GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SHRIMP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Marriott Courtyard Gulfport, Mississippi

April 17, 2018

VOTING MEMBERS

Dale Diaz.....Mississippi
Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon).....Alabama
Patrick Banks.....Louisiana
Leann Bosarge.....Mississippi
Roy Crabtree.....NMFS
Johnny Greene.....Alabama
Robin Riechers.....Texas
John Sanchez.....Florida

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Doug Boyd.....Texas
Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
Phil Dyskow.....Florida
Tom Frazer.....Florida
Martha Guyas (designee for Jessica McCawley).....Florida
Campo Matens.....Louisiana
Paul Mickle (designee for Joe Spraggins).....Mississippi
Bob Shipp.....Alabama
Greg Stunz.....Texas
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STAFF

Steven Atran.....Senior Fishery Biologist
Assane Diagne.....Economist
Matt Freeman.....Economist
John Froeschke.....Fishery Biologist-Statistician
Douglas Gregory.....Executive Director
Beth Hager.....Administrative Officer
Morgan Kilgour.....Fishery Biologist
Ava Lasseter.....Anthropologist
Mara Levy.....NOAA General Counsel
Ryan Rindone.....Fishery Biologist & SEDAR Liaison
Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager
Camilla Shireman.....Administrative and Communications Assistant
Carrie Simmons.....Deputy Director

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

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

Luiz Barbieri.....GMFMC SSC
Ryan Bradley.....MS Commercial Fisheries United, MS
Eric Brazer.....Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance
J.P. Brooker.....Ocean Conservancy, St. Petersburg, FL
Mark Brown.....SAFMC
James Bruce.....MS
Gary Bryant.....Gulf Shores, AL
Dan Buckley.....Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance
Blake Compeant.....St. Larose, LA
Laura Deighan.....Audubon Institute
Michael Drexler.....St. Petersburg, FL
Mike Falgout.....New Orleans, LA
Traci Floyd.....MDMR, Biloxi, MS
Troy Frady.....AL
Susan Gerhart.....NMFS
Ken Haddad.....ASA, FL
Rick Hart.....NOAA Fisheries, Galveston, TX
Mark Kelley.....Panama City Beach, FL
Alicia Paul.....Panama City Beach, FL
Corky Perret.....MS
Ruth Perry.....Shell, Houston, TX
Laura Picariello.....Audubon Institute
Clay Porch.....SEFSC
Lance Robinson.....TX
Ashford Rosenberg.....Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance
Jessica Stephen.....NMFS
Donna Tryon.....Gulf Breeze, FL
Mark Tryon.....Gulf Breeze, FL
David Walker.....Andalusia, AL
Bob Zales.....Panama City, FL

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS

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

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

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

REVIEW OF THE UPDATED STOCK ASSESSMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN DIAZ: Any questions for Dr. Barbieri? Thank you, Dr. Barbieri.

DR. BARBIERI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

BIOLOGICAL REVIEW OF THE TEXAS CLOSURE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MR. RIECHERS: Yes.

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

DR. HART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As always, I appreciate the invitation.

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

SUMMARY OF THE SHRIMP ADVISORY PANEL MEETING

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

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

MR. RIECHERS: Yes, I will consider making it, and I sent it over this morning, I believe. The motion is 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.

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

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

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

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

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

MR. RIECHERS: Second.

MS. BOSARGE: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN DIAZ: Ms. Gerhart.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN DIAZ: Okay. Ms. Bosarge.

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

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

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

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

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

DR. PORCH: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DIAZ: Are you done?

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

CHAIRMAN DIAZ: All right, Dr. Kilgour.

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN DIAZ: Ms. Bosarge.

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

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

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

Thank you for providing the AP an opportunity to comment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN DIAZ: Any questions for Mr. Perret?

MR. PERRET: Thank you, all.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN DIAZ: Dr. Hart.

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

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

CHAIRMAN DIAZ: Mr. Donaldson.

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

CHAIRMAN DIAZ: Ms. Bosarge.

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

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

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

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