

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

[I.D. 050996F]

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: This meeting will be held on June 12, 1996, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Radisson Bay Harbor Inn, 7700 Courtney Campbell Causeway, Tampa, FL; telephone: 813-281-8900.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Leard, Senior Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; 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 (EIS), Regulatory Impact Review (RIR), Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, and Social Impact Assessment (SIA). The amendment is intended to address the Council's commitment to reduce the bycatch mortality of red snapper, particularly juveniles, from shrimp trawls. The amendment includes a review of previous actions and their effects on bycatch as well as various alternatives.

The Shrimp Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will review the draft amendment with various management alternatives for gear including: (1) Status Quo - no change to existing gear regulations; and (2) Requiring Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) in all areas of the exclusive economic zone. They will also look at 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, Florida; and (3) between the 10 and 100 fathom contours. Other alternatives that will be discussed include: Area closures, seasonal closures, BRD testing criteria, and a

protocol for BRD certification. The Shrimp SSC will also consider a Regulatory Impact Review, which mainly reviews the economic ramifications of the proposed amendment; a Social Impact Assessment; and any environmental consequences. Also considered will be the effects of other Federal laws and regulations.

The Shrimp SSC is comprised of scientists that have specialized in working with the shrimp fishery of the Gulf and have been appointed to advise the Council on shrimp management.

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 June 5, 1996.

Dated: May 10, 1996.
Richard H. Schaefer,
Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Service.
[FR Doc. 96-12449 Filed 5-16-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 050996E]

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 meeting will be held on June 6, 1996, beginning at 8:00 a.m. and will conclude at 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at the Tampa Airport Hilton at Metro Center, 2225 North Lois Avenue, Tampa, FL; 813-877-6688.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Antonio B. Lamberte, Economist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: 813-228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the meeting is 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, Regulatory Impact Review (RIR), Initial

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, and Social Impact Assessment (SIA). The amendment is intended to address the Council's commitment to reduce the bycatch mortality of red snapper, particularly juveniles, from shrimp trawls. The amendment includes a review of previous actions and their effects on bycatch as well as various alternatives.

The Socioeconomic Panel (SEP) will review the draft amendment with various management alternatives for gear including: (1) Status Quo - no change to existing gear regulations; and (2) Requiring Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRD) in all areas of the exclusive economic zone. They will also look at 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, Florida; and (3) between the 10 and 100 fathom contours. Other alternatives that will be discussed include: area closures, seasonal closures, BRD testing criteria, and a protocol for BRD certification. The SEP will focus their review on the economic and social impacts of these various alternatives, as these impacts are discussed in the RIR and the SIA.

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 May 30, 1996.

Dated: May 10, 1996.
Richard H. Schaefer,
Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 96-12451 Filed 5-16-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 050996G]

Pacific 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on May 31, 1996, beginning at 10 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Council office.