SEFSC Special Working Group to Evaluate Shrimp Life History/Environmental Data

Objectives:

The Life History/Environmental group will review the life history parameters available for Gulf of Mexico's Brown, Pink and White Shrimp stock assessments. Note: the current stock assessment models are parameterized using life history inputs acquired from studies conducted in the 1970s.

Draft Statement of Work:

1. Evaluate/update the datasets available for estimating life history parameters: age/length, growth (L_{inf}), maturity, spawner-recruitment, natural mortality, and any other pertinent, stock synthesis life history input parameter(s).
2. Evaluate the spatial distribution of each population, to elicit understanding of whether the Pink, White or Brown stock expands or contracts into areas of varying catchability.
3. Evaluate the seasonal distributions of juvenile shrimp in inshore waters, and the timing of the migration of adults to offshore waters (among species), to improve accuracy in recruitment timing/parametrization in future stock assessment model updates.
4. Collate environmental parameters/datasets that may be important when evaluating shrimp stocks – particularly those correlated with changes in Brown, Pink and/or White shrimp abundance, both temporally and spatially. This will serve as a reference/repository for the development of next generation shrimp stock assessment models.

Initial working group members

Michelle Masi, SEFSC Galveston Laboratory

Kevin Craig, SEFSC Beaufort Laboratory

Lawrence Rozas, SEFSC Lafayette Laboratory

Jennifer Doer, SEFSC Galveston Laboratory

External experts are also encouraged, for example:

Patrick Campfield, ASMFC

Dave Chagaris, University of Florida

Kenny Rose, University of Maryland