

**Shrimp Committee Report
November 3, 2025
Chris Schieble, Chair**

The Committee adopted the agenda (**Tab D, No. 1**). The Committee then approved the August 2025 meeting minutes (**Tab D, No. 2**) with the modification of the word ‘soft fish’ on line 23 of page 16 to ‘sawfish’.

FINAL ACTION: Shrimp Amendment 19: Shrimp Permit Moratorium (Tab D, Nos. 4a-c)

Council staff reviewed the summary of written and virtual public comments, noting that a virtual public hearing webinar was held on October 21, 2025. Council staff then reviewed the options in Shrimp Amendment 19.

A Committee member stated that, upon further review of the amendment, he would like to discuss the 1,072 minimum threshold number of valid or renewable permits for federal Gulf commercial shrimp permits. Another Committee member added that the number of active permits in 2024 was 691 and that it would be beneficial for the Southeast Fisheries Science Center to review the minimum threshold number of permits given new scientific information and in light of effort thresholds for juvenile red snapper and take of protected resources. The Committee member added that Option 2 as the preferred would maintain status quo versus implement a new regulatory change, given current Executive Orders.

The Committee recommends, and I so move, **to make Option 2 the preferred.**

Option 2: Extend the moratorium on the issuance of federal Gulf commercial shrimp vessel permits. The moratorium would be extended for 10 years.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Committee member added that Preferred Option 2 reflects the Shrimp AP’s motion at its April 2025 meeting.

The Committee recommends, and I so move, **to recommend the Council approve *Shrimp Amendment 19: Shrimp Permit Moratorium* and that it be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review and implementation, and deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate, giving staff editorial license to make the necessary changes in the document. The Council Chair is given the authority to deem any changes to the codified text as necessary and appropriate.**

Motion carried unanimously.

A Committee member noted that further analyses are needed, given new information on the shrimp fishery, for the minimum threshold number of permits. He added that the shrimp

industry's economic environment is also changing. Another Committee member commented that biologic and economic conditions drive shrimp effort, and he would encourage market information to be considered. Council staff stated that, contingent on how quickly the analyses are completed, this information could be presented to the Shrimp AP at its March 2026 meeting.

The Committee recommends, and I so move, **to direct Council staff, with assistance from NMFS staff, to review and provide updated multidisciplinary analyses for the minimum threshold number of federal Gulf shrimp commercial permits from Shrimp Amendment 17B.**

Motion carried unanimously.

Working Groups Update on Shrimp Bycatch Methodologies (Tab D, No. 5)

Council staff presented a draft workplan for evaluating and providing feedback on shrimp bycatch methodology for finfish species in the Gulf of America (Gulf). She noted the Council's motion at its August 2025 meeting to populate and convene a working group to identify workable solutions that aim to reduce interactions with smalltooth sawfish and giant manta ray in the Gulf federal shrimp trawl fishery; she added that the output from the working group on finfish bycatch could be used as an input for the working group on protected resources bycatch. She stated that the bycatch methodologies for red snapper and a draft approach for gray triggerfish were presented to the SSCs virtually in May 2025 but the SSCs asked that the presentation be revisited in-person with more time on the agenda at a future SSC meeting. A Committee member added that he was on the SSC during those presentations and agreed that the SSC did not have adequate time to review, so he concurred with the need for this working group on shrimp bycatch methodology for finfish species. Another Committee member requested that specific names of NMFS personnel be replaced with TBD until after the government shutdown when specific personnel can be identified. He then inquired when the working group on protected resources might convene. Council staff responded that it was critical the working group on finfish bycatch convene first, prior to the start of the next red snapper assessment in spring 2026.

The Committee recommends, and I so move, **to approve the workplan for evaluating and providing feedback on shrimp bycatch methodology for finfish species in the Gulf of America and to direct Council staff to proceed with implementation of the workplan prior to convening the shrimp working group on protected resources.**

Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Mr. Donaldson reminded the Committee that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission will no longer be able to process the Secure Digital cards from federally-permitted Gulf commercial shrimp vessels after December 31, 2025.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.