



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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OVERVIEW

(revised 9-8-08)

Shrimp Committee

September 16, 2008
Charleston Marriott Hotel
170 Lockwood Blvd.
Charleston, SC

The Shrimp Committee needs to: (A) review new action added to Shrimp Amendment 7 at the June 2008 meeting and its associated analyses; (B) review public comment on Shrimp Amendment 7; (C) review the draft Proposed Rule for Shrimp Amendment 7; and (D) approve Shrimp Amendment 7 for submission to the Secretary of Commerce.

A. Action to Require Verification of Vessel Monitoring System

The Shrimp IPT was directed at the June 2008 meeting to add a new action to Shrimp Amendment 7 to require VMS verification in order to renew, reinstate or transfer a rock shrimp limited access endorsement. Using proposed language submitted by the Shrimp Committee in June 2008, the Shrimp IPT added the new action and conducted the necessary analyses prior to public hearings. Analyses revealed that 21 vessels that currently have active, renewable or reinstatable limited access endorsements *do not* have VMS. Of these, 8 may not be able to support a VMS and were not active in commercial fishing over the period spanning the analysis. Some vessels, however, are large enough to be Coast Guard-registered, have derived a percentage of their revenue from the South Atlantic penaeid shrimp fishery, and do not currently have a VMS. Under the potential new VMS requirement, these 21 vessel owners would have to either (1) purchase, install and activate a VMS on their vessel in order to renew, reinstate or transfer their endorsement or (2) not comply and therefore relinquish their endorsement.

NOTE: Because the committee did not pick a preferred alternative for the new action in June, the Regulatory Impact Review (RIR) and Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA) may necessitate revision before Shrimp Amendment 7 is submitted for final approval.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Review analyses for new action and pick a preferred alternative.

B. Overview of Public Comment on Shrimp Amendment 7

At the June 2008 meeting, the Council indicated that a public hearing should be held in the Gulf of Mexico to solicit input on Shrimp Amendment 7 since many Gulf vessels have participated in the rock shrimp fishery in the South Atlantic. Council staff consulted with members of the Deepwater Shrimp AP to determine a suitable location for the hearing. However, AP members overwhelmingly supported *not* holding a meeting in the Gulf but adding an additional location in east Florida. Consequently, public hearings were held in Cape Canaveral, FL; Jacksonville, FL; and North Charleston, SC on August 7, 8 and 12, respectively. The comment period was open until August 15, 2008. Overall, the public supports the proposed actions in this amendment with some skepticism regarding the reason behind the verification of VMS. In addition, several members of the public would like the Council to consider allowing fishermen to obtain endorsements that have been terminated so that they would not be completely lost to the fishery. They maintain that the proposed actions in Shrimp Amendment 7 will not be enough to maintain the fishery and its associated infrastructure.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: None

C. Review the draft Proposed Rule for Shrimp Amendment 7

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: The draft Proposed Rule has been provided and the Committee will need to revise it and suggest any changes to the language, as appropriate.

D. Approve Shrimp Amendment 7 for Submission to the Secretary

The Committee should consider final approval of Shrimp Amendment 7 at the September meeting because certain proposed actions in this amendment have an associated time component. For instance, the economic survey proposed in this amendment will be administered jointly with the existing Gulf survey, which is carried out in the spring to coincide with tax time. If implementation of this amendment is delayed past that time, then economic data on the South Atlantic shrimp fisheries would not begin to be gathered until spring of 2010. In addition, the NOAA Fisheries' Permits Office, Office of Sustainable Fisheries and Office of Law Enforcement will have to coordinate on a step-wise approach to facilitate the permit/endorsement change-over, with the implementation date being on or about the 27th day of the third month following publication of the final rule for the amendment.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Approve Shrimp Amendment 7 for final submission.