SEFSC Special Working Group to Develop Best Practice Guidance for Shrimp Catch Estimation

Background

As part of the SouthEast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) process intending to create a shrimp research/assessment plan, the Southeast Fishery Science Center (SEFSC) will convene a special working group to develop best practice guidance for shrimp catch estimation. Shrimp landings are essentially used for two primary purposes: (1) yearly catch statistics used for stock assessment, and (2) monthly catch estimates used to inform the public. Yearly catch statistics are used by SEFSC Galveston staff to assess shrimp stocks and this information is presented yearly to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council during the spring meeting. Catch statistics from the prior year are not yet available for each year's assessment and result in a one year lag time on species with a one-year life cycle. Monthly landings estimates have been produced by the 15th day of the month for the previous month by staff from the SEFSC Fisheries Statistics Division and posted for public access on the Market News Website. Reductions in Federal staff in field offices have resulted in an inability to report estimated landings consistently and reliably.

Objectives

Convene a working group to explore different processes that allows for complete shrimp landings to be reported earlier in the calendar year for the prior year, as well as produce monthly landings estimates in a more timely fashion.

Scope

Landings to be considered are Gulf of Mexico brown, white, and pink shrimp both inshore and offshore.

Initial Approaches

During an adhoc working group call, the group discussed several approaches to achieve the Objectives:

1) Revisit the results of the Value Stream Mapping process for shrimp data that was completed by the SEFSC on [????] to ensure recommendations from that process were implemented.
2) Work with NMFS Office of Science and Technology to alter the due date for the Fisheries of the United States publication. This might allow finalized landings to be requested from the States earlier in the year and facilitate those data's integration into the current stock assessment.
3) Hold a data workshop with Organizational stakeholders in the Gulf region. This would include the Science Center, the Regional Office, GulFIN, and a representative from each Gulf State.

4) At the October (Commission?) meeting, update participants about the need for more timely shrimp landings information to facilitate assessment and Market News.

Initial Working Group Members

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