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Shrimp Futures Initiative

Project updates and timeline

Southeast Fisheries Science Center and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

South Atlantic Council Project Update | June 8, 2026

'Shrimp Futures' Project Objectives

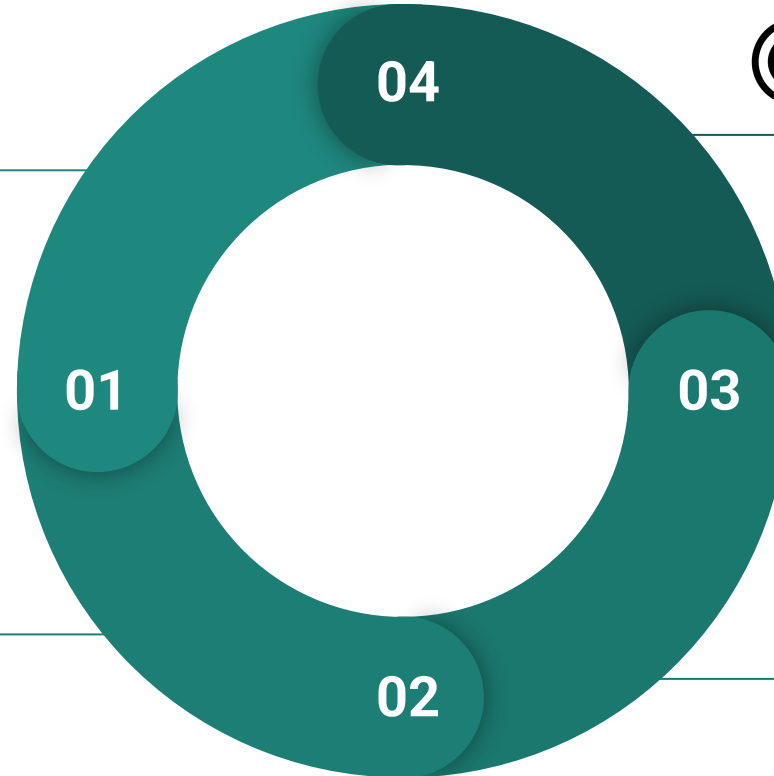
Assess current financial state and issues

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



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Project Actions

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

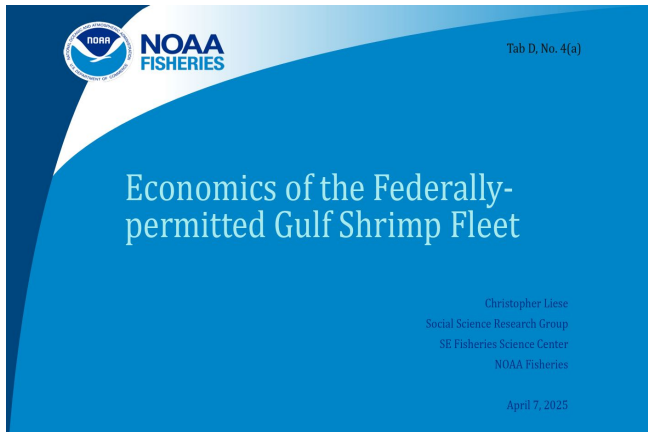


- **Economic analysis & snapshot:** Overview of the current economic state of the industry in the context of long term trends (SA version in the works).
- **Stakeholder engagement & industry perspectives snapshot:** Based on interviews with subject matter experts and shrimp industry members.
- **Communications & 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

KEY INFORMANT QUESTIONS

Characterizing the industry

- What is your role at your agency?
- How is your agency engaging with the shrimp industry?
- Please describe the (local or regional) shrimp industry that you work in
 - Fishing fleets
 - Location (inshore, offshore)
 - Number of vessels, fishermen, permits, etc.
 - Cultural significance
 - History of the local industry
 - Multi-generational businesses
 - New fishermen or businesses
 - Local processors, distributors, retail, restaurants
 - Working waterfronts
- How has the local industry changed over time?

Challenges

- What are the major challenges currently facing the shrimp industry?
- How long has the industry been facing these challenges?
- How have these challenges changed through time?
- Are there challenges specific to the state or region that you work in?

Stakeholder mapping

- Who are the key stakeholders and major players in the industry?
 - Who are the most affected stakeholders?
 - Who has the most power or influence in the industry?

STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONS

Tell me about yourself / the story:

- Can you tell us about your business operations?
 - What business do you work for or own and what is your "position" / title?
 - For fishermen:
 - What size and type of boat do you own?
 - Do you fish predominantly inshore or offshore? Has this changed over time?
 - What are your main costs?
 - What is the history of your business?
 - How long have you been in business?
 - Has your business approach changed at all and if so, how?
- How many employees do you have?
- Do you target / sell / distribute any other species during or outside of shrimp season?
- Do you have any insurance for your business?
- Do you have any other businesses or jobs?

Supply chain and economics

- Who do you work with to harvest / process / sell / distribute product?
 - Fishermen:
 - Who do you sell to? Do you sell to wholesalers or direct-to-consumer?
 - Have you considered direct-to-consumer?
 - What is the current price per pound for each species? How does it differ between wholesalers and direct-to-consumers?
 - If you sell direct-to-consumer, how do you contact consumers?
 - Do you market anywhere? If so, do you do the marketing yourself or have an employee (or family member) that helps?
 - Processors:
 - How many local fishermen sell to you?
 - What is the current price per pound?
 - Do you process imports?
 - What distributors do you work with?
 - Where do they distribute to?
 - Distributors:
 - Who do you buy from and at what price?
 - Who do you distribute to and at what price?
 - Retail:
 - Who do you buy from and at what price?

100+
interviews

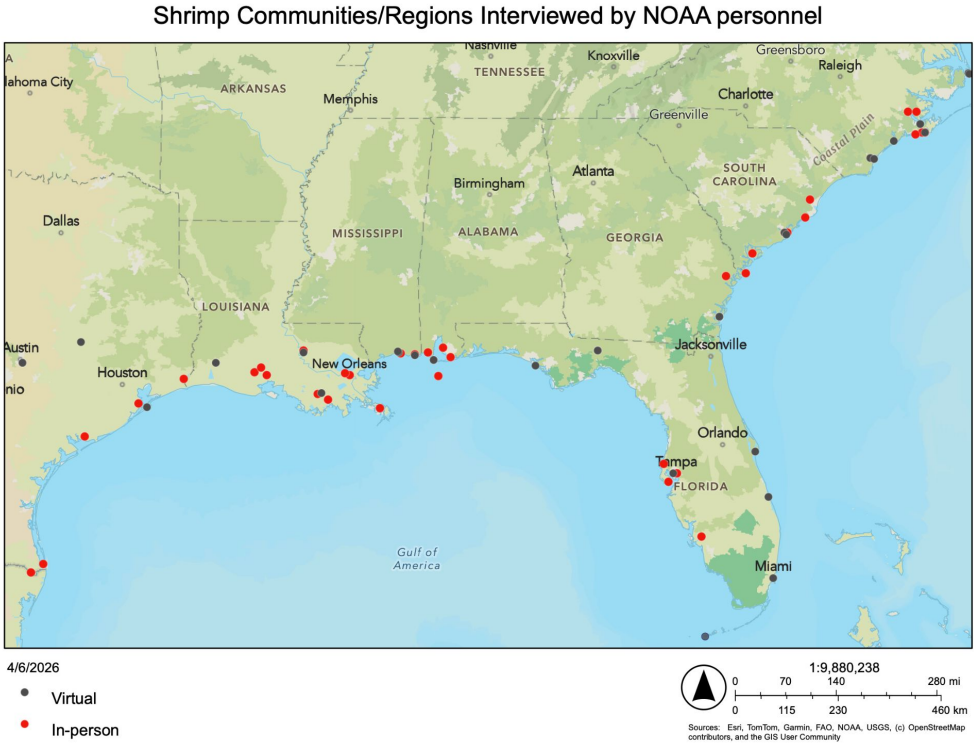
8
states
visited



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Industry Perspectives

	THE CHALLENGES	THE STRATEGIES
Pillar 1: The Market Landscape	Import competition, consumer awareness & demand, lack of industry cohesion	Marketing, education, partnerships, campaigns, policy changes
Pillar 2: The Operational Landscape	Costs, deteriorating infrastructure, workforce shortages	Technological upgrades, workforce development, infrastructure support, visa reform
Pillar 3: External & Regulatory Landscape	Regulatory burdens, environmental changes, bureaucratic hurdles	Income diversification, value-added products, vertical integration, government support



Project Actions

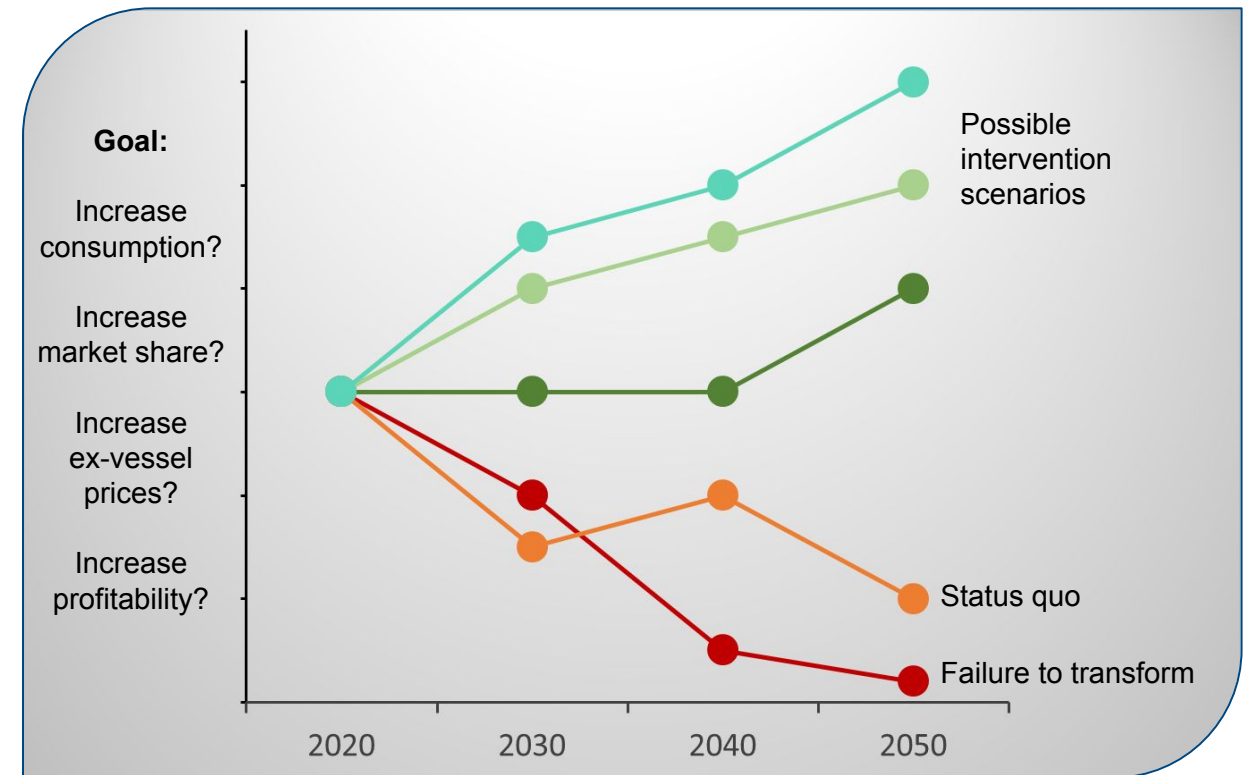
PART 2 - *Supporting the shrimp industry into the future*



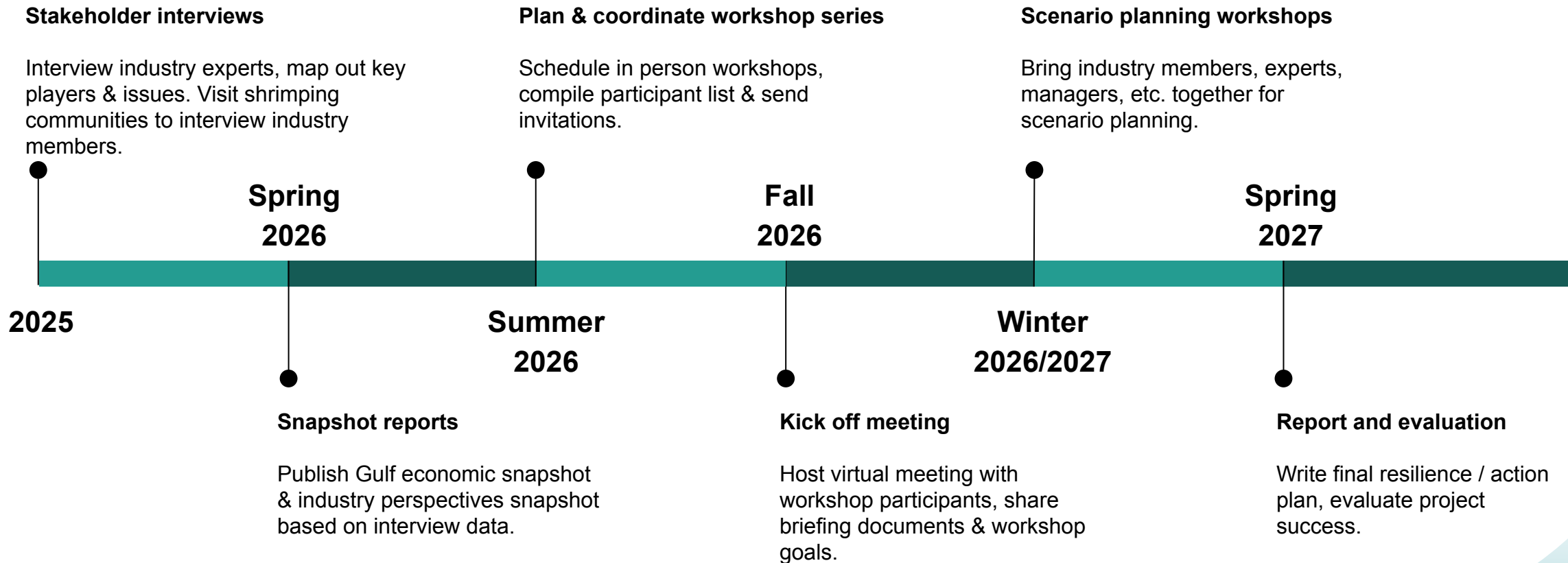
- **Scenario planning workshops:** Via a two-part in-person workshop series, key stakeholders will work together through a series of activities to identify visions for the future of the industry and actions that could be taken by individuals, organizations, and governments to realize the future visions.
- **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
Katie Zanowicz	Policy Analyst, NOAA Fisheries Office of Policy	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
Julianne Favale	University of Miami Masters of Professional Science Graduate, Shrimp Futures Intern	Project support

Contact: shrimpfutures@noaa.gov

Questions?



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