

GULF COUNCIL

SHRIMP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino & Virtual Biloxi, Mississippi

November 3, 2025

VOTING MEMBERS

- 10 Chris Schieble (designee for Ryan Montegut).....Louisiana
- 11 Kevin Anson.....Alabama
- 12 Kesley Banks.....Texas
- 13 Mike Allen.....Florida
- 14 Billy Broussard.....Louisiana
- 15 Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
- 16 Troy Frady.....Alabama
- 17 Dakus Geeslin (designee for Robin Riechers).....Texas
- 18 Jason Osborne.....Mississippi
- 19 Anthony Overton.....Alabama
- 20 John Sanchez.....Florida
- 21 Joe Spraggins.....Mississippi
- 22 Andy Strelcheck.....NMFS

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

- 25 Brenda Ballard.....Texas
- 26 J.D. Dugas.....Louisiana
- 27 Johnny Marquez.....Mississippi
- 28 Lt. Jackson Morton.....USCG
- 29 C.J. Sweetman (designee for Jessica McCawley).....Florida
- 30 Ed Walker.....Florida

STAFF

- 33 Assane Diagne.....Economist
- 34 Matt Freeman.....Economic Analyst
- 35 John Froeschke.....Deputy Director
- 36 Sarah Gardiner.....Fishery Biologist
- 37 Lisa Hollensead.....Fishery Biologist
- 38 Jessica Matos.....Administrative Document Editor & IT Coordinator
- 39 Emily Muehlstein.....Public Information Officer
- 40 Ryan Rindone.....Lead Fishery Biologist & SEDAR Liaison
- 41 Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager
- 42 Carrie Simmons.....Executive Director
- 43 Anabelle Suitor.....Social Scientist
- 44 Verena Wang.....Ecosystem Analyst

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

- 47 Trevor Moncrief.....SSC
- 48 Tom Roller.....SAFMC

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PAGE 7: Motion in Action 2.1 to make Option 2 the preferred. The motion carried on page 7.

PAGE 7: Motion to recommend that 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. The motion carried on page 9.

PAGE 9: 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 the Shrimp Amendment 17B. The motion carried on page 12.

PAGE 16: 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. The motion carried on page 17.

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1 The Shrimp Management Committee of the Gulf Council convened at
2 The Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi on Monday
3 afternoon, November 3, 2025, and was called to order by Chairman
4 Chris Schieble.

5
6 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
7 **APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2025 MINUTES**
8 **ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**
9

10 **CHAIRMAN CHRIS SCHIEBLE:** At this time, I would like to call the
11 Shrimp Management Committee to order. The members of the committee
12 are myself as chair, Dr. Overton as vice chair, Dr. Allen, Mr.
13 Anson, Dr. Banks, Mr. Broussard, Mr. Donaldson, Mr. Frady, Mr.
14 Osborne, Mr. Geeslin, Mr. Sanchez, General Spraggins, and Mr.
15 Strelcheck. All committee members are here today.

16
17 The first item on the agenda is the Adoption of the Agenda, Tab D,
18 Number 1. Does anyone have any other business they would like to
19 see added to the agenda? Any modifications? Seeing none, can I
20 get a motion to approve the agenda as drafted? Mr. Osborne, and
21 Broussard seconded.

22
23 Next on the agenda is the Approval of the August 2025 Meeting
24 Minutes, which is Tab D, Number 2. Are there any additions or
25 corrections to the minutes? I've got one, real quick. On page 16
26 in the minutes, line 23, it reads the word "softfish" instead of
27 "sawfish". Well, they might be soft, but I know they're sawfish,
28 and so we need to correct the word "soft" to "saw". I'll read it,
29 real quick. It says John Carlson, Dr. John Carlson, from the
30 Science Center updated the first PBA done on softfish," and we
31 just need to change that word. With that correction, can I get an
32 approval for the minutes? From Mr. Broussard, and a second from
33 Dr. Allen. Thank you.

34
35 Next is the Action Guide and Next Steps, Tab D, Number 3. Dr.
36 Freeman, we're sitting pretty far apart, but maybe you can lead us
37 through that. Thank you.

38
39 **FINAL ACTION: SHRIMP AMENDMENT 19: SHRIMP PERMIT MORATORIUM**

40
41 **DR. MATT FREEMAN:** Thank you, sir, and so, for the first agenda
42 item, which is final action on Shrimp Amendment 19, staff will
43 provide a summary of written and virtual public comments received
44 during the comment session held on October 21, 2025.

45
46 Next, staff will summarize the draft amendment. The committee

1 should ask questions and provide any final recommendations before
2 reviewing the codified text and forwarding the document to the
3 Full Council for final action. The committee could recommend that
4 the council deem the codified text as necessary and appropriate
5 and give staff editorial license to make any necessary changes in
6 the document. First, if you want to go to public comment, we've
7 got Ms. Muehlstein for that.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Yes, and we need the extensive public comment
10 from Ms. Muehlstein.

11
12 **MS. EMILY MUEHLSTEIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and so we hosted a
13 virtual public hearing on October 21. Five members of the public
14 did attend that meeting, but we did not receive any comments during
15 that meeting.

16
17 We did receive three written comments. There was support for
18 Alternative 1, no action. We also heard support for Alternative
19 3, which is to create a limited access permit. We did hear that
20 there was a need to allow people to purchase new licenses if we
21 want to rebuild the industry, and we also heard that permits should
22 transfer to the heirs of shrimpers who pass away, so that permits
23 don't disappear, and I'm happy to take any questions.

24
25 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Thank you, Ms. Muehlstein, I don't see any
26 questions regarding the public hearing. I guess we can move to
27 the draft document, Dr. Freeman.

28
29 **DR. FREEMAN:** Okay. I'll give Jessica and Bernie a moment to bring
30 that up.

31
32 **MR. J.D. DUGAS:** While we're waiting on Bernie to put it up, my
33 apologies. I forgot to recognize Ms. Bosarge is here. Thank you
34 for being here, Ms. Bosarge.

35
36 **DR. FREEMAN:** Bernie, are you the one moving? Are you directing?
37 Can we go to the action? Okay, and so there's one action in this
38 document. We have the three options. Option one is our no action,
39 and so the moratorium, in this case, would expire October 26, 2026,
40 which would make it an open-access fishery.

41
42 Option 2 would extend the moratorium on issuance of federal Gulf
43 commercial shrimp vessel permits, and that moratorium would be
44 extended for another ten years, and so it would go through October
45 26, 2036. Then, lastly, Preferred Option 3 would create a federal
46 limited-access permit for commercial shrimp vessels in the Gulf.

1
2 To be eligible, vessels must have a valid or renewable federal
3 Gulf commercial shrimp vessel permit on October 26, 2026. Federal
4 Gulf commercial shrimp vessel permits would still need to be
5 renewed every year, and all previous renewal, transfer, and
6 reporting requirements would still be in effect, and then this
7 last sentence was added at the last council meeting, which is that
8 reviews of the limited access permit will occur ten years after
9 implementation of this amendment, or as otherwise deemed necessary
10 by the council, and so I will see if there's any questions.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** All right. Thank you, Dr. Freeman, and so
13 just a little discussion here. Recall how things went at the last
14 meeting, and I made this motion, I think in my haste, in order to
15 try to get us to expedite this document, in order to make the
16 October deadline for next year.

17
18 We had a motion to select this as preferred. However, on further
19 review, I think we need to kind of have a little discussion about
20 the actual valid and renewable permits.

21
22 There's the 1,072, 1,072 threshold, for permits to trigger this
23 whole action, but then there's actually less than that that are
24 active in the fishery right now, and I would kind of like to have
25 a little discussion about that before we move on in this document,
26 if anyone would be willing to entertain some of that discussion.
27 Mr. Strelcheck.

28
29 **MR. STRELCHECK:** Thanks, Chris, and so we've spent some time
30 talking with council staff about this action, and, as Chris pointed
31 out, there's a minimum threshold of permits of 1,072. As of 2024,
32 there was 1,287 valid or renewable permits, but the number of
33 active permits had dropped to below 700.

34
35 In looking back at 17B, it looks like the requirement was to have
36 1,072 active permits, right, and so we may very well be below the
37 threshold, but I think there's quite a bit of confusion with regard
38 to how that threshold was set, even looking back at the record.

39
40 In addition to that, we selected the limited access permit. Recall
41 that we have a number of executive orders that focus on seafood
42 competitiveness, and deregulation, and requiring a limited access
43 permit, although it is very much the same, in my view, as a
44 moratorium permit, it could be viewed as more restrictive, and so
45 there's concerns, obviously, about the preferred option being
46 considered regulatory, versus at least a minimum maintaining

1 status quo.

2
3 I'm not arguing that we need to not -- You know, choose Option 1,
4 and I think what I'm arguing for is that we choose Option 2 as the
5 preferred, to continue the moratorium, and then I think it would
6 be beneficial for the Science Center, and others working with the
7 council, to dig into determining the minimum threshold based on
8 some of the new science and information we have for shrimp, as
9 well as looking at it from the perspective of our effort thresholds
10 for red snapper and for ESA species.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Thank you, Mr. Strelcheck, and, to recap,
13 Option 2 is really essentially the same thing we did in 17B, where
14 it's just extending that deadline another ten years with the
15 moratorium, as opposed to the limited access part of it. Mr.
16 Sanchez.

17
18 **MR. JOHN SANCHEZ:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. **I would like to make a**
19 **motion that we make Option 2 in Action 2.1 be preferred.**

20
21 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Okay. We have a motion on the table from Mr.
22 Sanchez. Mr. Broussard seconded the motion to make Option 2 the
23 preferred in the document. Do we have any discussion around the
24 table? Mr. Sanchez, go ahead.

25
26 **MR. SANCHEZ:** The reason for that is for the reasons that have
27 been discussed right now. As Andy mentioned, we have some
28 executive orders to not create a more regulatory environment, and
29 this seems to be, between the reality of what's facing us in the
30 shrimp industry, kind of the better option now, as things have
31 evolved, and so I hope we get some support for that. Thank you.

32
33 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Any other discussion around the table? Dr.
34 Simmons, just to recap, if we pass this -- We already had a public
35 hearing for this, with the preferred, and do we have to do anything
36 different again if this becomes the preferred?

37
38 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARRIE SIMMONS:** No, Mr. Chair. You'll have
39 public comment at this meeting, and you can still take final
40 action, because it's within the range of alternatives or options.

41
42 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Okay. That's what I thought, and I'm just
43 double-checking. All right. If we have no other discussion about
44 this, is anyone opposed to making Option 2 the preferred in this
45 document? **Seeing no opposition, the motion passes.** All right.
46 Moving on in the agenda, we move over to Tab D-5(a), the working

1 group's update on shrimp bycatch methodology.

2

3 **DR. FREEMAN:** If it's okay, I would still need to review the
4 codified text on the preferred.

5

6 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** I'm sorry. I completely forgot.

7

8 **DR. FREEMAN:** If the committee would like, you can still as well
9 entertain a motion to recommend to the council final action, given
10 the new preferred, but, first, I'll start with the codified text,
11 if that's okay.

12

13 This is the current text that's on the books, given the current
14 ten-year moratorium. Oops. Well, it was. With the committee's
15 current preferred to extend it for another ten years, the portion
16 that is highlighted right now, that is the only piece that would
17 change and be updated to read October 26, 2036.

18

19 Otherwise, everything else that's currently codified would remain
20 the same. So, there's no questions, like I said, either now or at
21 Full Council, if anyone is interested in making a motion for final
22 action, that would be helpful.

23

24 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** All right, and so we're looking for anyone
25 with interest to make the motion to take final action on this
26 document. Mr. Sanchez.

27

28 **MR. SANCHEZ:** If I'm hearing clearly, then we need a motion to
29 discuss the codified text language. No? Okay. **Then a motion to**
30 **take this final action.**

31

32 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Mr. Broussard seconds. Bernie, can you pull
33 up the language for that motion, briefly? All right, and I can
34 read it for the record, if you would like. **The motion is to**
35 **approve Shrimp Amendment 19: Shrimp Permit Moratorium, and that it**
36 **be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review and**
37 **implementation and deem the codified text as necessary and**
38 **appropriate, giving staff editorial license to make the necessary**
39 **changes in the document. The council chair is given the authority**
40 **to deem any changes to the codified text as necessary and**
41 **appropriate.** Is that your motion, Mr. Sanchez?

42

43 **MR. SANCHEZ:** Yes, sir.

44

45 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** All right, and Mr. Broussard seconds the
46 motion. Mr. Strelcheck.

1
2 **MR. ANDY STRELCHECK:** I don't know if it was said in the previous
3 conversation, and I just wanted to reiterate it, because I think
4 it's important to capture in our rationale, that the permit
5 moratorium was also the preferred option of the Shrimp AP, right,
6 and so just to further emphasize that we are maintaining that from
7 the AP's recommendation.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** All right. Any other further discussion for
10 the motion on the board? Seeing none, do we have anyone opposed?
11 Do we have to do -- We don't have to roll call this, right? We
12 can do it -- Okay. **Anyone opposed to the motion as was written on**
13 **the board? Seeing none, all in favor, the motion passes.** Moving
14 on to the next agenda item, Mr. Strelcheck.

15
16 **MR. STRELCHECK:** Not so fast, Mr. Chair, and so I mentioned, in my
17 comments about, in my view, there's an important, I think, review
18 needed, and analysis, for the permit threshold, right, and so I
19 think we would like to have some discussion around that, and see
20 if we want to make a motion as well for staff to work with the
21 Science Center on that analysis, given that there's a lot of new
22 information for this fishery.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Yes, and I can make a motion for that, if you
25 would like. Let me -- I'll just read it, and I can send it to
26 Bernie as well. All right, and so I'll read it out while I send
27 it to Bernie.

28
29 **The motion will be to direct council staff, with assistance from**
30 **National Marine Fisheries Service staff, to review and provide**
31 **updated analysis for the minimum threshold number federal Gulf**
32 **Shrimp commercial permits from Shrimp Amendment 17B.** Mr.
33 Strelcheck.

34
35 **MR. STRELCHECK:** Second.

36
37 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** We have a second. All right. We have a motion
38 on the board to direct the council staff and National Marine
39 Fisheries Service staff to review and provide an updated analysis
40 of the minimum threshold number of federal Gulf commercial permits
41 from Shrimp Amendment 17B. Any further discussion on the motion
42 here? Mr. Strelcheck.

43
44 **MR. STRELCHECK:** I mentioned this earlier, but, for those that may
45 not remember, we have -- Once we're approaching this threshold,
46 we're supposed to convene essentially a review committee and

1 evaluate whether or not a permit pool should be established, right?

2

3 Given we have, obviously, some substantial changes in the economic
4 conditions of this fishery, as well as permitting activity, I feel
5 like it's really important that we take a hard look at this minimum
6 threshold, where we stand relative to that threshold, if we're
7 above it or below it.

8

9 If we're below it and should be having, you know, a permit pool
10 set aside, what would that be, and so I feel like this should
11 really inform kind of future management and allow us to make better
12 decisions, based on the science.

13

14 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Mr. Sanchez.

15

16 **MR. SANCHEZ:** I'm in agreement with this, and I also like hopefully
17 that, in this we discuss, you know, where -- If there ever is a
18 minimum number that we want to stop this, so it doesn't go on and
19 you know, reduce this beyond the capacity needed for this fishery.

20

21 Also, during public testimony, I would like to hear maybe a little
22 bit about this, if maybe there should be some additional people
23 that were in these prior discussions before. There's a few folks
24 that have had expertise and involvement in these discussions, so
25 maybe -- I would like to hear from the public on maybe adding a
26 few more people to this group. Thank you.

27

28 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Okay. That's a valid comment. I appreciate
29 that. I think that's a very good idea. Dr. Freeman.

30

31 **DR. FREEMAN:** So speculating here, depending on how quickly some
32 of this analysis could be completed -- We do tend to have an annual
33 meeting of the Shrimp AP in March, and so there's potential that
34 at least some of this analysis could come before the Shrimp AP at
35 that meeting.

36

37 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** All right, and then potentially back to the
38 council at the April meeting next year, right?

39

40 **DR. FREEMAN:** Again, it's speculating about what it looks like.

41

42 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Mr. Geeslin.

43

44 **MR. DAKUS GEESLIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess -- I'm certainly
45 supportive of the spirit of this motion, and I guess, in my mind,
46 there's several things driving what we're seeing in shrimp, one

1 being one you could point to biologically, and the other being
2 economically.

3
4 The only thing I would maybe ask here, and as you think about your
5 vision for this motion, is a multidisciplinary analysis, and that's
6 the market factors at play driving the shrimp fishery, and, in
7 conjunction with the biological analysis, that should be ongoing
8 anyhow.

9
10 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Mr. Strelcheck.

11
12 **MR. STRELCHECK:** Yes, and I think that's what's envisioned here,
13 Dakus. The analysis would focus on the level of permits needed to
14 optimize yield in the fishery, while also meeting some of our
15 bycatch and ESA requirements, right, which were also built into
16 that prior minimum threshold for consideration.

17
18 **MR. GEESLIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and so if I could offer maybe
19 a friendly a friendly amendment to provide an updated
20 multidisciplinary analysis incorporating -- This is off the
21 motion, but incorporating some of those factors that Andy just
22 laid out.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** I'm good with that friendly amendment. Are
25 you good with as a seconder, Andy? Okay. Further discussion?
26 Mr. Sanchez.

27
28 **MR. SANCHEZ:** I don't know, and I guess now might be a time to add
29 something to that, if it's appropriate. Will we have some other
30 relevant people, referring back to what I was saying, that there's
31 people with history and involvement in this that might be able to
32 greatly contribute to this, in addition to NMFS staff and council
33 staff.

34
35 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Are you thinking incorporate historical
36 analysis into this?

37
38 **MR. SANCHEZ:** I'm sorry?

39
40 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Historical analysis included?

41
42 **MR. SANCHEZ:** I'm not opposed to the additional items, but just
43 the additional people, is what I'm getting at, if we could add
44 some additional relevant people, and, by that I mean -- Just to be
45 clear for discussion, I'm thinking like Dr. Nance, and perhaps
46 Benny Gallaway, somebody along those lines, to add them to this.

1
2 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Okay. Well those people aren't free, but
3 anyway. Mr. Strelcheck.
4

5 **MR. STRELCHECK:** So, John, would you be comfortable with, whatever
6 the analysis produces, to have like a review by the SSC and Shrimp
7 AP, kind of follow the normal process?
8

9 **MR. SANCHEZ:** I would prefer to have the people that were involved
10 in the past, but, if there's budgetary reasons why that can't
11 happen, then, yes, I would be okay with that.
12

13 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Okay. Any other further discussion of the
14 motion on the board? **Seeing none, is anyone opposed to the motion**
15 **as drafted on the board? Seeing no opposition, the motion passes.**
16 Now moving to the next agenda item, Dr. Freeman.
17

18 **WORKING GROUPS UPDATE ON SHRIMP BYCATCH METHODOLOGIES**

19

20 **DR. FREEMAN:** Okay, and so, for the next agenda item, this is the
21 working group update. Staff will provide an update on the working
22 groups on shrimp bycatch methodologies for finfish. The committee
23 should consider the information provided, ask questions, and
24 determine if they concur, via a motion, with a proposed working
25 group approach, and Dr. Simmons will be giving this information.
26

27 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Dr. Simmons.
28

29 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could we please
30 pull up Tab D, Number 5? So you recall, during the August 2025
31 meeting, you directed us to get a special working group together
32 to address bycatch of protected species, and the aim of that
33 working group was to allow SSC members and industry representatives
34 that fully understand the updated bycatch methodologies for those
35 protected resources, and also some of the effort estimates for the
36 species-specific penaeid shrimp species, for them to take a look
37 at that as well.
38

39 When we were digging into that request, and thinking about that
40 working group, we also went back and looked at what the SSC
41 reviewed during their May 2025 meeting as bycatch for finfish, the
42 methodology for shrimp trawl bycatch for finfish. During that,
43 SSC meeting -- It ended up being virtual, and it was a very short
44 meeting.
45

46 We didn't really have time to dig into it, and I think there was

1 quite a bit of confusion about -- There was a desk CIE review done
2 on that new bycatch methodology for finfish, but we didn't really
3 understand what the amount of information that had been brought
4 in, that the CIE reviewers had recommended, since that was a desk
5 review, and so I think there needed to be a little bit more back
6 and forth.

7
8 In digging into that, and thinking about the original request for
9 a working group to address the protected resources bycatch, we
10 really took a step back and thought, you know, instead of this
11 just going back to the SSC again, we really think that this is
12 important, that this is also a working group, a smaller working
13 group, which we have some information laid out in the document,
14 that would look at this before it would go to the larger SSC.

15
16 What we've tried to do here is lay out what the objectives of that
17 working group would be, and, of course, the results of that would
18 still have to go to the full SSC and the Shrimp SSC. I mean, they
19 would have to bless it, and so, together, the SSCs would be looking
20 at it again, but we have several objectives of that working group,
21 and you can see those are in the document that we've provided.

22
23 We also looked at the history of this. This has taken us many
24 years to try to look at the methodology that was used for this. I
25 mean, we started this in 2020, and it's been pretty convoluted.

26
27 There's been a lot of different staff that have worked on this
28 from the different Science Centers, from contractors, and we had
29 a loss of historical knowledge at the Science Center when I think
30 the department was moved from the Galveston Lab to -- The new
31 division is -- It's written in here, and what is it, Matt? The
32 Fisheries Statistics Division.

33
34 What's happening is this bycatch methodology is being applied at
35 individual data workshops for specific finfish species, and so
36 there could be different methods that they're using for each of
37 these finfish species that have not really been holistically
38 reviewed.

39
40 We wanted to take a step back and think about how can we get into
41 the nuts and bolts of this, make sure everybody understands this,
42 and get us on solid foundation to move into the protected resources
43 bycatch information, and so that's what we've tried to propose
44 here, and so, Bernie, if you could scroll down a little bit.

45
46 You can see those are the objectives we're proposing for the

1 working group, and so what we would do is we would take these,
2 and, if you guys agree with this, we would develop a statement of
3 work, get this group together and develop a statement of work, and
4 then -- Keep going down to the working group membership
5 composition.

6
7 We're proposing this composition for the working group. It's
8 pretty similar to what we talked about with the protected resources
9 efforts, except you don't have those academics and experts involved
10 just yet. We have more folks from the shrimp observer program and
11 the Science Center, the SEAMAP program, and then Mr. Detloff has
12 been very involved in effort, Gulf-wide effort, estimates, and so
13 we think we would need him. Dr. Froeschke, on our staff, would be
14 involved in this, and then we're suggesting probably Dr. Nick
15 Farmer, because of his analytical skills, from the Regional Office.

16
17 So, full disclosure, I don't think anyone has really had a chance
18 to look at this from the Regional Office or the Science Center,
19 because, obviously, due to the government shutdown, and so they
20 haven't had an opportunity to weigh-in on this, and so, of course,
21 this is a draft. We could have to come back to our council
22 leadership and say we need to make these changes, but, if you keep
23 going down, we had some draft work.

24
25 If you keep going down, Bernie, in the document, we had some
26 scheduled information, or meeting times, that we thought we could
27 get together, and what each of those meetings we would try to
28 accomplish, and a potential timeline.

29
30 Obviously, this is going to have to change. We're going to have
31 to consider everything that's happened with the shutdown, and what
32 staffs can be involved, but this was kind of our aspiration to
33 move forward with, and we did really think it was important to
34 have a working group to do this, instead of it just go back to the
35 Standing and Special SSC. Let's see. Any other points we wanted
36 to bring out? I think that covers it, and we'll take some
37 questions, Mr. Chair.

38
39 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** So do you need motions from the committee for
40 approving who would be potentially on the workgroup composition,
41 or what are we looking for next?

42
43 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Well, I think we should have some
44 discussion and feedback on what we have proposed, and then we could
45 get a motion, at least by Full Council, if you want to make changes
46 to what's in here, if you have, you know, current concerns or

1 questions, or think it needs to change.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** I guess how big do you envision the workgroup?
4 I mean, based on this list, I'm looking at like fourteen for
5 membership, maybe something like that, if there's one from each
6 category. Is that reasonable?

7
8 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Yes, fourteen or fifteen. Yes, and
9 that's what we have proposed.

10
11 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Okay. Any comments or discussion about the
12 workgroup makeup or the proposed plan of action, the one virtual
13 meeting and one in-person meeting? Dr. Allen.

14
15 **DR. MIKE ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll just -- Just reiterate
16 what Dr. Simmons said, I think the SSC really did not have a chance
17 to weigh-in on this. I was on the SSC when this came up, and we
18 just didn't have time to dig into it at all, and I really just
19 want to speak in support of this group, and this group composition,
20 because I think it's something that we're going to need folks to
21 really dig into and come back with some recommendations. Thank
22 you.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Dr. Simmons.

25
26 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think I said
27 this, but, just to make it crystal clear, we're suggesting that
28 this working group, and their efforts and recommendations, would
29 happen before we get to the protected resources group, because
30 they would build -- That group would build upon what this group
31 develops, and then that would parlay into the different finfish
32 assessments, as it goes through the process.

33
34 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Mr. Sanchez.

35
36 **MR. SANCHEZ:** I'm not sure exactly who did this, but a lot of
37 thought went into this, clearly. You laid out what you wanted to
38 do, the roadmap for how to do it, and so kudos to whoever put this
39 together, and I would like to ask the chair if we need a motion so
40 that we can proceed with this, and then, you know, refine it over
41 time this week. If you do, I'll be glad to make it.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Yes, and I think we could use a motion to adopt
44 it, as drafted, or even specialize in the makeup. If you want to
45 try to pinpoint certain, you know, additions to the makeup of the
46 workgroup, we can do that, and then finalize it in Full Council.

1
2 **MR. SANCHEZ:** Okay. I would make a motion, and sorry that I didn't
3 send it to the staff, but here we go. To approve the workplan for
4 evaluating, and let me know if I need to go slower. To approve
5 the workplan for evaluating and providing feedback on shrimp --
6 Providing feedback on -- Okay. There you go.

7
8 I'll read it, Mr. Chair. **To approve the workplan for evaluating**
9 **and providing feedback on shrimp bycatch methodology for finfish**
10 **species in the Gulf of America and to direct council staff to**
11 **proceed with implementation of the workplan prior to convening the**
12 **shrimp working group on protected resources. That's my motion.**

13
14 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Excellent, and we have a second by Dr. Allen.
15 Is there further discussion? Mr. Strelcheck.

16
17 **MR. STRELCHECK:** Yes, and I'm in support of the motion. As Carrie
18 alluded to, she chaired this with me, and, unfortunately, the
19 Science Center, because of the ongoing lapse in appropriation,
20 hasn't had a chance to review it.

21
22 I guess one request I would make is to maybe take reference out to
23 specific names for both the Science Center and Regional Office for
24 right now, and say "to be determined", because I haven't -- I would
25 assume Nick would be the person I would designate, but I want to
26 have a chance to speak with them before I designate them to this
27 group.

28
29 Then, from a timeline standpoint, it's pretty aggressive timeline
30 to have this done by early next year. When would you expect the
31 protected resources working group then to be populated? After
32 this work group is completed, or would we come with a plan maybe
33 in January for that work group at least to be populated?

34
35 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and so my
36 understanding is we need to be pretty diligent on this, because we
37 have the red snapper assessment coming up in the spring, and we
38 need to get this nailed down as it relates to red snapper anyways
39 with the Science Center, and so I think at least that one needs to
40 be hammered out, and we can certainly bring back a plan, a more
41 detailed plan, of work for the working group for protected
42 resources, with maybe some folks populated, or we could send out
43 some memos right after that, with asking for them to be populated.

44
45 There are some other finfish that you need to work on after red
46 snapper, and I think triggerfish, and I think king mackerel is

1 following, but we also need to dig in that as well and look at
2 those estimates with the new methodology.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Okay. Any further discussion of the motion on
5 the board? **Seeing none, is anyone opposed to the motion as drafted**
6 **on the board? Okay. With no opposition, the motion passes.** Okay,
7 and I believe that brings us to the end of the Shrimp Management
8 Committee, Dr. Freeman, correct?

9
10 **DR. FREEMAN:** Yes, sir.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** All right. Then back to Mr. Chair. That wraps
13 up this -- Mr. Donaldson.

14
15 **MR. DAVE DONALDSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to remind
16 the committee that, as I mentioned at the last Shrimp Committee
17 meeting, the commission will no longer be able to process the SD
18 cards. December 31 will be the last we can do that, and so I just
19 wanted to remind everybody of that fact.

20
21 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** All right. Seeing no other items around, we'll
22 take it back to Mr. Chair.

23
24 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on November 3, 2025.)

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