

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SHRIMP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Battle House Renaissance Mobile, Alabama

June 5, 2023

VOTING MEMBERS

- 10 Chris Schieble (designee for Patrick Banks).....Louisiana
- 11 Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon).....Alabama
- 12 Susan Boggs.....Alabama
- 13 Billy Broussard.....Louisiana
- 14 Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
- 15 Jonathan Dugas.....Louisiana
- 16 Andy Strelcheck.....NMFS
- 17 Joe Spraggins.....Mississippi

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

- 20 Dale Diaz.....Mississippi
- 21 Phil Dyskow.....Florida
- 22 Tom Frazer.....Florida
- 23 Jessica McCawley.....Florida
- 24 Michael McDermott.....Mississippi
- 25 Greg Stunz.....Texas
- 26 Troy Williamson.....Texas

STAFF

- 29 Assane Diagne.....Economist
- 30 Matt Freeman.....Economist
- 31 John Froeschke.....Deputy Director
- 32 Beth Hager.....Administrative Officer
- 33 Lisa Hollensead.....Fishery Biologist
- 34 Mary Levy.....NOAA General Counsel
- 35 Natasha Mendez-Ferrer.....Fishery Biologist
- 36 Emily Muehlstein.....Public Information Officer
- 37 Ryan Rindone.....Lead Fishery Biologist/SEDAR Liaison
- 38 Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager
- 39 Carrie Simmons.....Executive Director
- 40 Carly Somerset.....Fisheries Outreach Specialist

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

- 43 Chester Brewer.....SAFMC
- 44 Leann Bosarge.....MS
- 45 Clay Porch.....SEFSC
- 46 John Walter.....SEFSC

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1 The Shrimp Management Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery
2 Management Council convened at The Battle House Renaissance in
3 Mobile, Alabama on Monday morning, June 5, 2023, and was called
4 to order by Chairman Chris Schieble.

5
6 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
7 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
8 **ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**
9

10 **CHAIRMAN CHRIS SCHIEBLE:** At this time, I would like to call the
11 Shrimp Committee to order. The members of the committee are
12 myself, as the Chair, and Mr. Gill -- Is he virtual, or do we
13 know?

14
15 **DR. GREG STUNZ:** I'm not sure. Is -- No, he's not. They're
16 telling me he's not.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Mr. Anson, Ms. Boggs, Mr. Broussard, Mr.
19 Donaldson, Mr. Dugas, Mr. Geeslin, who is absent, and General
20 Spraggins and Mr. Strelcheck. The first item on the agenda is
21 the Adoption of the Agenda. It's Tab D, Number 1. Is anyone
22 opposed to adopting the agenda as written? With that said, the
23 agenda is adopted. Does anyone have any other business they
24 would like to add to the agenda?

25
26 **DR. STUNZ:** Chris, hold on just a second. Okay. Never mind.
27 Andy has other business.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Andy.

30
31 **MR. ANDY STRELCHECK:** I would like to just add a brief
32 discussion of the Fisheries Service is going to have to
33 reinstate consultation for the shrimp biological opinion, under
34 the ESA Section 7 process, and so I just wanted to give you kind
35 of an update on where we're at and some requests, going forward,
36 with the council.

37
38 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Okay, and so I will remember to include
39 other business at the end with that. Okay. Seeing that other
40 business, the agenda is adopted. Next is the Approval of the
41 April 2023 Minutes.

42
43 **MS. SUSAN BOGGS:** So moved.

44
45 **MR. BILLY BROUSSARD:** Second.

46
47 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Second by Mr. Broussard. The minutes are
48 adopted as presented in the briefing book. Next on the agenda

1 is the Action Guide and Next Steps, and that's Tab D, Number 3,
2 and, Dr. Freeman, do you want to run us through that, real
3 quick, please?

4
5 **DR. MATT FREEMAN:** Certainly. For the first agenda item, the
6 Science Center will update the committee on the next steps for
7 the congressional funding budget for shrimp vessel position data
8 reporting in the Gulf of Mexico. The Shrimp AP was convened on
9 May 18, 2023, to provide feedback to NMFS on a draft budget
10 proposal as the consultation between NMFS and shrimp industry
11 stakeholders. The congressional appropriations language is in
12 italics below.

13
14 Council staff will then review the Shrimp AP meeting summary,
15 and the committee should consider any updates to the spend plan
16 for NMFS, based on feedback from the Shrimp AP meeting summary,
17 ask questions, and provide feedback on the next steps.

18
19 The appropriations language states that, within funds for
20 fisheries data collection, surveys, and assessments, the
21 agreement provides \$850,000 for NMFS, in consultation with the
22 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and shrimp industry
23 stakeholders, to continue the development and implementation of
24 the newly-approved electronic logbook program (ELB) that
25 archives vessel position and automatically transmits scientific
26 shrimp fishing effort data via cellular service to NMFS. Dr.
27 Walter is joining us virtually and will present on that.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Okay. Dr. Walter, can you hear us?

30
31 **NEXT STEPS FOR CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING BUDGET FOR SHRIMP VESSEL**
32 **POSITION DATA REPORTING**

33
34 **DR. JOHN WALTER:** Good morning, everyone. I'm sorry that I
35 couldn't be there this week, but I will present remotely, and I
36 will be happy to take any questions after this, and I will be
37 presenting on our proposal to modernize the shrimp effort data
38 collection. This has come with extensive consultation from the
39 AP, and we in fact held a special AP meeting, a couple of weeks
40 ago, to run this plan by the AP and get feedback, and then
41 hopefully this will serve as the consultation with the council.

42
43 Basically, the plan is a three-part approach. The first part is
44 to phase-out the 3G cELB system during the years 2023 to 2025,
45 and, ideally, that system would be phased-out by 2025. During
46 that time, it's essential that we retain the 3G chip system and
47 that those chips are mailed in and that we get new chips sent
48 out to the vessel that have 3G units.

1
2 At the same time, and in the next couple of weeks, we're going
3 to implement side-by-side testing of potential replacement
4 devices. This is at the specific request of the council to test
5 three different units on five different vessels. I will go into
6 the details on that on some later slides.

7
8 Then the third part is the installation or early adopter phase,
9 during the years 2023 to 2024, where we will be using a large
10 portion of the funds that we have available for reimbursement of
11 vessel owners for installing devices on their vessels, so that
12 we begin the process of getting the hardware onboard those
13 boats.

14
15 Ideally, this three-part approach will achieve a modernized
16 electronic location recording program to monitoring trawling
17 effort in the fishery by 2025, and, importantly, it will inform
18 both framework action Alternatives 2 and 3, and so, if you
19 remember, Alternative 2 was to go through the existing NMFS VMS
20 type approval process, and Alternative 3 was where that data
21 would be transmitted directly to the Science Center or through
22 another intermediary. However, the hardware units that would do
23 that effort recording and transmission would likely be fairly
24 similar, and it's primarily in how that data gets routed.

25
26 The timeline is, as I noted, in 2023, we would begin that phase-
27 out of the units, and we would test the VMS, the cellular VMS,
28 units and other non-type-approved cellular devices. Some of
29 these, since they haven't been type approved for the shrimp
30 fishery, but they have been type approved for the American
31 lobster fishery, which the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries
32 Commission is implementing, there's a number of units on the
33 market that we could also evaluate and consider for testing.

34
35 Those units that successfully pass the testing, we then would
36 install on, ideally, around 100 to 200 vessels, targeting a
37 minimum of 150 vessels, and, again, as I noted, we need to
38 continue the 3G chip process during 2024. Then, after the
39 testing is completed, then the council could embark upon
40 rulemaking and consideration of final action on the framework
41 amendment, but there would be enough information coming in from
42 the testing and early adopter phase that would allow for
43 informed decision-making on that amendment. Then, ideally, that
44 amendment could go into effect in 2025 and begin the
45 implementation of the new program, with the 3G system phased-
46 out.

47
48 Now, one of the key decisions that's going to be before the

1 council is on who bears the burden of the costs for installation
2 on the remaining vessels. Right now, there is reimbursement
3 through the Office of Law Enforcement for the existing NMFS type
4 approval.

5
6 However, if Option 3 gets chosen, right now, there is no
7 reimbursement for the remaining vessels who are not part of the
8 early adopter program, and so, in that case, the fleet would
9 need to cover the cost, unless other funding becomes available.
10 The OLE reimbursement is also only available up until those
11 funds run out, which, right now, we don't have an answer on when
12 those funds might run out.

13
14 Here is the itemized breakdown of the spend plan, and, in the
15 document, there is further information on this, as well as a
16 specific notation as to what the costs are going to, and a
17 number of the things I think that -- The primary thing you will
18 notice is there's a 22 percent reduction for management and
19 administrative costs, and that is the cost of doing business.
20 Because those funds need to be administered, and we need to
21 maintain the ability to do that administration, that 22 percent
22 goes to the agency for that.

23
24 There's a number of other costs associated with staff labor and
25 rebuilding some of the necessary systems and applications, so
26 that we can actually use the data, and most of these costs are
27 because this new system is going to require us to rebuild the
28 process for taking in that data and processing it, because it
29 will be a new data stream, and it would not be very effective
30 for us to stand up a new system and then be unable to move,
31 process, or administer it. That's why these are the necessary
32 costs of doing that.

33
34 One thing that I will note that is particularly important, I
35 think, was a specific request from the AP, and that was to
36 evaluate an alternative catcher's mitt for the data, and that is
37 routing the data through another route, and we're specifically
38 taking that on with our IT experts within the Science Center, to
39 evaluate how we might be able to do that and what the costs
40 might be for doing that long-term in an operational context.

41
42 The next thing about the early adopter process is it's going to
43 give us that trial run to evaluate whether the vendors can send
44 us the data and whether we can process that efficiently,
45 effectively, and with cost savings, so that we'll be able to
46 have data from about 150 vessels, and it will give us that
47 opportunity to provide realistic cost estimates for the program
48 moving into an operational phase.

1
2 There's also funds for outreach to the shrimp fishery during the
3 testing phase, and then the large component of the funds are
4 going to a contract to administer the early adopter program.
5 This would fund reimbursement for the units, installation of the
6 units, and outfitting a minimum of 150 vessels.

7
8 During that time, both during the testing as well as early
9 adopter program, the data would be transferred directly to the
10 Science Center from the vendors, and that's a key distinction,
11 in that there was a lot of concern about how that data is going
12 to get transmitted, and I think this alleviates a lot of the
13 concerns, at least in the early phases of this, about that data
14 not getting directly sent to the Science Center.

15
16 The location recording devices that are going to be tested, the
17 first is the NEMO units from the Woods Hole group, and we've
18 secured all of that arrangements, units from Zen VMS, from
19 Atlantic Radio Telephone, and we've also secured those, and
20 we're in discussions with Nautic Alert for the Insight VMS
21 system. Right now, we may not be able to have all of those
22 units tested on all of the vessels, and those discussions are
23 ongoing.

24
25 We will be also ensuring that any vessels have the paired 3G
26 systems, the existing units on the boats, and those would be
27 provided, if they're not already provided to those vessels, and
28 then we're going to be able to also test some Boat Command VMS
29 units from Viatrax Automation Corporation, and these are one of
30 the units, one of the other units, that is type approved for the
31 ASMFC lobster fishery. The NEMO units are also type approved
32 for the lobster fishery.

33
34 One of the fortuitous things that has occurred, from the time
35 back in April until now, is that we had extensive discussions
36 with ASMFC about their process, and they've got a number of
37 units that might be coming online that allow us to expand the
38 potential options for us.

39
40 There's other units that are in consideration, but we can't
41 promise that we're going to be able to get them tested in time,
42 nor is it necessarily imperative, we feel, to test all of the
43 units, because, in reality, probably units are coming online as
44 we speak, and, at some point, we're going to have to simply do
45 the testing and then move on to the early adopter phase, at
46 which case the early adopters could potentially consider those
47 units and installation of these other units, if they so choose,
48 allowing for that choice to be made by the vessel owner.

1
2 The testing plan is to identify at least five volunteer shrimp
3 vessels, and I'm happy to report that we've got nearly ten
4 volunteer vessels in Palacios, and we'll be testing NEMO, Zen
5 VMS, cELB, and Boat Command on those vessels, and we may be able
6 to put two Tracker One units onboard. The devices will record
7 the time and location at ten-minute intervals, as required by
8 the shrimp effort monitoring, and the test duration will be a
9 full fishing trip of at least eighteen days port to port. Some
10 trips will be longer, and some will be shorter, depending on how
11 the fishing vessel chooses to operate, and that data will be
12 sent directly by the vendors to the Science Center for analysis.
13 It will then get run through the Dettloff algorithm, to be
14 assessed for quality.

15
16 We're asking vessel operators to record set and haul times, to
17 provide an independent assessment of vessel activity, but this
18 is entirely optional. We'll be sending our staff, along with
19 our close collaborators from LGL here out to those vessels, and
20 we will likely be bringing in some of our experts on
21 installations, to be able to facilitate the installation of
22 these on vessels.

23
24 The timeline here, and you can see the timeline is quite
25 detailed here, and a lot of it depends on when the Texas opening
26 occurs, and a number of things are going to depend on weather,
27 and, obviously, anything done in the month of July has an added
28 element of weather uncertainty, but the key thing before this
29 council is that we plan to have this finished by August, really,
30 the end of August, be able to process the data, present it to a
31 special meeting of the AP in early October, and then bring it to
32 the Gulf Council for your October meeting.

33
34 That way, you will have this information in-hand to be able to
35 inform any further rulemaking. If we miss this, and for some
36 reason weather gets in the way, we have the opportunity of
37 targeting the January council meeting as well.

38
39 What I would like to finish on is to acknowledge that there's
40 been a lot of people who have helped us with this plan,
41 particularly many of the vendors, who have been very responsive
42 and supportive of being involved in this testing and early
43 adopter phase. LGL has greatly facilitated this, and has been
44 working with many of the shrimp fishery as well, and the Shrimp
45 AP members gave us some very constructive comments on our plan,
46 particularly related to the timing and some of the
47 recommendations for how the testing was going to occur, and then
48 the shrimp vessels and vessel owners who have already

1 volunteered to place units onboard, and we are greatly
2 appreciative of your efforts here.

3
4 Then I would like to thank our staff in particular, at the
5 Science Center, who have really taken this on, and this
6 initiative, as something that they want to see done, and we
7 really want to be able to provide a new modernized effort data
8 collection, and, as I think you well know, I certainly enjoy
9 using props, and actually testing things that I am going to be
10 talking about, and so Atlantic Radio Telephone provided the loan
11 of one of their Zen VMS units to me, and I installed it on my
12 own boat, and this is a trip taken from my own house out
13 offshore, out into the Gulf Stream, and you can see the points
14 that are close together that are offshore are trolling, and then
15 points that are further apart was when we were steaming back,
16 and so I actually installed it on my boat, and it worked quite
17 well, and it was pretty clear and easy to see data that was
18 steaming and trolling, at least, from a small center-console
19 boat.

20
21 I would like to say that it's certainly possible to install
22 these and to get good data from one of these units, and so, with
23 that, I'm happy to take further questions about this plan. We
24 will likely be implementing the plan here in the next couple of
25 days, because time is of the essence, and we've got a fairly
26 aggressive timeframe, but we've got some pretty strong mandates
27 to get a new effort data collection program in place. Thanks.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** We appreciate the information. I think, at
30 this time, what I would like to do is have Dr. Freeman go
31 through the AP summary report, because that directly pertains to
32 what you just presented with the budget discussion that took
33 place, and so the Shrimp AP met virtually on May 18, to discuss
34 this in particular, as the main agenda item, and they also came
35 up with an alternative budget proposal that's included in this
36 report, and so, Dr. Freeman, could you give us a brief summary
37 of that?

38
39 **DR. FREEMAN:** Certainly. As you mentioned, they met on May 18,
40 via webinar, and, for anyone who has listened to the Shrimp AP
41 meetings, this is not a shy bunch, by any means, and so there
42 was a lot of engaging conversation and feedback.

43
44 With regard to the timeline, the AP provided feedback that a
45 more appropriate length for a trip, for testing, should be in
46 the thirty to forty-day range, compared to eighteen days, and I
47 do see that it was added, but the council members who were
48 listening to the AP meeting also provided feedback that, to the

1 extent possible, the AP should see the results and comment
2 before the council receives the results from the testing.

3
4 As far as the budget and timeline, there was feedback for more
5 in-person outreach and testing of additional devices, and there
6 were three that were initially presented to the AP, as well as
7 implementing a pathway outside of OLE for data transmission.

8
9 Some of the questions that came up during the AP meeting related
10 to the linkage between the effort algorithm and the omnibus
11 language, monies that are being budgeted for activities that
12 NMFS has historically conducted, as well as monies that were
13 already spent in the proposed budget.

14
15 Then the AP did make a motion, and there was a sort of draft
16 revised budget that is available for the council to view, and
17 it's Tab D, Number 4(c), and the motion was that the Shrimp AP
18 conceptually supports the revised plan, in the sense that it
19 recommends the council and NMFS consider redirecting funds from
20 Items Number 2 and 3 to Numbers 4, 5, and 7 in the draft spend
21 plan that NMFS presented, expands the testing phase to include
22 additional devices, and puts more emphasis on operationalizing
23 an alternative pathway, other than OLE, for shrimp effort data
24 during this program. That passed unanimously, and I will stop
25 there, and I will add that we do have the AP chair available, if
26 she would like to note anything else from the AP meeting, and is
27 also available to answer any questions on behalf of the AP.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Okay. Thank you, Dr. Freeman. I think, at
30 this time, it may be helpful to have the Shrimp AP chair come up
31 and give us a rundown of the alternative spend plan that the AP
32 has come up with to better define the shuffling of funds within
33 those categories, please. Ms. Bosarge.

34
35 **MS. LEANN BOSARGE:** Good morning. It's good to see everybody.
36 As Matt said, we're not a shy group. I don't have to tell you
37 that, if I'm on the group, right, but we did have a few things.
38 I will reiterate some of the stuff that Matt said about the
39 timeline, and we did feel that it's probably going to take a
40 little bit longer than what was anticipated, and maybe 2026
41 would be a better endpoint for that timeline.

42
43 Just to take a step back, and so this would be a panel of
44 fishermen, right, of industry personnel, and so I think it would
45 be helpful to paint the landscape that this program has been
46 operating from, from the industry's perspective, for the last
47 decade now, right, and so we have been in a partnership with
48 NMFS, with the Science Center, for this program for, what, over

1 decade, about eleven years now, when NMFS took it fully over
2 from LGL.

3
4 NMFS bought the devices, NMFS has an inventory of backup devices
5 and antennas and things, and so NMFS shouldered that burden,
6 financial burden, and the industry pays for the cellular
7 service, right, and so it was a little under twenty-dollars a
8 month, and so we've always had this partnership.

9
10 This new program that this spend plan outlines eliminates that
11 partnership, for the most part, and it will now -- The financial
12 burden for the devices, the maintenance, the upkeep, and the
13 cellular service, that all shifts to industry, and so we could
14 see this coming, and we knew we had to do something, and so
15 industry went to Congress and was able to get some extra funds
16 to try and stand this program up for us, to take a little more
17 burden off of us.

18
19 This \$850,000, that's how industry sees this money being spent,
20 right, for us, and so, when we talk about the AP wanting to
21 shift some of these funds, we had some reservations about the
22 amount of some of these line items really funding staff,
23 salaries for staff, that are, you know, currently working for
24 NMFS.

25
26 We understand that they may be doing things outside their normal
27 realm, but that budget has already been funded, right, and those
28 salaries have been paid, and so, if we take this money and pay
29 those salaries, then the money that you already got for that can
30 be spent on something else, and we just felt like we were really
31 backfilling a lot of salary time, instead of taking all this
32 money and setting up the things that we're going to need as
33 fishermen to make this work, right, to shift that burden from
34 us.

35
36 We felt like we were still trying to find more money to take
37 financial burden off the government, instead of off of us, with
38 this spend plan, and so that is why we wanted to see Items --
39 Number 2 for sure, that those funds be shifted more towards the
40 Line Item Number 5, which sets up the pathway for our data to go
41 to the Science Center long-term, a real outlet for that, and
42 Number 7, where we're actually buying devices for fishermen and
43 putting them on the boats. That is our financial burden, right,
44 and so we were hoping that more of those funds could go to that.

45
46 Number 2, you know, Number 2 talks a lot, and I know I'm going
47 to get into a little bit of detail, but bear with me, and Number
48 2 is talking about rebuilding the shrimp data management system,

1 and I guess, when we looked at it -- I mean, we're talking about
2 rebuilding the trip ticket database and the GSS database, which
3 that has a lot of different things in it, and that has our --
4 That's another landings form that we fill out, and we send our
5 landings to the states, and we send them to the feds every year.
6 These spatial layers, to incorporate depth, the shrimp
7 algorithm, we felt like those were worthwhile endeavors.

8
9 However, we have needs, and we have wants, and we don't have
10 enough money to cover all the needs of the fishermen, and so
11 wants are nice, but we have all that information now. It may be
12 harder to pull, and you may have to go to this database and that
13 database, and it takes a little more time to pull, but spending
14 that kind of money, and that's a chunk of change, and it's
15 \$120,00, to essentially make things more efficient to pull data,
16 rather than to put more devices on boats and stand up our
17 pathway to the Science Center, and we just didn't feel that that
18 was appropriate at this time.

19
20 If we had all the money in the world to play with, heck yes, and
21 go for it, but we really wanted this to take the financial
22 burden off the fishermen, and so we also wanted to see some
23 funds shifted from Number 3. Again, a lot of that is some of
24 the management for the cELB program that has been ongoing for
25 eleven years, and so we didn't see where we really needed to put
26 more money into that, and that could be shifted, again, to Line
27 Item 5 and Line Item 7.

28
29 I think the other -- One of the other really big sticking
30 points, and I'm not sure we really have a lot of clarity on it
31 yet, and I'm really encouraged -- I heard Dr. Walter say that,
32 during testing and install, the data is going to be directed to
33 the Science Center.

34
35 I guess my question would be I'm not sure how it's getting
36 there, and is it just an email from the vendors with the data,
37 or is it -- Are we actually operationalizing something that is
38 sustainable for the full 500 vessels, when they come online,
39 right, to transmit their data, and so that we want to make sure
40 is happening, and that's why we put more money into Number 5,
41 because that's the piece that is going to operationalize that.

42
43 As it stands, it would -- The spend plan said it was going to --
44 That \$82,000 they had originally was going to cost out,
45 operationalizing that, and not actually stand it up, and this is
46 what we have to work with, and so we want to make sure that we
47 don't spend \$82,000 to come up with a new budget that we need
48 more money for, and we want to spend \$82,000 to put as much in

1 place as we can. Although it may not handle everything, it
2 would give us a starting point to beef up the -- So we also
3 added there that the agency may consider contracting part of
4 that out.

5
6 We did that to almost alleviate some pressure on the agency, and
7 we feel like there is way up, and I don't know if it's in D.C.
8 or where, but we feel like there's some pressure on the agency
9 to go a VMS route and have that data go to OLE, just like all
10 other VMSs do, and so to alleviate that -- "Conflict of
11 interest" is not the right word, but how would you like to be
12 working for somebody, and you knew the way-up boss man didn't
13 want this, but you're tasked with trying to set it up? So we
14 said, well, maybe contract that out to somebody that's got a
15 vested interest in making sure that works and is really set up
16 and operational.

17
18 Those were some things we threw out, and we do appreciate the
19 testing of other units, Dr. Walter. We really appreciate that,
20 and I really, really hope -- Right now, we have -- I hear that
21 Nautic Alert might not go, and so there were three VMS units,
22 and so now you're down to two, but you're adding one lobster
23 unit, the Boat Tracker I think it was, and so that gives you
24 three units, and I'm keeping my fingers crossed that one of
25 those works, but one of the ones you're testing had issues the
26 last time we tested it, and so, in my mind, you're down to two
27 potential units that might really have a significant chance of
28 working.

29
30 I feel like we need to add to that, and I don't think two is
31 enough. I really don't, and I think, if you could test that 4G
32 unit that is made by the same MultiTech company that we -- The
33 3G units that we've used for eleven years, and NMFS actually had
34 a 4G model of that built-out, some years ago, and, so far,
35 that's the only vendor that we have that has proven that it can
36 collect this data reliably for scientific purposes, and NMFS
37 already has a lot of time and money vested in building out a
38 unit for the shrimp fleet that is programmed just the way they
39 wanted it, and I wish we could test that unit too, so that we
40 don't come, six to twelve months down the road, and have one
41 option to choose from, or, heaven forbid, none. I would like a
42 couple, and so it seems like that would be a wise move. All
43 right. That's all. I won't get you too far off-budget on your
44 time, but I'm here, if you have anything else.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate that.
47 We've heard the alternative spend plan, and we have one question
48 from Mr. Diaz.

1
2 **MR. DALE DIAZ:** This is for Ms. Bosarge, if she would come back
3 up. The testing, and so I talked to a couple of fishermen in
4 Mississippi, and the prices that they quoted me that they could
5 get at the factories were extremely low, and so I have some
6 concern that, even though we've got ten boats lined up, some of
7 them might not go, if the prices remain as low, and maybe they
8 are not as low everywhere, and I don't know, but the prices they
9 told to me -- The opening of shrimp season in Mississippi, the
10 number of participants I think was fifty-two on opening day, and
11 that's extremely low.

12
13 The reason that a lot of them didn't go is because the price is
14 so low, and so the smaller boats in Mississippi -- I mean, they
15 have to pedal them, and these big boats -- When we talk about
16 testing, that's not really much of an option for them, and so is
17 that a real concern, that we might not be able to get boats on
18 the water for these thirty-day trips that you were talking
19 about?

20
21 **MS. BOSARGE:** The prices are terrible. In fact, Dale, it's
22 gotten to the point where, for the big boats, it's not a
23 question of how bad the price is going to be, but it's a
24 question of will anybody buy your shrimp at all. Before we
25 leave, we are having to call and see if anybody will take the
26 shrimp, if we go make the trip, because everybody's freezers are
27 full.

28
29 Now, I think you can get your testing done, and so I'm not that
30 big of a negative Nelly. I think you can get this testing done.
31 However, what we were voicing at the AP is we think the timeline
32 is a little ambitious, because one of the things was exactly
33 what you said. We think you are going to run into volunteers
34 that, although they want to help you, the dollars just aren't
35 adding up, and they might not be making that trip for a while.
36 You may have to wait a little bit longer to get your testing
37 done or find more volunteers. I think it's going to slow the
38 testing down a little bit.

39
40 Now, I think it is helpful that they have a lot of volunteers
41 out of Texas. You know, Texas is a big opening for our fishery.
42 However, I don't know how many boats that are not in Texas are
43 actually going to make that trip over for that opening. If you
44 are going to get boats making that opening, I feel that Texas is
45 the best place. You have the best chance of finding a boat that
46 is going to make it, and so that's good. I think that's ideal
47 there, but so I think it's going to slow it down some, but it
48 can be done.

1
2 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Okay. Any other questions for Ms. Bosarge
3 or regarding the alternative spend plan that we just looked at
4 here? Ms. Boggs.

5
6 **MS. SUSAN BOGGS:** These questions may be for Dr. Walter, and
7 Leann may be able to answer them too, and I have two questions.
8 One is do we know what the approximate cost of this equipment is
9 going to be, and then, currently, I think there's about a
10 hundred boats that are being monitored, and they're saying 500
11 total in the fleet, once it comes online completely, and so the
12 question then too becomes the burden to the shrimpers, and is
13 there a program, such as what it was for the charter boats and
14 the headboats, with the reimbursement plan, and is the agency
15 going to have the manpower to filter that data, once it comes
16 in, when all the boats are online? Thank you.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Dr. Walter, I guess some of that question is
19 targeted towards you.

20
21 **DR. WALTER:** Thanks, and good question, Susan. Will we have the
22 manpower to catch the data when it goes to 500 boats, and that's
23 one of the reason that we were putting some funds aside to set
24 up the process, so that we can evaluate that, which would --
25 Ideally, we can get it for, we think, the 150, and the question
26 will be is can we do it operationally, and what would the cost
27 be to do it operationally, which feeds into the decision point
28 between Option 2 or Option 3.

29
30 Option 2 right now, there's already an existing process, with
31 the NMFS Office of Law Enforcement, and Option 3 would have to
32 say can we stand up a different process, and the reason that we
33 are putting some funds aside is, as I noted, is to be able to
34 evaluate how challenging it might be to do that operationally.

35
36 We're hearing, loud and clear, the desires of the fishery to
37 have that alternative process, and we're putting money there to
38 do that, but we can't put money there to completely stand up a
39 separate process. We can put some money there to evaluate that,
40 which is going to then go into that cost-benefit analysis that
41 will go into the final -- That will inform the final decision-
42 making.

43
44 The second point is reimbursement. Right now, there is
45 reimbursement available through OLE, if we go the VMS route, and
46 there is only reimbursement according to the early adopter
47 program, and we've only got money right now to reimburse for
48 about 150 vessels, we think, in the early adopter part, and so,

1 unless further funds become available, that burden is likely to
2 be on the fishery. We hear -- You know, we understand the
3 fishery has got lots of challenges, and, you know, we hear that
4 loud and clear, and that is not lost.

5
6 One of the issues that I think needs to come up is that,
7 historically, there was a lot of dedicated funding that went to
8 the Center for the previous effort data collection. Since 2013,
9 or thereabouts, that funding, which was about a million dollars
10 a year, is no longer, and so the program, and the funding source
11 that allowed the partnership to happen, was dedicated funding
12 for that program, which no longer exists, which is the reason
13 that we're in this position where we've got to find the most
14 cost-effective process for both the agency, the taxpayer, and
15 the fishery. Thanks.

16
17 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Okay. Thank you, Dr. Walter. I have a
18 follow-up from Ms. Boggs.

19
20 **MS. BOGGS:** Thank you for that, Dr. Walter. Do you know
21 approximately the cost of these units that they will be using?

22
23 **DR. WALTER:** Most of them are about \$1,200 to \$1,400 and then
24 about \$30 a month in cellular transmission fees, and that's kind
25 of a ballpark average. Thanks.

26
27 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Okay. Thank you, Dr. Walter. Do we have
28 any other questions for Dr. Walter around the table? I guess I
29 would like to just fall back, or return, to your presentation
30 regarding a couple of questions that I have. The spend plan,
31 Number 4 in there, it highlights hardware and travel costs for
32 testing of three units on five vessels, and it looks like we're
33 going to be testing four, and so, at the very minimum, we
34 probably have to consider moving some additional funds into
35 Category 4, if anything were to take place, and you can, I
36 guess, correct me if I'm wrong on that assumption, and, also,
37 the other question I have is for the timeline.

38
39 On Slide Number 3, you discussed 2023, 2024, and 2025, and it
40 talks about the acquisition of the chips, the current process
41 that's taking place for this year, and it's not clear, to me,
42 how that process -- The timeline consider extending that process
43 through 2025, and is that correct, while we work on the phase-
44 out of that system, is that how that's supposed to be?

45
46 **DR. WALTER:** Right now, ideally, we would phase the chips out by
47 2025. It may be that we find it useful to maintain that, and
48 the systems may continue to work, and we could probably carry

1 that on. I think we can get to that issue, or deal with that,
2 as we move into 2024 and 2025, and it kind of depends on which
3 way we're going to go, Option 2 or Option 3.

4
5 At least on the -- I think we've got enough units, and enough
6 chips, to keep going through 2023 and 2024. If we need to lag
7 it out for some time, into 2025, the chips aren't particularly
8 expensive.

9
10 On the testing, right now, we're trying to keep that testing as
11 cost-effective as possible. We may need to use additional
12 funds, but it's not going to be like a major additional increase
13 in funds to that \$30,000 that we put there. Because the testing
14 wasn't originally part of the congressional request, we didn't
15 want to spend a whole lot of money on the testing, and, ideally,
16 we're trying to do that as cost-effective as possible, and the
17 bulk of the money that we have the discretion over using is
18 going to the industry for the early adopter program. Thanks.

19
20 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Okay. Thank you, Dr. Walter. I have one
21 question here for you from Ms. Boggs.

22
23 **MS. BOGGS:** So is the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
24 amenable to still handling this data, until I guess 2025?

25
26 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Mr. Donaldson.

27
28 **MR. DAVE DONALDSON:** At this point, I think we can still -- We
29 can do that as of right now. That may change in the future
30 though.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Thank you, Mr. Donaldson. Any other
33 questions regarding this presentation? Mr. Strelcheck and then
34 Dr. Porch.

35
36 **MR. ANDY STRELCHECK:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. A couple of comments,
37 and so, in response to Susan's question, John had indicated the
38 price of the units is upwards of a thousand dollars. I will
39 note, with that Boat Command unit, whether you call it a VMS or
40 a tracker, you know, being used in the lobster fishery for
41 Atlantic States, the cost for one year of that unit, with
42 service, is about \$400, in total, right, and so it is lower, and
43 I think maybe some of the other units in there might be below
44 the thousand-dollar limit, but we are looking at a range of
45 costs.

46
47 That Boat Command unit, I've looked at it, and, I mean, it's
48 probably about as analogous to what we have currently in the

1 fishery, and it is literally a black box, right, and it
2 provides, obviously, the GPS coordinates that we program to
3 certain intervals.

4
5 The other comment I will make is, you know, we -- If you look at
6 the congressional direction, we're supposed to consult with the
7 shrimp industry and with the council, and so that's, obviously,
8 what we're doing here. I would caution against getting too
9 bogged down with regard to the details of the exact dollars of
10 the spend plan, and, obviously, this is a spend plan, and we're
11 trying to kind of formulate how the funds would be used, and
12 frame it in terms of the best use, we think, to meet the intent
13 of that congressional direction, the benefits to the industry,
14 and, ultimately, what needs to be done on the Fisheries
15 Service's end, in terms of accomplishing this work, right, and
16 so we have tried to balance all of that and presented the spend
17 plan accordingly.

18
19 One of the concerns from the Shrimp AP, and it was heard loud
20 and clear, was, obviously, paying for full-time salaries to do
21 this work. Well, you have to do the work somehow, and we're
22 going to take resources away from another priority in order to
23 do this work, and so I think there's still that balance there
24 that needs to be achieved, in terms of how we make progress in
25 moving this program forward and why the agency was not strongly
26 supporting, obviously, the recommended changes by the Shrimp AP
27 and where we think that we're still able to move this project
28 forward in an effective manner. Thanks.

29
30 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Thank you, Andy. Dr. Porch.

31
32 **DR. CLAY PORCH:** Thank you. Mr. Strelcheck made some of the
33 points that I was going to make. I would just add that, you
34 know, now that we're having to manually process all that
35 information from the 3G units, that does come at an added
36 expense, and we're trying to move forward at the same time, and
37 so there is an additional cost that we need to make.

38
39 The other point I wanted to emphasize is that the data
40 management component is extremely important, and, in fact, it's
41 one of the most important things we can do, and let's keep in
42 mind this appears to be just a one-time shot of funding, and we
43 need to set up the systems that are going to allow us to run
44 this for the future. You know, things cost money.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Thank you, Dr. Porch. Any other questions
47 or comments regarding this? I think, as a council, we're
48 probably at a point where we should circle back to the AP

1 report, and I will go over that motion again, real quick, that
2 they made.

3
4 The motion, and I will read it as it is, and then we can discuss
5 it, but the Shrimp AP conceptually supports the revised plan, in
6 the sense that it recommends the council and NMFS consider
7 redirecting funds from Number 2 and Number 3 to Number 4 and
8 Number 5 and Number 7 in the draft spend plan that NMFS
9 presented, that it expands the testing phase to include
10 additional devices, and puts more emphasis on operationalizing
11 an alternative pathway, other than OLE, for shrimp effort data
12 during this program. With that motion, does the council wish to
13 consider a similar motion from the council itself? Ms. Boggs.

14
15 **MS. BOGGS:** So, Ms. Bosarge, may I ask you a question about Item
16 2, contract for rebuilding shrimp data management system
17 application, and you struck the \$120,000, and so you're saying
18 that's not necessary? I am confused why you struck that, and I
19 apologize, and you probably explained it, but I'm trying to
20 process all of this.

21
22 **MS. BOSARGE:** I don't know if you have it on your screen or not,
23 but, if you scroll down below the actual table, they give --
24 NMFS did a great job of giving a little more detail on each line
25 item, and so, when we read through this -- There's a lot of
26 things in there, and these are all existing data streams. These
27 are all existing databases, and we already have these, and we
28 use this information. We use it in fish stock assessments, and
29 we use it in the shrimp stock assessment, and this will take all
30 those different -- To me as an outsider, and Clay can probably
31 speak better to it, but it's going to take all the existing data
32 streams that we have and integrate them more nicely.

33
34 That is what I was saying, is that, although that's nice, we
35 have these, and we're using them, right, and you will have data
36 coming in for new devices, and it's the same data stream that
37 we've had, right, with the old cELBs, and we'll just be coming
38 off a different box, and it may be going to a different server,
39 and maybe a web-based server, but we have an algorithm, a shrimp
40 algorithm, that you have a line of code in it that tells it
41 where to go pull the information from.

42
43 If you move it to a different directory, you change that line in
44 the code, and it pulls it there, and it's already integrated.
45 The algorithm is already integrated with the shrimp trip ticket
46 system, and it has a line of code that tells it to pull the trip
47 tickets, and so we saw this as, yes, this would be nice, and
48 maybe it's something that NMFS would like to take on, but, right

1 now, we don't have enough money to fully stand up this program,
2 and so this is something that we saw needing to take a backseat
3 for now, then hopefully NMFS can do that at some point in the
4 future.

5
6 There is 500 boats that need these new boxes, and we're only
7 talking about putting them on 150, and we're not testing all the
8 devices that we feel need to be tested yet, and we feel like
9 there's going to need to be some more money there, and so we
10 didn't think, at this time, that that should be entertained. We
11 thought that should be shifted towards a pathway for testing and
12 buying boxes and putting them on boats.

13
14 We saw -- We already see what is happening in the VMS
15 reimbursement world, right, and you've seen it. There's already
16 a cap, right, and they came up with an average cost for cellular
17 VMSs, and there's a cap on your reimbursement.

18
19 I don't know what's in that account, but that would lead me to
20 say that there probably wasn't enough money in the account to
21 cover all the reimbursements they saw coming in, and so they had
22 to come up with an average cost, and the same thing is now about
23 to happen with commercial satellite VMSs, on the commercial
24 side, and they're working on an average cost reimbursement, and
25 it will no longer be a full reimbursement cost, and so it was
26 very important, as an industry, that, if we went out and got
27 these \$850,000 -- We can already see the handwriting on the wall
28 of what's happening in that reimbursement program.

29
30 Put as many boxes on boats as you can, and let's meet the needs
31 before we meet the wants, and I really feel like NMFS can still
32 run their stock assessments without redoing that, and it might
33 not be as efficient, and I will grant you that, but I think they
34 can still make it work. I really want to see more of this go to
35 industry.

36
37 I mean, if you add up these numbers -- Maybe that \$187,000 off
38 the top is standard, 22 percent, but that covers a lot of
39 salaries in my world, and so there's some there that they have
40 some wiggle room to pull from, if there's other things that are
41 more wants than needs, and maybe they can look to some of those
42 funds. Thanks.

43
44 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Thank you, Ms. Bosarge. We have one more
45 question from Ms. Boggs.

46
47 **MS. BOGGS:** So, whatever the council does with this, and works
48 to get all this transition implemented, is this going to be a

1 program, and I am looking at you, Dr. Porch, and maybe Mr.
2 Strelcheck, that can -- That the agencies can stand up, or is it
3 going to become a funding issue, once we go through this
4 process?

5

6 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Dr. Porch.

7

8 **DR. PORCH:** There's certainly going to be a need for funds to
9 maintain the program, especially if we took over, you know, the
10 catcher's mitt, as far as receiving the information. There is
11 already a system at OLE, and so that wouldn't come with as much
12 additional cost, but, if we have to set up something new, you've
13 got to maintain that, whether it's Gulf States or us, and there
14 would be some need for funding.

15

16 I did want to come back though to the data management aspect.
17 What we have now is an antiquated system that is very
18 inefficient, and now we're talking about adding new types of
19 data streams to it, and it's going to be very difficult to
20 maintain that efficiently, and so it comes at an added cost. We
21 really have to move into the twenty-first century, and it's, I
22 think, in my view, kind of shortsighted to put a bunch of
23 machinery out into the field and then not have already a system
24 in place that's capable of managing all that.

25

26 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Thank you, Dr. Porch. Andy.

27

28 **MR. STRELCHECK:** I will just further add, based on I think the
29 last meeting, when we modified the alternatives in the
30 amendment, the issue of VMS or non-VMS, as well as who is the
31 recipient of data, all plays into the cost considerations here,
32 and so, to me, this money is going to be well used to then
33 inform, ultimately, our decisions with regard to what are the
34 costs to the industry, and what are the costs to the government,
35 and we'll have to weigh that information, ultimately, in
36 deciding what a preferred alternative might look like, and so,
37 to me, this sets us up really nicely then for that amendment to
38 ultimately make decisions that will be based not only on how
39 effective the testing was and how the units were working, but
40 the actual cost information that was able to be learned from the
41 process.

42

43 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Thank you, Andy. Ms. Boggs.

44

45 **MS. BOGGS:** So, if the data continues to filter through OLE, and
46 I know that's not the preference of the shrimp industry, but I
47 am asking to understand, is that a cost savings, where some more
48 of the money could be used to put into shrimpers' hands for the

1 technology? I know that's not the preferred route, but I'm just
2 asking, so I have all this information to make an informed
3 decision.

4

5 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Dr. Porch.

6

7 **DR. PORCH:** Yes, it certainly would be cheaper, long-term, to
8 use a system that's already in place, rather than setting up an
9 additional one. I don't know what the exact numbers are on
10 that, and perhaps Dr. Walter does.

11

12 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Dr. Walter, are you still there?

13

14 **DR. WALTER:** Yes, I am, Mr. Chair. We expect that it will cost
15 several hundred thousand dollars to stand up a new process,
16 probably somewhere around \$200,000 to \$250,000, and probably
17 about \$70,000 to \$80,000 per year for support and maintenance
18 and having somebody be able to keep it going, and so it's not an
19 inconsequential cost to whoever does that.

20

21 The other aspect of it, to Susan's point, is that the cost to
22 the fishermen, and if they could get reimbursed, which the
23 current VMS program allows for reimbursement, they may not be
24 reimbursed for the full cost, but it may, and then that
25 certainly needs to be taken into consideration, as to who is
26 going to be able to purchase the units and whether they would
27 get funds back.

28

29 While I have the floor, I just wanted to comment on one other
30 thing that I think is important for this council to take on, is
31 to see this path forward and the three-part process and the
32 timeline as sending the message that there is a plan in place,
33 and I think, from an agency perspective, it's very important for
34 us to have a plan and for the council, as our strong partners in
35 this, to also embrace a plan and a timeline, so that we can all
36 move forward with this, because I think we have some pretty
37 strong mandates, and a ticking clock, to get this solved, and so
38 I guess that would be kind of my last plea, is let's work
39 together on making this happen. Thanks.

40

41 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** All right. Thank you, Dr. Walter. Do we
42 have any other questions around the table? Dr. Simmons.

43

44 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARRIE SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and so
45 I think I have a question either for Dr. Porch or Dr. Walter. I
46 guess, if the money hadn't been provided by Congress, do you
47 guys know where you would have gotten \$120,000 for rebuilding
48 the shrimp data management system?

1
2 **DR. PORCH:** No.
3

4 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Okay. Concise. I guess, circling back
5 around here, just some housekeeping, from my standpoint, and we
6 can have -- If the council does not make a motion to approve the
7 spending plan as-is, or to request that further amendments, or
8 adjustments, get made to it, based on the Shrimp AP's motion,
9 and what is the next step here, if the council doesn't make any
10 motions going forward this week on this? Is it able to just be
11 implemented as-is? Dr. Simmons.
12

13 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** I mean, that was my understanding,
14 that they will move forward with this plan as presented.
15

16 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Okay. With that said, I guess we'll start
17 wrapping up the Shrimp Committee here. We have one Other
18 Business item from Mr. Strelcheck, and then we'll be at the end.
19

20 **OTHER BUSINESS**
21 **REINITIATE CONSULTATION FOR THE U.S. SHRIMP FISHERY**
22

23 **MR. STRELCHECK:** I raised, for Other Business, that we have, as
24 of Friday, requested reinitiation under the Endangered Species
25 Act Section 7 consultation with regard to the U.S. shrimp
26 fishery, and what does this mean?
27

28 Back in April of 2021, my office completed a biological opinion
29 that determined that the shrimp industry was not likely to
30 jeopardize the continued existence of sea turtles and a number
31 of other endangered or threatened species, including giant manta
32 rays and smalltooth sawfish.
33

34 There are specific triggers in place that we monitor to
35 determine if and when we have to reinitiate consultation under
36 the Endangered Species Act, and, in this instance, we have
37 determined that the amount of incidental take in the shrimp
38 industry, or shrimp fishery, has been exceeded for giant manta
39 rays.
40

41 Giant manta rays are a fairly newly-listed species, and there
42 was not a lot of information about them when we originally did
43 the biological opinion. Observations at that time indicated
44 that they were being caught in shrimp trawls, but not lethally
45 killed.
46

47 Since that time, we did implement the biological opinion, which
48 allowed for approximately 1,700 non-lethal takes per year, and

1 we've now had observations in the shrimp fishery, on three
2 separate observer trips, that have documented lethal takes of
3 giant manta rays, and so, even though we may be below, in terms
4 of kind of the total quantity of takes that were estimated,
5 because the biological opinion did not contemplate lethal take
6 of giant manta rays, we have to now reinitiate and evaluate the
7 implications of, obviously, those lethal takes on the health and
8 status of giant manta ray.

9
10 I just wanted to raise that, and there's also a new publication
11 related to smalltooth sawfish. The smalltooth sawfish are
12 primarily abundant off of southwest Florida, and that's kind of
13 their core geographic area and range, and that paper indicates
14 that there is substantial overlap between female smalltooth
15 sawfish in the shrimp fishery, putting potentially recovery at
16 higher risk, due to that overlap, and the paper went on to
17 propose some potential regulatory ideas.

18
19 Given that new information, it is a trigger as well for
20 reinitiating consultation, and so, right now, this is
21 essentially for your awareness, and I think it's something that
22 is important to kind of not surprise you with, and so what we
23 are doing is we'll be advising both the Gulf Council this week,
24 and the South Atlantic next week, of this reinitiation.

25
26 What we would like to do is come back to you in August and give
27 a more formalized presentation about the data and information,
28 as well as the biological opinion, and we're also going to be
29 requesting, from our Science Center, a population viability
30 analysis that looks at the implications of bycatch estimates and
31 take of giant manta rays, and there's also one underway for
32 smalltooth sawfish, and that will help to inform the process,
33 going forward.

34
35 Our goal would be to have several briefings with the council, or
36 councils, between now and early next year, and then we would
37 have kind of a complete reinitiation package ready by next
38 April, to move forward with our consultation process, and so
39 this is going to take some time, and there's a number of steps
40 in the process, and I shared our memo with Carrie and John
41 Froeschke, and certainly they're welcome to distribute it to the
42 council members, but I wanted to make you aware of this new
43 development and information, and we certainly look forward to
44 working with you on this issue going forward.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** Okay. Thank you, Andy, for that report. I
47 appreciate that. Dr. Freeman, do we have anything else to
48 discuss before we finish up?

1
2 **DR. FREEMAN:** No, sir. That's all.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN SCHIEBLE:** All right. Thank you, Dr. Freeman. I
5 guess, due to my inability to pronounce "operationalizing"
6 correctly, I am superseded by Ms. Boggs as the chair, according
7 to this, and she will be glad to read the committee report at
8 Full Council. That concludes the Shrimp Committee, and I will
9 turn it back over to you, Mr. Chair.

10
11 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on June 5, 2023.)

12
13 - - -