

**Scope of Work
Shrimp Advisory Panel
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council**

October 19, 2023

Agenda Item IV: Council Actions in Response to Motions from the March and May 2023 AP Meetings

Council staff will provide an overview of Council actions in response to the Shrimp AP's motions at the March and May 2023 meetings. This information does not require any formal AP action.

Agenda Item V: Presentation on NMFS cVMS Project

The AP will receive results of the NMFS cellular vessel monitoring (cVMS) testing on Gulf shrimp vessels. Responding to the Gulf Council's motion, the goal of this project was to test several different models of cVMS units, alongside the existing cellular electronic logbook devices, on five vessels out of Palacios, TX, for the full length of an average offshore trip. Originally, three models were requested to be tested, and the SEFSC expanded this to a fourth unit. Retrieved data has been run through the Dettloff effort algorithm for comparison. The AP will also hear about progress on the early adopter approach and be asked to help amplify ongoing efforts to obtain voluntary participation. The AP should consider the information presented, ask questions, and make recommendations to the Council as appropriate.

Agenda Item VI: Discussing a Collaborative Path Forward to Understand Inshore Shrimping Effort to Inform Sea Turtle Restoration Efforts in the Gulf of Mexico

The AP will be given an overview of a Deepwater Horizon funded restoration project that seeks to learn more about the inshore and nearshore state permitted shrimp fleet effort to inform future sea turtle restoration projects (such as optimizing timing and location effort of NMFS Gear Management Teams for fleet assistance). The NFMS implementation team is seeking input and conversations from the Shrimp AP regarding effort monitoring technologies and the potential for synergies between this project and ongoing and upcoming VMS pilot efforts in the dual permitted portion of the fleet.

Agenda Item VII: Update from BOEM on Gulf Wind Energy

The AP will be presented with information regarding BOEM's offshore wind development process and status in the Gulf of Mexico. The AP should consider the presented information and ask questions.

Agenda Item VIII: Update on Re-initiation of Shrimp BiOp due to Sawfish and Giant Manta Rays

The AP will be presented with summary information on the current biological opinion, why the consultation is being reinitiated, shrimp bycatch data and new information, and the next steps in the consultation process. NOAA Fisheries will also provide a primer on giant manta rays biology and status as well as what shrimpers can do to help protect giant manta rays and smalltooth sawfish. The AP should consider the information presented, ask questions, and offer additional information and recommendations for future consideration in the consultation.

Agenda Item IX: ESA Listing and Critical Habitat Rule Update

The AP will be presented with summary information on four Endangered Species Act rules that were recently published in the Federal Register. These include two proposed critical habitat rules (i.e., Rice's Whale Critical Habitat Proposed Rule, Green turtle Critical Habitat Proposed Rule), a Caribbean coral critical habitat rule Final rule, and a Proposed Rule to uplist pillar coral from threatened to endangered. NOAA Fisheries will provide an overview of each rule, show where these critical habitat and species may overlap with areas where shrimping occurs in the Gulf of Mexico, and describe potential implications to shrimp fishers and shrimp fishery management. The AP should consider the information presented, ask questions, and comment as appropriate.

Agenda Item X: SEDAR 87 Update

The AP will be presented with a brief update on the timeline for SEDAR 87 for brown, white, and pink shrimp. The AP should consider the presented information and ask questions.

Agenda Item XI: Information Update on Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource and Damage Assessment Projects

The AP will review an information update on Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource and Damage Assessment Projects and discuss if there are any projects for which the AP wishes to receive a full presentation at a future meeting. Council staff will correspond with NOAA staff regarding any requests from the AP.

Agenda Item XII: Public Comment

Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak. Directions for providing testimony can be found here: <https://gulfcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/Public-Comment-GoToWebinar-Instructions.pdf>

Agenda Item XIII: Other Business

Other items may be added during the Adoption of the Agenda.