



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SHRIMP FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

OVERVIEW

Click on the arrow next to each amendment to expand details. For more information or to view amendment documents visit safmc.net. *Updated May 2024*

1993

Shrimp Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

- **Established the shrimp FMP** which initially included white shrimp only but acknowledged the fact that pink, brown and rock shrimp were a major component of the fishery.
- **Defined the white shrimp stock** in the South Atlantic.
 - Defined OY: OY will vary year to year and was only estimated for SC and is only in terms of subsequent fall production.
 - Defined overfishing: The stock is overfished if the population in state's waters declines by 80% or more following severe weather or prolonged cold weather event.
- **Allowed states to request a federal closure** by providing the Council/Shrimp Review Panel evidence of state population decline. During a closure, vessels can transit with shrimp and gear aboard as long as all gear is stowed.
- **Exempted royal red and rock shrimp** from federal closures.
- **Exempted the whiting fishery** from the white shrimp closure for vessels using nets with a mesh size of 4 inch or larger.
- Established a buffer zone extending seaward from 25 nautical miles inside of which no trawling is allowed with nets that have less than 4in stretch mesh during an EEZ closure.

1996

Shrimp Amendment 1

- Added rock shrimp to the FMP.
- Prohibited trawling for rock shrimp east of 80° W longitude between 27° 30' N latitude and 28°30' N latitude (West Palm Beach area) in waters less than 100 fathoms.
- Defined federal shrimp dealer and required a permit to sell federal shrimp product.
- Required a vessel permit to possess rock shrimp.
- Required dealers to report.

Shrimp Amendment 2

- **Added brown and pink shrimp to the FMP.**
- **Defined overfishing for brown and pink shrimp:** The stock is overfished when annual landings fall below two standard deviations below mean landings 1957-1993 for three consecutive years.
- Determined that if this situation occurs the **Council shall convene the shrimp stock assessment panel,** Shrimp Advisory Panel, and the Shrimp Committee to review the causes of such declines and recommend any appropriate Council action to address the problem.
- **Defined OY for brown and pink shrimp** as the harvest that can be taken without annual landings falling between two standard deviations below mean landings 1957-1993.
- **Required the use of a certified Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD)** on all penaeid shrimp trawls. All shrimp nets (any net with mesh less than 2 1/2 inches stretched mesh - middle to middle of knot) and all shrimp nets greater than 16 feet in headrope length which are used as try (test) nets must use a certified BRD.
- **Established a framework process for certifying BRDs,** to be certified a BRD must reduce the bycatch component of fishing mortality for Spanish mackerel and weakfish by 50% or demonstrate a 40% reduction in number of fish.

1998

Shrimp Amendment 3, Comprehensive Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Amendment

- Defined EFH for penaeid and rock shrimp.
- Established the Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) for penaeid and rock shrimp. These included:
 - All coastal inlets
 - State-designated nursery habitats
 - State-identified overwintering areas
- Implemented voluntary VMS in the rock shrimp fishery.

Shrimp Amendment 4

- Amended several FMPs, including shrimp to include reporting requirements as specified in the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP). Staff worked with NOAA to remove all varied data reporting requirements in individual FMPs and reference one comprehensive data reporting document.
- Included information on fishing communities into the FMP.

2002

Shrimp Amendment 5

- **Established a limited access program for rock shrimp** south of the GA/SC state line with eligibility requirement: 15,000 lbs in any one calendar year from 1996-2000.
- Required permit holders to also possess a **vessel operator's permit.**
- Required a **minimum mesh size** for a tail bag of a rock shrimp trawl, above the 2-inch rings, be at least **40 meshes of 1 and 7/8 in stretched mesh at the cod end.** This mesh size requirement applies to the limited access fishery only.
- Required any vessel fishing in the limited access fishery to use an approved **VMS** which shall not exceed \$1,200 for equipment and installation. Annual costs should not exceed \$500 except annual communication costs may go up to \$800.

2004

Shrimp Amendment 6

- **Modified the BRD framework procedure** to remove the authority and procedural requirements of the Council to modify the BRD Testing protocol and transfer authority to NOAA Fisheries to make appropriate revisions to the protocol.
- **Modified the criteria for BRD certification**: for a new BRD to be certified, it must be statistically demonstrated that such a device can reduce the total weight of finfish by at least 30%.
- Adopted the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Release, Discard and Protected Species Module as the preferred methodology. Until this module is fully funded require the use of a variety of sources to assess and monitor bycatch including observer coverage on shrimp vessels; logbooks; state cooperation; grant funded projects; and federal penaeid shrimp permits.
- Required a NOAA Fisheries-approved **BRD to be utilized on all rock shrimp trips** in the South Atlantic.
- **Required a vessel permit**: For a person aboard a shrimp trawler to fish for penaeid shrimp in the South Atlantic EEZ or possess penaeid shrimp in or from the South Atlantic EEZ, a valid commercial vessel permit for South Atlantic penaeid shrimp must have been issued to the vessel and must be on board. A federal penaeid shrimp permit will be issued to any vessel owner who submits an application.
- Using the established Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and OY values, revised or **establish overfishing and overfished definitions for penaeid shrimp** based on an MSY control rule. Overfishing (MFMT) for all penaeid species is a fishing mortality rate that diminishes the stock below the designated MSY stock abundance (B_{MSY}) for two consecutive years and MSST is established with two thresholds: (a) if the stock diminishes to $\frac{1}{2}$ MSY abundance ($\frac{1}{2} B_{MSY}$) in one year, or (b) if the stock is diminished below MSY abundance (B_{MSY}) for two consecutive years. In addition, white shrimp would be considered overfished when the overwintering white shrimp population within a state's waters declines by 80% or more following severe winter resulting in prolonged cold-water temperatures. A proxy for B_{MSY} would be established for each species using Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) information from SEAMAP-SA data as the lowest values in the 1990-2003 time period that produced catches meeting MSY the following year.

2008

Shrimp Amendment 7

- **Removed the 15,000-pound rock shrimp landing requirement** for the limited access permit.
- **Reinstated all endorsements lost** due to not meeting the landing requirement of 15,000 pounds of rock shrimp in one of four consecutive calendar years.
- **Reinstated all endorsements** for those vessels whose owners renewed their open access permit in the year in which they failed to renew their limited access endorsement. Require vessel owners eligible to have their vessel endorsements reinstated to apply for a limited access endorsement within one year after the effective date of the final rule for this amendment. Note: Eligible vessels need to have had a limited access endorsement at one time.
- **Renamed the limited access endorsement** and the open access permit of the existing permit system as follows:
 - A. Rock Shrimp Permit (South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone [EEZ]) – would allow fishing throughout the South Atlantic EEZ.
 - B. Rock Shrimp Permit (Carolinas Zone) – would allow fishing in the EEZ off North and South Carolina.
- Removed the requirement of a verification of an active and operational VMS for renewal, reinstatement, or transfer of a limited access rock shrimp endorsement.
- Required all South Atlantic shrimp permit holders to provide economic data if selected to do so.

2009

Shrimp Amendment 8, Comprehensive Ecosystem Based Amendment 1

- Created a Shrimp Fishery Access Area (SFAA) within the proposed Stetson Reefs, Savannah and East Florida Lithohermes, and Miami Terrace (Stetson-Miami Terrace) CHAPC boundaries where fishing with a shrimp trawl and/or shrimp possession is allowed by any vessel holding a rock shrimp limited access endorsement and equipped with an approved vessel monitoring system (VMS).

2012

Shrimp Amendment 9

- **Specified criteria that triggers a state's ability to request a concurrent prohibition on the harvest** of South Atlantic penaeid stocks in the adjacent EEZ during severe winter weather: States may request a concurrent closure of the EEZ adjacent to their closed state waters following severe winter weather upon providing information that demonstrates an 80% or greater reduction in the population of overwintering white shrimp, or, a state may request a concurrent closure upon providing information that demonstrates an exceeded threshold for water temperature. Water temperature must be 9°C (48°F) or below for at least one week.
- **Modified the process for a state to request a concurrent prohibition on the harvest** of South Atlantic penaeid stocks in the adjacent EEZ during severe winter weather: A state requesting a concurrent closure would send a letter directly to the National Marine Fisheries Service with the request and necessary data to demonstrate that criterion has been met.
- **Revised the overfished status determination criteria** (B_{MSY} proxy) for the **pink shrimp** stock: Establish a proxy for B_{MSY} for pink shrimp using the lowest CPUE value from SEAMAP-SA during the 1990-2011 time period (0.089 individuals per hectare).

2013

Shrimp Amendment 10, Comprehensive Dealer Amendment

- Established a single federal dealer permit to purchase federally managed species
- Required dealer reporting forms to be submitted Weekly. Forms from trips landing between Sunday and Saturday must be submitted to the SRD by 11:59 P.M. local time on the following Tuesday. During a catastrophe, paper can be used.

2020

Shrimp Amendment 11

- Modified transit provisions: A vessel may transit South Atlantic cold weather closed areas while possessing brown shrimp, pink shrimp, or white shrimp provided the vessel is in transit and fishing gear is appropriately stowed. Transit means non-stop progression through the area with fishing gear appropriately stowed. Gear appropriately stowed means trawl doors in the rack (cradle), nets in the rigging and tied down, and trawl net on the deck.