



# Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

*Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico*

## Committees Schedule & Council Agenda<sup>i</sup>

April 7-10th, 2025

The Lodge

Gulf Shores, Alabama & [Virtual](#)

### **Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> – Committee Sessions**

**8:30 AM – 9:15 AM CDT: Coral (Tab N) – Dr. Sweetman**

- Presentation and Update on Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary: Restoration Blueprint Final Management Plan
- Draft Memorandum of Agreement between the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils, NMFS, FWC, and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

----- Break 15 minutes 9:15 AM – 9:30 AM CDT -----

**9:30 AM – 11:30 AM CDT: Data Collection (Tab F) – Mr. Walker**

- Loss of Southeast Region Headboat Survey dockside sampling update and AP Comments
- Discussion of Southeast For-hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER)
  - Presentation: Cost analysis for SEFHIER Economic Data Collection
  - Ad Hoc Charter For-hire Data Collection Advisory Panel Meeting Summary
  - Draft For-hire Electronic Reporting Amendment

**11:30 AM – 12:00 PM CDT: Gulf SEDAR (Tab I) – Mr. Dugas**

- SEDAR Steering Committee Summary Report February 2025
- Review and Discussion of Gulf of Mexico SEDAR Schedule

----- Lunch 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM CDT -----

**1:30 PM – 2:45 PM CDT: Shrimp (Tab D) – Mr. Schieble**

- Biological Review of the Texas Closure
- **FINAL ACTION:** Shrimp Framework Action: Modification of the Vessel Position Data Collection Program for the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery and Shrimp AP Recommendations

----- Break 2:45 PM – 3:00 PM CDT -----

**3:00 PM – 4:00 PM CDT: Shrimp *continued* (Tab D) – Mr. Schieble**

- 2023 Gulf Shrimp Fishery Effort
- Discussion of Potential Expiration of Moratorium for Federal Gulf Shrimp Permits
- Remaining Items from March 2025, Shrimp Advisory Panel Meeting

----- Break 4:00 PM – 4:15 PM CDT -----

**4:15 PM – 5:00 PM CDT: Full Council Closed Session (Tab T) – Mr. Dugas**

- Preliminary Selection of Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel Members
- Selection of 2024 Law Enforcement Officer/Team of the Year

– Recess –

**Tuesday, April 8th – Committee Sessions, Continued**

**8:30 AM – 8:35 AM CDT: Litigation Update – Ms. Levy**

**8:35 AM – 10:00 AM CDT: Reef Fish Committee (Tab B) – Dr. Frazer**

- Reef Fish and IFQ Program Landings Update
- Draft: Reef Fish Amendment 58B: Modifications to Deep-water Grouper Management Measures

----- Break 9:45 AM – 10:00 AM CDT -----

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM CDT: Reef Fish Committee *continued* (Tab B) – Dr. Frazer**

- Final Report: Recreational Initiative Outcomes and Recommendations

----- Lunch 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM CDT -----

**1:30 PM – 3:15 PM CDT: Reef Fish Committee *continued* (Tab B) – Dr. Frazer**

- Summary: February 2025 Gulf and South Atlantic SSC Report and Recommendations on SEDAR 79 Mutton Snapper Stock Assessment, SEDAR 96 Yellowtail Snapper Stock Assessment, and SEDAR 88 Red Grouper Stock Assessment
- Summary of Reef Fish Advisory Panel Discussions and Recommendations

----- Break 3:15 PM – 3:30 PM CDT -----

**3:30 PM – 4:45 PM CDT: Reef Fish Committee *continued* (Tab B) – Dr. Frazer**

- Draft Framework: Other Shallow-water Grouper Catch Limits
- Presentation: 20-Fathom Recreational Seasonal Closure for Shallow-water Grouper

– Recess –

***Immediately Following the Reef Fish Committee***

**5:00 PM – 6:00 PM CDT: Onsite and Virtual Public Comment Session on Recreational Initiative Outcomes – Ms. Muehlstein / Dr. Goldsmith**

### Wednesday, April 9th – Committee Sessions, Continued

**8:30 AM – 10:00 AM CDT: Reef Fish Committee** *continued (Tab B) – Dr. Frazer*

- **FINAL ACTION:** Framework Action: Modifications to Lane Snapper Minimum Size Limits
- Presentation: Greater Amberjack Flowchart to Identify Decision Points for Regional Management

----- **Break 10:00 AM – 10:15 AM CDT** -----

**10:15 AM – 12:00 PM CDT: Reef Fish Committee** *continued (Tab F) – Dr. Frazer*

- Review of Return 'Em Right Science
  - Programmatic Overview
  - SSC Review and Recommendations
  - Communications Update
  - Discussion: Descend Act Expiration

----- **Lunch 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM CDT** -----

### Wednesday, April 9th – Council Session

- I. **1:30 PM – 1:32 PM CDT:** Call to Order, Announcements, and Introductions – *Mr. Dugas*
- II. **1:32 PM – 1:34 PM CDT:** Adoption of Agenda<sup>i</sup> and Approval of Minutes (**Tab A, No's 3 & 4**) – *Mr. Dugas*
- III. **1:34 PM – 2:00 PM CDT:** Presentation: DWH Open Ocean Restoration Plan 4 – Fish and Water Column Invertebrates (**Tab A, No 5**) – *Dr. Reinhardt*
- IV. **2:00 PM – 5:30 PM CDT:** Public Comment <sup>ii, iii, iv, v</sup> – *Mr. Dugas*
  - **FINAL ACTION:** Shrimp Framework Action: Modification of the Vessel Position Data Collection Program for the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery
  - **FINAL ACTION:** Framework Action: Modifications to Lane Snapper Minimum Size Limits
  - Open Testimony on Fishery Issues or Concerns

– **Recess** –

### Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> – Council Session

**Committee Reports:**

- A. **8:30 AM – 8:45 AM CDT:** Coral (**Tab N**) – *Dr. Sweetman*
- B. **8:45 AM – 9:30 AM CDT:** Data Collection (**Tab F**) – *Mr. Walker*
- C. **9:30 AM – 9:45 AM CDT:** Gulf SEDAR (**Tab I**) – *Mr. Dugas*
- D. **9:45 AM – 10:30 AM CDT:** Shrimp (**Tab D**) – *Mr. Schieble*

----- Break 10:30 AM – 10:45 AM CDT -----

- E. 10:45 AM – 10:50 AM CDT: Closed Session Report: Announce 2024 Law Enforcement Officer/Team of the Year (**Tab T**) – *Mr. Dugas*
- F. 10:50 AM – 12:00 PM CDT: Reef Fish (**Tab B**) – *Dr. Frazer*

----- Lunch 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM CDT -----

- G. 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM CDT: Reef Fish *continued* (**Tab B**) – *Dr. Frazer*

----- Break 3:00 PM – 3:15 PM CDT -----

- 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM CDT: Supporting Agencies Update (**Tab R**) – *Mr. Dugas*
- South Atlantic Council Liaison (**Tab R, No. 1**) – *Mr. Phillips*
  - Alabama Law Enforcement Efforts (**Tab R, No. 2**) – *Major Downey*
  - NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) Report (**Tab R, No. 3a**) and Presentation (**Tab R, No. 3b**) – *TBA*
  - Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (**Tab R, No. 4**) – *Mr. Donaldson*
  - U.S. Coast Guard (**Tab R, No. 5**) – *Lt. Morton*
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Department of State

4:15 PM – 4:30 PM CDT: [Discussion of Council Planning and Primary Activities](#) (**Tab R, No. 6**) – *Dr. Simmons / Mr. Dugas*

4:30 PM – 5:00 PM CDT: Other Business (**Tab U**) – *Mr. Dugas*

– Adjourn –

**Next Meeting**  
June 2-5, 2025  
[Beachside Resort &  
Residences](#)  
Key West, FL

<sup>i</sup>The established times for addressing items on the Council agendas may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the agenda items. Public testimony may begin earlier than 2:00 pm CDT on April 9, 2025, but will not conclude before that time. Public testimony may end before the published agenda time if all registered in-person and virtual participants have completed their testimony.

<sup>ii</sup> Persons wishing to give public testimony **virtually** must sign up on the Council website beginning on the first day of the Council meeting. Registration closes one hour before public testimony begins. During public testimony, the Council will hear testimony related to final actions of the Council and pertinent agenda items. Time constraints may limit individual speaking time as determined by the presiding officer.

**To help ensure that Council members have sufficient time to consider your written testimony, please submit your comments at least three business days prior to the start of the Council meeting.**

<sup>iii</sup> Any oral or written statement shall include a brief description of the background and interests of the person testifying and the source and date of any specific information. Persons wishing to submit written testimony or information can do so by emailing it to [gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org). All written comments will be posted on the Council's website for viewing by Council members and the public.

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**iv** Oral or written communications provided to the Council are public documents. These communications will be made available to the public in their entirety and maintained by the Council as part of its permanent record. Further, knowingly and willfully submitting false information to the Council is a violation of Federal law.

**v** Anyone wishing to use electronic visual aids during public testimony must provide staff with a copy of the material at least one hour before comment begins to allow for a virus scan of said material.