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Office

Gulf Shrimp Permits and Provisions from Amendment 17B

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Provisions in Am 17B

- First provision sets the minimum threshold number of valid and renewable permits for the fishery at **1,072**
- This number is based on the predicted number of active permitted vessels needed to attain aggregate Optimum Yield (OY) in the offshore fishery
- Aggregate OY accounts for various economic, ecological, and social factors (e.g., catch per unit effort (CPUE), landings, sea turtle bycatch, and juvenile red snapper bycatch)

Provisions in Am 17B

- If the number of permits reaches the minimum threshold number of SPGM permits (1,072), any permits that are not renewed within one year of the expiration date of the permit will be converted to a Gulf shrimp reserve pool permit and go into a Gulf Shrimp Vessel Permit Reserve Pool for possible reissuance
- The second provision states that, if the number of valid and renewable SPGM permits hits 1,175, the Council will form a review panel to review the details of a permit pool and other options
- The panel will consist of Shrimp AP members, Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) members, NMFS, and Council staff
- Gulf shrimp reserve pool permits will not be issued until eligibility requirements are developed and implemented through **subsequent rulemaking via a new Council amendment**

Number of Valid Gulf Shrimp Moratorium Permits

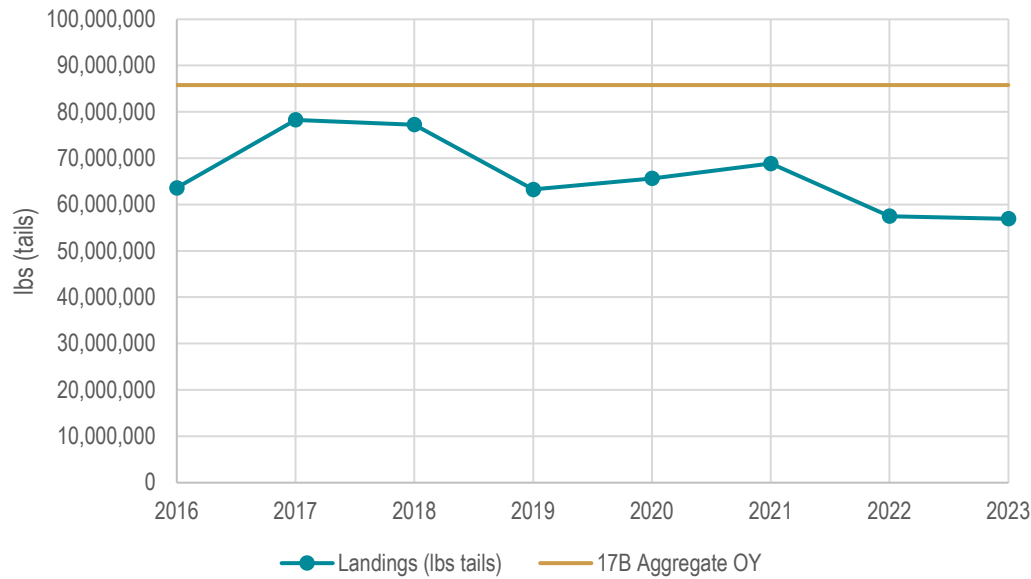
- Stable trend from 2016 through 2021 (average # of terminated permits/year=15)
- From 2022 through 2023 average # of terminated permits/year increased to **25**
- NMFS' preliminary estimates for 2024 and 2025 show # of terminated permits/year increased to **48**
- At higher rate of decrease, the review panel trigger could be met in **2027** and the min threshold in **2029**.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Valid and Renewable Permits</u>	<u>Change from Previous Year</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
2016	1,454	-17	-1.2%
2017	1,442	-12	-0.8%
2018	1,426	-16	-1.1%
2019	1,418	-8	-0.6%
2020	1,400	-18	-1.3%
2021	1,384	-16	-1.1%
2022	1,360	-24	-1.7%
2023	1,335	-25	-1.8%
2024*	1,287	-48	-3.6%
2025*	1,239	-48	-3.7%

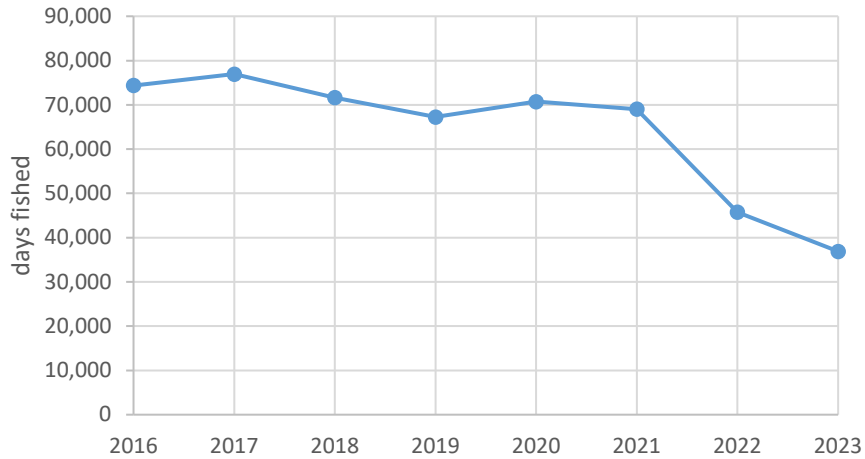
*Preliminary

Offshore Landings, Effort, and CPUE 2016-2023

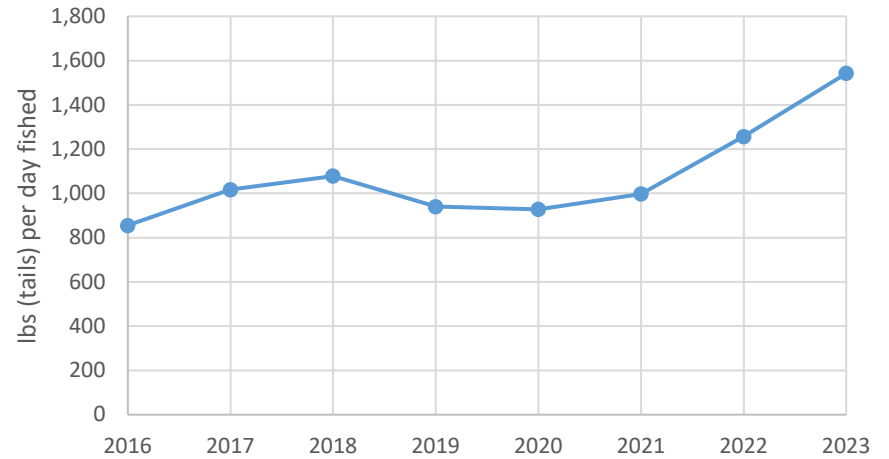
Landings



Effort



CPUE



Active Vessels 2016-2023

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Valid and Renewable SPGM Permits</u>	<u>Active Offshore SPGM Vessels</u>	<u>Percent Active Offshore</u>
2016	1,454	898	62%
2017	1,442	925	64%
2018	1,426	906	64%
2019	1,418	876	62%
2020	1,400	838	60%
2021	1,384	829	60%
2022	1,360	783	58%
2023	1,335	651	49%

Summary

- Offshore landings (2016-2023) are well below Aggregate OY of **85,761,596** lbs tails
- Compared to values seen during 1990-2014 (17b reference period)
 - Number of active offshore SPGM vessels and effort are lower
 - CPUE is higher
 - Active participation rates have not improved
- Participation and effort likely impacted by market conditions, rising costs, and natural disasters
- Change in CPUE may indicate stocks have become more productive, fishing methods improved, and/or less technically efficient vessels exited the fishery

Recommendations

- SPGM moratorium set to expire Oct. 26, 2026. If not extended, 17b provisions no longer applicable because it will become open access
- If Council renews SPGM moratorium, should reconsider minimum thresholds based on more recent participation, landings, effort, biological, and economic data
- Council should request periodic updates, e.g., semi-annually.
- As the permit count approaches 1,175, the Council should consider when to create and populate the Review Panel
- If the Council pursues a plan amendment to determine eligibility requirements for reserve pool permits, they should, again, reconsider the actions in 17B and their empirical basis



Questions?

