

Council Actions in Response to Motions from the March '23 and May '23 Shrimp AP Meetings



March AP Motion #1

Motion: To request that NMFS re-task the current port agents to make shrimp a part of their annual directive, and to also investigate the possibility of repurposing current SEFHIER personnel to provide an in-person dockside focus on the Gulf shrimp industry, including but not limited to the retrieval of SD cards.

Status: *No Council motions made.*



March AP Motion #2

Motion: To request, for the Gulf of Mexico, that NMFS analyze the historical percentage (from 2011 through the most current data) of total annual shrimp landings by SPGM vessels from offshore waters that are accounted for (i.e., landed) by shrimp vessels equipped with an ELB. And for NMFS to analyze the ELB data return rate (whether submitted on an SD card or transmitted electronically), on an annual basis, in relation to the number of active (reported Gulf landings) SPGM vessels from offshore waters. Also include information on the status and/or changes in trip ticket reporting requirements since 2011. This information should be presented to the Council and the Shrimp AP.

Status: *No Council motions made.*



March AP Motion #3

Motion: Referencing the previous request of the Council's Focus Group on the Shrimp Data Collection Framework at its October 21, 2021, meeting for NMFS to test all type-approved cellular VMS units on shrimp vessels, the Shrimp AP requests the Council suspend action on the draft Shrimp Framework Action until NMFS conducts side-by-side testing of cELB units with the following cellular units on a minimum of five shrimp vessels for the full length of an average offshore trip and presents the results after the raw data is run through the new NMFS shrimp effort algorithm:

- 1) The Woods Hole NEMO unit that is hard-wired to the vessel
- 2) The Atlantic Radio Telephone ZEN VMS LTE
- 3) Nautic Alert Insight X3



March AP Motion #3

Status: The Council passed the following motion:

The Council recommends to bring the draft Shrimp Framework Action: Modification of the Vessel Position Data Collection Program for the GOM Shrimp Fishery back to the Council after NMFS has completed the side by side testing of cELB units with the following cellular units and other cellular units on a minimum of five shrimp vessels for the full length of an average offshore trip and presents the results after the raw data is run through the new NMFS shrimp effort algorithm:

- 1) The Woods Hole NEMO unit that is hard-wired to the vessel*
- 2) The Atlantic Radio Telephone ZEN VMS LTE*
- 3) Nautic Alert Insight X3*



March AP Motion #4

Motion: To modify the purpose and need statement as follows:

The purpose of this framework action is to evaluate options for a system that would maintain the Council's and NMFS' scientific ability to estimate and monitor fishing effort in the Gulf shrimp fishery while minimizing the economic burden on the industry to the maximum extent practicable.

Status: *No Council motions made.*



March AP Motion #5

Motion: To modify the need statement as follows:

The need is to base conservation and management measures on the best scientific information available as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Status: No Council motions made.



March AP Motion #6

Motion: To modify the language in Alternatives 2 and 3 to read as follows:

Alternative 2: Implement a cellular vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirement for the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) shrimp fishery. If selected by the Science and Research Director (SRD), the owner or operator of a shrimp vessel with a valid or renewable Gulf shrimp moratorium permit (SPGM) would be required to install an approved VMS unit that archives vessel position when actively shrimping in the Gulf and automatically transmits that data via cellular service to NMFS.

Alternative 3: If selected by the SRD, the owner or operator of a shrimp vessel with a valid or renewable SPGM would be required to install an approved cELB that archives vessel position when actively shrimping in the Gulf and automatically transmits that data via cellular service to NMFS.



March AP Motion #6

Status: The Council passed the following motion:

To modify Action 1, Alternatives 2 and 3 in the Draft Framework Action to the Shrimp FMP as follows:

Alternative 2: Implement a cellular vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirement for the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) shrimp fishery that provides archived position data compatible with the SEFSC's shrimp algorithm. If selected by the Science and Research Director (SRD), the owner or operator of a shrimp vessel with a valid or renewable Gulf shrimp moratorium permit (SPGM) would be required to install a type-approved VMS unit (50 CFR 600.1501) that archives vessel position when on a shrimp fishing trip in the Gulf and automatically transmits that data via cellular service to NMFS.

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March AP Motion #6

Motion Continued from Previous Slide....

Alternative 3: Implement a cellular ELB requirement for the Gulf shrimp fishery that provides archived position data compatible with the SEFSC's shrimp algorithm. If selected by the SRD, the owner or operator of a shrimp vessel with a valid or renewable SPGM would be required to install a NMFS-approved ELB that archives vessel position when on a shrimp fishing trip in the Gulf and automatically transmits those data via cellular service to a non-OLE NMFS server. NMFS-approved ELBs would not be type-approved based on regulations at 50 CFR 600.1501.



March AP Motions #7-8

Motion: To inform the Council that the Shrimp AP opposes the implementation of a VMS requirement at this time.

Status: *See previous Council motion in response to March AP Motion #3 requesting additional testing of units by NMFS.*

Motion: The consensus of the Shrimp AP is to place boots on the ground to retrieve SD cards from existing cELBs and to ensure that existing cELBs are functioning properly. As a path forward for the collection of vessel position data for the purpose of shrimp effort estimation, to work towards retrofitting existing cELBs to transmit cellularly.

Status: *No Council motions made.*



March AP Motion #9

Motion: If the Shrimp AP is unable to review the framework action again, prior to the Council selecting a preferred alternative, then the Shrimp AP recommends, based on current available information, to the Council, that it selects as its preferred alternative in Action 1, Alternative 1.

Status: *See previous Council motion in response to March AP Motion #3 requesting additional testing of units by NMFS.*



March AP Motion #10

Motion: To request that NMFS continue with the Texas Federal Closure in the coming year in conjunction with the state of Texas closure in 2023.

Status: *Council passed identical motion at its April '23 meeting; Council letter was transmitted to SERO in April '23.*



Additional Council Motions from April '23 Meeting

Motion: The Council recognizes the need to continue the development and implementation of a new approved electronic data collection framework soon. Accordingly, the Council directs staff to convene the Shrimp AP and appropriate Council members for a consultation with NMFS on the proposed spend plan of Congressional funds for Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishing effort.

Status: *Council staff coordinated this meeting for May '23.*

Motion: To request the SEFSC develop effort estimates for brown, white and pink shrimp using new shrimp effort model estimation procedures.

Status: *Council letter with this request was transmitted to the SEFSC in May '23*



May AP Motion

Motion: The Shrimp AP conceptually supports the revised plan in the sense that it recommends the Council and NMFS consider redirecting funds from #2 and #3 to #4, #5, and #7 in the draft spend plan that NMFS presented, expands the testing phase to include additional devices, and puts more emphasis on operationalizing an alternative pathway (other than OLE) for shrimp effort data during this program.

Status: *No Council motions made. The Shrimp Committee did discuss the spend plan at its June '23 meeting with NMFS.*

