

SHRIMP COMMITTEE  
JEKYLL ISLAND, GA  
MARCH 2, 2009

The committee discussed whether a closure of the EEZ to white shrimp harvest to protect overwintering stocks was necessary. Each of the state representatives from North Carolina through Florida indicated they did not intend to request a closure and the committee concluded a closure was not needed this spring.

There were no scoping comments. Council staff outlined the exclusion to the ACL/AM requirement for species that have a life cycle of approximately 1 year unless the Secretary has determined the fishery is subject to overfishing of that species (MSA Section 303 (a)(15)). Pink shrimp are listed as overfished due to environmental conditions and none of the shrimp species are listed as undergoing overfishing. The committee discussed this and concluded that all of the species listed in the fishery management unit in the Shrimp FMP have life cycles of approximately 1 year and are thus excluded from the ACL/AM requirement.

The committee discussed the pre-draft of the Comprehensive Amendment 3 to the Highly Migratory Species FMP. The amendment addresses primarily sharks and the black nose shark has recently been assessed and determined to be overfished and undergoing overfishing. Mortality must be reduced by about 78% in fishing year 2010. Measures under consideration would prohibit all directed harvest but this is not sufficient. Bycatch mortality in the shrimp fishery is a large component of total mortality and will need to be addressed. About 50% of the shrimp bycatch mortality is from the southeast shrimp fishery and 45% from the Gulf shrimp fishery. Efforts are being evaluated to modify the TED/BRD designs to reduce the level of bycatch. Ultimately the Councils will be asked to amend their Shrimp FMPs to implement modifications to the TED/BRD requirements.

The committee also discussed the recent capture of 1 tiger shrimp in a box of shrimp in the southern part of South Carolina's coast and the occurrence of tiger shrimp in Pamilco. Dr. Wilson Laney was requested to gather information on this subject and report back to the committee in June.

**The committee approved the following motions:**

MOTION #1: CONSIDER ALL THE PENAEID SHRIMP AND ROCK SHRIMP AS ANNUAL CROPS THEREFORE WE DO NOT NEED TO DEVELOP ACLS AND AMS.  
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MOTION #2: DIRECT STAFF TO SEND A LETTER TO NMFS INDICATING THAT THE SHRIMP SPECIES IN THE SHRIMP FMP ARE ANNUAL CROPS AND THEREFORE DO NOT REQUIRE THE COUNCIL TO DEVELOP AN AMENDMENT TO SPECIFY ACLS AND AMS.  
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE