

**2008 Grouper Forum**  
**FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute**  
**February 26, 2008**  
**6:00-10:00 pm**

**Objectives**

- Explain the role of science in the fishery management process
- Provide an overview of ongoing federal management actions related to grouper
- Discuss ways to maximize the value of public input opportunities in fishery management decisions.
- Enhance communication on fisheries regulatory issues between fishery management agencies and constituents.

**Agenda**

**6:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- Introduction – Roy Crabtree, NOAA Fisheries
- Forum agenda and objectives – Moderator

**6:15 Understanding the Role of Science in Fisheries Management – Luiz Barbieri, FWRI**

**6:30 Ongoing Grouper Management Actions – Gulf Council**

- Why is action required?
- Proposed management measures
- Major issues driving selection of management measures
- Where is the Council in the regulatory process?

**6:45 Maximizing Public Input Opportunities – Andy Strelcheck, NOAA Fisheries**

**7:00 Question & Answer Session**

**7:30 Break**

**7:45 Stakeholder Perspectives on Grouper Science and Management**

- Libby Fetherston – Ocean Conservancy
- Ted Forsgren – Coastal Conservation Association
- Will Ward – Gulf Fishermen's Association

**8:15 Question and Answer Session**

**8:45 Frequently Asked Questions – Moderator**

**9:45 Closing Remarks**

**10:00 Adjourn**