

1 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

2
3 SHRIMP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

4
5 Marriott Courtyard Gulfport, Mississippi

6
7 April 17, 2018

8
9 **VOTING MEMBERS**

- 10 Dale Diaz.....Mississippi
- 11 Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon).....Alabama
- 12 Patrick Banks.....Louisiana
- 13 Leann Bosarge.....Mississippi
- 14 Roy Crabtree.....NMFS
- 15 Johnny Greene.....Alabama
- 16 Robin Riechers.....Texas
- 17 John Sanchez.....Florida

18
19 **NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

- 20 Doug Boyd.....Texas
- 21 Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
- 22 Phil Dyskow.....Florida
- 23 Tom Frazer.....Florida
- 24 Martha Guyas (designee for Jessica McCawley).....Florida
- 25 Campo Matens.....Louisiana
- 26 Paul Mickle (designee for Joe Spraggins).....Mississippi
- 27 Bob Shipp.....Alabama
- 28 Greg Stunz.....Texas
- 29 LT Mark Zanowicz.....USCG

30
31 **STAFF**

- 32 Steven Atran.....Senior Fishery Biologist
- 33 Assane Diagne.....Economist
- 34 Matt Freeman.....Economist
- 35 John Froeschke.....Fishery Biologist-Statistician
- 36 Douglas Gregory.....Executive Director
- 37 Beth Hager.....Administrative Officer
- 38 Morgan Kilgour.....Fishery Biologist
- 39 Ava Lasseter.....Anthropologist
- 40 Mara Levy.....NOAA General Counsel
- 41 Ryan Rindone.....Fishery Biologist & SEDAR Liaison
- 42 Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager
- 43 Camilla Shireman.....Administrative and Communications Assistant
- 44 Carrie Simmons.....Deputy Director

45
46 **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

- 47 Pam Anderson.....Panama City Beach, FL
- 48 Greg Ball.....Galveston Professional Boaters Association, TX

1 Luiz Barbieri.....GMFMC SSC
2 Ryan Bradley.....MS Commercial Fisheries United, MS
3 Eric Brazer.....Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance
4 J.P. Brooker.....Ocean Conservancy, St. Petersburg, FL
5 Mark Brown.....SAFMC
6 James Bruce.....MS
7 Gary Bryant.....Gulf Shores, AL
8 Dan Buckley.....Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance
9 Blake Compeant.....St. Larose, LA
10 Laura Deighan.....Audubon Institute
11 Michael Drexler.....St. Petersburg, FL
12 Mike Falgout.....New Orleans, LA
13 Traci Floyd.....MDMR, Biloxi, MS
14 Troy Frady.....AL
15 Susan Gerhart.....NMFS
16 Ken Haddad.....ASA, FL
17 Rick Hart.....NOAA Fisheries, Galveston, TX
18 Mark Kelley.....Panama City Beach, FL
19 Alicia Paul.....Panama City Beach, FL
20 Corky Perret.....MS
21 Ruth Perry.....Shell, Houston, TX
22 Laura Picariello.....Audubon Institute
23 Clay Porch.....SEFSC
24 Lance Robinson.....TX
25 Ashford Rosenberg.....Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance
26 Jessica Stephen.....NMFS
27 Donna Tryon.....Gulf Breeze, FL
28 Mark Tryon.....Gulf Breeze, FL
29 David Walker.....Andalusia, AL
30 Bob Zales.....Panama City, FL
31
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1
2
3 Table of Contents.....3
4
5 Table of Motions.....4
6
7 Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes.....5
8
9 Action Guide and Next Steps.....5
10
11 Review of the Updated Stock Assessments.....5
12
13 Biological Review of the Texas Closure.....8
14
15 Summary of the Shrimp Advisory Panel Meeting.....10
16
17 Other Business.....17
18
19 Adjournment.....18
20
21 - - -
22

TABLE OF MOTIONS

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

PAGE 10: Motion to recommend to NMFS that federal waters be closed out to 200 miles to run concurrent with the date that the State of Texas recommends for the 2018 Texas shrimp closure in the Texas Territorial Sea. The motion carried on page 11.

PAGE 11: Motion to recommend that at such time that Coral Amendment 10 is under development there be a joint meeting of the Shrimp AP, Coral AP, Shrimp SSC, and Coral SSC. The motion carried on page 12.

PAGE 14: Motion to resend the letter requesting an economic analysis to the Science Center and that appropriations be made for this analysis. The motion carried on page 14.

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1 The Shrimp Management Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery
2 Management Council convened at the Marriott Courtyard, Gulfport
3 Mississippi, Tuesday morning, April 17, 2018, and was called to
4 order by Chairman Dale Diaz.

5
6 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
7 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
8 **ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**
9

10 **CHAIRMAN DALE DIAZ:** I would like to call the Shrimp Management
11 Committee to order. The members of the committee are the Vice
12 Chair of Mr. Banks, Mr. Anson, Ms. Bosarge, Dr. Crabtree, Mr.
13 Greene, Mr. Riechers, and Mr. Sanchez.

14
15 There is an Action Guide and Next Steps located on the website,
16 if anybody wants to take a look at it, but we're going to start
17 right in, but the first thing I need is the Adoption of the
18 Agenda. We have a motion and a second. Any opposition to
19 adopting the agenda? The agenda is adopted.

20
21 The next thing on the agenda is Approval of the Minutes. Are
22 there any adjustments to the minutes or additions? Seeing none,
23 the minutes are adopted. Item IV on the agenda, we have Review
24 of the Updated Stock Assessments from Dr. Hart. Thank you, Dr.
25 Hart, for taking time out of your busy schedule to spend some
26 time with us here today and review all this data for us.

27
28 **REVIEW OF THE UPDATED STOCK ASSESSMENTS**
29

30 **DR. RICK HART:** Thank you. It's always a pleasure to be here,
31 and so I appreciate the invitation. I know we don't have a lot
32 of time, but I will quickly go over the stock assessments for
33 the Gulf shrimp, penaeid shrimp, the brown, white, and pink.
34 Keep in mind that this is for the 2016 fishing year, and we're
35 always like a year behind. The 2017 assessments will be run
36 this fall.

37
38 We do annual assessments for pink, brown, and white shrimp. I
39 am going to show you the estimates of spawning stock biomass and
40 fishing mortality indices for pink, brown, and white. I will go
41 through the three stocks all together. I will go through pinks
42 first, browns, and then whites, and they are all kind of set up
43 the same way.

44
45 Pink shrimp, we run the assessments with data from Stat Zones 1
46 through 11, and, the brown and white, we assess the stock from
47 Stat Zones 7 through 21. This is just the stat zones, as you
48 all, I'm sure, know how these are laid out in the Gulf.

1
2 For pink shrimp model inputs, we modeled the shrimp from 1984
3 through 2016, and we use monthly catch in pounds of tails, and
4 we also use monthly catch by size, and we have eleven size
5 categories that we use and monthly catch rates, CPUE, and we
6 also include SEAMAP summer and fall survey data from 1987
7 through 2016, or the terminal year of the assessment, and those
8 data include catch by size and a CPUE index, and then we also
9 use -- They have a delta log normal SEAMAP summer and fall
10 survey data CPUE index.

11
12 For the brown shrimp, similar to the pink, we use 1984 through
13 2016 monthly catch in pounds of tails, catch by size, monthly
14 CPUE, and we include Louisiana monthly shrimp trawl surveys, a
15 western subset, and catch by size and a CPUE index, and so
16 Louisiana provides those data to me for the assessments every
17 year, and so I do greatly appreciate that. They really help
18 inform the model. We also use SEAMAP data, the summer and fall
19 survey data, which includes catch by size and a CPUE index.

20
21 For the white shrimp, it's the same type of data as the brown
22 shrimp. It's catch by size, CPUEs, and, again, Louisiana
23 provides their trawl survey data, and use the western subset,
24 catch by size, and the same CPUE, summer and fall, catch and
25 CPUE index.

26
27 The reference points for pink shrimp, we use spawning stock
28 biomass at MSY and F at MSY. Pink shrimp spawn and recruit
29 throughout the year, and so our assessment models these
30 parameters on a continuous basis. The way the model works is
31 the terminal year -- We multiply that, because it's a month, by
32 twelve, and that gives us our annual spawning stock biomass,
33 which is about twenty-four-million pounds of tails, and FMSY,
34 the same thing. We have to multiply the terminal year, which is
35 actually the terminal month, by twelve, and that gives us an
36 annual FMSY reference point of 1.354 fishing mortality.

37
38 Last year's spawning stock biomass showed a decrease for pink
39 shrimp, but it's still above the reference point, and so it
40 looks okay. The terminal F is still -- It increased last year
41 from the previous year, but it's still well below the FMSY.

42
43 For browns, moving into brown shrimp, this is parameterized a
44 little different, this model, than the pink shrimp. It gives us
45 an annual value. It's equal to -- The spawning stock biomass at
46 MSY is equal to a little over six-million pounds of tails, and F
47 is about nine at MSY.

48

1 Spawning stock biomass for brown shrimp decreased from last
2 year, but it's still above the reference point, and so we don't
3 really see any problems right now, but it has been steadily
4 going down the last few years, and so it's something we're
5 looking at. FMSY, or F compared to FMSY, F increased from the
6 previous year, but it's still quite a bit below F at MSY, and so
7 we're not seeing any real concerns right now, but we'll keep an
8 eye on it.

9
10 For white, the spawning stock biomass, MSY, and FMSY reference
11 points, the reference points for spawning stock biomass of white
12 shrimp is about 365 million pounds of tails, and F of about 3.5.
13 We saw a slight increase in spawning stock biomass of white
14 shrimp, and so it had been going down kind of steadily the last
15 few years, but it ticked up a little bit this year, and so
16 that's good. It's still quite a bit above the reference point
17 of the MSY value. F did show a slight increase, but it's still
18 quite a bit below the MSY value.

19
20 All three stocks seem to be healthy. They are not overfished,
21 and they aren't undergoing overfishing. Spawning stock biomass
22 was greater than the overfished reference points for all three
23 stocks, with pink at 64.7 million pounds, brown at 63.1 million,
24 and white at 496 million pounds of tails. Mortality rates are
25 less than the F overfishing reference points, and so that's
26 good, and so that concludes my presentation for the stocks, for
27 the shrimp stocks, and they seem to be all doing well this year,
28 and so I'm happy to entertain any questions.

29
30 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Any questions for Dr. Hart? I don't have a
31 question for you right now, Dr. Hart. Dr. Barbieri is the SSC
32 representative, and, Dr. Barbieri, did you want to say anything
33 about the SSC's comments related to Dr. Hart's work?

34
35 **DR. LUIZ BARBIERI:** I don't actually have a presentation, and I
36 will be very brief, and thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning,
37 council members, committee members. I don't really have a whole
38 lot to say. You received a very detailed presentation, good
39 presentation, from Dr. Hart, and, as you could see, none of the
40 stocks is really under any problem, in terms of the
41 sustainability.

42
43 The population levels are high, and the fishing mortality rates
44 are low, and so, given the current fishing mortality levels, the
45 current extraction from this population, and we believe that is
46 what is driving population dynamics for shrimp populations in
47 the Gulf now is really environmental parameters, and so the SSC,
48 more as sort of like an academic exercise, actually, discussed

1 this a little bit with Dr. Hart, and he actually mentioned that
2 the Science Center is now trying to do more to incorporate
3 environmental parameters more explicitly into some of these
4 modeling efforts, so we can account better for those
5 environmental factors. Other than that, we thought that those
6 assessments were well done, and we didn't really have any
7 concerns, and so, unless there are other questions --

8
9 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Any questions for Dr. Barbieri? Thank you, Dr.
10 Barbieri.

11
12 **DR. BARBIERI:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13
14 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** All right. Next on the agenda is the Biological
15 Review of the Texas Closure, and that's Dr. Hart again. Dr.
16 Hart.

17
18 **BIOLOGICAL REVIEW OF THE TEXAS CLOSURE**

19
20 **DR. HART:** Thank you. I will go through it, and I know we're
21 kind of pressed for time, rather quick, through the Texas
22 closure. I will report this is for 2017, for last year. We do
23 this analysis in the late fall, as soon as we get the data from
24 Texas, and they're really pretty good at providing the data for
25 us and we get their landings.

26
27 The closure was originally implemented in 1981 for the EEZ
28 fishery, and the goal was to increase the yield of brown shrimp
29 harvested from offshore Texas waters. Historically, the closure
30 is from mid-May to mid-July, and, since 1990, the nearshore, and
31 that is the less than four-fathom zones, has been closed as well
32 concurrently with the EEZ.

33
34 When we look at the data for the Texas brown shrimp offshore
35 catch for July and August, 1981 through 2017, you can see most
36 of the catch is in the August months, and, when we look at the
37 size distribution for May through August for brown shrimp, we
38 can see that most of the shrimp are in the bigger size
39 categories in August, and there is not a lot in that greater
40 than sixty-seven size count category, which is the goal of that
41 closure.

42
43 When we look at the other part of this, and we like looking at
44 the distribution of landings in Texas ports, the landings in
45 upper Texas ports, Jefferson County increased a little bit, and
46 the other ports didn't have much of a change in the distribution
47 of landings in these ports.

48

1 When we look at the middle Texas ports, Palacios had a decline
2 in landings in that port, and we're not really sure why that is,
3 if they're moving to different ports for their landings.
4 Brownsville had a slight increase when we look at the lower
5 ports, and the other three ports in that group didn't have much
6 of a change in the overall landings from previous years.

7
8 When we look at white shrimp catch, July white shrimp catch,
9 most of the catch is in the larger size category, and it's
10 fifteen to twenty count, which are the bigger shrimp, and,
11 normally, one would think those are more valuable, and that's
12 the intent, is to have the closure allow for the shrimp to grow
13 to the larger size. Then, when we see, after the closure and
14 it's opened, in August, the white shrimp that they're catching
15 are in those -- Most of them are in those larger size
16 categories, the greater than fifteen and fifteen to twenty count
17 size bins.

18
19 Brown shrimp August catch off of Texas is actually a little bit
20 more than the long-term average. The landings were higher. The
21 size of the shrimp in the brown shrimp catch, only 1.4 percent
22 was in that greater than sixty-seven count category, and so the
23 closure is allowing those shrimp to grow out of that size
24 category by curtailing the harvest during that period.

25
26 We did see some changes in the shrimp landings distribution of
27 Texas ports, and nothing really that stands out, and Pascagoula
28 does a yield per recruit analysis, and their results show that
29 the increase in yield with the Texas closure -- The increase in
30 yield is up to about 6.3 percent if the closure is in place.

31
32 White shrimp catch off of Texas was a little bit below average,
33 both July and August, but most of the shrimp were in this larger
34 size category, and so the white shrimp are also aided by that
35 closure in place. With that, that concludes my report, and I'm
36 happy to entertain any questions.

37
38 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Any questions for Dr. Hart? I have a question
39 for Robin. When he was going through that report, I was just
40 thinking about the impacts of Harvey last year, and I guess
41 Aransas would have been the one that would have been the closest
42 to the eye of the storm, and has the infrastructure -- Did it
43 come back, and were there many boats damaged as a result of that
44 storm, capacity-wise?

45
46 **MR. ROBIN RIECHERS:** No and yes. No, the infrastructure is not
47 completely back, and, yes, there was significant damage, and I
48 wish I had the flyer. We worked with NOAA and Rita Curtis and

1 her team, Mike Jepson and others, to get on the ground and do
2 some quick analysis of infrastructure damages. Maybe Lance can
3 have that sent from the office, but, basically, it documents
4 some of the damages that are -- Obviously people are trying to
5 get back up and running as much as one can, but, when you see
6 the millions of dollars of damages, it's not going to happen
7 overnight. It's not going to happen overnight.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** I am going to be curious to see next year's
10 report, to see what impact that has on Dr. Hart's report that he
11 gives us here for this Texas closure. It should show up in the
12 next year report.

13
14 **MR. RIECHERS:** Yes.

15
16 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Any questions for Dr. Hart? Thank you, Dr.
17 Hart, for coming. We appreciate it.

18
19 **DR. HART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As always, I appreciate the
20 invitation.

21
22 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** All right. I'm going to pause for some
23 discussion. A lot of times at this point in the committee
24 meeting we will entertain a motion. We can wait until after the
25 Shrimp AP Report, Morgan says, and so next on the agenda is a
26 Summary of the Shrimp AP Meeting, and that's going to be Dr.
27 Kilgour, and then, following Dr. Kilgour, I'm going to invite
28 the Shrimp AP Chairman to come up to the mic. Mr. Perret is in
29 the audience, and he can tell us his thoughts on the Shrimp AP
30 meeting, and so, Dr. Kilgour.

31
32 **SUMMARY OF THE SHRIMP ADVISORY PANEL MEETING**

33
34 **DR. KILGOUR:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. The Shrimp AP met
35 on April 5, 2018, and they reviewed the biological review of the
36 Texas closure, the presentation you just saw, and they made a
37 recommendation to recommend to the Gulf Council to continue the
38 closure in conjunction with the State of Texas out to the 200
39 nautical miles for 2018. That's the Shrimp AP's recommendation
40 on that.

41
42 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** At this point, is anybody considering making a
43 motion to -- Maybe something similar to the Texas closure, out
44 to 200 miles, to run concurrent with the State of Texas
45 recommendations for the 2018 shrimp season.

46
47 **MR. RIECHERS:** Yes, I will consider making it, and I sent it
48 over this morning, I believe. The motion is to recommend to

1 **NMFS that federal waters be closed out to 200 miles to run**
2 **concurrent with the date that the State of Texas recommends for**
3 **the 2018 Texas shrimp closure in the Texas Territorial Sea.**
4

5 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** We have a motion by Mr. Riechers, and it's
6 seconded by Mr. Greene. Any discussion on the motion? **Any**
7 **opposition to the motion? The motion carries.** Dr. Kilgour.
8

9 **DR. KILGOUR:** The Shrimp AP also reviewed the stock assessments
10 for brown, white, and pink shrimp, and it did not make a motion
11 regarding the presentations you just saw. I reviewed a lot of
12 the Shrimp AP's recommendations with regard to Coral 9 in the
13 Coral Committee, and, if it's okay with the Chairman, I will
14 skip down to the one that I missed in the Coral Committee, which
15 was that the AP expressed concern over creating more and more
16 areas with prohibited fishing regulations, and the AP was
17 notified that there was a council motion to begin work on Coral
18 Amendment 10 when Coral 9 was completed.
19

20 The AP made the following motion to recommend to the council
21 that, at such time that Coral Amendment 10 is under development,
22 there be joint meetings of the Shrimp AP, Coral AP, Shrimp SSC,
23 and Coral SSC.
24

25 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Any discussion from the committee? Ms. Bosarge.
26

27 **MS. LEANN BOSARGE:** If we want that to happen, do we have to
28 make a motion here at the council? That is how we handled it
29 last time, and I would prefer that we get the stakeholders
30 involved again on the frontend, and so I'm on this committee,
31 and I'm not the chair, and can I make that motion? All right.
32 **Then I would like to make that motion, please.**
33

34 **MR. RIECHERS:** Second.
35

36 **MS. BOSARGE:** Thank you.
37

38 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** All right. We have a motion and a second. The
39 motion is to recommend to the council that at such time as Coral
40 Amendment 10 is under development that there be a joint meeting
41 of the Shrimp AP, the Coral AP, the Shrimp SSC, and the Coral
42 SSC. Any discussion on the motion?
43

44 I would just like to add that, the way that Coral Amendment 9
45 was handled was very similar to this process, and I think it has
46 worked very well. I think it allowed for a whole lot of input,
47 and I think it headed off some problems in Coral Amendment 9,
48 and so I think it's wise for us to follow the same pattern

1 again. Any other discussion? **Seeing none, any opposition to**
2 **the motion? Seeing none, the motion carries.** Mr. Riechers.

3
4 **MR. RIECHERS:** A couple of points here, or questions, and it may
5 not be necessarily to decide at this meeting, since we're close
6 to out of time, but maybe, before the next Shrimp Committee
7 meeting meets, we can think about it.

8
9 Pay attention here, Corky. Corky used to argue about the Texas
10 closure with my predecessors, and then he argued about the Texas
11 closure with me, until finally he started making the motion to
12 match the Texas closure here on this committee. One of the
13 things I'm wondering is would we at some point want to consider
14 switching this where it's in the affirmative, where it matches
15 the Texas closure, unless the council would take some action, so
16 that we don't necessarily have to bring it up at every meeting,
17 or every year.

18
19 I am not opposed to doing it the way we're doing it, but we just
20 may want to think about that, and so that's one thing that maybe
21 at the next meeting -- People can think about it, and we could
22 have a little dialogue about it.

23
24 The second thing, and I don't know if Sue and company always get
25 this, but we always get calls at the end of the closure to try
26 to extend it longer. Now, that may be coming from a minority of
27 individuals, and I don't know, but, currently, we're limited in
28 our statute to only go sixty days.

29
30 I don't know if NMFS has any limitations on that, and, again, we
31 would have to change the statute, but it has been discussed,
32 because some of our shrimp industry members in our state have
33 asked for, at times, for it to be lengthened, based on some of
34 the data that we're seeing.

35
36 We don't have that ability right now, but, if we were ever
37 wanting to try to do that, we would need to be able to do it and
38 NMFS would need to be able to do it, and so, again, it would
39 take a statutory change as well as NMFS being able to do it, and
40 it's just something maybe we can talk about, even to figure out
41 whether they get the same calls we do at the end of the year.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Ms. Gerhart.

44
45 **MS. SUSAN GERHART:** Just to the days, the number of days, our
46 regulations say that it may not exceed ninety days or be less
47 than forty-five.

1 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** All right. Seeing no further discussion, Dr.
2 Kilgour.

3
4 **DR. KILGOUR:** The last remaining items under the Shrimp AP were
5 under Other Business, and there was some discussion on permit
6 issues. One of the AP members had some issues with renewing
7 permits and the timelines, and that led into some discussion of
8 if that could be an online system, and the AP was advised that
9 not at this time. That's going to take a tremendous amount of
10 effort on NMFS. That is not currently able to be done.

11
12 The Shrimp AP also discussed some issues with the ELBs, and
13 they're not able to renew their permits because of ELB issues,
14 and they were advised that NMFS will look into allowing boat
15 owners to upgrade unit to prevent issues, at the boat owner's
16 expense, and, currently, the antenna for the units is the major
17 problem.

18
19 There is also the issue that they will have to update the units,
20 because the current units are 3G, and they will no longer be
21 compatible with 4G networks, and so they will need to be
22 upgraded, but it's unclear who is going to shoulder that cost.

23
24 The AP also discussed the hurricane impacts from 2017, and Mr.
25 Riechers had discussed that Texas had a flyer that they provided
26 to me to give to the AP, and I can send that around to the
27 council, because I have that readily available, but Florida also
28 has a similar flyer that it has done. If you would like that as
29 well, just let me know.

30
31 Then the AP was also updated with the economic analysis that was
32 requested by the council of the Southeast Fisheries Science
33 Center, and the Science Center had notified the council that it
34 could not conduct the analysis at this time and that it would
35 need more time. They are currently understaffed, and it's going
36 to require a new model to be built, and some addressing of some
37 of the issues with the data as it is currently in.

38
39 The AP made the motion to resend the letter to the Southeast
40 Fisheries Science Center requesting an economic analysis and
41 that appropriations be made for this analysis.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Morgan, while you've got the mic, what would the
44 analysis cover, because we haven't discussed this since last
45 year, just to refresh everybody's memory?

46
47 **DR. KILGOUR:** Right, and so the council sent a letter requesting
48 an economic analysis of the Texas closure and also of the

1 adjacent areas in the statistical zones all the way out to
2 Alabama, and so to see what an economic analysis of additional
3 closures would be, should they ever happen.

4

5 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Okay. Ms. Bosarge.

6

7 **MS. BOSARGE:** I think the Science Center sent us a letter back
8 and said we're working on it, but it's going to be a while, is
9 essentially what they said, and I think maybe they're down an
10 economist or something like that right now, and so I think this
11 motion was simply to reiterate that, okay, that's fine, and you
12 will take a while, but don't forget about us, right? Okay. All
13 right. **Then I will make that motion.**

14

15 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** I have a motion by Ms. Bosarge, and it's
16 seconded by Mr. Riechers. Any discussion on the motion? **Any**
17 **opposition to the motion? The motion carries.**

18

19 Dr. Porch, can you give us any insight as to maybe this -- If
20 this is something that might be able to fit into the Science
21 Center's schedule or -- I know I'm putting you on the spot at
22 the time, and so --

23

24 **DR. CLAY PORCH:** Since I started two-and-a-half weeks ago, this
25 pre-dates me, but we'll look into it. They are a little short-
26 staffed for all the activities that they participate in, but I
27 imagine it's on their radar, and let me just talk to our staff.

28

29 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Okay. Well, congratulations on your new
30 position, Dr. Porch. We're glad to have you.

31

32 **DR. PORCH:** Thank you.

33

34 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Are you done?

35

36 **DR. KILGOUR:** No, I have one more thing.

37

38 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** All right, Dr. Kilgour.

39

40 **DR. KILGOUR:** I will try and be really quick. The last thing
41 was, under Other Business, there was a draft bill on marine
42 aquaculture that was requested of one of the AP members to bring
43 to the Shrimp AP, and there were several items discussed in the
44 bill, including that the bill could remove authority of regional
45 management councils for managing aquaculture.

46

47 The AP discussed if the council would be able to comment on the
48 bill, and it was noted that a congressional member would have to

1 specifically request that the council review a bill for the
2 council to provide input. However, the council may evaluate the
3 bill at any time, but it just may not send this input to
4 Congress without a congressional member providing a request to
5 do so.

6
7 The AP made a motion to request that the council review the
8 Draft Marine Aquaculture Act of 2018 and to evaluate, at a
9 minimum, the impacts of this legislation on the council's
10 authority, the status and implementation of the council's
11 offshore aquaculture FMP, and fisheries under the council's
12 jurisdiction, and to further request that the council take note
13 that the offshore aquaculture FMP specifically prohibits the
14 culture of managed shrimp and coral species and that it
15 provides, in its siting criteria, robust protections for
16 traditional shrimp and other commercial and recreational fishing
17 grounds as well as protections for EFH, endangered species, and
18 threatened marine species.

19
20 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Ms. Bosarge.

21
22 **MS. BOSARGE:** I did get a call from a couple of staffers on
23 this, and I told them that we really haven't had a chance to
24 take a look at this yet, and so the council doesn't have any
25 official feedback, and I told them that I could maybe try and
26 compare it to something else that we've talked about that may be
27 similar, and so I think probably it would be good for the
28 council to give us some official feedback, so that, when we get
29 those calls and requests, we can speak on behalf of the council
30 rather than me trying to just give an individual position not as
31 a council member. Maybe we'll take that up when we can. I
32 don't know if it will fit in June, and we'll look at that
33 schedule, and the council can take a look at that and give some
34 feedback.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Morgan is finished with her presentation. The
37 Shrimp AP Chair is here, Mr. Perret. Mr. Perret, would you like
38 to come up and give us your insight as to what took place at the
39 Shrimp AP meeting? Thank you, by the way, for taking time out
40 of your day to spend some time with us today, Mr. Perret.

41
42 **MR. CORKY PERRET:** My schedule is not as busy as yours, but,
43 unlikely Dr. Barbieri, who does this all the time, and he said
44 he would be very quick, I don't do it enough anymore, and so I
45 think I will take you all through lunch. It will give me
46 something to do today.

47
48 Thank you for providing the AP an opportunity to comment.

1 There's just two or three things I would like to say. One, we
2 had a good turnout for the meeting. Staff always does an
3 excellent job, and a couple of things.

4
5 I am sure you're happy to hear that you're dealing with a
6 species that is not overfished nor undergoing overfishing, and
7 one thing that hasn't been mentioned, or, if it was, I didn't
8 hear it, but the red snapper goal of reduction of shrimp effort,
9 and I think it's 67 or so percent, but the effort reduction in
10 the ten to twenty-one fathoms, that reduction is over our goal,
11 and so, again, shrimp effort is down, as we hoped it would be.

12
13 One important thing I thought is you get input from scientists
14 and environmentalists and fishermen and anybody and everybody,
15 and the AP was well satisfied with the council considering their
16 input relative to effort in coral, and that was the reason for
17 that one motion that when you get into Coral 10 that you get
18 input from all the groups collectively, like in the past.

19
20 There was a little concern. The Shrimp AP, I think, evaluated
21 forty-plus areas that were proposed, and whatever number came
22 about is where we are now, but, yet, as soon as that is done,
23 you're looking at other areas, and so, again, get input early
24 on.

25
26 In an outreach effort by staff, there were I think landings by
27 six royal red fishermen this past year and trying to -- We don't
28 have royal red fishermen on our AP, and we've tried to get them,
29 and I know you've tried to get them, and continue to provide
30 that outreach to them, so that we can get input from them.

31
32 This aquaculture proposed legislation, Dr. Mickle, this is for
33 you. A senior author is probably going to be a senator from
34 your state, and I think you ought to try and communicate as much
35 as you can relative to that. The Shrimp AP's major concern was
36 it does not exclude shrimp, as the Gulf Council's aquaculture
37 plan has, and so that's one we all want to watch.

38
39 The administration wants to -- All that, quote, unquote, water
40 around our country and we're not producing enough fish, and
41 obviously the way to do it is aquaculture, and so we all want to
42 be team players, but let's make sure we've got the right
43 safeguards and all that kind of stuff, and this proposed
44 legislation takes the councils basically out of that process.

45
46 The AP, again, is very interested in the economic analysis of
47 other areas of the Gulf, and so, Clay -- You know, we felt we've
48 got a new guy on the block, and we'll give you an opportunity to

1 make the shrimp people happy by providing that analysis. Now, I
2 can tell you this. If you're able to do it and you provide it
3 and it's not what they want to hear, then we're not going to
4 like it, but that's just the way it goes.

5
6 Finally, the end of an era for the Gulf Council. Ninety-year-
7 old Captain Julius Collins from Texas, who served on this
8 council for a number of years, and he was chair of the council,
9 and he served on the AP, and he announced his retirement, and so
10 at ninety-years-old. Dr. Shipp, you've got a few more years you
11 can go. Again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment. Thank
12 you.

13
14 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Any questions for Mr. Perret?

15
16 **MR. PERRET:** Thank you, all.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Thank you, Mr. Perret. Is there any other
19 business to come before the Shrimp Committee? Ms. Bosarge.

20
21 **OTHER BUSINESS**

22
23 **MS. BOSARGE:** Between Corky and I, you won't have a lunch, but,
24 no, I was going to bring up one other thing that came up, and it
25 came up in two different AP meetings that I've attended over the
26 last couple of weeks, and that was that somehow -- I don't
27 understand the innerworkings of it yet, but it has to do with
28 the federal data collection system and the state trip tickets
29 and somehow, I guess, from state to state, maybe some of the
30 information on the trip tickets isn't just the same.

31
32 Like on shrimp, I think maybe the counts on the shrimp don't
33 match from state to state, and so, when we try and funnel some
34 of that stuff up to the feds to do, like that economic analysis
35 or something like that, it sort of causes a little bit of an
36 issue trying to compare and contrast things.

37
38 Then maybe it was something about the unique identifier for each
39 trip ticket, like maybe for some places it's the vessel
40 documentation number, and, in other places, maybe it's like a
41 permit number, like a state permit, or, anyway, maybe at some
42 point in the future, we can maybe just put that on an agenda,
43 because the same thing came up in the Reef Fish AP, when we were
44 trying to talk about data, and they were like, well, there is
45 issues with the state trip tickets versus the federal, and it's
46 hard to really get a grip on it, and so I will try and do some
47 more research and figure out what the issues were, but Mr.
48 Perret is back at the microphone.

1
2 **MR. PERRET:** That's a younger mind than mine. One of the things
3 also was one of the states is not providing size information of
4 the catch, and it's from a state that I used to work in.

5
6 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Dr. Hart.

7
8 **DR. HART:** I was just going to speak to that. Yes, there is
9 some concern that in some of the states that we're not getting
10 especially the smaller count size categories. Florida was one
11 of them that we weren't getting size counts for the smaller
12 shrimp, which will have an impact on the assessments, and the
13 state that Corky mentioned.

14
15 The other issue was the vessel ID numbers. The holy grail would
16 be a look-up table, so we can -- If you have a Coast Guard ID
17 number, that you can match that to a state vessel number. Right
18 now, there is really not this look-up table, and so there are
19 issues with unique vessel IDs in the data that we use, and so
20 that will definitely be a hurdle that we'll have to overcome to
21 try to do any future economic analysis for a closure.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Mr. Donaldson.

24
25 **MR. DAVE DONALDSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not on your
26 committee, but these are issues that GulfFIN has dealt with in
27 the past, and I thought we had addressed some of them, but,
28 Leann, if you can work with us to help identify them and have
29 this committee kind of look into it and work with Rick and try
30 and get these issues resolved, and we can hopefully address
31 that.

32
33 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Ms. Bosarge.

34
35 **MS. BOSARGE:** Thank you for that, Dave. We will certainly do
36 that. I wasn't sure where to start, and so that's great.

37
38 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Any other business for the Shrimp Committee?
39 Seeing none, we are adjourned.

40
41 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on April 17, 2018.)

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43 - - -