

**Summary of the Shrimp Committee
April 1, 2015
Corky Perret, Chair**

Biological Review of the Texas Closure

NMFS staff reviewed the 2014 Texas closure. Environmental factors were important for the growth and abundance of shrimp. In 2014, shrimp catch for white and brown shrimp was below average. There was also a change in the shrimp landings distribution in Texas ports. Landings by port may be an indication of where fishing occurs, but this would need to be verified with catch information.

The committee recommends and I so move: To recommend to have the Texas closure concurrent with the date Texas recommends, out to 200 miles, for the 2015 season.

Summary of the Shrimp Advisory Panel Meeting

Staff presented the Committee with the February 19, 2015 Shrimp AP summary. The AP made two recommendations for options to include in the Shrimp Permit Moratorium Amendment (Shrimp 17) and one recommendation about moving to MSY based benchmarks for Shrimp Amendment 15. The AP also recommended to have a federal closure off Texas concurrent with the Texas closure. Lastly, the AP made a recommendation to include the Shrimp AP and Special Shrimp SSC in the upcoming Coral AP/SSC meeting regarding deep-sea coral areas.

Report on the Penaeid Shrimp MSY-ABC Control Rule Workshop

Staff presented the Committee with the outcomes of the workshop. The working group recommended specific MSY and F_{MSY} values for brown, white and pink shrimp (Table 1). The working group also recommended to set the ABC equal to MSY. These recommendations were approved by the SSC.

Table 1. Model outputs of MSY for penaeid shrimp. For pink and white shrimp, both MSY and F_{MSY} were multiplied by 12 (shown) because the stock synthesis model for those two species treats each month as a year. Thus, the MSY and F_{MSY} produced are for a month not a full year.

	Annual MSY (lbs of tails)	Annual F_{MSY}
Pink Shrimp	17,345,130	1.35
White Shrimp	89,436,907	3.48
Brown Shrimp	146,923,100	9.12

Update on Shrimp Amendment 15

Staff presented the Committee with a proposed new action addressing MSY in Shrimp Amendment 15. Staff also presented an MSY-based overfishing threshold of F_{MSY} . Unfortunately, an MSY based overfished threshold was not presented to the Committee. Thus, for Action 1.3, the preferred alternative did not change. Staff requests editorial license to add a new alternative for Action 1.3 that addresses an MSY- based overfished threshold to maintain consistency with the MSY- based overfishing threshold for the Council to review at the June Council Meeting.

The committee recommends and I so move: To add a new Action 1.1 to the Shrimp Amendment 15 and to make alternative 2 the preferred.

Action 1.1 – Modify the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for Penaeid Shrimp

Alternative 1. No Action. The MSY values for the penaeid shrimp stocks fall within the range of values defined by the lowest and highest landings taken annually from 1990-2000 that does not result in recruitment overfishing as defined herein:

Brown shrimp: MSY is between 67 and 104 MP of tails

White shrimp: MSY is between 35 and 71 MP of tails

Pink shrimp: MSY is between 6 and 19 MP of tails

Preferred alternative 2. The MSY values for the penaeid shrimp stocks are values produced by the stock synthesis model approved by the SSC. Species specific MSY values will be recomputed during updated assessments, but only among the years 1984-2012. The values for each species will be updated every 5 years through the framework procedure, unless changed earlier by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

Currently, the stock synthesis model produces the following values:

Brown shrimp: MSY is 146,923,100 pounds of tails

White shrimp: MSY is 89,436,907 pounds of tails

Pink shrimp: MSY is 17,345,130 pounds of tails

The committee recommends and I so move: In Action 1.2, to add an alternative 4 and make that the preferred alternative.

Alternative 4. The maximum fishing mortality threshold (MFMT) for each penaeid shrimp stock is defined as the F_{msy} . Species specific F_{msy} values will be recomputed during the updated assessments, but only among the fishing years 1984-2012. The values for each species will be updated every 5 years through the framework procedure, unless changed earlier by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. (editorial license approved)

Currently, the values are:

- **Brown shrimp: 9.12**
- **White shrimp: 3.48**
- **Pink shrimp: 1.35**
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Scoping document for Shrimp Amendment 17

Staff presented the scoping document addressing the expiration of the shrimp permit moratorium. The committee reviewed the recommendations from the AP as well as recommendations that had been submitted by the State of Louisiana and the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force. Several items to include in an options paper were discussed and suggested by the Committee. One action would need to address the option of extending the moratorium, allowing the moratorium to expire, or making the moratorium permanent. Another action would include creating a permit pool and deciding what the appropriate the number of permits would be capped at (such as fishing year). Other items that staff will need to provide options for are qualifications for permits such as landings, vessel length, citizenship etc. and the royal red shrimp endorsement. It was noted that increasing the number of permits may cause other biological triggers because of turtle bycatch or red snapper bycatch. Additionally, if there is a permit pool created for this fishery, there may have to be justification for why such a pool does not exist for other fisheries.

Staff also presented a brief summary of the Shrimp Permit Moratorium Working Group analyses.

Other Business

The committee briefly discussed the TED compliance enforcement workshop and a letter from the Port Arthur Shrimp Association.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.