



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

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February 10, 2025

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Dr. Clay Porch

Director, Southeast Fisheries Science Center

National Marine Fisheries Service

75 Virginia Beach Dr.

Miami, Florida 33149

Ms. Kelly Spalding

VMS Program Manager and Investigative Support Program Manager

Office of Law Enforcement

National Marine Fisheries Service

1315 East-West Highway, Suite 3301

Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Dr. Porch and Ms. Spalding:

During its January 2025 meeting, the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) Fishery Management Council (Council) reviewed its draft *Shrimp Framework Action: Modification of the Vessel Position Data Collection Program for the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery* (Shrimp FA) to transition the expired 3G cellular electronic logbook system to a system that would maintain the Council's and National Marine Fisheries Service's scientific ability to estimate and monitor fishing effort in the Gulf shrimp fishery while minimizing the economic burden on the industry and on the agency to the maximum extent practicable. As part of the review, the Council received a presentation from Dr. Walter on estimated industry and administrative costs associated with the alternatives in the document, and the Council also received from the Shrimp Advisory Panel (AP) Chair an overview of the Shrimp AP's December 2024 meeting wherein these estimated costs were discussed and debated. During public testimony at its meeting, the Council received further administrative cost information from the Shrimp AP Chair that did not align with the administrative cost information presented by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC). As a result, the Council passed a motion to request a detailed accounting of all administrative costs to the Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) and the SEFSC associated with Alternatives 2 and 3 in the draft Shrimp FA.¹

The Shrimp AP is scheduled to convene again on March 4, 2025, and it would be ideal if this information could be presented to them as well. Providing any updates to the administrative costs would also allow Dr. Freeman and other members of the Interdisciplinary Planning Team to integrate it into the draft of the Shrimp FA slated for final action at the Council's April 2025

¹ https://gulfcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/D-4d-Draft-Shrimp-Framework-Action_1_21_25.pdf

meeting. The next Council meeting is scheduled for April 7-10, 2025, and we also request a presentation be provided by March 21, 2025, to meet the briefing book deadline.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and if you have any questions or if we can coordinate this request between the SEFSC and OLE, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Matthew Freeman.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Dugas", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr. Jonathan Dugas
Council Chair

cc: Gulf Council
Council Staff
John Walter, Ph.D.
Andy Strelcheck
Frank Helies