

**Shrimp Committee Report
April 4, 2016
Leann Bosarge, Chair**

Biological Review of the Texas Closure

Dr. Hart reviewed the results from the Texas Closure. Environmental factors were below average this year and both brown and white shrimp catch were below the long term average. The increase in pounds yielded were between 0 and 7 % with the 2015 closure for brown and white shrimp.

The committee recommends and I so **move: to recommend the Texas closure run concurrent with the date that the state of Texas recommends, out to 200 miles, for the 2016 season.**

Motion carried with no opposition.

Review of the Updated Stock Assessments for Brown, White and Pink Shrimp

Dr. Hart also reviewed the stock assessments for brown, white, and pink shrimp. None of the stocks are overfished nor are they undergoing overfishing. Dr. Hart is currently working on incorporating environmental conditions for all shrimp stocks into the assessments.

Summary of the Shrimp Advisory Panel Meeting

The shrimp AP summary was reviewed. Many of the Shrimp AP motions were regarding the options paper for Shrimp Amendment 17B. Staff also informed the committee about the Shrimp AP's motion regarding reviewing the coral HAPCs proposed by the coral SSC/AP and the Shrimp AP's interest in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary expansion.

Options Paper for Shrimp Amendment 17B

Staff presented the committee with the updated purpose and need in Amendment 17B. The chair requested staff clarify the second paragraph in the introduction. Staff also presented the outcomes from the Shrimp MSY and OY working group. The committee reviewed the aggregate MSY and aggregate OY presented in Actions 1 and 2. The Shrimp AP recommended that the preferred alternative for Actions 1 and 2 be to establish an aggregate MSY and an aggregate OY. The committee reviewed Action 3. The Shrimp AP recommended Alternative 2 be the preferred alternative, and Mr. Perret, Shrimp AP Chair, provided input on the Shrimp AP's rationale. The committee reviewed Alternative 3, which results in the same number of permits as Alternative 2, but is based solely on the effort threshold for sea turtle bycatch. The committee would like staff to retain the discussion for Alternative 3 but remove the alternative. Committee also would like specific reference in Alternative 2 to the factors utilized to establish OY, one of which is effort below the sea turtle bycatch threshold.

The committee recommends and I so **move:** to follow the IPT's suggestion and remove **Alternative 3, in Action 3.**

Alternative 3. Set a threshold number of valid or renewable Gulf shrimp vessel permits based on the predicted number of active permitted vessels (those with landings from offshore waters) during 2009, which is the threshold level of effort for the incidental take statement for sea turtles in the 2014 biological opinion (1,074 permits).

Motion carried with no opposition.

The committee discussed removing two options from Alternative 6 to better address OY through CPUE and landings information only. There was concern about removing the options because the fishery was not profitable in 2007, the one option year which would remain.

The committee recommends and I so **move:** to remove **Option 6b and Option 6c from Alternative 6 in Action 3.**

Alternative 6. Set a threshold number of valid or renewable Gulf shrimp vessel permits based on the predicted number of active permitted vessels (those with landings from offshore waters) in a year with relatively high CPUE in the offshore fishery during the moratorium without substantially reduced landings.

Option 6a. 2007 (1,133 permits)

~~**Option 6b. 2012 (990 permits)**~~

~~**Option 6c. 2013 (909 permits)**~~

Motion carried 5 to 1.

The committee reviewed Alternative 7 and felt that some of the options listed would potentially create overcapitalization in the fishery and that some options were not feasible. The AP had recommended a trigger of 1,300 permits to convene a review panel and there was some discussion about adding this as an option under Alternative 7. The committee decided to streamline Alternative 7.

The committee recommends and I so **move:** to remove **Options 7a, 7b, and 7c in Alternative 7 in Action 3.**

Alternative 7. Set a threshold number of valid or renewable Gulf shrimp vessel permits based on the number of valid permits at:

~~**Option 7a. the beginning of the moratorium (1,933 permits)**~~

~~**Option 7b. the end of 2009 (1,722 permits)**~~

~~**Option 7c. the end of 2011 (1,582 permits)**~~

Option 7d. the end of 2013 (1,501 permits)

Option 7e. the end of 2014 (1,470 permits)

Option f. the end of the initial moratorium, October 26, 2016 (number of permits unknown).

Motion carried with no opposition.

The committee discussed Action 4 and the new alternative recommended by the Shrimp AP. Staff will add the AP's suggested alternative to the document.

The committee discussed Action 5 in the document. After discussion, the committee felt that it may be more appropriate for the review panel outlined in Action 4 to determine eligibility criteria as the fishery may change in the future and felt that Action 5 should be moved to an appendix so the alternatives, discussion, mechanisms, and options are not lost and can be used in the future.

The committee recommends and I so **move**: **to move Action 5 to an Appendix in the document for possible future consideration.**

Action 5. Issuance of Reserved Gulf Shrimp Vessel Permits

Motion carried with no opposition.

The committee reviewed Action 6 and the comments that were submitted by the LETC. Staff will add the IPT proposed Alternative 4 which the LETC did not review.

Brandi Reeder informed the committee of the LETC's concerns regarding the TED compliance boarding form. The committee did not review the SSC summary or conduct other business.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.