

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (MAFMC) Ecosystem and Ocean Planning Advisory Panel (AP) will hold a public meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2016, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For agenda details, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

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**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton Baltimore-BWI Airport, 890 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, Maryland, 21090; telephone: (410) 859-8400.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N. State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331 or on their Web site at [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: (302) 526-5255.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The MAFMC's Ecosystem and Ocean Planning Advisory Panel (AP) will meet to provide input on the development of the Council's Unmanaged Forage Omnibus Amendment. This amendment will prohibit the development of new, or expansion of existing, directed fisheries on unmanaged forage species in Mid-Atlantic Federal waters until adequate scientific information is available to promote ecosystem sustainability. The AP meeting will include a discussion of development of the amendment to date. The AP will provide input on management alternatives and other aspects of the amendment. A more detailed agenda and any relevant background documents will be posted to the Council's Web site prior to the meeting: [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org).

**Special Accommodations**

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: February 24, 2016.

**Jeffrey N. Lonergan,**

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

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Gulf of Mexico 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 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will hold a meeting of its Law Enforcement Technical Committee (LETC), formerly known as Law Enforcement Advisory Panel (LEAP), in conjunction with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's Law Enforcement Committee (LEC).

**DATES:** The meeting will convene on Wednesday, March 16, 2016; starting 8:30 a.m. and will adjourn at 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn San Antonio Riverwalk hotel, located at 217 North St. Mary's Street, San Antonio, TX 78205; telephone: (210) 224-2500.

*Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Steven Atran, Senior Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; [steven.atran@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:steven.atran@gulfcouncil.org), telephone: (813) 348-1630, and Mr. Steve Vanderkooy, Inter-jurisdictional Fisheries Coordinator, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; [svanderkooy@gsmfc.org](mailto:svanderkooy@gsmfc.org), telephone: (228) 875-5912.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The items of discussion on the agenda are as follows:

*Joint Gulf Council's Law Enforcement Technical Committee and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's Law Enforcement Committee Meeting Agenda, Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.*

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes Actions
  - a. November 4, 2015 Joint ASMFC LEC/GSMFC LEC meeting
  - b. December 4, 2015 LETC webinar

3. Enforcement Implications of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama 9-mile Reef Fish Boundary
4. Enforcement Implications of Offshore Aquaculture FMP
5. Protocol for Background Checks of AP Candidates for Violations in State Waters
6. Draft Reef Fish Amendment 36A—Red Snapper IFQ Modifications
7. Draft Reef Fish Amendment 43—Hogfish Stock Definition, Status Determination Criteria, and Annual Catch Limit
8. Framework Action Addressing Circle Hook Requirement When Fishing for Yellowtail Snapper
9. Draft Shrimp Amendment 17B—Optimum Yield, Number of Permits, Permit Pool, and Transit Provisions
10. Review of Coral Habitats of Particular Concern Proposals
11. Draft Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 26—Reallocation of King Mackerel
12. Selection of Candidates for Officer of the Year Award
13. Interjurisdictional Program Activity
  - a. Tripletail
  - b. Atlantic Croaker
14. Schedule of GSMFC Publications
  - a. Officer's Pocket Guide
  - b. Law Summary
  - c. Licenses and Fees
  - d. Strategic Plan 2017-20
  - e. Operations Plan 2017-20
15. State Report Highlights
  - a. Florida
  - b. Alabama
  - c. Mississippi
  - d. Louisiana
  - e. Texas
  - f. U.S. Coast Guard
  - g. NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
  - h. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
16. Other Business  
—Meeting Adjourns—

The Agenda is subject to change. The latest version of the agenda along with other meeting materials will be posted on the Council's file server, which can be accessed by going to the Council Web site at <http://www.gulfcouncil.org> and clicking on File Server under Quick Links. For meeting materials see folder "LEAP Meeting—2016-03" on Gulf Council file server. The username and password are both "gulfguest".

The Law Enforcement Technical Committee consists of principal law enforcement officers in each of the Gulf States, as well as the NOAA Law Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the NOAA General Counsel for Law Enforcement.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before this

group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting.

Actions will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management 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 Kathy Pereira at the Gulf Council Office (see **ADDRESSES**), at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: February 24, 2016.

**Jeffrey N. Lonergan,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XE466**

#### International Affairs; U.S. Fishing Opportunities in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Regulatory Area

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notification of U.S. fishing opportunities.

**SUMMARY:** We are announcing 2016 fishing opportunities in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Regulatory Area. This action is necessary to make fishing privileges available on an equitable basis. The intended effect of this notice is to alert U.S. fishing vessels of the NAFO fishing opportunities, to relay the available quotas available to U.S. participants, and to outline the process and requirements for vessels to apply to participate in the 2016 NAFO fishery.

**DATES:** Effective January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016. Expressions of interest regarding fishing opportunities in NAFO will be accepted through March 15, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Expressions of interest regarding U.S. fishing opportunities in NAFO should be made in writing to John K. Bullard, U.S. Commissioner to NAFO, NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office at 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930 (phone: 978-281-9315, email: [John.Bullard@noaa.gov](mailto:John.Bullard@noaa.gov)).

Information relating to chartering vessels of another NAFO Contracting Party, transferring NAFO fishing opportunities to or from another NAFO Contracting Party, or U.S. participation in NAFO is available from Patrick E. Moran in the NMFS Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection at 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-427-8370, fax: 301-713-2313, email: [Pat.Moran@noaa.gov](mailto:Pat.Moran@noaa.gov)).

Additional information about NAFO fishing opportunities, NAFO

Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM), and the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act (HSFCA) Permit required for NAFO participation is available from Michael Ruccio, in the NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office at 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930 (phone: 978-281-9104, fax: 978-281-9135, email: [Michael.Ruccio@noaa.gov](mailto:Michael.Ruccio@noaa.gov)) and online from NAFO at <http://www.nafo.int>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Ruccio, (978) 281-9104.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### General NAFO Background

The United States is a Contracting Party to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization or NAFO. NAFO is an intergovernmental fisheries science and management body whose convention on Northwest Atlantic Fisheries applies to most fishery resources in international waters of the Northwest Atlantic except salmon, tunas/marlins, whales, and sedentary species such as shellfish. Currently, NAFO has 12 Members from North America, Europe, Asia and the Caribbean. In addition to the United States, the remaining three coastal states bordering the Convention Area are members: Canada, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), and Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland). NAFO's Fisheries Commission is responsible for the management and conservation of the fishery resources of the Regulatory Area (waters outside the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). Figure 1 shows the NAFO Regulatory Area.

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