

**Shrimp Committee Report**  
**April 17, 2018**  
**Dale Diaz, Chair**

The Committee adopted the agenda and approved the minutes.

*Review of the Updated Stock Assessments*

Dr. Hart provided the committee with the updated stock assessments for pink, brown, and white shrimp. All stocks are healthy and are not overfished nor undergoing overfishing.

*Biological Review of the Texas Closure*

Dr. Hart reviewed the results from the Texas closure. Brown shrimp catch was above average in August, 2017, and white shrimp catch was slightly below average. The increase in landings was between 0 and 6.3%. There was discussion on whether or not to formalize the Texas closure so that a recommendation by the Council was not necessary each year. Staff noted that the Shrimp advisory panel (AP) recommended to continue the Texas closure in 2018.

The Committee recommends and I so move: **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.**

Motion carried with no opposition.

*Summary of the Shrimp Advisory Panel Meeting*

Staff reviewed the Shrimp Advisory Panel summary. The AP discussed the Texas closure, the stock assessments, Coral Amendment 9, and several items under 'Other Business.' The AP made several recommendations regarding Coral Amendment 9 which were presented during the Coral Committee. However, one recommendation that was not previously presented was a joint meeting of shrimp and coral representatives at the onset of Coral Amendment 10.

The Committee recommends and I so move: **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.**

Motion carried with no opposition.

Staff reviewed the AP's discussion on permitting issues, hurricane updates, the previously requested economic analysis of the Texas closure, and the AP's recommendation on a draft aquaculture bill. The AP recommended that the Council reissue the letter requesting the analysis. It was noted that there were some data issues that had been presented as hindering the analysis.

The Committee recommends and I so move: **to resend the letter requesting an economic analysis to the Science Center and that appropriations be made for this analysis.**

Motion carried with no opposition.

Madam Chair, this concludes my report.