

Protection Advisory Panel and Coral Advisory Panel

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council will hold a joint meeting of its Habitat and Environmental Protection Advisory Panel and Coral Advisory Panel in Charleston, SC. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The joint meeting will take place November 17, 2008. The Panels will meet individually on November 18 and 19, 2008. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Charleston Marriott Hotel, 170 Lockwood Boulevard, Charleston, SC; telephone: (800) 968-3569 or (843) 723-3000; fax: (843) 723-0276.

Council address: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer; telephone: (843) 571-4366 or toll free: (866) SAFMC-10; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Members of the Habitat Advisory Panel and Coral Advisory Panel will meet jointly from 1:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. on November 17, 2008. The Habitat AP and Coral AP will reconvene individually and meet concurrently from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. on November 18, 2008, and the Coral Advisory Panel will reconvene and meet from 8:30 a.m.-12 noon on November 19, 2008.

The Advisory Panels will provide input and recommendations on the public hearing drafts of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) and the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment (CE-BA), updates from NOAA Fisheries' Habitat Conservation on proposed non-fishing activities that have the potential to impact habitat, and an update on live rock aquaculture activities in the South Atlantic region.

The development of a South Atlantic Council FEP provides the first regional opportunity to compile and review available habitat, biological, social, and economic fishery and resource information for fisheries in the South Atlantic Bight ecosystem and serves as a source document for the CE-BA.

Actions in the Comprehensive Ecosystem-based Amendment include: Establishment of deepwater Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concerns (CHAPCs), establishment of a Shrimp Fishery Access Area for deepwater shrimp fisheries within the proposed CHAPCs, designation of Allowable

Golden Crab Fishing Areas within the proposed CHAPCs where golden crab traps can continue to be used, a monitoring requirement for the golden crab fishery using available tools such as Vessel Monitoring System technology or electronic logbooks, and non-regulatory action addressing compliance with the spatial presentation requirements in the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Final Rule.

Agenda items for the Coral AP meeting include: discussion and recommendations regarding coral management issues to include in Comprehensive Ecosystem-based Amendment 2, the Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program Draft Strategic Plan being developed by NOAA's National Undersea Research Program (NURP), NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program, and coral research priorities for 2009-10. The Coral AP will also receive updates and presentations on coral issues relevant to the South Atlantic region.

The Habitat and Environmental Protection AP meeting will involve four sessions as follows:

Session 1: Panel review and discussion of ecosystem interactions with a focus on predator prey relationships for managed species, present management authority and future management considerations;

Session 2: Panel review and discussion of habitat mapping and characterization as presented in the Councils' Regional Habitat and Ecosystem Internet Map Server and through regional programs including but limited to Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP), the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA), Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership (SARP), the North Carolina Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPPs) and the Southeast Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPASS);

Session 3: Panel member review and discussion of place-based management in the region including but not limited to management in Grays' Reef National Marine Sanctuary and existing and proposed South Atlantic Council area management;

Session 4: Panel review and discussion of Habitat Policies and potential impacts from individual proposed permits.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the council office (see **ADDRESSES**) 3 days prior to the meeting.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

Dated: October 16, 2008.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E8-25011 Filed 10-20-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XL35

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 meetings.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a public meeting of the Texas Habitat Protection Advisory Panel (AP).

DATES: The meeting will convene at 9 a.m. on Thursday, November 6, 2008 and conclude no later than 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Quality Inn Hobby Airport, 7775 Airport Blvd., Houston, TX 77061, telephone: (713) 644-3800.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Rester, Habitat Support Specialist, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; telephone: (228) 875-5912.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At this meeting, the AP will tentatively discuss juvenile red snapper habitat utilization, the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, issues facing the Texas oyster fishery, the spotted sea trout consumption advisory for Galveston Bay, Hurricane Ike impacts to habitat, an update on the deepening of the Matagorda Ship Channel, and the Old River Cove Restoration project.

The Texas group is part of a three unit Habitat Protection Advisory Panel (AP) of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. The principal role of the advisory panels is to assist the Council in attempting to maintain optimum conditions within the habitat and ecosystems supporting the marine resources of the Gulf of Mexico. Advisory panels serve as a first alert system to call to the Council's attention proposed projects being developed and

other activities which may adversely impact the Gulf marine fisheries and their supporting ecosystems. The panels may also provide advice to the Council on its policies and procedures for addressing environmental affairs.

Although other issues not on the agenda may come before the panel for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal panel action during this meeting. Panel action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed as available by this notice.

A copy of the agenda can be obtained by calling (813) 348-1630.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Tina O'Hern at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: October 16, 2008.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E8-25009 Filed 10-20-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XL39

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 meetings.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene a public meeting of the Louisiana/Mississippi Habitat Protection Advisory Panel (AP).

DATES: The meeting will convene at 9 a.m. on Thursday, November 13, 2008 and conclude no later than 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Hilton, 901 Airline Drive, Kenner, LA 70062.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Rester, Habitat Support Specialist, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; telephone: (228) 875-5912.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At this meeting, the AP will discuss the Donaldsonville to the Gulf Levee Project, 2008 hurricane impacts on habitat, monitoring results from the 2008 Bonnet Carre Spillway opening, open water disposal of dredge material in Mississippi Sound, and an update on the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Project.

The Louisiana/Mississippi group is part of a three unit Habitat Protection AP of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. The principal role of the advisory panels is to assist the Council in attempting to maintain optimum conditions within the habitat and ecosystems supporting the marine resources of the Gulf of Mexico. Advisory panels serve as a first alert system to call to the Council's attention proposed projects being developed and other activities which may adversely impact the Gulf marine fisheries and their supporting ecosystems. The panels may also provide advice to the Council on its policies and procedures for addressing environmental affairs.

Although other issues not on the agenda may come before the panel for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal panel action during this meeting. Panel action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed as available by this notice.

A copy of the agenda can be obtained by calling (813) 348-1630.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Tina O'Hern at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: October 16, 2008.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E8-25013 Filed 10-20-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XL36

New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Skate Committee, in November, 2008, 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 Friday, November 14, 2008, at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048; telephone: (508) 339-2200; fax: (508) 339-1040.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Skate Committee and Advisory Panel will review public comments on Skate Amendment 3 and recommend a final alternative for Council approval. Other skate management issues may be discussed as needed.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after 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 Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: October 16, 2008.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. E8-25010 Filed 10-20-08; 8:45 am]

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