

**Shrimp Committee Report
October 7, 2015
Leann Bosarge - Chair**

After adding a presentation on shrimp effort, the Committee moved to adopt the agenda. The Committee then approved the minutes of the August 2015 meeting as written.

Dr. Rick Hart presented shrimp effort from 10 – 30 fathoms in statistical zones 10 - 21. He indicated that effort increased in 2014. Dr. Crabtree noted that 2014 effort levels were very close to the threshold that would trigger shrimp closures in portions of the Gulf and noted the number of active vessels associated with this effort level.

Amendment 17 A - Shrimp Permit Moratorium

Staff reviewed the amendment (**Tab D, No 4**) and noted that the Council's current preferred alternative would extend the moratorium on shrimp permits for 10 years. Committee members discussed the benefits associated with maintaining the royal red endorsement to the federal shrimp vessel permit as well as the possible savings associated with eliminating the royal red endorsement, but did not select a preferred alternative at for Action 2 at that time. Committee members noted that landings requirements for the renewal of royal red endorsements were previously discussed and moved to the considered and rejected section. The Committee discussed the timeline for the amendment indicating that public hearings were scheduled in early 2016 and that the Council could take final action during the January 2016 meeting.

Amendment 17 B - Yield, Threshold Number of Permits and Transit Provisions

Staff discussed the purpose and need for action in reviewing the amendment (**Tab D, No 5**). The committee discussed the importance of bycatch in the shrimp fishery. In Actions 1 and 2, the Committee discussed the need for a working group to determine aggregate MSY and OY and approved the following motion:

By a unanimous vote, the Committee recommends and I so move, that the Council convene a working group to evaluate aggregate MSY and OY for all shrimp species.

In Action 3, the Committee discussed the minimum threshold number of Gulf shrimp permits. A motion to move Alternative 7 to the considered but rejected section failed.

In Action 5, Committee members discussed the eligibility requirements for the issuance of reserved permits. Mara Levy noted that sufficient rationale would be needed to support the eligibility requirements. The committee discussed getting further feedback from the Shrimp AP during their upcoming meeting now that additional information on this action item was available. Finally, the Committee discussed transit provisions and the relationship between the strictness of these provisions and the enforceability of those provisions.

Other Business

Finally, Chairwoman Bosarge remarked that she would like to review TED Enforcement Boarding form in the near future.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.