



**NOAA
FISHERIES**



Shrimp Futures Initiative

Project updates and timeline

Southeast Fisheries Science Center and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

Gulf Council Project Update | April 7, 2026

'Shrimp Futures' Project Objectives

Assess current financial state and issues

Analyze data on economic & social trends, issues, roadblocks, etc.



Identify business objectives & future vision

Industry members will work together to identify a vision and goals



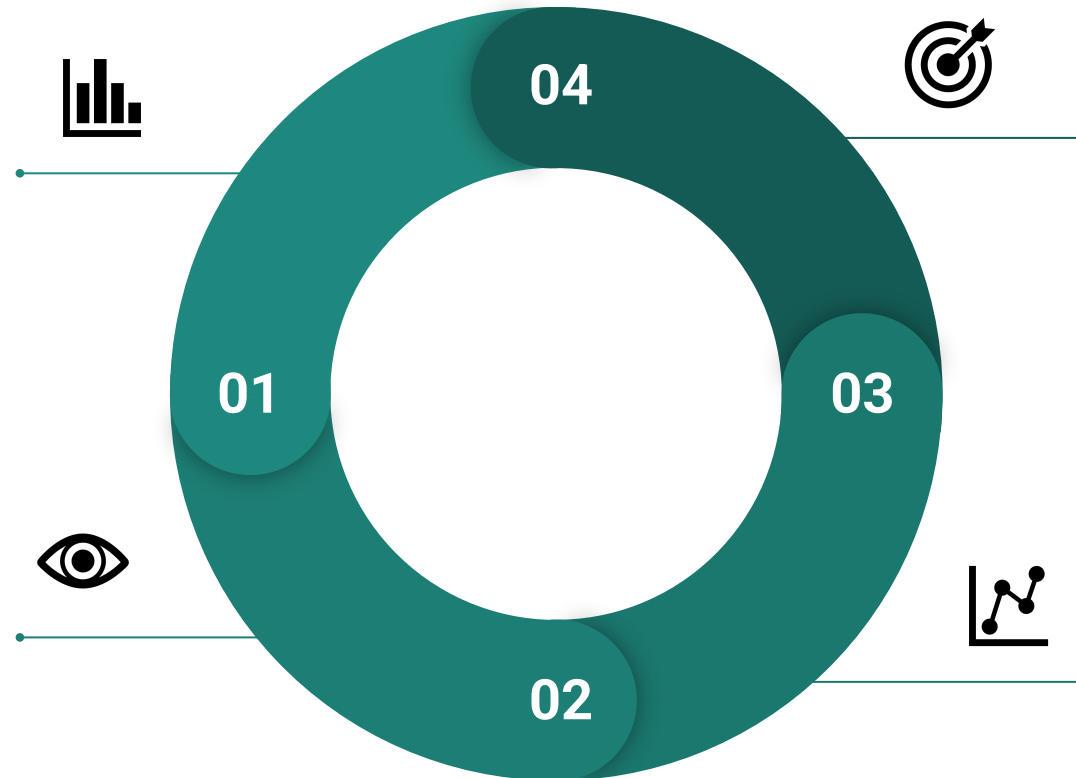
Identify and prioritize actions

Identify actions robust to future uncertainty, considering feasibility & investment needs



Develop future scenarios

Using data projections, research, and stakeholder knowledge



Project Actions

PART 1 - *Supporting the shrimp industry in the present*

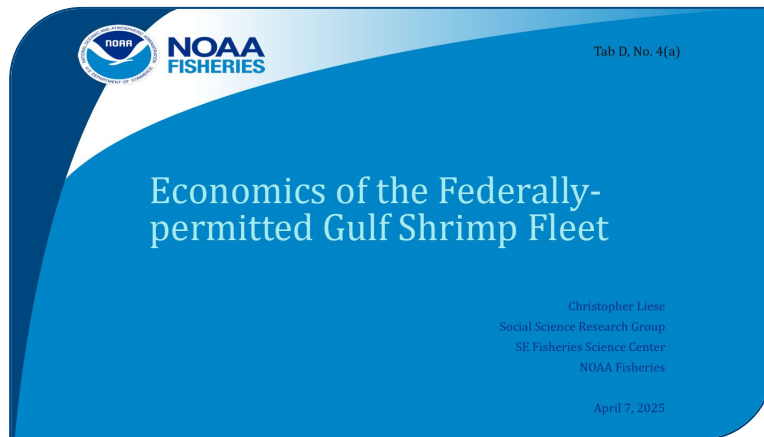


- **Economic analysis & snapshot:** Overview of the current economic state of the industry in the context of long term trends.
- **Stakeholder engagement & industry perspectives snapshot:** Based on interviews with subject matter experts and shrimp industry members.
- **Communications & education:** Highlight industry and issues via web stories and blog posts, assist with marketing/outreach efforts.

Economic report web story: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/noaa-fisheries-report-reveals-dire-state-gulf-shrimp-fishery>

Initial Impact

A presentation by SEFSC to the Gulf council on the economics of the federal fleet was used by the Port Arthur Shrimpers Association to push for state legislation.



*“I wanted to let you know **how grateful we are** that Christopher Liese [SEFSC] wrote the Economic Report. I made copies of that [presentation] and **gave one to each legislator on the House Committee** and I walked them through it. **I believe it had a huge impact** on them passing the HCR 76... I have also shared it with all of the legislators that we lobbied because it **gave a stark view of the future of industry** and they could easily see that something must be done to support our industry. **Please thank him very much for all of us in the shrimping industry.**”*



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Industry Perspectives

	THE CHALLENGES (The “Why”)	THE STRATEGIES (The “How”)
Pillar 1	Market Pressures: Low prices, import competition, and lack of cohesion.	Market Innovation: Direct marketing, branding, and policy changes.
Pillar 2	Operational Barriers: High costs, deteriorating infrastructure, and labor shortages.	Capacity Building: Workforce development and technological upgrades.
Pillar 3	External Threats: Environmental stressors and heavy regulatory burdens.	Resilience: Income diversification and securing new funding streams.



100+ interviews

8 states visited



Project Actions

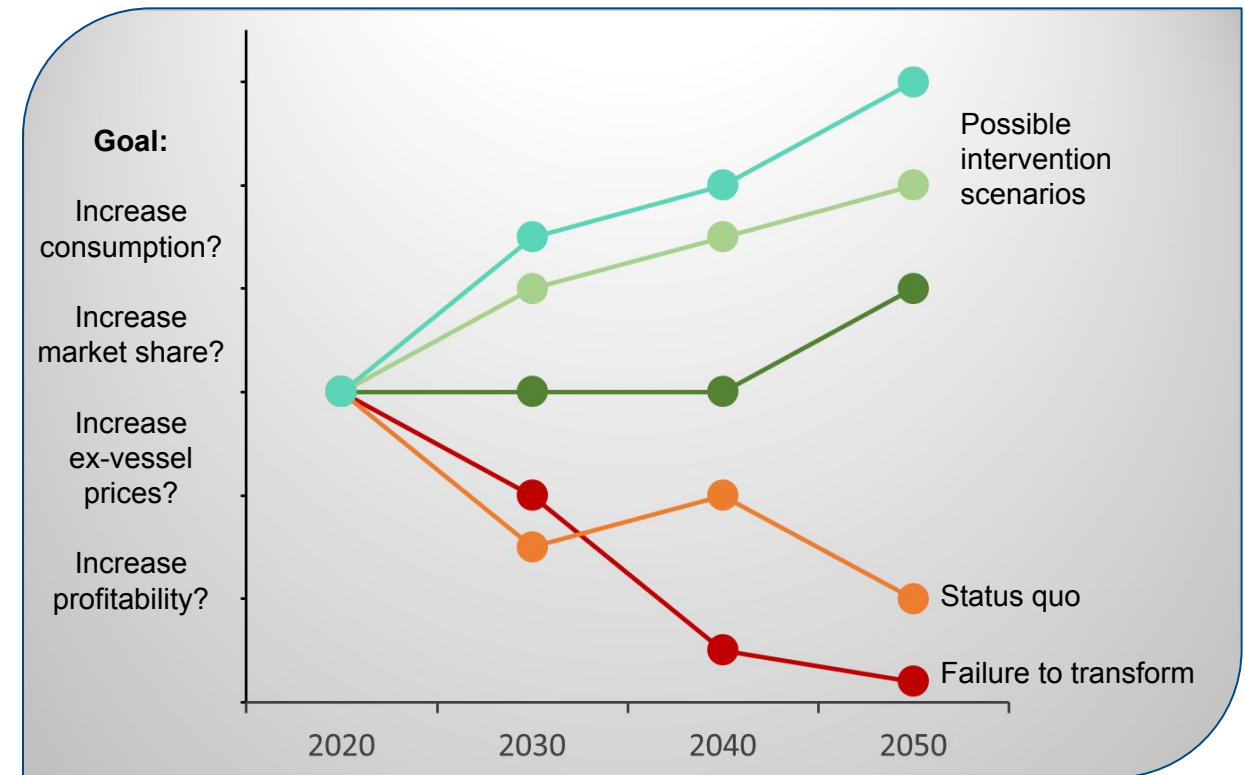
PART 2 - *Supporting the shrimp industry into the future*



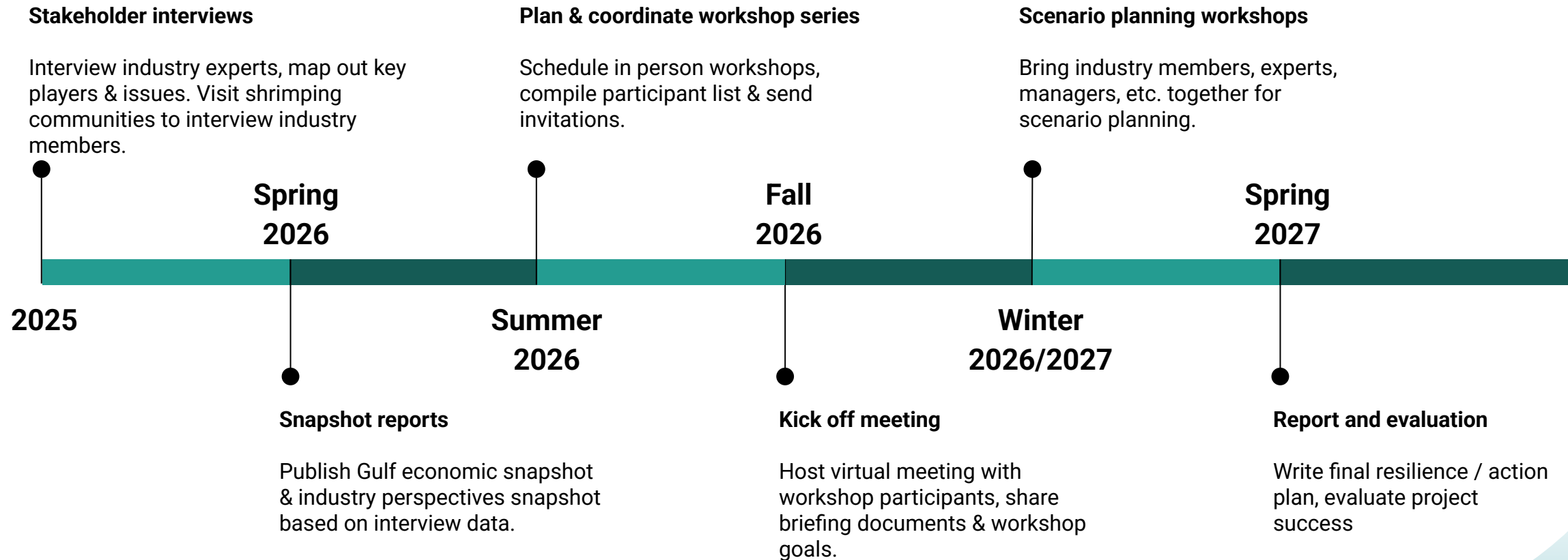
- **Scenario planning workshops:** Via a two-part in-person workshop series, key stakeholders will work together through a series of activities to identify visions for the future of the industry and actions that could be taken by individuals, organizations, and governments to realize the future visions.
- **Action focus:** Members from other NOAA offices or agencies with potential ideas/funding/leverage will be included. The focus will be on identifying clear actions and paths toward achieving them.

Anticipated Deliverables

- Engagement with other agencies
- A short and long term vision & goals
- Analysis of success stories
- Recommendations for policies, programs, and other actions based on scenario insights
- Potential industry trajectories under different policy and economic conditions



Process / Timeline



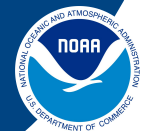
Shrimp Futures Team

Team Member	Title	Project Role
Carissa Gervasi	University of Miami / SEFSC interdisciplinary ecosystem scientist	Project coordinator
John Walter	SEFSC Deputy Director for Science and Council Services	Project PI, council liaison
Matthew McPherson	Director of the SEFSC Social Science research group	Lead social scientist
Kelsi Furman	Assistant professor, University of South Alabama	Social scientist
Christopher Liese	SEFSC industry economist	Lead economist
Meaghan Emory	SEFSC communications specialist	Communications and publication support
Sarah Shoffler	NOAA Fisheries Seafood Advisor	Alignment with NOAA Fisheries priorities, coordination with other agencies
Joy Hazell	University of Florida and Florida Sea Grant extension faculty member and State Specialized Agent in Facilitation and Conflict Management	Workshop development, stakeholder engagement & facilitation

Contact: shrimpfutures@noaa.gov



Questions?



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