

Shrimp Committee Report
October 24, 2018
Ms. Leann Bosarge, Chair

The Committee adopted the agenda and approved the minutes.

Draft Options Shrimp Amendment 18: Evaluation of Shrimp Effort Threshold Reduction in the Area Monitored for Juvenile Red Snapper Bycatch

Staff provided the Committee with the background and the Action and Alternatives for reducing the effort threshold placed on the shrimp fishery in the area monitored for juvenile red snapper. Staff explained that the current effort threshold was put in place in Amendment 14, and that the amendment outlined that the effort threshold should be reduced to 60% by 2032. The red snapper fishery is no longer overfished nor undergoing overfishing, though it is still in a rebuilding plan. The ABC for red snapper has increased, but the shrimp industry has not seen similar benefits of the red snapper rebuilding. Additionally, the natural mortality estimates of juvenile red snapper are much higher than previously estimated when Amendment 14 was developed. Action 1 outlines two alternatives that would reduce the effort threshold, i.e. allow shrimp effort to increase. Alternative 2 provides a static reduction in the threshold. Alternative 3 provides a stepdown approach to reducing the effort threshold. The Committee discussed that Alternative 3 was overly complicated and unnecessary based on the analysis provided.

The Committee recommends and I so move: **In Action 1, to remove Alternative 3.**

Alternative 3. Modify the target reduction goal for red snapper shrimp trawl bycatch mortality on red snapper from 67% less than the benchmark years of 2001-2003 to the percentage chosen by increments. Each increment would be an approximately equal percent reduction designed to reach the target reduction by 2032. The incremental changes would begin in the year of the effective date of the implementing rule and then occur:

Option a. Every 2 years

 Suboption a: 60%

 Suboption b: 56%

Option b. Every 5 years

 Suboption a: 60%

 Suboption b: 56%

Motion carried with one opposed.

The Committee discussed staff's question about an action for a framework procedure for future reductions in the effort threshold and made the following motion:

The Committee recommends and I so move: **to add an action to do any future changes for shrimp effort reduction threshold through a framework procedure.**

Motion carried with no opposition.

The Committee discussed the timeline for the document and noted that it would like a public hearing draft in January. The shrimp AP will also be convened between the January and April 2019 Council meetings and will be asked to provide input.

Mister Chair, this concludes my report.