

**Shrimp Committee Report
January 25, 2016
Leann Bosarge - Chair**

The Committee moved to adopt the agenda and approved the minutes of the October 2015 meeting as written with one revision.

Amendment 17 A - Shrimp Permit Moratorium

Staff reviewed both written and public hearing comments (**Tab D, Nos 4a and 4b**). Staff reviewed the amendment (**Tab D, No 5**) and noted that the Council's current preferred alternative would extend the moratorium on shrimp permits for 10 years. Staff also reminded the Committee that a preferred alternative for Action 2 had not yet been selected. Committee members discussed the benefits associated with maintaining the royal red endorsement to the federal shrimp vessel permit and whether the endorsement was necessary. Staff reminded the Committee that the document was slated for final action at this Council meeting and selecting preferred alternative for the royal red shrimp endorsement action would allow the public the opportunity to comment on the direction the Committee is currently leaning. After discussion, the Committee made the following motion:

In Action 2, to make Alternative 1 the preferred alternative.

Alternative 1: No Action. Continue to require a royal red shrimp endorsement to the federal Gulf shrimp vessel permit to harvest royal red shrimp from the Gulf EEZ. Endorsements are open access for entities with a federal Gulf shrimp vessel permit.

Motion carried without opposition.

The Committee reviewed the codified text (**Tab D, No 6**). The Committee then made the following motion:

Motion: To approve Shrimp Amendment 17A and that it be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation, and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate, giving staff editorial license to make the necessary changes in the document. The Council Chair is given the authority to deem any changes to the codified text as necessary and appropriate.

Motion carried without opposition.

Discussion on NOAA's TED Enforcement Boarding Form

A representative from OLE was unable to attend the meeting, but the Committee still discussed the TED Boarding Form (**Tab D, No. 7**). Mainly, the Committee members were concerned that there was no box to inform whether the TED compliance check was a courtesy inspection that was voluntarily requested by the fisherman or as part of a routine inspection; the Committee felt that there should be a distinction between these on the TED Boarding Form. The Committee felt that the industry could be unfairly censored if there was no place on the TED Enforcement Form to distinguish between violations and voluntary courtesy inspections which ensure gear is in compliance before fishing. The Committee also requested adding further detail to the form regarding type of trawl gear. NMFS indicated this was on the horizon at a future date. A letter indicating the importance of these two additions to the TED Enforcement Boarding Form will be sent.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.