



## Law Enforcement Advisory Panel

Allie Iberle  
[allie.iberle@safmc.net](mailto:allie.iberle@safmc.net)  
843-225-8135

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

# South Atlantic Shrimp Workgroup

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# Overview

In September 2025, the Council made a motion to establish a Shrimp Workgroup to achieve the following:

- Identify workable solutions that aim to reduce interactions with **giant manta** rays and **smalltooth sawfish** in the federal shrimp fisheries of the South Atlantic.

The workgroup will consist of:

- Harvesters
- NMFS and Council staff
- Council members
- An SSC member
- Researchers





# Shrimp Workgroup Goals

Bring together experts in the behavior and biology, and available data of giant manta ray and smalltooth sawfish with experts on the management, operation, and fishery stakeholders for the consideration of ways to reduce and minimize bycatch and bycatch mortality of these species in shrimp fisheries.

Develop an action plan for giant manta ray and smalltooth sawfish that includes any conservation and management measures recommended to reduce interactions with these species in the shrimp fisheries of the South Atlantic, including any specific modifications to shrimp Fisheries Management Plan.

# Shrimp Workgroup Objectives

The background of the slide features a photograph of several shrimp trawlers on the water. The boats are white with red accents and are equipped with large trawling gear. One boat in the foreground is clearly labeled 'BOUNTY' and another further back is labeled 'Capt. Tang'. The water is calm, and the sky is a pale, hazy blue.

1. Review the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation process, with regards to these species.
2. Review available relevant evaluation of giant manta ray (GMR) and smalltooth sawfish (SS) bycatch in the Southeast.
3. Review scientific papers, bycatch data, and analyses on GMR and SS, relevant to the species status and impacts of federal shrimp fisheries, including but not limited to spatial extent of bycatch characteristics, post release mortality data, effort data model-derived estimates of bycatch, and any population-level analyses (PVA's).
4. Identify data gaps and suggest new analyses to improve potential solutions or reduce bycatch.
5. Review the feasibility of any suggested actions with stakeholders.
6. Identify possible effects suggested actions may have to the shrimp fisheries in the South Atlantic.



# How Will the AP be Involved?

After the workgroup meets, any proposed solutions will be brought to this group to discuss enforceability

## Any Questions?

Email Allie Iberle at [allie.iberle@safmc.net](mailto:allie.iberle@safmc.net)