

**DRAFT**  
**SHRIMP COMMITTEE**  
**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Wilmington, NC**  
**December 2, 2019**

The Committee approved minutes from the June 2015 meeting and agenda.

**Shrimp Amendment 11 (Transit Provisions)**

The Committee reviewed the scoping comments and decision document for Shrimp Amendment 11 which will change provisions for vessels transiting cold-weather closed areas. The provisions require gear stowed below deck when transiting the cold-weather closed areas. The Committee discussed the purpose and need, gear stowage, and net modification and provided recommendations to modify the purpose and need and alternative for gear stowage to match the Gulf of Mexico transit provisions for shrimp closed areas.

**Shrimp/Deepwater AP input on Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

Council Staff provided an overview of the Shrimp/Deepwater Shrimp AP discussion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

**Other Business**

The Committee was given a brief update on a developing shrimp fishery off Virginia.

**The committee made the following motions:**

**MOTION #1. APPROVE PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT AS MODIFIED**

The purpose is to modify cold-weather closed area transit provisions to match current vessel design, reduce the socio-economic impact for fishermen avoiding the areas if they cannot comply with regulations, and improve safety at sea while maintaining protection for overwintering white shrimp and regulation enforceability.

The need is to adjust current regulations because gear cannot be stowed below deck on many vessels. **Additionally, fishermen have indicated that it is dangerous to lower doors onto the deck of the boat when seas are rough.**

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**MOTION #2. APPROVE ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES FOR TRANSIT PROVISION (ACTION 1).**

Action 1. Modify South Atlantic Shrimp Vessel Transit Provisions Through Cold-Weather Closed Areas.

Alternative 1 (No Action). Brown shrimp, pink shrimp, or white shrimp may be possessed on board a fishing vessel in a closed area, provided the vessel is in transit and all trawl nets with a mesh size less than 4 inches (10.2 cm), as measured between the centers of opposite knots when pulled taut, are stowed below deck while transiting the

closed area. For the purpose of this paragraph, a vessel is in transit when it is on a direct and continuous course through a closed area.

Alternative 2. A vessel may transit with non-stop progression through the South Atlantic cold-weather closed area with fishing gear appropriately stowed with trawl doors and nets out of the water and the bag straps must be removed from the net.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Action 1. Modify South Atlantic Shrimp Vessel Transit Provisions Through Cold-Weather Closed Areas.

Alternative 1 (No Action). Brown shrimp, pink shrimp, or white shrimp may be possessed on board a fishing vessel in a closed area, provided the vessel is in transit and all trawl nets with a mesh size less than 4 inches (10.2 cm), as measured between the centers of opposite knots when pulled taut, are stowed below deck while transiting the closed area. For the purpose of this paragraph, a vessel is in transit when it is on a direct and continuous course through a closed area.

Alternative 2. A vessel may transit with non-stop progression through the South Atlantic cold-weather closed area with fishing gear appropriately stowed with trawl doors and nets out of the water. The bag straps must be removed from the nets.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MAIN MOTION:  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**MOTION #3.** APPROVE SHRIMP AMENDMENT 11 FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.  
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

-----  
Note: Council staff drafts the timing and task motion based on Committee action. If points require clarification, they will be added to the draft motion. The Committee should review this wording carefully to be sure it accurately reflects their intent prior to making the motion.

Timing and Task(s)

**MOTION #4.** ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASK(S):

- 1) Hold public hearings for Shrimp Amendment 11 in January/February 2020.
- 2) Have Shrimp/Deepwater Shrimp and Law Enforcement Advisory Panels review Shrimp Amendment 11 in January/February 2020.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL