

From: mikesm13@gmail.com [<mailto:mikesm13@gmail.com>] **On Behalf Of** Michael Merrifield
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 2:47 PM
To: Anna Martin; Kari Maclauchlin
Subject: Shrimp Presentation

I am so sorry I missed your presentation yesterday. I had to run Richard to meet Woody to head back to the Cape. I put off leaving until the last hour and figured they were not going to get to shrimp. I was so frustrated to find out I missed it and only caught the tail end.

I sent these comments to Jessica McCawley but wanted to make sure you had them too.

Laurilee said there was a question by Mac about red shrimping and VMS. There is nothing that says you must have a VMS to red shrimp, however, all rock shrimpers must have VMS and there are no red shrimpers that do not participate in the rock shrimp fishery, therefore, by default, all red shrimpers have VMS. This also applies to the boats that come over from the gulf. Red shrimping in the Atlantic is so much more difficult than red shrimping in the gulf due to stronger tides and rougher seas. I only know of one captain that comes to the Atlantic to rock shrimp that might red shrimp in the Atlantic but he red shrimps in the gulf and would rather go back if he wanted to red shrimp.

Red shrimp are available year round but are typically harvested only during the off season. At the end of the shrimping season, usually February or March until the start of the next season, usually May or June, there is nothing to fish for. Shrimpers either go to the keys for the pink shrimp season that starts around this time, tie up to the dock or go red shrimping. Red shrimping requires large capacity winches, a lot more cable due to the depth and a captain that is capable and comfortable doing it. There are only about six guys left in the Atlantic that red shrimp(only 3 went this year so far).

Sounds like we will be discussing this and rock shrimp permitting at the April 20 AP meeting, along with redefining the coral HAPCs.

Thanks for your work in putting this data together. Let me know if I can assist you in any way.

Mike

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