; telephone: (813) 228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting will be to review the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel (RFSAP) and Socioeconomic Panel (SEP) reports regarding a new stock assessment for vermilion snapper, an update of the 1995 stock assessment for red snapper, and discussions regarding biological information and landings data for amberjack species. The AP will review any recommendations of the RFSAP and SEP regarding allowable biological catch (ABC) ranges for these species, and they may develop recommendations of ABC or total allowable catch (TAC) for submission to the Council. The AP may also recommend future data gathering and research needs.

Under the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan's framework procedure for setting TAC, when an ABC range has been specified, the Council may implement through a regulatory amendment a TAC, which is then allocated between the recreational and commercial sectors, and quotas, bag limits, size limits, and other measures needed to attain TAC. If an ABC range and TAC are not specified, the Council must use the more lengthy process of a

full plan amendment to implement any changes to management measures.

The AP is comprised of fisherman and other user groups who advise the Council on fishery issues.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by October 21, 1996.

Dated: September 30, 1996.
Bruce Morehead,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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[I.D. 092796J]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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 a public meeting.

DATES: The meetings are scheduled as follows: Standing and Special Shrimp Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), October 29, 1996, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Standing and Special Reef Fish Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), October 30, 1996, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Grand Casino, 265 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, MS 39530; telephone: 800-946-2946.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 5401 West Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 331, Tampa, FL 33609.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Richard L. Leard, Senior Fishery Biologist; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 29, beginning at 8:00 a.m., the Shrimp SSC will review Draft Amendment 9 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico, U.S. Waters with Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), Regulatory Impact Review (RIR), Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA), and Social Impact Assessment (SIA). The amendment addresses the Council's commitment to reduce the bycatch mortality of juvenile red snapper from

shrimp trawls. The amendment includes a review of previous actions and their effects on bycatch as well as various alternatives.

The Shrimp SSC will review the draft amendment which includes various management alternatives for bycatch reduction, including the Council's "preferred alternatives." Measures being considered include: (1) Status Quo - no change to existing regulations; and (2) Require installation of Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) in all trawls used in the penaeid shrimp fishery in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), except test or try nets. They will also review area-specific usage of BRDs, including requiring BRDs: (1) inside the 100-fathom contour; (2) inside the 100-fathom contour and west of Cape San Blas, FL; (3) between the 10- and 100-fathom contours, and (4) between the 10- and 100-fathom contours and west of Cape San Blas, FL. Other alternatives that will be discussed include: bycatch reduction criteria; seasonal closures; a framework procedure for modifying bycatch reduction criteria, BRD certification, and testing requirements. The Shrimp SSC will also consider an RIR, which mainly reviews the economic ramifications of the proposed amendment; an SIA; and any environmental consequences. Also considered will be the effects of other Federal laws and regulations.

On October 30, beginning at 8:00 a.m. the Reef Fish SSC will review Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel (RFSAP) and Socioeconomic Panel (SEP) reports regarding a new stock assessment for vermilion snapper, an update of the 1995 stock assessment for red snapper, and discussions regarding biological information and landings data for amberjack species. The SSC will review any recommendations of the RFSAP and SEP regarding allowable biological catch (ABC) ranges for these species, and they may develop recommendations of ABC or total allowable catch (TAC) for submission to the Council. The SSC may also recommend future data gathering and research needs.

Under the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan's framework procedure for setting TAC, when an ABC range has been specified, the Council may implement through a regulatory amendment a TAC, which is then allocated between the recreational and commercial sectors, and quotas, bag limits, size limits, and other measures needed to attain TAC. If an ABC range and TAC are not specified, the Council must use the more lengthy process of a full plan amendment to implement any changes to management measures.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see ADDRESSES) by October 21, 1996.

Dated: September 30, 1996.
Bruce Morehead,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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[I.D. 092796F]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory entities will hold public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on October 20-25, 1996. See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the South San Francisco Conference Center, 255 South Airport Boulevard, South San Francisco, CA 94080; telephone: (415) 873-3550.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lawrence D. Six, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 21, at 1:00 p.m., a workshop on the salmon plan amendment scoping process will begin. Members of the Council, advisory groups, and the public are encouraged to participate in an informal process to discuss potential amendments to the salmon fishery management plan. The entire group will meet in a plenary session at 1:00 p.m. on October 21, to discuss the process and then two discussion groups will convene for the rest of the day.

The Council meeting will begin on October 22, at 8:00 a.m. in a closed session (not open to the public) to discuss litigation. The open session begins at 8:30 a.m. The Council meeting reconvenes at 8:00 a.m. on October 23,

and will adjourn when Council business has been completed.

The following items are on the Council agenda:

A. Call to Order

B. Habitat Issues

1. Report of the Habitat Steering Group.

C. Groundfish Management

1. Final Harvest Levels and Other Specifications for 1997;
2. California Gillnet Regulations in the Exclusive Economic Zone;
3. Status of Federal Regulations Implementing Council Actions;
4. Status of Fisheries and Inseason Adjustments;
5. Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish Harvest Regime for 1997;
6. Trip Limits, Bag Limits and Other Measures for 1997;
7. Pacific Whiting Allocation, Season Framework and Salmon Bycatch;
8. Experimental Fishing Permits for Shore-based Whiting Fishery Data Collection;
9. Restrictions on Limited Entry Permit Transfers;
10. Landing and Disposition of Fish Exceeding Trip Limits;
11. GMT Report on Scoping Process;
12. Review of New Stock Assessment Process; and
13. Appointment of Ad Hoc Committee to Address At-Sea Processing of Fish Other Than Whiting.

D. Pacific Halibut Management

1. Summary of 1996 Fisheries;
2. Changes to the Catch Sharing Plan and Sport Regulations for 1997; and
3. Report of the IPHC on Bycatch Compensation and Stock Assessment.

E. Salmon Management

1. Sequence of Events and Status of Fisheries;
2. Final report on 1996 Methodology Reviews;
3. Annual State Agency and Tribal Reports on Activities to Restore Natural Stocks;
4. Endangered Species Act Standards for 1997 Fisheries;
5. Plan Amendments; Management Objectives for Listed Species
Salmon Bycatch in Whiting Fisheries Update of Framework Plan
6. Status of Revisions to Oregon Coastal Natural (Coho) Escapement Goal; and
7. Scoping for Future Plan Amendments.

F. Administrative and Other Matters

1. Report of Council/NMFS Working Group Meeting;