

On February 22-23, 2023, the Southeast Fisheries Science Center and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council hosted a Workshop on Shrimp Effort Estimation. SEFSC and GMFMC staff were joined by representatives of the GMFMC Shrimp Advisory Panel and the GMFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee. This workshop was the result of a motion made at the November 2022 Shrimp Advisory Panel. Several participants expressed their gratitude that these groups were all brought together.

The workshop participants thoroughly examined and discussed the new method developed by the SEFSC for estimating effort in the Gulf shrimp fishery. The participants agreed that the concept and logic applied were sound. They were encouraged by the model presentation and would like to see additional information on the points below. The participants expressed their appreciation for the simplicity, brevity, and transparency of the algorithm.

There were suggestions for issues that could be further investigated using sensitivity analysis:

1. Concerns were raised that the model-based maximum towing speed (~3.8 knots) was too high. Investigate the effect of modifying the maximum tow speed.
2. Species codes – investigate and produce graphs of the landings totals for species by year that are included in the program selection.
3. Gear codes – investigate the effect of removing the gears that are included in the program selection but are not typically used in the Gulf offshore waters.
4. (not specific to the new model) It was suggested that more robust quality control of the landings data should be prioritized.