

**SUMMARY REPORT  
FROM THE SHRIMP COMMITTEE MEETING  
Orlando, FL  
June 10, 2008**

The Shrimp Committee met on June 10, 2008 in Orlando, FL. The committee received the following presentations:

1. Report of the Shrimp Review Panel on Pink Shrimp Stocks – Myra Brouwer, SAFMC Staff

The Committee received a presentation summarizing the information and analyses on which the Shrimp Review Panel based their recommendations to the Council regarding the current status of the pink shrimp stock. Landings and effort data (# trips) for NC and FL for the period 2000-2007 were made available to the Review Panel as well as SEAMAP data on shrimp density. Comparisons were made between landings of pink and white shrimp in both NC and FL and fishery-independent (SEAMAP) densities of pink shrimp vs. white and brown shrimp were conducted. Based on this information, the Review Panel determined that the current overfished status of the pink shrimp stock in the South Atlantic region is not due to fishing. It appears that environmental and economic factors may be affecting pink shrimp abundance in the region. Therefore, the Review Panel recommends that the Council take no management action at this time.

2. Overview of Shrimp Amendment 7-- Myra Brouwer, SAFMC Staff

The Committee received an overview presentation of actions and alternatives contained in draft Shrimp Amendment 7. A summary of the biological, socioeconomic and administrative impacts were provided for each action as well as background information on previous SAFMC actions pertaining to rock shrimp.

3. Economic Analysis for Shrimp Amendment 7 – Mike Travis, SERO Staff

Dr. Mike Travis presented the Committee with a thorough description of socioeconomic analyses and impacts from each action currently included in Shrimp Amendment 7.

**The committee approved the following motions:**

Amendment 7

MOTION #1: Pick Alternative 2 under Action 4 as Council's Preferred.

Approved by Committee. Shipman/Robson

**Action 4. Change the names given to the rock shrimp permit and endorsement to minimize confusion.**

Alternative 1. (No-action). Continue to require an "open access permit" to fish for rock shrimp in the EEZ off the Carolinas and both a "limited access endorsement" and an open access permit to fish for rock shrimp in the EEZ off Georgia and Florida.

Alternative 2 (Preferred). Create two types of permits for the rock shrimp fishery and specify that a vessel can only have one permit:

- A. Rock Shrimp Permit (South Atlantic 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.

Alternative 2 under Action 4 would be re-worded as follows:

*Re-name the open access permit and limited access endorsement of the existing permit system as follows:*

- A. Rock Shrimp Permit (South Atlantic 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.*

*Note: Rock Shrimp Permit (Carolinas Zone) holders (currently open access permit holders) may not apply for the Rock Shrimp Permit (South Atlantic EEZ) (currently limited access endorsement). Fishermen who currently possess valid (non-expired) open access Rock Shrimp Permits (RS) or limited access Rock Shrimp Endorsements (RSE) need not apply to receive a renamed permit because these renamed permits will be sent to current permit holders automatically. Permit holders who have expired but renewable Rock Shrimp Endorsements (RSE) will need to apply to receive a renamed Rock Shrimp Permit (South Atlantic EEZ). Permit Holders who have an expired open access Rock Shrimp Permits (RS) will need to apply to receive a renamed Rock Shrimp Permit (Carolinas Zone). Permit Holders eligible for reinstatement will need to apply to have a Rock Shrimp Permit (South Atlantic EEZ) reinstated to them.*

Suggested language for New Action is as follows:

*An application for renewal, reinstatement, or transfer of a Rock Shrimp Permit (South Atlantic EEZ) will not be considered complete until proof of purchase, installation, activation, and operational status of an approved VMS for the vessel receiving the permit has been verified by NMFS VMS personnel.*

**The Committee discussed the following items:**

- Request to obtain LE report on VMS compliance in the rock shrimp fishery as part of regular Council briefings (Geiger)
- Monica Smit-Brunello, NOAA GC, verified language in regulations regarding VMS requirements. The regulations do not specify that a vessel's VMS needs to be turned on in SA water only when on a Rock Shrimp trip. Language simply says "trip in the South Atlantic." Any vessel holding a rock shrimp limited endorsement must have an actively operating VMS when on any fishing trip in the South Atlantic region.
- Committee re-stated their intent under Action 3, preferred alternative 2: The intent is to reinstate the endorsement to the vessel, not the vessel owner.
- Committee suggested that the Team standardize language referring to open access permits, limited access endorsements, vessels and vessel owners throughout the Shrimp Amendment 7 document to ensure consistency.
- The Committee discussed adding a Gulf of Mexico location for a public hearing.