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April 16, 2026

Mr. Andy Strelcheck
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Ave. S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear Mr. Strelcheck:

During its April 2026 meeting, the Gulf Council voted to maintain the cooperative closure of the shrimp fishery off Texas (Texas Closure) for 2026. The Council's action extends the closure to all waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off Texas for the same period of time that the State of Texas closes the Texas Territorial Sea. The shrimp fishery is closed annually off Texas to allow shrimp to reach a larger and more valuable size prior to harvest.

With this letter, the Council respectfully requests that you implement the 2026 Texas Closure in accordance with the aforementioned action of the Council for the 2026 shrimp season off Texas. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Council office.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jonathan Dugas
Council Chair

cc: Gulf Council
Council Staff
Robin Riechers
Frank Helies
Shrimp Advisory Panel
Special Shrimp SSC