

For Immediate Release

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Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Recruiting Members for Ad Hoc Limited Access Privilege Program Advisory Panel

Tampa, Florida - The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is forming a new Advisory Panel to consider the trading of catch shares and other issues related to limited access privilege programs.

The Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act of 2006 encourages regional Fishery Management Councils to develop limited access privilege programs for fisheries when appropriate. Such programs allow fishermen more flexibility in terms of how and when they can fish during the year, increasing both efficiency and safety at sea.

In addition, limited access privilege programs help improve resource conservation because combined catches of all quota holders are generally at or below the total allowable catch.

The new Ad Hoc Advisory Panel will consist of both a recreational component and a commercial component, and will work on limited access privilege programs for those sectors. Expected time commitment is 2 - 3 two-day meetings per year. Members are not compensated; however travel expenses are reimbursed.

Anyone interested in serving on the Advisory Panel should submit a letter and resume to:

Phyllis Miranda
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 N. Lois Avenue
Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Materials may also be faxed to: 813-348-1711; or e-mailed to Phyllis.miranda@gulfcouncil.org. Resumes and letters must be received no later than close of business August 6, 2009.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional fishery management councils established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Council prepares fishery management plans designed to manage fishery resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.