

Council Actions in Response to Motions from the March 2026 Shrimp AP Meeting



AP MOTION #1

Motion: To recommend that the Council request NMFS to continue the federal Texas Closure in conjunction with the state of Texas closure in 2026.

Status: Council motion passed. A letter was sent to SERO from the Council in April 2026 to this effect; see Agenda Item 4a.

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AP MOTION #2

Motion: The Shrimp AP recommends that the Council request NMFS to adopt the following priorities for utilizing the FY26 \$850,000 appropriation for ELB development and implementation:

- 1) Sufficient funding to ensure the SEFSC server has sufficient capacity to receive and store shrimp fishery vessel position data.
- 2) Develop a statistically robust design for distributing units to a representative portion of the fleet that would be comparable to the last 10 years.
- 3) Cover the cost of providing units and cellular service to those shrimp vessels, pursuant to the Early Adopter Program.

Status: Council motion passed. A letter was sent to SEFSC from the Council in April 2026 to this effect; see Agenda Item 4b.

AP MOTION #3

Motion: To recommend that the Council request that NMFS fully utilize the FY26 \$600,000 appropriation for implementation and enforcement of the Section 609 program to ensure foreign fisheries are maintaining the same standard for sea turtle conservation as our domestic fisheries are required to uphold. To recommend that the Council request that NMFS provide a presentation, at a future Shrimp AP meeting, on how the FY2026 \$600,000 will be spent to carry out the implementation and enforcement of the Section 609 TED program.

Status: Council motion passed. See Agenda Items 4c and 4d for the Council's letter and the response from NMFS.

APRIL '26 COUNCIL MOTION #1

Motion: To direct staff to develop a document that updates status determination criteria and considers modifying the permit threshold of penaeid shrimp.

Motion carried no opposition.

Status: *This will be discussed in Agenda Items VI and VII.*

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APRIL '26 COUNCIL MOTION #2

Motion: To request that SEFSC and contractors make the Shrimp Bycatch of Finfish Working Group's recommendations and requests from its March 2026 meeting a priority for the next meeting of the Working Group. The recommendations for finfish bycatch will need to be completed prior to and presented at the July 2026 SSC meeting.

Motion carried no opposition.

Status: This was accomplished. The SSC agenda items and meeting summary are in the meeting archives of the Council website. Council motions that followed are shown in this presentation under August '26 Council Motions.

JUNE '26 COUNCIL MOTION

Motion: To approve the workplan and membership for addressing protected resources interactions with Gulf federal shrimp trawls.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Status: *The workgroup is scheduled to meet Dec 1-2, 2026 at the Council office in Tampa. In-person participation is encouraged, but a virtual option will be available as well. The meeting website is available here*

(<https://gulfcouncil.org/meetings/december-2026-workgroup-to-address-protected-resources-interactions-with-gulf-federal-shrimp-trawls/>). An update will be provided at the Council's October 2026 meeting. The membership can be found on Page 1 of the Council's June '26 Motions Report (https://gulfcouncil-media.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2026/06/Gulf-Council-Motions-Report_Jun2026-FINAL.pdf).

AUG '26 COUNCIL MOTION #1

Motion: That the methodology using observer data, which has been developed by the SEFSC and is being used to estimate red snapper bycatch in the Gulf, is acceptable for data input into the current red snapper assessment model.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Status: *No additional work required for this motion.*

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AUG '26 COUNCIL MOTION #2

Substitute Motion: To support expanding bycatch methodology to include additional finfish species that are presently in the observer database and recommend that the results of these additional efforts be presented to the Shrimp Bycatch Working Group and/or the appropriate SEDAR workshop or topical working group.

Substitute Motion carried with no opposition.

Status: A Council letter was sent to the SEFSC on Sept 15, 2026. See Agenda Item 4e.

AUG '26 COUNCIL MOTION #3

Motion: To write a letter to SEFSC supporting future investigations into improving the estimation of bycatch for finfish species not characterized since 2025 in the Observer Program.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Status: *A Council letter was sent to the SEFSC on Sept 15, 2026. See Agenda Item 4e.*

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AUG '26 COUNCIL MOTION #4

Motion: To postpone work on updated analyses for the minimum threshold number of federal Gulf shrimp commercial permits and continue work on Shrimp Amendment 20 to update status determination criteria.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Status: *See Agenda Item VI.*

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