



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**



# Shrimp Futures Project: Addressing Current Challenges and Future Scenario Planning

***NOAA Fisheries SEFSC and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission***

South Atlantic Council June Meeting - June 11, 2024

# Current State of the Fishery

- Vital cultural and economic importance to the regional economy
- Future existence challenged due to high imports, low ex-vessel prices, high fuel costs, storms, availability of labor
- Facing economic and environmental uncertainties

# Ongoing Projects

- SEDAR87 Gulf of Mexico Brown, Pink, and White Shrimp Research Track Assessment
- NOAA Fisheries Equity and Environmental Justice Focus Groups
- Climate Ecosystems and Fisheries Initiative

# 'Shrimp Futures' Project Objectives

## **PART 1** - *Supporting the shrimp industry's present needs*

- Characterize current state and major challenges
- Build connections with key partners and agencies
- Identify immediate actions/opportunities

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

- Develop a 2050 vision for the industry
- Identify strategies to support a resilient industry
- Create action items that are robust to uncertainty



# Project Actions - PART 1

1. **Stakeholder mapping:** Identify all players in the shrimp industry and how they are related (shrimpers, dealers, regulatory agencies, consumers, etc.) via a social network mapping exercise.
2. **Market / economic analysis:** Compile information about the shrimp markets, supply chains, price drivers, etc. into an economic overview document geared towards helping the industry make informed economic decisions.
3. **Success stories:** Consult with select shrimp industry members who are reportedly doing very well despite the current challenges. Analyze their stories for common themes / strategies for success.
4. **Funding opportunities:** Develop a centralized list of grants / programs that can provide relief to shrimping businesses and communities.

# Project Actions - PART 2

1. **Conceptual modeling:** Collaboratively develop a conceptual model encompassing economic, social, biophysical, and regulatory factors impacting the Southeastern US shrimp fishery. This model will serve as the foundation for subsequent discussions.
2. **Vision Identification:** Develop visions for the industry, specifying key conceptual management objectives.
3. **Uncertainty Analysis:** Identify the critical factors influencing the fishery, and develop a list of related critical uncertainties that will shape the future.
4. **Scenario Planning:** Develop long-term scenarios for the shrimp fishery taking into account identified uncertainties. Identify actions that are robust to each scenario.

# Process / Timeline

## Spring/Summer 2024

- Present project overview to councils & agencies
- Begin identifying and engaging project partners
- Stakeholder mapping
- Economic analysis
- Begin compiling opportunities and resources

## Next steps

- Identify locations for scenario planning workshops and identify participants
- Schedule workshops and engage in scenario modeling exercises

## End goal

- Provide support for the industry in the near-term
- Collaboratively develop a resilience plan for the future

# Potential Partnerships

- Supports National Seafood Strategy
- Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission ‘Future of Gulf Seafood’
- **Whole of Government** approach e.g. other agencies
- Council(s) support
- Additional partnerships





# Key opportunities and communications

- DOT [Port Infrastructure Development Program | MARAD](#)



- Sea Grant funding opportunity: [Young Fishermen's Career Development Projects Competition](#)

## Presentations:

- Louisiana Shrimp Taskforce (March 6th, 2024)
- Gulf of Mexico Shrimp AP meeting (March 19th, 2024)
- SAFMC Shrimp AP meeting (April 25th, 2024)

