Committees Schedule & Council Agenda[i]

Tuesday-Thursday
October 27-29th, 2026
The Tremont House
Galveston, Texas & Virtual

Tuesday, October 27th – Full Council Session

8:30 AM – 8:35 AM CDT: Review and Adoption of Proposed Council Committee Assignments October 2026 through August 2027 **(Tab A, No. 2a)** and Current Council Committee Assignments **(Tab A, No. 2b)** – *Dr. Banks*

8:35 AM – 8:45 AM CDT: E.O.: Restoring American Saltwater Angling and Recreation[1] - *NMFS*

Tuesday, October 27th – Committee Session

8:45 AM – 10:00 AM CDT: Reef Fish Committee (Tab B) – *Chair*

- Reef Fish Landings Updates
- **FINAL ACTION** – Reef Fish Amendment 55/Snapper Grouper Amendment 44: Mutton Snapper and Yellowtail Snapper Management Measures

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

10:15 AM – 12:00 PM CDT: Reef Fish Committee *continued* **(Tab B)** – *Chair*

- **FINAL ACTION** – Modifications to Red Snapper Private Recreational Post-Season Accountability Measures
- Draft Options – Management Flexibility for the Federal For-Hire Component of the Red Snapper Fishery

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

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM CDT: Reef Fish Committee *continued* **(Tab B)** – *Chair*

- Presentation – Greater Amberjack Count
- Draft – Reef Fish Amendment 65 – Regional Management of Recreational

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

3:15 PM – 5:30 PM CDT: Reef Fish Committee *continued* **(Tab B)** – *Chair*

- September 2026 SSC Meeting Summary
- Draft – Reef Fish Amendment 59A: Permit Requirements in IFQ Programs
- Discussion of Exempted Fishing Permits

[1] https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/09/restoring-american-saltwater-angling-and-recreation/

Wednesday, October 28th – Committee Sessions, *continued*

8:30 AM – 8:40 AM CDT: Litigation Update – *Ms. Levy*

8:40 AM – 10:00 AM CDT: Shrimp Committee (Tab D) – *Chair*

- Draft Membership List for Review Panel for Shrimp Permit Pool
- Draft Shrimp Amendment 20 – Status Determination Criteria for the Penaeid Shrimp and Shrimp AP Summary Recommendations
- 2024 Shrimp Effort in Relation to Threshold for Juvenile Red Snapper
- Status Update on Working Group to Address Interactions and Bycatch of Protected Resources in Shrimp Trawls
- Remaining Items from Summary of October 2026, Shrimp Advisory Panel Meeting

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

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM CDT: Data Collection Committee (Tab F) – *Chair*

- Results of MRIP-FES Pilot Study, SSC Recommendations, and Next Steps
- Overview of Mississippi and Alabama Creel Surveys and SSC Recommendations

~~**11:15 AM – 12:00 PM CDT: Law Enforcement Committee (Tab L)** – *Chair*~~

- ~~Summary Report from October Law Enforcement Technical Committee~~

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

Wednesday, October 28th – Full Council Session

I. **1:30 PM – 1:35 PM CDT:** Call to Order, Announcements, and Introductions – *Dr. Banks*

II. **1:35 PM – 1:40 PM CDT:** Adoption of Agenda[i] and Approval of Minutes **(Tab A, No's 3 & 4)** – *Dr. Banks*

III. **1:40 PM – 4:30 PM CDT:** Public Comment [ii, iii, iv, v] – *Dr. Banks*

- **FINAL ACTION** – Reef Fish Amendment 55/Snapper Grouper Amendment 44: Mutton Snapper and Yellowtail Snapper Management Measures
- **FINAL ACTION** – Modifications to Red Snapper Private Recreational Post-Season Accountability Measures
- Exempted Fishing Permits
- Open Testimony on other Fishery Issues or Concerns

---------- Break 4:30 PM – 4:45 PM CDT ----------

Wednesday, October 28th – Full Council Session *continued*

IV. **Committee Reports:**

~~A. **4:45 PM – 5:00 PM CDT:** Law Enforcement **(Tab L)** – *Chair*~~
B. **5:00 PM – 5:30 PM CDT:** Data Collection **(Tab F)** – *Chair*

– Recess –

Thursday, October 29th – Back into Committee Sessions

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM CDT: Sustainable Fisheries Committee (Tab E) – *Chair*

- Overview of the Southeast Fisheries Observer Program
- Presentation on Regulatory Streamlining and SSC Recommendations
- SSC Report from September 2026
  - Spawning Habitat and Early-Life Linkages to Fisheries (SHELF) Egg Project
  - Social Sciences Gulf Species Questionnaire

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

10:15 AM – 12:00 PM CDT: Migratory Species Committee (Tab M) – *Chair*

- Presentations on Shark Depredation
- Update on Highly Migratory Species Documents

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

Thursday, October 29th – Back into Full Council Session

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM CDT: Committee Reports *continued*:

A. **1:30 PM – 3:00 PM CDT:** Reef Fish **(Tab B)** – *Chair*
B. **3:00 PM – 3:30 PM CDT:** Shrimp **(Tab D)** – *Chair*

---------- Break 3:30 PM – 3:45 PM CDT ----------

C. **3:40 PM – 4:00 PM CDT:** Sustainable Fisheries **(Tab E)** – *Chair*
D. **4:00 PM – 4:10 PM CDT:** Migratory Species **(Tab M)** – *Chair*

V. **4:10 PM – 5:00 PM CDT:** Supporting Agencies Update **(Tab R)** – *Dr. Banks*
- South Atlantic Council Liaison **(Tab R, No. 1)** – *Mr. Phillips*
- Texas Law Enforcement Efforts **(Tab R, No. 2)** – *Lt. Les Casterline*
- NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) Report **(Tab R, No. 3a)** and Presentation **(Tab R, No. 3b)** – *Mr. Walia*
- 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 – *Ms. Hayes*

5:00 PM – 5:10 PM CDT: Update on Documents Transmitted for Rule Making – *Mr. Helies*

5:10 PM – 5:20 PM CDT: Discussion of Council Planning and Primary Activities **(Tab R, No. 6)** – *Dr. Simmons / Dr. Banks*

5:20 PM – 5:30 PM CDT: Other Business **(Tab U)** – *Dr. Banks*

- Advancing Agency-Level Reforms to Restore American Seafood Competitiveness – Mr. Strelcheck

– Adjourn –

Next Meeting
January 25-28, 2027
Embassy Suites by Hilton
Panama City Beach, FL

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[i] 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 1:40 pm CDT on October 28, 2026, 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.

[ii] Persons wishing to give public testimony **virtually** must sign up on the Council website. Virtual registration for public comment begins the first day of the Council meeting and closes 30-minutes after 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.

[iii] 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. All written comments will be posted on the Council's website for viewing by Council members and the public.

[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.