

**Standing, Special Shrimp, and Special Spiny Lobster SSC  
Meeting Summary  
Tampa, Florida  
March 10, 2015**

The meeting of the Standing, Special Shrimp and Special Spiny Lobster was held on March 10, 2015. There was only a quorum present for the Special Shrimp SSC portion of the meeting.

**Special Shrimp SSC**

The Agenda was accepted and the minutes to the August 7, 2014 Special Shrimp were approved.

The SSC was presented with the stock synthesis-derived estimates of MSY and  $F_{MSY}$  for pink, brown and white shrimp (Table 1). The SSC discussed why some historic catch values exceeded or neared MSY, but F estimates were never above  $F_{MSY}$ . It was determined that this was likely due to environmental variables driving fluctuations in spawning stock biomass for these annual species. There was also discussion on the discrepancy in  $F_{MSY}$  estimates among the shrimp stocks. It was explained that the exploitation rates, i.e., F, could be similar because of harvesting many more small individuals, but yield does not increase due to harvesting smaller animals. Additionally, the models were parameterized differently for each of the shrimp species to account for differences in life history and differences in the way each fishery is prosecuted. Pink shrimp has primarily an offshore fishery, while white shrimp has primarily an inshore fishery and brown shrimp has both an inshore and offshore fishery. It was also explained that each state manages its shrimp fishery differently. The group discussed that stock synthesis-based estimates of MSY may not be ideally suited for annual species such as pink, white, and brown shrimps, but no alternative approach was suggested.

**Table 1.** Model outputs of MSY for penaeid shrimps. For pink and white shrimp, both MSY and  $F_{MSY}$  were multiplied by 12 (shown) because the time step in stock synthesis models for those two species is monthly instead of annually. Thus, MSY and  $F_{MSY}$  had to be scaled up to annual yield or F.

	<b>Annual MSY (lbs of tails)</b>	<b>Annual <math>F_{MSY}</math></b>
Pink Shrimp	17,345,130	1.35
White Shrimp	89,436,907	3.48
Brown Shrimp	146,923,100	9.12

**The SSC accepts the MSY advice resulting from the Gulf Penaeid Shrimp assessments as the best available science and finds them suitable for management advice.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Staff presented the ABC recommendations from the penaeid shrimp MSY/ABC Control Rule Working Group to the SSC. The working group felt that setting ABC equal to MSY was appropriate because overharvesting in one year (for shrimp) is unlikely to affect the harvest

ability for the following year, and the socioeconomic consequences of fishing below MSY may be greater than the biological impact (to shrimp) for briefly exceeding MSY. The SSC was notified that OY was set equal to MSY in Shrimp Amendment 13, but did not make any recommendations at this time.

**The Committee concurs with the recommendation from the Penaeid Shrimp MSY/ABC Control Rule Workshop that ABC be set equal to MSY for Gulf shrimp stocks.**

#### **Motion passed unanimously**

The SSC was notified of the status of Shrimp Amendment 15. The SSC was also updated on the status of the Shrimp Permit Moratorium Working Group.

#### **Spiny Lobster SSC**

The Spiny Lobster Portion of the January 18-21, 2011 meeting was approved.

The SSC did not have a quorum present for the spiny lobster portion of the meeting.

Staff reviewed Spiny Lobster ACT, ACL and OFL and the need to convene a review panel to review these in February, 2015. A web-based decision support tool produced by Dr. John Froeschke to examine landings trends and different approaches to estimating mean landings was also reviewed. Staff provided review panel recommendations to the SSC which were to not conduct a new stock assessment, to remove the requirement of an ACL for spiny lobster, and to redefine OFL in terms of MFMT. **The SSC concurred that a new stock assessment was not necessary for this fishery.**

The NS1 guidelines for ACL were reviewed. It was conveyed that the request for ACL exemption for has not yet gone to General Counsel. There was discussion about post-settlement processes that may have affected landings in 2000; however, this decline was observed throughout the Caribbean and was not unique to the U.S. The cause of the decline in 2000 is still unknown, but has been correlated with the presence of the PaV1 virus (which was first recognized in 2000). However, the virus has persisted in the environment since 2000, and landings have increased in US waters. In 2000, there was also a drop in blue crab and stone crab populations and catch rates. The genetic evidence supports a pan-Caribbean stock, with most spiny lobster recruitment to south Florida being derived from other locations in the Caribbean. There was discussion as to why it would be appropriate to remove the ACL component of the fishery, but there was also discussion why that would be inappropriate. The value of the fishery has increased in the past three years. If the Florida population of spiny lobsters is a sink population, then an ACL is probably not necessary. There were potential biological concerns by removing the ACL thereby causing damage to the reef ecosystem. The selected ACL may not be capturing the full variability of the fishery, so perhaps a longer time series is needed. Overall, the SSC requests guidance from the Council as to how it would prefer the to be fishery managed and types of scientific recommendations the Council would want the SSC to provide. **The SSC did not come to a conclusion about the ACL exemption proposed by the review panel.**

**The SSC did not recommend redefining OFL in terms of MFMT.** To use MFMT there would need to be some method of calculating the exploitation rate, which is not available. There would also need to be a stock assessment or method to determine what the effort is. An MFMT value is inestimable without a stock assessment or effort proxy.

**SSC Members Present**

**Standing SSC**

William Patterson, Chair  
Luiz Barbieri, V. Chair  
Shannon Cass-Calay  
Bob Gill  
Walter Keithly  
Jim Tolan

**Council Member**

Camp Matens

**Special Shrimp SSC**

Ryan Gandy  
Leslie Hartman  
Alan Matherne\*  
James Nance

**Special Spiny Lobster**

**SSC**

Ryan Gandy  
Tom Matthews

**Council Staff**

Steven Atran  
John Froeschke  
Doug Gregory  
Morgan Kilgour  
Charlotte Schiaffo

**Others Present**

Rick Hart  
Bill Kelly

\*Only present for discussion about Penaeid Shrimp MSY/ABC Control Rule Working Group.