

Council Actions in Response to Motions from the March 2025 Shrimp AP Meetings



AP MOTION #1

Motion: To recommend that the Council extend the moratorium on the issuance of federal Gulf commercial shrimp vessel permits for an additional 10 years.

Status: At its April 2025 meeting, the Council directed staff to begin work on a document to extend the moratorium. At its November 2025 meeting, the Council took Final Action on Shrimp Amendment 19 which extends the moratorium for an additional 10 years. Currently, the moratorium is set to expire on October 26, 2026, unless implementation of Shrimp Amendment 19 occurs prior to this date.

AP MOTION #2

Motion: To recommend that the Council request NMFS to continue the federal Texas Closure in conjunction with the state of Texas closure in 2025.

Status: *Council passed a motion “To request NMFS continue with the Texas Federal Closure in the coming year in conjunction with the state of Texas Closure in 2025.” A letter was sent to SERO from the Council in April 2025 to this effect.*

AP MOTION #3

Motion: The AP requests the Council not to use the results of the SEDAR 87 stock assessments for brown, white, or pink shrimp to establish a harvest control rule or any form of catch restrictions given these are annual species covered by the Magnuson-Stevens Act exception from annual catch limits, unless a fishery for such species is subject to overfishing.

Status: *No Council motion. SSC reviewed SEDAR 87 at its February 2026 meeting (recommendations will be noted in today's Agenda Item V).*

APRIL '25 COUNCIL MOTION

Motion: To recommend the Council approve Framework Action: Modification of the Vessel Position Data Collection Program for the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery 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 16 to 0 with 1 abstention.

*Framework Action was transmitted to SERO in January 2026.

AUGUST '25 COUNCIL MOTION

Motion: Populate and convene a new working group comprised of shrimp harvesting sector representatives, NMFS staff, Council staff, SSC members, researchers, and others to identify workable solutions that aim to reduce interactions with smalltooth sawfish and giant manta ray in the Gulf federal shrimp trawl fishery. This new working group should be formed by the Council chair, Shrimp committee chair, Regional Administrator, and Executive Director with no more than 15 members.

Motion carried with no opposition and 1 absent.

*This working group will convene after the shrimp bycatch on finfish working group concludes (see Slide 8).

NOV '25 COUNCIL MOTION

Motion: 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 with no opposition.



NOV '25 COUNCIL MOTION

Motion: 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 with no opposition.

*Workplan can be found at this website (<https://gulf-council-media.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2025/11/D-5-Draft-Workplan-for-Shrimp-Bycatch-Methodology-Working-Groupv4.pdf>). Scheduled to meet end of March, with an update to the Council at its April '26 meeting.