

SSC Recommendations for Gulf Shrimp from Feb 24-26, 2026 meeting



SSC MOTIONS #1 & 2

Motion: The SSC considers the Empirical Dynamic Modeling approach for Gulf brown and white shrimp, with developed benchmark estimates (brown shrimp MSY = 215.07 mpt; white shrimp MSY = 87.80 mpt) as consistent with the best scientific information available.

Motion carried without opposition.

Motion: The SSC recommends using the third highest catch of pink shrimp from 1996 (19.3 mpt) for establishing MSY and providing management advice to the Gulf Council.

Motion carried with one opposed and two abstentions.

SSC MOTIONS #3 & 4

Motion: The SSC recommends $ABC = MSY$ for the brown, white, and pink shrimp fisheries in the Gulf.

Motion carried with three opposed and one abstention.

***Amendment 13 established optimum yield for the penaeid shrimp stocks equal to MSY, so OY values were not revisited.**

Motion: The overfishing threshold is defined as the maximum fishing mortality threshold (MFMT). The MFMT for each penaeid shrimp stock is defined as the exploitation rate at MSY (F_{MSY}). The values are: brown shrimp = 0.460; white shrimp = 0.592.

Motion carried without opposition.

SSC MOTIONS #5 & 6

Motion: The overfishing threshold for pink shrimp is defined as annual landings relative to the MSY proxy. If this ratio exceeds 1, the stock status is overfishing.

Motion carried with one opposed.

Motion: The overfished threshold is defined as the minimum stock size threshold. The MSST for each penaeid shrimp stock is defined as the biomass at MSY (B_{MSY}). The values are:

- Brown shrimp: 405.39 mpt
- White Shrimp: 148.35 mpt
- Pink shrimp: undefined

Motion carried without opposition.