

OVERVIEW

Revised

Shrimp Committee Meeting

March 3, 2009
Jekyll Island Club Hotel
371 Riverview Drive
Jekyll Island, GA

The Shrimp Committee needs to: (A) discuss a closure of the EEZ to protect overwintering white shrimp if such action is requested by the states, and (B) review the Comprehensive ACL scoping comments that pertain to species in the shrimp FMU and provide guidance to staff on whether shrimp are considered annual crops and therefore are not included in the requirement to develop ACLs.

A. Discussion of white shrimp fishery closure in the EEZ

The Shrimp FMP provided South Atlantic states with the ability to request concurrent closure of the white shrimp fishery in the EEZ adjacent to their closed state waters following severe winter cold weather. The Committee needs to discuss whether the states need to request such closures, especially in light of recent cold weather in the region.

B. Comprehensive ACL Amendment (Attachments 1-3)

The reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that each FMP:

“Section 303 (a)(15) establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits in the plan (including a multiyear plan), implementing regulations, or annual specifications, at a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery, including measures to ensure accountability.

For them, the amendment above (15) –

(1) shall, unless otherwise provided for under an international agreement in which the United States participates, take effect –

(A) in fishing year 2010 for fisheries determined by the Secretary to be subject to overfishing; and

(B) in fishing year 2011 for all other fisheries; and

(2) **shall not apply to a fishery 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;** and

(3) shall not limit or otherwise affect the requirements of section 301(a)(1) or 304 (e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851(a)(1) or 1854 (e), respectively.”

The Comprehensive ACL amendment will specify ACLs, ACTs, AMs, and allocations for all species managed by the Council not subject to overfishing. Scoping meetings were held late January and early February.

The scoping letters are included as **Attachment 2**. The audio files of the public's comments at the meetings were sent to Council members after the final meeting. Staff will present summarized comments received from scoping (**Attachment 3**).

None of the managed shrimp species in the South Atlantic are *overfishing*. Of the three penaeid shrimp species in the South Atlantic, only pink shrimp are *overfished* (**Attachment 4**).

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Review the scoping comments and proposed actions in the Comprehensive ACL Amendment and provide guidance to staff.