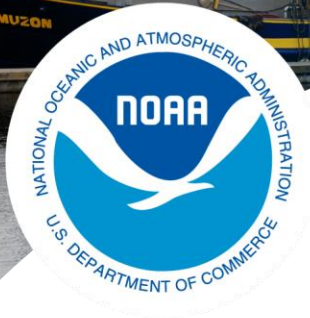


Tab D, No. 7(a)



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# Gulf Shrimp Permits and Provisions from Amendment 17B

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# Number of Valid Gulf Shrimp Moratorium Permits

- Annual count of valid permits relatively stable from 2015 through 2020 (average # of terminated permits/year=14)
- NMFS cannot currently provide annual counts for 2021-2023 due to ongoing database improvements that should be resolved in summer 2024
- But, NMFS' estimate of the # of valid or renewable permits as of April 1, 2024 is **1,282**, suggesting average # of terminated permits increased to about 39/year, likely because of economic conditions

Year	Number of Valid Permits
2015	1,471
2016	1,454
2017	1,442
2018	1,426
2019	1,418
2020	1,400

# Provisions in Am 17B

- First provision sets the minimum threshold number of valid and renewable permits for the fishery at **1,072**
- This number is based on the predicted number of active permitted vessels needed to attain aggregate Optimum Yield (OY) in the offshore fishery
- Aggregate OY accounts for various economic, ecological, and social factors (e.g., catch per unit effort (CPUE), landings, sea turtle bycatch, and juvenile red snapper bycatch)

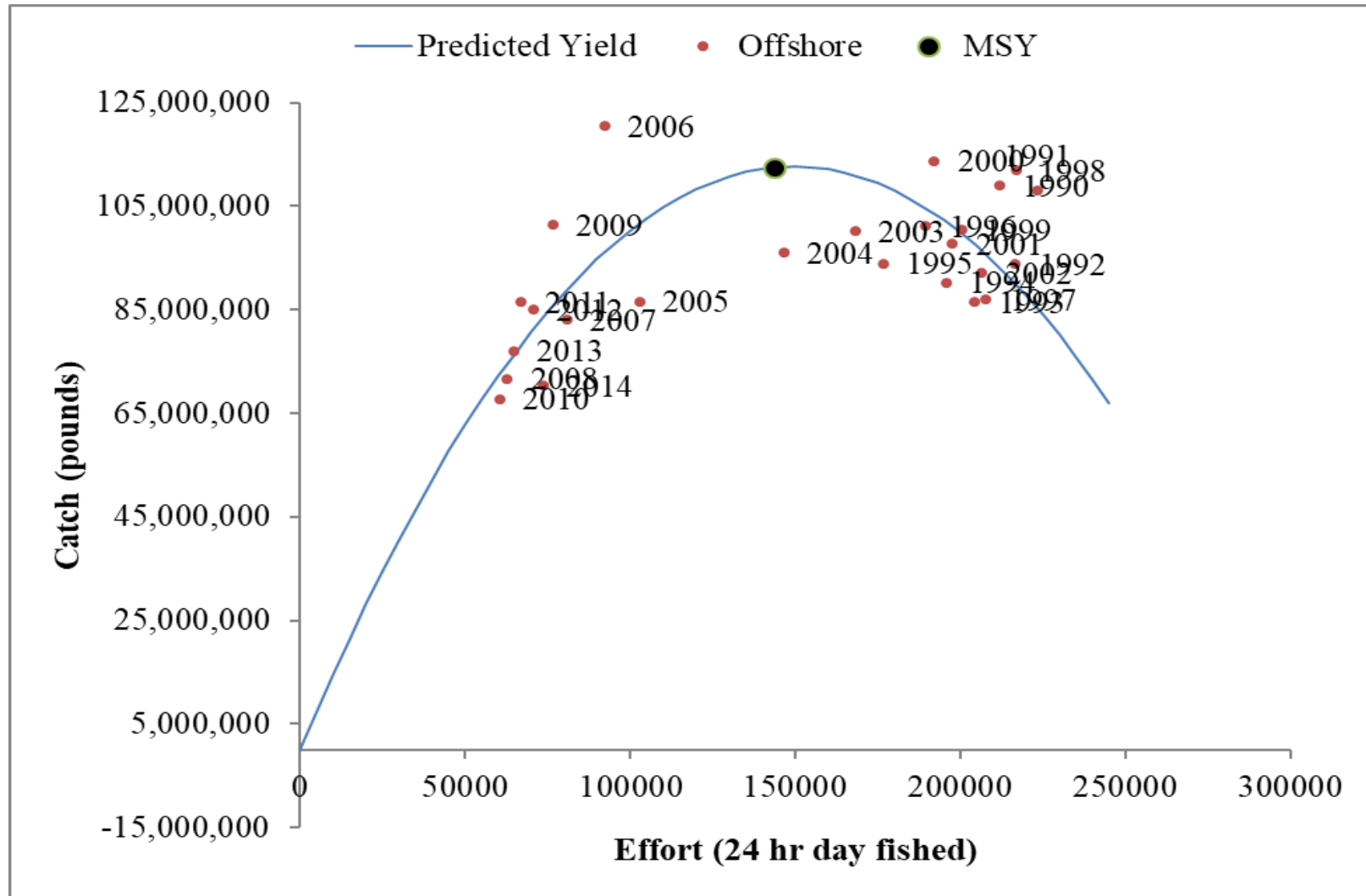
# Provisions in Am 17B

- The second provision states that, if the number of valid and renewable SPGM permits hits **1,175**, the Council will form a review panel to review the details of a permit pool and other options
- The panel will consist of Shrimp AP members, Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) members, NMFS, and Council staff
- If the number of permits reaches the minimum threshold number of SPGM permits (**1,072**), any permits that are not renewed within one year of the expiration date of the permit will be converted to a Gulf shrimp reserve pool permit and go into a Gulf Shrimp Vessel Permit Reserve Pool for possible reissuance
- Gulf shrimp reserve pool permits will not be issued until eligibility requirements are developed and implemented through **subsequent rulemaking via a new Council amendment**

# Provisions in Am 17B and Recent Data

- Established Aggregate OY at 85,761,596 lbs tails for the offshore fishery
- Offshore landings well below this level in each year from 2019-2022 and likely will be in 2023 based on preliminary data
- Actions in 17B relied on 1990-2014 data
- Data points in 2021 and 2022 are outside the bounds of the yield curve and other models used as a basis for actions in 17B, including how many permitted vessels and active permitted vessels are needed to attain effort at aggregate OY
- Specifically, offshore effort is lower and CPUE is higher compared to values seen during 1990-2020
- Suggests stocks may have become more productive and/or the active fleet may have become more technically efficient

# Yield Curve from 17B



# Offshore Landings, Effort, and CPUE 2015-2022

Year	Landings (lbs tails)	Effort (days fished)	CPUE
2015	73,719,513	71,773	1,027
2016	69,500,606	68,495	1,015
2017	84,659,410	71,012	1,192
2018	82,781,813	66,363	1,247
2019	67,302,925	61,999	1,086
2020	69,200,384	61,136	1,132
2021	72,393,074	46,711	1,550
2022	60,707,658	35,870	1,692

# Recommendations

- NMFS will closely monitor the number of valid and renewable permits and the rate of decline
- Council should request periodic updates, e.g., in October for next Shrimp AP meeting and at the November Council meeting, at which time annual permit counts for 2021-2023 should be available
- As the permit count approaches 1,175, the Council should consider when to create and populate the Review Panel
- IF: 1) the Council pursues a plan amendment to look to determine eligibility requirements for reserve pool permits, and 2) offshore landings in 2023 are below aggregate OY, and 3) offshore effort and CPUE in 2023 are outside the bounds of the 1990-2014 data, the Council should also reconsider the actions in 17B and their empirical basis