



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

White and Rock Shrimp Fishery Performance Discussion Questions

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Advisory Panel Members:

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Purpose of Discussion

The Shrimp and Deepwater Shrimp Advisory Panels (APs) are being asked to provide information to formulate fishery performance reports (FPR) for South Atlantic white shrimp and rock shrimp. The purpose of an FPR is to assemble information from AP members' experience and observations on the water and in the marketplace to complement scientific and landings data. The FPRs for white and rock shrimp will help to inform future management of these stocks; however, the Council is not considering management changes at this time for either species.

The questions listed below are intended to provoke thoughts about the current state and changes to the white and rock shrimp stocks and fisheries. However, some questions may not be applicable at this time. The scope of the FPRs is not limited to the questions listed below, as the

intent is to incorporate all relevant observational information that can help construct a current comprehensive picture of each fishery.

Background

A review of the Fishery Management Plan for Shrimp in the South Atlantic Region and amendments to this plan are available in the [Shrimp Fishery Plan Overview](#). For comprehensive details, please see the [South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Website](#).

Questions for the Advisory Panels

The AP is asked to provide the following information about white and rock shrimp based on their expertise, as appropriate. Most questions are posed to both white and rock shrimp fishermen, any questions posed to a specific fishery are labeled as such.

1. Have there been substantial changes in the fisheries in the last 5 to 10 years? If so, describe the timing, location, and what you think caused the change(s).
2. **Fishing Behavior/Catch Levels:**
 - a. Have there been effort shifts to/from each fishery? If so, please describe, including the time frame for when these shifts occurred.
 - i. Has there been a change in fishing activity in federal waters (i.e. outside of 3 miles from shore)?
 - b. Have there been changes in fishing techniques and/or gear modifications used to target white shrimp or rock shrimp? If so, please describe, including the time frame for when these changes occurred.
 - c. How much fishing for shrimp typically occurs during the day versus at night? Has this changed? Is fishing at night area-specific?
 - d. How long is a typical fishing trip?
 - e. Are there obstacles that hinder your ability to take a trip? If so, what are they and how have they changed in the last 5 to 10 years?
3. **Social and Economic Influences:**
 - a. How has the dockside and retail price for each species changed in the last 5 to 10 years?
 - i. Has price changed by size within this timeframe?
 - b. How has demand changed in the last 5 to 10 years?
 - i. How has purchasing behavior changed – do you notice changes in the amount that dealers/processors are purchasing?
 - ii. How has the amount of shrimp kept in storage changed within this timeframe?
 - c. Have you noticed any changes in the distribution chain for domestic shrimp (i.e., changes in who are the final buyers for that shrimp) or changes to who is involved in getting that shrimp to those final buyers and the costs associated with that?
 - d. (white shrimp) Is there a difference in demand based on size or disposition (head on, tails) of white shrimp?
 - e. What communities are dependent on these fisheries?
 - f. Have changes in infrastructure (docks, marinas, fish houses, dealers) affected fishing opportunities for the white shrimp or rock shrimp fishery?

g. How have hired labor costs changed in the last 5 years?

4. **Management Measures:**

Are the current management measures for the **federal** fisheries adequate, should there be more/less federal management measures for these fisheries?

5. **Environmental/ecological/habitat:**

- a. Do you perceive that the abundance of white shrimp and rock shrimp has changed over the past 10 years? If so, how has it changed in your area?
- b. When/where are the shrimp available, and has this changed? For instance, has there been any shift in catch (annually/seasonally) inshore/offshore or north/south? If so, please describe.
- c. Have you noticed any effects of environmental conditions (i.e., water quality, harmful algal blooms, prevalence of storms or bad weather) on shrimp? If so, please describe.
- d. Have you observed changes in catch depth?
 - i. Do you attribute this change to where fishermen are choosing to operate or a change in the location of the shrimp themselves?
- e. How have sea conditions affected fishable days?
- f. (white shrimp) How do temperature closures affect your fishing activity?
- g. Have you noticed any change in the species caught/bycatch over the years or seasonally?
- h. How have space activities affected your fishery?

6. **Other:**

- a. What else is important for the Council to know about the white or rock shrimp fishery?