

**Shrimp Committee Report  
October 24, 2022  
Chris Schieble, Chair**

The Committee adopted the agenda (**Tab D, No. 1**). The Committee then approved the minutes (**Tab D, No. 2**) of the June 2022 meeting as written.

***Update on Testing and Development of Options Proposed as Replacements for the Historical cELB Devices for the Gulf Shrimp Fishery (Tab D, Nos. 4a-b)***

Mr. Wallace (SEFSC) presented an update on side-by-side testing of cellular vessel monitoring system (cVMS) units and cellular electronic logbook (cELB) units by NMFS, as seen in Tab D, Nos. 4a and 4a.i. A Committee member asked for clarification on what it meant for data to be cleaned. Mr. Wallace replied that it did not mean that mismatched data were removed, but rather that corrected position data has been used in some instances. The Committee member inquired why the data from industry vessels were not as usable as the data from the research vessels. Mr. Wallace responded that the three industry vessels used Faria Beede cVMS units, which had a recall due to equipment failure (Tab D, No. 4a.i.). The Committee member asked if further testing of cVMS units using the Woods Hole devices on industry would occur, since it would potentially assist with buy-in from industry if the Council were to pursue cVMS as a replacement for the current cELB units. Mr. Wallace responded that further testing, with a different brand of cVMS units, would occur.

Another Committee member inquired if the data were run through the shrimp effort estimation model. Mr. Wallace responded that the data from the RV Caretta were only examined for distance swept, which is the cumulative distance between each GPS point (when towing) times the net width (based on foot rope). Another Committee member stated that the cELB units stopped transmitting in December 2020 and that progress needed to be made on the draft amendment in the near term. He commented that cVMS units are already used by the agency in other fisheries and recommended ensuring the data from cVMS units could be run through the shrimp effort algorithm. Mr. Donaldson (GSMFC) stated that a stopgap solution by the GSMFC was in place since the cELB units stopped transmitting data and had been in place for almost two years, so a replacement of the current cELB units should be a high priority.

A Committee member asked how many tows were accounted for by vessels in the research study. Mr. Wallace stated that, for the RV Caretta, he believes 60-70 tows were taken in about 100 nautical miles. Another Committee member asked for verification that the Woods Hole cVMS unit was on research vessels and the Faria Beede cVMS unit was on industry vessels. Mr. Wallace confirmed this. The Committee member then stated that it would make sense, for data comparison, to run the same brand of cVMS on both research and industry vessels and then inquired how long it would take for additional industry testing. Mr. Wallace responded that industry vessels could be deployed with new cVMS units fairly quickly; however, since the cELB data still has to be mailed back to NMFS, it could take months to retrieve and analyze the data. Dr. Walter (SEFSC) responded that industry assistance in finding replacement industry

vessels for further testing would be helpful. Council staff noted that a Shrimp AP meeting will be held on November 15, so a request could be made then. Dr. Walter also noted the Shrimp Effort Working Group would need to be reconvened to discuss future work on the shrimp effort algorithm.

Dr. Putman (LGL) presented an update on LGL Ecological Research Associates' pilot study of the P-Sea WindPlot program for vessel position data collection and automatic transmission on shrimp vessels, as seen in Tab D, No 4b. A Committee member commented that numerous problems were outlined in the presentations and asked how many could be resolved, since some are user problems rather than technical problems. Dr. Putman responded that some hurdles seemed challenging to resolve but that progress could be made. The Committee member then stated that using the industry vessels in the LGL project to also test the cVMS units in Mr. Farron's research study may be advantageous. Dr. Walter agreed that partnering to provide testing of many options as possible would be useful for the Council.

### ***Other Business***

A Committee member asked for an update on the Shrimp EDM working group. Dr. Siegfried (SEFSC) responded that three Shrimp EDM working group webinar meetings had been held, which covered modeling approaches, data uses, and management needs. She also noted that the planning process for SEDAR 87 has begun for white, brown, and pink shrimp, with draft Terms of Reference being prepared and workshop participants being identified. A Committee member asked if there would be opportunities for fishermen to provide feedback during the SEDAR process for shrimp. Council staff responded that such opportunities would exist during SEDAR workshops.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.