

**Shrimp Committee
Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab D**

Agenda Item IV: Draft Shrimp Amendment 19: Shrimp Permit Moratorium

Timeline Status: Information, Discussion, and Feedback

Council input and next steps: The Committee will be presented with a draft amendment to address the expiration of the federal Gulf commercial shrimp vessel permit moratorium, which will occur on October 26, 2026. The Committee should ask questions and may consider selecting a preferred alternative. If a preferred alternative is selected, staff will hold 1-2 virtual public hearings following the August 2025 Council meeting, and the Council may take final action at the November 2025 Council meeting.

Agenda Item V: Protected Resources Bycatch in Shrimp Trawls: A Summary Review of Data for Reinitiation of Section 7 Consultation

In June 2023, NOAA's Sustainable Fisheries Division requested the NOAA Protected Resource Division to restart a formal review of southeastern shrimp fisheries. This review, required by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is necessary because new information has shown that shrimp fishing might be affecting smalltooth sawfish and giant manta rays more than predicted in the previous 2021 Shrimp Opinion (i.e., the product of the last consultation).

SERO staff will review the key summary data on smalltooth sawfish and giant manta ray assembled for the reinitiation of Section 7 consultation compiled over the past two years. SERO staff will also present paths forward for collaboration and advancing the consultation, consistent with the October 2024 ESA/Magnuson-Stevens Act policy directive. The Committee should explore development of potential alternatives to minimize smalltooth sawfish and giant manta ray bycatch in the Gulf shrimp fishery based on the information presented. The Committee should ask questions and make recommendations and motions.

Agenda Item VI: Other Business

Timeline Status: Additional items that can be brought up for discussion

Council Input and Next Steps: Additional items may be brought up for discussion by Committee members during the adoption of the agenda, time permitting. If the Committee wishes to pursue action, then action can be scheduled at a future Council meeting.
