



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

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

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May 29, 2024

Tab D, No. 4(b)

Dr. Clay Porch

007177MAY2024

Director, Southeast Fisheries Science Center

National Marine Fisheries Service

75 Virginia Beach Dr.

Miami, Florida 33149

Dear Dr. Porch:

During its May 10, 2024, meeting, the Interdisciplinary Planning Team (IPT) for the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's (Council) Shrimp Framework Amendment (FA) discussed data needs to develop the document. Once received, the IPT anticipates providing an updated draft Shrimp FA to the Council.

- 1) A table of criteria based on the national vessel monitoring system (VMS) type-approval process¹ for selection of cellular VMS (cVMS) devices being used in the Early Adopter Program for the shrimp fishery. This table would be informative and provide transparency to Council members and the public.
- 2) The costs associated with the cVMS devices being used in the Early Adopter Program for the shrimp industry, including but not limited to costs of devices, installation costs, interface fees, and transmission fees. The IPT notes that the contractor for the Early Adopter Program may have received discounted pricing for devices when purchased in bulk.
- 3) The range of shrimp vessels, with a minimum and maximum, in the Gulf that could be selected by the Science and Research Director to carry cVMS devices for vessel position data reporting. The Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) may need to consider assessing the current stratification of selected vessels in order to determine a new range of vessels with valid and renewable permits.
- 4) Clarification if every vessel that volunteered for the Early Adopter Program will be part of the sample for vessel position data reporting and how the SEFSC will combine these two processes (volunteer vessels and random drawn sample vessels).

The IPT requests these materials be provided by July 11, 2024, in time for its next meeting. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Matthew Freeman.

¹ <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-600/subpart-Q/section-600.1501>

Sincerely,



Dr. Carrie Simmons
Executive Director

cc: Gulf Council
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