



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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George Geiger, Chairman  
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## OVERVIEW

### Shrimp Committee

June 10, 2008  
Orlando Renaissance Airport Hotel  
5445 Forbes Place  
Orlando, FL

The Shrimp Committee needs to: (A) review the report from the Shrimp Review Panel on the status of pink shrimp stocks and take action on recommendations; and (B) receive a report on the economic analyses for Shrimp Amendment 7, review the draft amendment, provide guidance and approve for public hearings.

#### **A. Shrimp Review Panel Report (Attachment 1)**

Council staff was directed at the March 2008 meeting to convene a meeting of the Shrimp Review Panel to provide input on the current status of the pink shrimp stock. Indications in the 2007 Report to Congress were that the stock is again below the minimum stock size threshold or MSST. This is the level necessary for the parent stock to produce Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) the following year.

The Shrimp Review Panel convened via conference call on April 24, 2008. Trends in landings and CPUE from fishery-independent surveys were discussed. The Panel provided data to Council staff to compile a report with updated landings and density information on pink shrimp as well as other penaeid species. **Attachment 1** constitutes the final report from the Shrimp Review Panel.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Review Shrimp Review Panel report and determine whether any action is necessary:

- Option 1. Take no action to address pink shrimp overfishing.
- Option 2. Take actions (Council to specify) to address overfishing of pink shrimp.

## **B. Amendment 7 (Attachments 2, 3 & 4)**

Amendment 7 includes 5 actions: Actions 1-3 address the ability of vessels to retain their South Atlantic rock shrimp limited access endorsements; Action 4 addresses confusion that has existed over the terms “limited access endorsement” and “open access permit” and proposes a naming convention that should dispel any further confusion; and Action 5 allows for the collection of economic data for the shrimp fishery.

Amendment 5 to the Shrimp FMP included a provision requiring vessels with endorsements to land a minimum of 15,000 pounds of South Atlantic rock shrimp in at least one calendar year during four consecutive calendar years in order to retain their endorsement. The Deepwater Shrimp Advisory Panel (AP) suggested the Council consider whether this provision should be retained, revoked, revised, or possibly extended. In addition, the Advisory Panel suggested reinstatement of endorsements lost as a result of not meeting the landings requirement. Another issue involves the requirement for vessel owners to renew their endorsement in a timely manner to retain their eligibility. Currently, for vessels to retain eligibility, the permit holder must send a complete application for renewal to the Southeast Regional Administrator within one year after the endorsement’s expiration date. The Council is concerned about confusion about the rock shrimp limited access endorsement as implemented in the final rule versus the limited access permit as specified in Amendment 5. It appears that a number of individuals did not renew their endorsements when they renewed their rock shrimp permits because they did not understand they needed both an open access permit and a limited access endorsement. To eliminate confusion, Amendment 7 proposes to establish two types of “permits” and do away with the “endorsement.” “Rock Shrimp Permit (South Atlantic EEZ)” would allow fishing for rock shrimp in the EEZ of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida whereas the “Rock Shrimp Permit (Carolinas Zone)” would be required to fish in the EEZ off North and South Carolina only.

Issues to consider:

1. At present, no formal mechanism exists by which South Atlantic rock shrimp landings are compiled and reported to the Permits Office for the purpose of determining whether endorsement holders have met the landings requirement and thus whether endorsements should or should not be renewed after each vessel’s four year time frame has ended. If the landings requirement is to be retained, such a mechanism will need to be created in the near future given the impending deadline for many vessels to meet the requirement.

This is a critical issue given the multiple data sources (all the South Atlantic States’ trip ticket data as well as the Gulf shrimp landings data) that need to be pulled from in order to determine whether the current or an alternative landings requirement has been met.

2. Alternative 2 to Action 3 refers to eligible “individuals.” The endorsements are issued to vessels not individuals and the distinction can often be important with respect to writing and implementing the regulations. For example, what if the person who owned the vessel at the time the condition was met no longer owns

the particular vessel that had the endorsement at the time? That vessel could be owned by someone else and/or that owner may own a different vessel now. If both are true, who gets the reinstated endorsement...the original owner, who may to put it on his new vessels, or the current owner of the vessel that originally had the terminated endorsement that's to be reinstated? And what if that vessel is no longer owned by anyone?

Timing for this amendment is as follows:

- SSC Review – June 8-10, 2008 in Orlando, FL
  - Mike Travis to present economic analyses
  - Myra Brouwer to present rest of Amendment 7
- Committee/Council Review, Revise & Approve document for public hearings June 8-13, 2008 meeting in Orlando, FL.
- Team finalizes document based on Council input – June 16 through July 2, 2008
- Amendment 7 document and public hearing summary available for distribution on July 3, 2008.
- Mail to all shrimp permit holders (including rock shrimp); written comments due by 5 pm August 15, 2008.
- Public Hearings – August 2008. The following locations are planned:
  - (i) Cape Canaveral, FL – August 8, 2008 from 3-7 pm.
  - (ii) N. Charleston, SC - August 12, 2008 from 3-7 pm.
  - (iii) Written comments due by 5 pm August 15, 2008
- Review Public Hearing Input & Approve – September 15-19, 2008 meeting in Charleston, SC.
- Final Approval (if necessary) – December 1-5, 2008 meeting in Wilmington, NC.
- Send for Secretarial Review – October or December 2008.

**REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:** Review draft document and approve for public hearings.