GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SHRIMP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Perdido Beach Resort Orange Beach, Alabama

January 28, 2019

VOTING MEMBERS
10 Leann Bosarge..............................................Mississippi
11 Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon).......................Alabama
12 Roy Crabtree....................................................NMFS
13 Dale Diaz........................................................Louisiana
14 Jonathan Dugas..............................................Texas
15 Robin Riechers....................................................Florida
16 John Sanchez.....................................................Mississippi
17 Chris Schieble (designee for Patrick Banks)...............Louisiana

NON-VOTING MEMBERS
20 Susan Boggs..................................................Alabama
21 Doug Boyd......................................................Texas
22 Dave Donaldson............................................GSMFC
23 Phil Dyskow..................................................Florida
24 Tom Frazer......................................................Florida
25 Martha Guyas (designee for Jessica McCawley)........Florida
26 Paul Mickle (designee for Joe Spraggins)................Mississippi
27 Bob Shipp......................................................Texas
28 Greg Stunz......................................................Alabama
29 Ed Swindell.....................................................Louisiana

STAFF
32 Assane Diagne..............................................Economist
33 Matt Freeman..............................................Economist
34 John Froeschke.............................................Deputy Director
35 Morgan Kilgour..............................................Fishery Biologist
36 Mara Levy....................................................NOAA General Counsel
37 Emily Muehlstein........................................Public Information Officer
38 Ryan Rindone..............................................Fishery Biologist & SEDAR Liaison
39 Bernadine Roy................................................Office Manager
40 Camilla Shireman........................................Administrative and Communications Assistant
41 Carrie Simmons........................................Executive Director

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46 J.P. Brooker.................................Ocean Conservancy, St. Petersburg, FL
47 James Bruce................................................Magnolia, MS
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6 Troy Frady.............................................AL
7 Johnny Greene...........................................AL
8 Ken Haddad...........................................ASA, FL
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10 Laura Picariello........................................--

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The Shrimp Management Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council convened at the Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, Alabama, Monday morning, January 28, 2019, and was called to order by Chairman Leann Bosarge.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS

CHAIRMAN LEANN BOSARGE: I will call the Shrimp Management Committee to order. Just to refresh your memory, our members are myself, Mr. Banks, Mr. Anson, Dr. Crabtree, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Dugas, and Mr. Riechers.

Our agenda can be found under Tab D, Number 1. Were there any changes or modifications to the agenda as presented? Seeing none, the agenda is approved as presented. Our minutes from our October 2018 committee meeting can be found under Tab D, Number 2 in the briefing book. Were there any changes or revisions that needed to be made to those minutes? Seeing none, the minutes are approved as presented.

Our Action Guide and Next Steps, that’s found under Tab D, Number 3 in your briefing book, and, essentially, we’ll be going through Shrimp Amendment 18, and so, Dr. Kilgour, I will turn it over to you.

DRAFT: SHRIMP AMENDMENT 18: EVALUATION OF SHRIMP EFFORT THRESHOLD REDUCTION IN THE AREA MONITORED FOR JUVENILE RED SNAPPER BYCATCH

DR. MORGAN KILGOUR: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Action Guide and Next Steps essentially say that we need to select preferred options for this document, Shrimp 18. If it’s okay with you, we can just jump right into Shrimp 18.

While that is pulling up and we’re getting to Action 1, I wanted to notify the committee that this has been deemed as a categorical exclusion, and so the format looks a lot different than what you are used to. The discussions and effects are all contained in Chapter 2, and, in Chapter 1, we have the description of the environment, but the committee is requested to select a preferred option for both Action 1 and Action 2.

It's not necessary to go out to public hearings for this, because it’s a CE, but, if you would like us to host a webinar public hearing or something, that’s something the committee should discuss.
I will just jump right into it, and so the first action would adjust the target reduction goal for juvenile red snapper mortality in the federal Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery in Statistical Zones 10 through 21 in the ten to thirty-fathom depth zone, and so this has been modified based on the October council meeting, where we have the three options.

We can modify the target reduction goal from 67 percent, which it’s currently at, to 63 percent, which is essentially halfway to 60 percent, which was outlined in Amendment 14. Option b would modify the target reduction goal to 60 percent, and Option c would modify the target reduction goal for juvenile red snapper to 56 percent, and so this would allow -- All three of these options will allow shrimp effort to increase in this area that’s monitored, and I would be happy to take any questions.

CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: All right. Is there feedback or questions from the group? Morgan, this is our public hearing draft, and so we hope to pick some preferreds today and then possibly take this out to the public, in the form of a webinar, and get some feedback there and at the AP, and that’s why we want to try and pick our preferreds today, so that people would have something to give us feedback on? Is that where we’re headed? Okay. All right. Dr. Crabtree.

DR. ROY CRABTREE: My memory is the SSC looked at that and gave us a recommendation, I think, at the last meeting, and that was to go to 60 percent, and is that correct?

CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Yes, they looked at it, and they said that, by going down to that 60 percent, that they couldn’t see any significant impacts. I don’t think they made a specific recommendation on what number to hit, but they generally told us that. Dr. Crabtree.

DR. CRABTREE: Then I would like to make a motion in Action 1 to adopt Option b as our preferred alternative.

CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Okay. We have a motion on the board, and we’ll give staff just a minute to actually get that on the board. Okay. I think we have this motion on the board. In Action 1, to make Option b the preferred. Option b would modify the target reduction goal for juvenile red snapper shrimp trawl bycatch mortality on red snapper from 67 percent less than the benchmark years of 2001 through 2003 to 60 percent. Do we have a second for the motion? Seconded by Mr. Anson. Is there discussion? Mr. Diaz.
MR. DALE DIAZ: This might be a question for Morgan. I am debating on whether or not to support this motion or to make a substitute motion to go down to 56 percent. I do know that the motion that was passed by the SSC said that they didn’t see any issues with going down here, but it seems like we had a chart at the last meeting that showed the difference between going down to 60 percent and going down to 56 percent, and the difference between the two was negligible. Could you show that chart, just to refresh my memory and indulge me, please? Thank you.

DR. KILGOUR: No problem. It’s in the appendix, and so I’m just trying to figure out which table it’s on, so that I can have Bernie go straight there. It’s Table 3 in the appendix, which is the first -- It’s Appendix A.

CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: It’s paper copy page 57. I don’t know about the PDF page. Is that the table you were looking for?

DR. KILGOUR: Yes, that’s the table, and so these are the ABCs for red snapper, and the SEDAR 52 uses a 67 percent reduction in that Statistical Zone 10 through 21 in ten to thirty fathoms. If you reduce to 60 percent, that would be the projected ABCs for red snapper, and, if you reduce to 56 percent, that column is the projected ABCs for red snapper.

CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Right, and I think the other thing to keep in mind, Morgan, is that’s if we actually shrimp that hard. That doesn’t necessarily mean that it would have that effect every year. That’s only if we actually increased effort in the shrimp fleet that those numbers would come to fruition, right?

DR. KILGOUR: It’s my understanding that, when they’re running the assessment, they use the percent reduction as the bycatch estimate from the shrimp fishery, whether that actual percent reduction was achieved or not, and so I would go with they assume that all the way to that percentage is conducted, and that’s my understanding, and I could be very incorrect, but that was my understanding on that.

CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: No, they use actual effort, and they actually use a super-year approach, where they do a little bit of an averaging, but they do actually use the actual effort. Dr. Crabtree.

DR. CRABTREE: But I think, when they do the projections out into the future, to see what happens with these target levels, that they assume that those target levels will be realized, and,
if they’re not, then in fact you would be somewhat better off, I suppose.

CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Yes, you’re right, and so, Morgan, yes, you’re correct. If you’re talking about the projections, you are correct, and I guess the point that I was trying to make is that we haven’t actually gone over this yet, and so we haven’t actually shrimped that hard yet, and, essentially, I guess, in my mind, what that 56 percent does is it says, all right, if you actually have a good year, where fuel is down and the price of shrimp is up, you could actually shrimped a little harder that one year, because usually that doesn’t happen multiple years, and it doesn’t happen very often, and you wouldn’t be punished for it, whereas, all these other years, you’re not shrimping that hard, and, therefore, you’re not having that bycatch, and you’re not actually seeing that death or any reduction in the ACL. Mr. Diaz.

MR. DIAZ: Madam Chair, based on the discussion that we had around the table and the reviewing Table 3 in the appendix, I would make a substitute motion that we make the preferred going down to 56 percent. If I get a second, I will give a little bit more rationale.

CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: All right. Let’s give staff just a second to get that on the board. Is there a second for the motion while they’re getting that on the board? I will second it. All right. Mr. Diaz.

MR. DIAZ: I do think the difference is negligible, when you look out to 2032, and, to echo some of what Leann just said, the shrimp industry has not exceeded this threshold to date, and so the shrimp industry has done their part in trying to rebuild this fishery, and, based on the science, the difference at 2032 is negligible, and I think it’s reasonable for us to go down to 56 percent. In my opinion, I don’t think it’s going to have any significant impact, based on the science we have before us. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Thank you, Mr. Diaz. Mr. Riechers.

MR. ROBIN RIECHERS: Dale, I don’t disagree that certainly the shrimp industry has done their part in the respect to the rebuilding to this point. I am going to basically vote against your motion and go back to Dr. Crabtree’s. The rationale for me is simply that, when it was all put in place, we’ve got a 2032 rebuilding target, and that, even at the 56 percent, even though the difference is negligible, it would start to eat into the
gains being made towards that goal, as we get towards the end of
that time series on that table that we just talked about.

The 2032 goal set out the reduction to 60 percent, and so, by
going there, we basically are meeting our target and getting
there a lot quicker. Both the 63 percent and the 60 percent
give a greater threshold, which, as you suggest, the shrimp
industry hasn’t met yet, and so I think we can give that same
threshold, and we haven’t been seeing these huge increases in
effort come into the fishery, and I don’t really think they’re
going to be there, and what we’re trying to do is just increase
that buffer a little bit more, so that, if we do see those
pulses, like Leann is talking about, and last year was one where
we had a little pulse and got a little closer, we’re making up
for that right now, and so I don’t think we’ve got to go all the
way to 56 to do that. I think we can go to 60 and do that, but
that’s just my rationale.

CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Is there further feedback? I guess I see 56
as kind of like what we just went through for the carryforward
document. We’ve been under all this time and made sure that we
didn’t have that extra effort, and that’s great, but we don’t
have any carryforward, and so, essentially, if we go to this 56,
that’s kind of our carryforward. We’ve been under, under,
under, and we haven’t had the effort, and there hasn’t been the
mortality, and so, if we have one good year, where we could
actually shrimp a little harder, we actually get some benefit
for being under, under, under.

If this had been at 56 from the get-go, if on paper it had been
a 56 percent reduction for the shrimp industry from back from --
What year was it, 2007? Anyway, whatever year it was, the
rebuilding plan would be in the same spot it was, because we
have never fished that hard, right, and so it really doesn’t
have an impact on the rebuilding plan unless we finally have one
good year.

Like you said, that’s probably few and far between that we would
get there, but it sure would be nice to know that, if we did
have a good year, it wouldn’t hurt us and we could actually fish
it for once.

All right. We have a substitute motion on the board. In Action
1, to make Option c the preferred, and Option c is to modify the
target reduction goal for juvenile red snapper shrimp trawl
bycatch mortality on red snapper from 67 percent less than the
benchmark years of 2001 to 2003 to 56 percent. Yes, Mr.
Sanchez.
MR. JOHN SANCHEZ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Early on, when you read the roster of committee members on this, I didn’t hear my name, but I think I’m on it, and I just want to clarify before I maybe vote on this.

CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Did I skip you?

MR. SANCHEZ: I think so, and I may not have been paying attention, but I think so.

CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: That’s because, on my paper copy, I don’t see you on there. Hang on. We will pull the committee roster. Okay. I am seeing yes. Louisiana is telling me that, yes, they have the committee roster in their hand, and you are on the committee, and so, yes, sir, you are free to vote. Thank you. Sorry about that, Mr. Sanchez.

All right. Now that we know who all can vote, all those in favor, signify by saying aye; all those opposed, same sign. We’re going to have to have a show of hands, I think. All right. To move the reduction down to the 56 percent, all those in favor, signify by raising your hand, three; all those opposed, same sign, five. The motion fails.

That brings us back to the original motion. In Action 1, to make Option b the preferred, and Option b would modify the target to the 60 percent. All those in favor, signify by saying aye; all those opposed, same sign. The motion carries. Dr. Kilgour, I will turn it back over to you.

DR. KILGOUR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Action 2 is revise the Shrimp FMP management measures framework procedure, and so the committee has the option to either do this or not. The option is to revise the Shrimp FMP management measures, and I have highlighted in the actual framework procedure, starting on page 37, that the ABC and the changes to the target effort reduction goal for juvenile red snapper mortality would be added to the framework procedure for shrimp.

CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: All right. There we go. We’re getting it up there. Is there discussion? Morgan, you may have just said this and I missed it, and so this is Action 2, and there is the one option. Do we have to pick a preferred? Did I miss you saying that?

DR. KILGOUR: This is strange for me, because I’m not used to this format either, but I would think that you would have to
select this as the preferred option if you wanted -- So that you
could let the public know that this is where you were going.

CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Dr. Crabtree.

DR. CRABTREE: I move we select Action 2 as preferred.

CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: All right. We have a motion going on the
board to select Action 2 as preferred, the option in that action
as preferred, and that motion has been seconded by Mr. Diaz.
All right. I will read it into the record.

The motion is to select Action 2, the option, as the preferred.
Action 2 is revise the Shrimp FMP management measures framework
procedure. The option is to revise the Shrimp FMP management
measures framework procedure to allow changes to the target
effort reduction goal for juvenile red snapper mortality through
the standard open framework documentation process and modify the
abbreviated documentation process to allow specification of an
ABC recommended by the council’s Scientific and Statistical
Committee (SSC) based on the results of a new stock assessment
and using the ABC control rule.

Okay. I did have one question. What is the ABC part of that,
just because we don’t usually have ABCs?

DR. KILGOUR: Sorry about that. We don’t have an ABC for
shrimp, except for royal reds, but this was part of the
carryover document, and, since we had a shrimp document, we
moved it over to here, and this is just to make sure that all of
the abbreviated framework procedures are the same.

CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Right, and royal red would qualify. All
right. Is there any further discussion on the motion on the
board? Seeing none, is there any opposition to the motion?
Seeing no opposition, the motion carries. Dr. Kilgour.

DR. KILGOUR: I’m done.

CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: All right, and so that takes us through the
document, and, Dr. Kilgour, I think you have a webinar
scheduled, or hope to schedule, in the near future to bring this
to the public to get some feedback, and then we also have a
Shrimp AP meeting scheduled in the near future, and will it be
presented there as well?

DR. KILGOUR: Yes, and so, right now, we tentatively have
webinar planned for the evening of the Shrimp AP meeting, which
the Shrimp AP meeting is currently scheduled for March 21. Your
new lead staff member will be Dr. Freeman, and he has an agenda
that he will be submitting, and it should hopefully go through
the FRN process so that you guys can have that meeting on March
21.

**CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** That brings up another point. You have done
an amazing job with all of our shrimpers here in the Gulf, and
you will most definitely be missed, Dr. Kilgour. They have
already reached out to tell me that. They said, what, is she
leaving? Really? So, we love you, and we’ve loved having you.
Dr. Freeman, don’t worry. We will love you just as much, and
I’m sure you’ll do a great job. We’re a salty group, but you’ll
fit in just fine. All right. Is there any other business to
come before the committee? Seeing none, that wraps us up, and
our committee is adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on January 28, 2019.)