



HOT SHEET – MARCH 2014

(Valid through March 31, 2014)

Issues covered in this posting:

[Workshops](#), [Commission Meeting](#), [Snook](#), [Season Updates](#), [Events](#)

Issue: PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Action: Taking public comment on proposed Gulf Offshore Recreational Fishing Permit

Information: Several public workshops are planned to take public comment on a proposal that would create a no-cost permit or registry system for recreational anglers targeting reef fish such as red snapper, grouper, amberjack and gray triggerfish in the Gulf of Mexico in an effort to improve data collection. Scheduled meetings are:

- **Monday, March 3: Fort Myers (6-8 p.m. EST)**, Bass Pro Shop, 1004 Gulf Center Dr.
- **Tuesday, March 4: St. Petersburg (6-8 p.m. EST)**, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, 100 Eighth Ave. SE
- **Wednesday, March 5: Perry (6-8 p.m. EST)**, Perry City Council, 224 S. Jefferson St.
- **Thursday, March 6: Destin (6-8 p.m. CST)**, Destin Community Center, 101 Stahlman Ave.
- **Tuesday, March 11: Phone Conference (6-8 p.m. EDT)**, please RSVP to the Division of Marine Fisheries Management at 850-487-0554 to obtain instructions to join the meeting.
- **Wednesday, March 12: Pensacola (6-8 p.m. CDT)**, Escambia County Extension Office Auditorium, 3740 Stefani Rd.

Links for more information:

[Workshop Information](#) [MyFWC.com]

[Back to top](#)

Issue: COMMISSION MEETING

Action: Marine Fisheries items discussed Feb. 12 and 13 in Tampa

Information: Several marine fisheries items were discussed at the Feb. 12-13 Commission meeting in Tampa including:

- Captain and crew of for-hire vessels will soon be able to retain recreational bag limits of grouper, vermilion snapper and golden tilefish caught in Atlantic state waters;
- A 52-day Gulf of Mexico recreational red snapper season starting the Saturday before Memorial Day and ending July 14 was proposed and will return to the Commission in April for final approval;
- Commercial sea cucumber management measures were discussed and the issue will return to the Commission for final approval in April; and
- A staff report on development of recreational data collection improvements, including a proposed Gulf Offshore Recreational Fishing Permit was given. Several [workshops](#) will be held in March on this issue.

Links for more information:

[Commission Meeting News Releases](#) [MyFWC.com]

[Commission Meeting Agenda](#) [MyFWC.com]

FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management

[Back to top](#)

Issue: SNOOK

→Gulf

Action: Season opens

Information: The recreational season for snook opens March 1 in Gulf state and federal waters, including Monroe County and Everglades National Park. Anglers may keep one snook per day that is not less than 28 or more than 33 inches total length in Gulf state or federal waters. A snook permit is required to harvest snook. This season remains open through April 30. The Atlantic season is open and will remain open through May 31. Snook between 28 and 32 inches total length may be harvested during this time from Atlantic state and federal waters.

Links for more information:

[Snook](#) [MyFWC.com]

[Back to top](#)

Issue: SEASON UPDATES

Action: Upcoming recreational season openings and closures for March-April

Information: The following species have upcoming season openings/closures:
(May not include all harvest openings/closures. View [regulations online at MyFWC.com](#))

March 1 – Snook (Gulf) opens

April 1 – Spiny lobster closes

Gag grouper (off Franklin, Wakulla, Jefferson and Taylor counties) opens

Links for more information:

[FWC Snook](#) [MyFWC.com]

[FWC Spiny Lobster](#) [MyFWC.com]

[FWC Gulf Grouper](#) [MyFWC.com]

[FWC Recreational Regulations](#) [MyFWC.com]

[Back to top](#)

MARCH-APRIL 2014 EVENTS

[March 3: Public Workshop on Gulf Offshore Recreational Fishing Permit – Fort Myers](#)

[March 4: Public Workshop on Gulf Offshore Recreational Fishing Permit – St. Petersburg](#)

[March 5: Public Workshop on Gulf Offshore Recreational Fishing Permit – Perry](#)

[March 6: Public Workshop on Gulf Offshore Recreational Fishing Permit - Destin](#)

[March 8-9: Ladies, Let's Go Fishing! - Ft. Myers](#)

[March 11: Public Workshop/Phone Conference on Gulf Offshore Recreational Fishing Permit](#)

[March 12: Public Workshop on Gulf Offshore Recreational Fishing Permit - Pensacola](#)

[March 14: Women's Fishing Clinic – Fort Pierce](#)

[March 15: Women's Fishing Clinic – Vero Beach](#)

[March 29: Kids' Fishing Clinic - Daytona](#)

[April 5: Freshwater License Free Fishing Day](#)

[April 11-13: Ladies, Let's Go Fishing! – Dania Beach](#)

[April 12: Kids' Fishing Clinic – Pensacola](#)

[April 12: Women's Fishing Clinic – North Palm Beach](#)

[April 15-17: FWC Commission meeting – Tallahassee](#)

[Back to top](#)