

Shrimp Committee Report
August 20, 2018
Mr. Dale Diaz, Chair

The Committee adopted the agenda and approved the minutes.

Review of Council Request Regarding Shrimp Effort Threshold Reduction in the Area Monitored for Juvenile Red Snapper Bycatch

Staff presented the letter submitted to the Southeast Fisheries Science Center regarding the Council's requested analysis of the shrimp effort reduction threshold in the area monitored for juvenile red snapper bycatch. Dr. Barbieri provided the Committee with an overview of the analysis and noted that the SSC concluded that a moderate increase in shrimping effort would have little impact on the rebuilding of red snapper. The Committee discussed the mechanism for reducing the threshold and the precedent. Staff noted that in Amendment 14, there was prescriptive guidance to reduce the threshold from 74% to 67% by 2011, but a further reduction to 60% was not outlined other than a statement that the threshold would subsequently decline from 67 to 60 percent between 2011 and 2032. Since there was no framework for reducing the threshold, any change would need to be done in a plan amendment. The Committee discussed the timing of producing an amendment to modify this threshold and made the following motion:

The Committee recommends and I so move: **to develop a plan amendment to look at reducing the effort threshold in the area monitored for juvenile red snapper bycatch to 60%.**

Motion carried with no opposition.

Other Business

Dr. Porch provided the Committee with a brief review on the technical memo regarding sea turtle bycatch in the shrimp fishery. Overall, the memo outlines a methodology for producing bycatch estimates of sea turtles in the shrimp fishery. The results of the memo highlight that Kemp's Ridley and loggerhead turtle bycatch has decreased and bycatch of green turtles has remained relatively constant.

Madam chair, this concludes my report.