

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene public meetings of the Standing and Special Mackerel Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Mackerel Advisory Panel (AP) on January 9 and January 10, 2002.

DATES: The Council's Standing and Special Mackerel SSC meeting will be convened at 8:30 a.m. EST on Wednesday, January 9, 2002 will conclude by 3 p.m. The Mackerel AP will be convened at 8:30 a.m. EST on Thursday, January 10, 2002 and will conclude by 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Hilton Tampa Airport Hotel, 2225 Lois Avenue, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: 813-877-6688.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Richard Leard, Senior Fishery Biologist, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Mackerel AP and SSC will review the 2001 stock assessment analyses for Gulf group king and Spanish mackerel, as well as an assessment of cobia stocks in the Gulf of Mexico. They will also review the Mackerel Stock Assessment Panel (MSAP) reports for mackerels and cobia, and the report of the Socioeconomic Panel (SEP) that includes economic and social information. Based on this review, the Mackerel AP and SSC may recommend to the Council status criteria including maximum sustainable yield (MSY), optimum yield (OY), as well as overfishing and overfished criteria. The Mackerel AP and SSC may also make recommendations for total allowable catch (TAC), bag limits, size limits, commercial quotas, and other measures under the framework procedure of the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the AP/SSC for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the AP/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 Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the

Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

Copies of the agenda can be obtained by calling 813-228-2815.

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 January 2, 2002.

Dated: December 19, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi.

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 01-31660 Filed 12-21-01; 8:45 am]

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

[I.D. 121801D]

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 Deep Water Crab Advisory Panel (AP).

DATES: This meeting will begin at 9 a.m. on Thursday, January 9, 2002 and will conclude by 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Hood, Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council will convene its Deep-water Crab AP to review a preliminary issues and options paper for the development of a Deep-water Crab Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

The species that would be managed under the Deep-water Crab FMP will be the golden crab (*Chaceon fenneri*) and red crab (*Chaceon quinque-dens*). The preliminary issues and options paper for the development of a Deep-water Crab FMP examines fisheries issues including management needs, gear

requirements and restrictions, crab size and sex limitations for harvest, and requirements for fishery participants. Based on its review, the Deep-water Crab AP may recommend to the Council management criteria that will benefit the fishery while preserving the resource under the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Council will consider these recommendations at its January meeting to be held in Brownsville, TX, from January 21-24, 2002.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agendas may come before the AP for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions of the AP 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 Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take 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 Anne Alford at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) by January 2, 2002.

Dated: December 19, 2001.

Richard W. Surdi.

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION**Request of the Merchants Exchange (ME) for Approval of Six Cash-Settled Energy Futures Contracts**

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability of terms and conditions of commodity futures contracts.

SUMMARY: The Merchants Exchange (ME or Exchange) has requested that the Commission approve six new cash settled energy futures contracts pursuant to the provisions of Section 5c(c)(2)(A) of the Commodity Exchange Act as amended: Brent crude oil futures, European gas oil futures, light "sweet" crude oil futures, natural gas futures, no. 2 heating oil (New York Harbor