

**Shrimp Amendment 17A: Addressing the Permit Moratorium  
Public Hearings were held in the following locations:**

**Tues, January 5, 2016**  
Webinar

**Wed, January 6, 2016**  
Hampton Inn  
4350 Executive Circle  
Ft. Myers, FL 33916

**Thurs, January 7, 2016**  
Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore Hotel  
2225 N. Lois Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33607

**Mon, January 11, 2016**  
IP Resort & Casino  
850 Bayview Avenue  
Biloxi, MS 39530  
*and*  
Port of Palacios  
1602 Main Street  
Palacios, TX 77465

**Tues, January 12, 2016**  
Holiday Inn Mobile I-10 West  
5465 Hwy 90 W.  
Mobile, AL 36619  
*and*  
Courtyard by Marriott  
3955 N. Expressway  
Brownsville, TX 78520

**Wed, January 13, 2016**  
Courtyard by Marriott  
142 Library Drive  
Houma, LA 70360

**Tues, January 14, 2016**  
Holiday Inn New Orleans Westbank  
275 Whitney Avenue  
Gretna, LA 70053

**Summaries of Public Hearings**

**Webinar  
January 5, 2016**

**Council/Staff**  
Morgan Kilgour  
Emily Muehlstein  
Bernadine Roy  
Carrie Simmons

**2 Members of the public attended**

There were no comments.

**Fort Myers, Florida  
January 6, 2016**

**Council/Staff**

John Sanchez  
John Froeschke  
Emily Muehlstein

**2 members of the public attended**

**Frank Gable –Professor, Florida Gulf Coast University**

He does not support the preferred Alternative 2, Option b. He supports Alternative 3 because of his history in New England where there are lots of limited access permits. Alternative 1 is not viable because open access leads to overcapitalization of the resource. In order to cut down on latency the Council should consider using a limited access permit program. Those people who have a permit will be more involved and perhaps, anecdotally, ownership will encourage permit holders to be better stewards of the fishery. Preferred option b has already been tried so it's not useful to do it again. Limited access will really capture what shrimp fishermen want. If a permit is under the moratorium is only worth a couple thousand dollars; there isn't much value in it. He would like a catch history to be part of some type of catch share program that will cut down on latent permits. He is not convinced that the current number of permits reflects the current number of boats actively fishing.

For royal reds, with only 7 active boats and over 300 endorsements, a LAPP program should be considered to encourage active fishermen. At the very least, the royal red endorsement (Alternative 2) should be kept so what boats are going after the royal reds can be known. The endorsement has potential to evolve into a LAPP.

**Tampa, Florida  
January 7, 2016**

**Council/Staff**

Roy Williams  
Morgan Kilgour  
Carrie Simmons

**1 member of the public attended**

**Sal Versaggi- Versaggi Shrimp Company**

He supports the 10 year moratorium (Action 1, Alternative 2b) but wants to see a retention of a certain number of permits at the 2014 level (about 1400). If the number of permits drops lower than current levels, the infrastructure will be lost and shrimping will discontinue. There are two effort level caps, bycatch and turtles. The permits should only be available to offshore shrimpers because he does not want the effort for inshore shrimpers to count against the effort caps for

bycatch and turtles. The permits should only be available to people in the exclusive economic zone.

**Biloxi, Mississippi  
January 11, 2016**

**Council/Staff**

Leann Bosarge  
Dale Diaz  
Assane Diagne  
Bernadine Roy

**6 members of the public attended**

**Warren Brown for Ricky Brown –**

Father, Ricky Brown is a 44-year commercial shrimp fisherman and would like to leave the moratorium as is because it seems to be working.

**Steve Bosarge –**

He would like to see the royal red endorsement stay in place. He wants to the shrimp permit moratorium in place for 10 more years (Action 1, Alternative 2b). He discussed issues included in Shrimp Amendment 17B including the creation of a permit pool and the information required before a target number of permit is established. He noted that additional information on the number of active shrimp permits is needed.

**Earl Chavers –**

He has been shrimping and fishing since 1981. He is in favor of keeping the moratorium in place.

**Palacios, Texas  
January 11, 2016**

**Council/Staff**

Lance Robinson  
Karen Hoak  
Emily Muehlstein

**2 members of the public attended**

**E.H. “Buddy Treybig”, Jr – Matagorda, TX**

Ideally, he supports a permanent limited access permit (Alternative 3), but as a compromise he supports extension of the moratorium for 10 more years (Alternative 2, Option 2). There doesn't need to be more pressure in the shrimping industry. If someone is serious about getting into the business and is willing to build a boat, then there should be a way to allow for new entrants. He just doesn't think there is much interest in getting into the industry. There are not a lot of people taking over family businesses, so permits aren't passed down.

The royal red permit is useless.

**Craig A. Wallis** – Palacios, TX

There are plenty of permits that people can obtain. The idea of what an ‘active’ permit really is needs to be defined. Consider a permit to be active if the vessel works more than 150 days a year. If there was a study on how many people are full time shrimpers it would be surprising to find that most boats aren’t out there anywhere near 100 days. His boat needs to work 200 days so his crew can make a decent living, and he can make a profit. TPWD and NOAA have information on the days each boat is fishing. The scallopers in the North East can rely on their permit as a retirement fund. As shrimpers age their boats age, too, and he doesn’t want to be left with a raggedy old boat and no retirement. His permit has a value and that should belong to him. He supports Action 3. He wants the fishery to stay as it is. He doesn’t want to return to the situation in 2001 when the fishery was overcapitalized.

Regarding royal reds, the boats have very specialized equipment, and there is no risk of overcapitalization. The endorsement doesn’t need to exist.

**Mobile, Alabama  
January 12, 2016**

**Council/Staff**

David Walker  
Assane Diagne  
Bernadine Roy

**No member of the public attended**

**Brownsville, Texas  
January 12, 2016**

**Council/Staff**

Lance Robinson  
Emily Muehlstein  
Karen Hoak

**4 members of the public attended**

**Gary Graham** – Sea Grant, Texas A&M

He has been associated with the shrimp industry for 50 years through many transitions and changes. He is personally in favor of extending the moratorium; it makes sense, and it’s the right thing to do (Action 1, Alternative 2b). The devil is in the details and what happens down the road with future issues is going to be more controversial. For now, the moratorium should be extended.

His second comment is one he’s gathered from several fleet owners: shrimpers are asking that the shrimp permits come due at one annual date. As fleet owners with multiple vessels it would be much easier if all permits come due at one time. It may create a burden for people on the administration side, in which case he suggests that renewal come due fleet by fleet.

He did pioneer work in the 70's on royal red shrimp. He doesn't think there are a ton of boats going into the fishery, so it's useless to have royal red endorsements. The endorsement should be discontinued (Action 2, Alternative 2).

**Andrea Hance** – Texas Shrimp Association

Supports Action 1, Alternative 2b. There are plenty of issues to discuss in the future in Amendment 17b, but for right now, the moratorium should be extended for 10 years.

**Billy Kenon** – Brownsville, TX

He would prefer Action 1, Alternative 2b. Additionally, regarding the Council's future consideration of a transit provision, he believes there are plenty of shrimpers that come over to shrimp in the Texas closure. Allowing transit would allow them to get home quicker and he would rather they get federal permits.

In the case of royal reds he has had plans to harvest royal reds but requires the proper vessels, equipment, and personnel. He would like the ability to harvest royal reds to remain open to all federal shrimpers.

**Dolby Linwood** – Brownsville, TX

He supports Action 1, Alternative 2b.

**Houma, Louisiana**

**January 13, 2016**

**Council/Staff**

Ed Swindell

Assane Diagne

Bernadine Roy

**5 members of the public attended**

**Julie Falgout** –

She is in favor of Preferred Action 1, Alternative 2b. She would like to get rid of the royal red endorsement (Action 2, Alternative 2).

**Angela Portier** –

She would like there to be more permits but perhaps not open access. She supports the moratorium but would like more accessibility. She wishes the Council could revisit the issue every year. She would prefer a 5 year moratorium (Action 1, Alternative 2a).

**Chad Portier** –

If there are going to be permits, raise the number of permits issued so people have access.

**Troy M. Parria** –

He does not see a need for a permit moratorium at this time.

Most of the discussion revolved around Shrimp Amendment 17b. Participants expressed concern relative to the decline in the number of permits and expressed support for a permit pool and an increase in the availability of permits.

**Gretna, Louisiana  
January 14, 2016**

**Council/Staff**

Myron Fisher  
Ed Swindell  
Assane Diagne  
Bernadine Roy

**11 members of the public attended**

**Clint Guidry – President, LA Shrimp Association; Chairman, LA Shrimp Task Force**  
He read from a letter sent to the Council Chair from LA Shrimp Task Force from March 23, 2015, and submitted a copy of the letter for the record.

He stressed that he is speaking on behalf of the state of LA shrimp industry. He feels the Council is putting the cart before the horse. Shrimpers are asked to agree or disagree without having all the information. He has seen a decline in the number of permits. He supports a 10-year moratorium (Action 1, Alternative 2) but totally disagrees with doing this without establishing the number of permits in the pool. He wants to keep the royal red endorsement and supports Action 2, Alternative 1.

**Jennifer Chow – Attorney (TX)**

She supports the permit moratorium. She says the permits should be available to those folks already shrimping, who are in the industry. She also supports a “use it or lose it” clause.

**Lanvin J. LeBlanc –**

He wants to keep the moratorium for another 10 years and supports Action 1, Alternative 2b).

**Karen LeBlanc (on behalf of Malcolm Jr., husband) –**

She agrees with Clint Guidry.

**Craig J. Arcement –**

He agrees with Clint Guidry.