



Mississippi Shrimp Action Plan

Updated September 2021

Prepared by:

Audubon Nature Institute

Gulf United for Lasting Fisheries (G.U.L.F.)



Photo credit: Gulf Coast Seafood

Introduction

The Mississippi shrimp fishery improvement project (FIP) is run by Gulf United for Lasting Fisheries (G.U.L.F.), the sustainable seafood program of Audubon Nature Institute. In 2013, under the Oil Disaster Recovery Program (ODRP), the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission requested G.U.L.F. to create sustainability projects across the Gulf of Mexico. G.U.L.F. developed the G.U.L.F. Sustainability Benchmarking Report (SBR) based on the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and gathered comprehensive information through interviews with management and industry representatives, public documents, and research publications to assess the fishery against this standard. G.U.L.F. then adapted the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)-based fishery improvement project (FIP) model to create marine advancement plans (MAPs) based on the CCRF assessments, including the Mississippi shrimp MAP.

The concept of 'basic' FIPs, (FIPs without an MSC pre-assessment and/or FIPs that do not target an unconditional pass of the MSC standard) grew in recognition in the years that followed the creation of G.U.L.F.'s MAPs. In June 2016, G.U.L.F. took over the Louisiana and Texas shrimp FIPs previously led by the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) and converted the Mississippi and Alabama shrimp MAPs to basic FIPs according to the Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions' *Guidelines for Supporting Fishery Improvement Projects*.

Scope

Species:

- White shrimp (*Litopenaeus setiferus*)
- Brown shrimp (*Farfantepenaeus aztecus*)

Location

- Mississippi state territorial waters (three nautical miles(nm))
- U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ, 3-200 nm)

Gear

- Otter trawl
- Skimmer trawl

Management

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC)
- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR)



Participants

[C.F. Gollott and Son Seafood](#) - Joined March 2017

F/V Fair Maiden - Joined November 2017

[Gulf Pride Enterprises, Inc.](#) - Joined May 2016

[M&M Shrimp/Biloxi Freezing](#) - Joined July 2016

[Mississippi Commercial Fisheries United](#) - Joined June 2016

[Oceans 97](#) - Joined August 2017

[St. Michael's Fuel and Ice](#) - Joined March 2017

Status of the Fishery

The Mississippi shrimp fishery primarily harvests brown (*Farfantepenaeus aztecus*) and white shrimp (*Litopenaeus setiferus*) in Mississippi state territorial waters and federal waters in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. Total shrimp harvest landed in Mississippi in 2017 was 15.5 million pounds with a dockside value of approximately \$17.3 million. Harvest of brown shrimp peaks in the summer (spring season: mid-May to July), and harvest of white shrimp peaks in the fall (fall season: mid-August to December). Brown and white shrimp stocks are found in both state and federal waters in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico and are assessed regionally. Stock assessments conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Galveston Lab indicate that neither shrimp species is overfished or experiencing overfishing. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) and NOAA Fisheries manage the fishery in federal waters and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) manages the fishery in state waters.

The primary gear types used in the Mississippi fishery are otter trawls and skimmer trawls. Otter trawls are primarily used offshore and both are used inshore. Butterfly nets and cast nets are also legal gear in Mississippi but landings from these gear types are minimal.

Turtle excluder devices (TEDs) are required in otter trawls in both state and federal waters by federal regulation and this regulation is enforced by NOAA, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), and MDMR. Skimmer trawls are exempt from TED requirements, but must adhere to tow time limits (55 minutes from April 1 - October 31, 75 minutes from November 1 - March 31).

All shrimp trawls in federal waters are required to use certified bycatch reduction devices (BRDs). BRDs are not required in Mississippi state waters; however, many fishermen do pull BRDs in state waters, with recent research indicating that approximately 45% of skimmer trawls pull BRDs. Fishermen in Mississippi are allowed to retain bycatch species for sale or personal consumption within regulatory requirements for those species.

Notable improvements made in the shrimp fishery in recent years include stock monitoring, bycatch



reduction, area closures, and sea turtle nesting enhancement projects.

G.U.L.F. completed a Sustainability Benchmarking Report in September 2015 to assess the current status of the Mississippi shrimp fishery and identify areas of potential improvement. Initial sustainability gaps identified include the following:

- Bycatch ratios are still high in comparison to other U.S. trawl fisheries;
- Observer coverage is low (1-2% on otter trawl fleet and <1% on skimmer trawl fleet);
- Recent research suggests that compliance with tow time regulations is low and Kemp's ridley turtle captures in skimmers have been documented;
- The TED compliance rate has fluctuated close to the required levels in past years, but currently remains above minimum threshold;
- Bycatch data and information regarding use of BRDs in state waters is limited;
- Mississippi does not have an industry task force for shrimp; and
- The state Fishery Management Plan is outdated.

The FIP is currently exploring transition to a comprehensive FIP. An official MSC pre-assessment is currently underway. As of July 2021, the first draft is in review and revision and expected before the end of the year. Once the pre-assessment is completed, the stakeholders will meet to determine the path forward.

Work Plan

ACTION 1	GEAR TUNING
Reference	MSC PI 2.3.3 G.U.L.F. SBR: 7.2.2 (d), 7.2.2 (g)(iii), 7.6.9 (a)(i,ii,iii), 8.5.1 (a), 12.10(c)
Participants	All

Data on sea turtle interactions with the fishery are collected and monitored through enforcement and compliance checks carried out by NOAA, USCG, state resource agencies and trained Sea Grant agents. The NOAA TED Compliance Policy was implemented in September 2016. Increasing courtesy inspections will provide participants with verification that the vessels they source from are in full compliance and operating efficiently. Documentation of voluntary inspections will increase the data available for use in meeting the requirements of the NOAA TED Compliance Policy. Participants agree to work with harvesters and docks to facilitate courtesy TED and BRD inspections. Participants will seek to increase vessel participation annually. G.U.L.F. compiles and maintains records of voluntary inspections.

ACTION 1 PROGRESS				
	Vessels Inspected	Fully Compliant	Non-compliant	Non-compliance Fixed*
2019	20	14	6	3
2018	26	16	10	2
2017	14	7	7	6
2016	19	12	7	7

* Some gear adjustments required more time than available during site visit. Participants acknowledged any issues and are committed to resolving them.

GULF-led gear checks were placed on hold in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. NOAA published a new Biological Opinion in April 2021 stating that the shrimp fishery was not expected to reduce the likelihood of survival of sea turtle species. The new BiOp relies on observer data on TED compliance, as it considers it unbiased versus inspection data used in the previous BiOp.

The NOAA Gear Monitoring Team (GMT) has increased their capacity for voluntary gear inspections in recent years, making GULF's inspections less necessary and more difficult to achieve without duplicating effort. Between this, the new BiOp, and with the current pause on this activity due to COVID, GULF feels the timing is appropriate to close out this activity and increase effort in other areas. GULF can continue to offer gear checks as needed, but will shift toward increasing communication and coordination between FIP participants and the GMT.

ACTION 2	TOW THE TIME CAMPAIGN
Reference	MSC PI 2.3.3 G.U.L.F. SBR: 7.2.2 (d), 7.2.2 (g)(iii), 7.6.9 (a)(i,ii,iii), 8.5.1 (a), 12.10(c)
Participants	All

NOAA Observer Program reports indicate that compliance with mandated tow times for skimmer trawls without TEDs is low. Tow time infractions appear partially due to misunderstandings or lack of information on current tow time regulations.

According to 50 CFR 223.206 (d)(3) "The tow time is measured from the time that the trawl door enters the water until it is removed from the water. For a trawl that is not attached to a door, the tow time is measured from the time the cod end enters the water until it is removed from the water." The tow time method used by the Observer Program (Scott-Denton et al. 2014) does not measure tow times according to this legal definition. In a 2014 Technical Memorandum (Observer Coverage of the 2014 Gulf of Mexico Skimmer Trawl Fishery) the authors state, "In this study, tow time out was not recorded until the cod ends were brought fully on board." Skimmer fishermen will remove the codends from the water, but leave frames in the water while bags are either checked or dumped. The

Scott-Denton study also states that, “For tows when the frames remained in the water between tows, the subsequent tow’s start time was recorded as the next whole minute after the previous tow’s end time.” This is also inconsistent with the definition of tow time in the CFR. This methodology could lead to “noncompliances” recorded due to tow times not being measured based on the legal definition, which is used by fishermen. Such deviation may inaccurately create large noncompliance ratios for observed tows. Additionally, the report indicates that a large portion of non-compliances reported were within 5 minutes of the legal tow time requirement. The average tow time observed from May to June was around 63 minutes, which may be accounted for in the method of observers starting a tow while the codend was still on the vessel.

In 2014, G.U.L.F. launched the Tow the Time campaign in partnership with Louisiana Sea Grant to increase awareness of tow time restrictions. G.U.L.F. outreach staff will conduct dock visits to distribute accurate tow time information and Tow the Time decals to skimmer vessels. FIP participants agree to distribute materials to their supply chains (docks and vessels) and ensure that skimmer vessels are properly educated and adhering to tow time limits.

Public comment period for a proposed rule requiring TEDs in skimmer, butterfly, and pusher-head trawls closed on February 14, 2017. The rule was finalized in December 2019, requiring TEDs in skimmer trawl vessels 40’ and over. It also updated the definition of tow times (which remain an alternative to TEDs in vessels under 40’) to require the net be emptied within the tow time limit, though the frame can remain in the water. G.U.L.F. will work with stakeholders to assess the need for TED and tow time outreach and voluntary TED checks to complement management agency actions.

ACTION 2 PROGRESS		
April 2016	Distributed Tow Time stickers to MSCFU board for distribution to members.	Completed
December 2016	NOAA published a Draft EIS and proposed rule to eliminate tow times and require TEDs in skimmers, butterfly, and wing nets.	Ongoing
December 2016	Participants continue to encourage tow time compliance until new rule is finalized.	Ongoing
January 2017	Participants attended NOAA scoping meetings on proposed rule for TEDs in skimmers.	Completed
February 2017	Participants coordinated an educational workshop for industry members to further discuss the proposed rule and solicit public comment from industry.	Completed
March 2017	Visited two docks to distribute 50 Tow Time decals.	Completed
June 2017	Distributed 10 Tow Time stickers at the docks in Biloxi, MS.	Completed

ACTION 2 PROGRESS		
March 2018	Distributed Tow Time decals at Louisiana Fisheries Forward Summit and continue to distribute to docks and other agencies.	Completed
November 2018	Distributed Tow Time decals at Mississippi Commercial Fisheries United Annual Meeting.	Completed
December 2019	NOAA published a final rule on TEDs in skimmer trawls in the Federal Register on December 20, 2019. The final rule requires the use of TEDs on skimmer vessels 40' and over. A final environment impact statement on the TED rule was also published in December 2020 and can be found on the NOAA website. Tow time requirements remain an alternative to TEDs in skimmer vessels under 40'. However, the final rule updates the tow time definition requiring the bag be emptied within the tow time limit. The final rule goes into effect in April 2021. G.U.L.F. will consult with stakeholders and determine needs in terms of additional outreach and TED checks.	Completed
December 2020	The NOAA Gear Monitoring Team has been tasked with assisting the industry in implementation and compliance of TEDs in skimmers. No need for additional activities have been identified at this time, but G.U.L.F. continues to monitor the situation.	Ongoing

ACTION 3	SKIMMER TRAWL PROJECT
Reference	MSC PI 2.3.3 G.U.L.F. SBR: 7.2.2 (d), 7.2.2 (g)(iii), 7.6.9 (a)(i,ii,iii), 8.5.1 (a), 12.10(c)
Participants	Mississippi Commercial Fisheries United

G.U.L.F. has been working with Mississippi Commercial Fisheries United and the Gulf of Mexico Alliance on the funding and development of a mobile app to track and record tow times, which would increase compliance and provide data on shrimp quality. Shorter tow times not only decrease likelihood of sea turtle interaction, but also result in a higher quality shrimp.

This effort was temporarily put on hold while the rule regarding TEDs on skimmer vessels was being finalized. The preferred alternative in the proposed rule would have required TEDs in all skimmer vessels, which would have eliminated tow time regulations. However, the final rule requires TEDs in vessels 40' and greater, which means tow times are still relevant for vessels under 40'. With this information, G.U.L.F. and partners continue to seek funding opportunities for the app and sensor.



ACTION 3 PROGRESS		
January 2020	G.U.L.F. and Mississippi Commercial Fisheries United (MSCFU) developed a proposal for a tow time mobile application and are seeking funding and development opportunities.	Ongoing
December 2021	MSCFU is pursuing funding the development of a tow time application and sensor independently, with broader industry applications. The FIP will explore additional options to demonstrate tow time compliance in it's transition to a comprehensive FIP.	Ongoing

ACTION 4	DEVELOPMENT OF A BYCATCH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
Reference	MSC Principle 2 - bycatch; endangered, threatened, and protected species; ecosystem G.U.L.F. SBR 7.2.2 (d), 7.2.2 (g)(iii), 7.6.9 (a)(i,ii,iii), 8.5.1 (a), 12.10(c)
Participants	All

Participants agree to work with MDMR to develop a bycatch management plan for state waters and agree to work with vessels to encourage use of BRDs in state waters. MDMR anticipates an updated state bycatch study in 2020.

Task 1 - Determine voluntary BRD use through industry surveys.

Task 2 - Determine current level of bycatch utilization vs discard.

Task 3 - Engage NOAA regarding including BRD compliance on TED boarding form.

ACTION 4 PROGRESS		
September 2017	G.U.L.F. and members of the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Supply Chain Roundtable (the Roundtable) wrote a letter of support to NOAA's Cooperative Research Program for a proposal on bycatch data collection and observer coverage.	Completed
June 2018	G.U.L.F. developed a survey to assess voluntary use of BRDs in state waters which was distributed through MDMR's Spring 2018 newsletter. The survey response rate was low and G.U.L.F. is assessing other avenues to obtain information on BRD use and bycatch utilization.	Ongoing

ACTION 4 PROGRESS		
December 2019	G.U.L.F. initiated discussion with stakeholders in the fishery regarding the potential development and funding of a state bycatch study, based on the current bycatch study being conducted in Louisiana. Stakeholders are generally supportive and will revisit the topic upon the completion of the Louisiana study to allow for information exchange and lessons learned.	Ongoing
December 2020	The Louisiana bycatch study was recently finalized. The FIP stakeholders will explore the implementation of a Mississippi bycatch study incorporating lessons learned in Louisiana in the transition to a comprehensive FIP.	Ongoing

ACTION 5	EXPLORATION OF A TRACEABILITY SYSTEM
Reference	Industry Recommendation
Participants	TBD

Participants expressed an interest in traceability to differentiate domestic product. G.U.L.F. is currently exploring the development of a traceability system for pilot testing with Gulf fisheries.

ACTION 5 PROGRESS		
March 2019	G.U.L.F. contracted development of a traceability system to pilot test in Gulf fisheries in 2019 and 2020.	Ongoing
December 2020	G.U.L.F. traceability pilot has been put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	On Hold

ACTION 6	EVALUATION OF OBSERVER COVERAGE LEVELS AND STATISTICALLY APPROPRIATE COVERAGE
Reference	MSC PI 2.1.3, 2.2.3, 2.3.2 G.U.L.F. SBR 7.7.3(ii), 8.4.3(b)
Participants	Gulf Pride Enterprises, Inc., M&M Shrimp/Biloxi Freezing, Oceans 97 (as members of the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Supply Chain Roundtable)

The Observer Program for the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp fishery is currently considered a “Pilot/Baseline” program according to the NOAA U.S. National Bycatch Report (NBR). The NBR indicates that bycatch estimates for the fishery may be based on inconsistent or unreliable information and/or that sampling levels may have been inadequate or inconsistent. Further analysis is needed to determine



appropriate observer coverage levels for the fishery. Participants will continue to work in conjunction with the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Supply Chain Roundtable (the Roundtable), participants agree to pursue further evaluation of the Observer Program. Initially this action sought analysis of the Observer Program through NOAA. NOAA has since indicated that a forthcoming update to the National Bycatch Report, initially expected in fall 2017, will include updated information relevant to this task. Participants are seeking additional analysis from independent researchers that would supplement this information and further demonstrate the robustness of observer data.

ACTION 6 PROGRESS		
November 2016	In August 2016, the Roundtable sent a letter to the NOAA Observer Program requesting a statistical analysis of observer coverage for the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fleet. Receiving no response, the letter was resent in November. In February 2017, the Roundtable held a call with the Galveston lab.	Completed
March 2017	In February 2017, the Roundtable sent a letter to the NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) requesting evaluation of the Observer Program. In March 2017, the SEFSC responded indicating that an update to the National Bycatch Report was expected in fall 2017 and would contain updated analysis on shrimp observer coverage. As of January 2019, the update is still pending.	Completed
September 2017	Members of the Roundtable submitted letters of support to NOAA's Cooperative Research Program supporting a proposal focused on data collection for bycatch and observer coverage. Ultimately, the proposal did not receive funding.	Completed
July 2018	Recognizing the limited capacity of NOAA to provide further analysis of observer coverage, the Roundtable hosted a workshop in July 2018 to develop alternative methods to demonstrate robustness of observer data.	Completed
July 2018	Participants at the July 2018 workshop proposed a white paper using electronic logbook data to verify accuracy of observer data. Detailed proposal and budget are expected in 2019.	Completed
December 2019	The Roundtable received preliminary results of the ELB/Observer data comparison study. The initial results look favorable and the final report is expected in 2020.	Completed

ACTION 6 PROGRESS

December 2020	LGL Ecological Services was contracted to conduct a statistical comparison of catch per unit effort data from the electronic logbook and observer programs. A draft of the study was completed in 2020. The Roundtable is currently working to determine whether data from the observer program that was aggregated over multi-year periods is available at higher resolution. If the data is available, the Roundtable will work on funding and contracting a more detailed analysis.	Ongoing
July 2021	The stakeholders have still not received a final version of the previously mentioned white paper with final edits completed. In light of this, combined with the need for eventual analysis utilizing disaggregated data, the stakeholders are exploring alternative means to meet this need.	Ongoing

ACTION 7**EVALUATION OF OBSERVER PROGRAM DATA COLLECTION METHODS AND PROTOCOLS**

Reference	MSC PI 2.1.3, 2.2.3 G.U.L.F. SBR 7.2.2(g)(iii), 7.6.9(a)(i,ii,iii), 8.5.1(a), 12.10(c)
Participants	Gulf Pride Enterprises, Inc., M&M Shrimp/Biloxi Freezing, Oceans 97 (as members of the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Supply Chain Roundtable)

There is currently onboard observer coverage for the Gulf of Mexico federal shrimp fleet which collects data on non-target species caught in the fishery. Current observer reports, however, contain some large categories of unidentified finfish, crustaceans, and invertebrates with catch percentages higher than 5%. Both the MSC and G.U.L.F. RFM standards requires demonstration that fishing activity does not cause significant impact to non-target species, which requires classification of non-target species into categories based on the percentage of the catch they comprise, whether they are managed, and whether they are vulnerable species. It is unclear if all species that fit these categories are identified. Through the Roundtable, participants engaged the NOAA Galveston Lab on this issue. Recognizing the limited capacity of the Observer Program to provide further bycatch characterization, participants are seeking additional analysis from independent researchers that would supplement observer data.

ACTION 3 PROGRESS

September 2017	Members of the Roundtable submitted letters of support to NOAA's Cooperative Research Program supporting a proposal focused on data collection for bycatch and observer coverage. Ultimately, the proposal did not receive funding.	Completed
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ACTION 3 PROGRESS		
July 2018	Recognizing the limited capacity of the Observer Program to provide full bycatch characterization, the Roundtable hosted a workshop in July 2018 to develop alternative methods to characterize bycatch.	Completed
December 2018	Participants at the July 2018 workshop proposed a study which would involve storage, transport, and land-based work-up of the uncharacterized portion of observer samples, conducted by independent researchers. Researchers submitted a proposal for funding with a decision expected in 2019.	Completed
December 2019	While the proposal submitted in 2018 was not selected for funding, the researchers revised and updated the proposal for the 2019 funding opportunity. A decision is expected in 2020.	Completed
December 2020	In 2020, LGL Ecological Associates was awarded a NOAA Saltonstall Kennedy grant to support full bycatch characterization. The project is a multi-stakeholder effort that includes the Roundtable. Observers will bag, tag, and store uncharacterized catch. Vessels and processors will assist in storage and transport of samples to a lab where LGL staff will conduct full characterization. The project ends in 2022, with sample collection beginning in 2021.	Ongoing
July 2021	Implementation of the Saltonstall-Kennedy funded bycatch characterization project began in 2021 . The project team has worked to recruit vessels selected for an observer to store the unidentified portion of the catch and to arrange the transportation of samples with Gulf shrimp processors. During a virtual meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Suppliers Roundtable in May 2021, members agreed to send a letter of support for the project to their suppliers to encourage vessel cooperation should they be selected for an observer. The letter is in draft and expected to go out later this summer.	Ongoing

ACTION 8	DEVELOPMENT OF A WELL-DEFINED HARVEST CONTROL RULE
Reference	MSC PI 1.2.2
Participants	Gulf Pride Enterprises, Inc., M&M Shrimp/Biloxi Freezing, Oceans 97 (as members of the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Supply Chain Roundtable)

MSC pre-assessments for similar U.S. shrimp FIPs note that there is a generally understood harvest control rule (HCR); however, it is currently unclear what tools the management system would use should the abundance drop to levels near PRI (point of recruitment impairment). The initial action plan outlined the need for pre-agreed upon management actions to be taken if stock starts to decline. However, further exploration of the MSC standard has called into question whether shrimp management measures constitute a well-defined harvest control rule given the highly reproductive and annual nature of the shrimp stock, the limited fishing effort (controlled through limited access; seasonal closures; and gear restrictions and documented through trip tickets), and the history of the stock fluctuating above the established proxy for biomass at maximum sustainable yield and PRI (for additional information on the rationale for minimum parent stock as an appropriate proxy, see [Amendment 13 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico](#)). In light of this, this issue will be explored in more depth with an assessment body. Additional actions will be developed, if needed, based on that assessment.

ACTION 8 PROGRESS		
December 2018	HCR to be revisited with a certification body in context of the relatively light fishing effort in comparison to the highly productive stock.	Completed
January 2020	G.U.L.F. worked with an assessment body to complete an audit of the Texas and Louisiana shrimp FIPs, which included further examination of the harvest control rule for brown and white shrimp. The results of the audit determined that the current HCR does not meet requirements. Members of all Gulf of Mexico FIPs will meet in March 2020 to determine actions to address the issue.	Completed
December 2020	In light of the audit determination, the Roundtable determined a new course of action on the HCR, which will begin with engaging the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Shrimp Advisory Panel. The Roundtable will also request the Gulf Council include shrimp in upcoming discussion of the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule Working Group.	Ongoing
July 2021	During a virtual meeting of the Roundtable in May 2021, the participants agreed to approach the HCR issue with existing contacts on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and associated committees and advisory panels.	Ongoing



Completed and Inactive Actions

ACTION 1	DEVELOP MISSISSIPPI SHRIMP TASK FORCE
Reference	Industry recommendations, G.U.L.F. SBR - 7.1.2(a, b)
Participants	All

Participants agreed to work with Mississippi shrimp industry members and MDMR to develop a task force with representatives from each area and each aspect of the industry (skimmer and otter trawl fishermen, dealers, processors, biologists, and managers). Due to lack of interest on the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources (MCMR), participants determined that best path is to engage MCMR informally with updates on FIP progress. Should need for industry task force arise in future, participants will support formation and continue to be engaged.

ACTION 1 PROGRESS		
December 2016	Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources met to vote on establishment of Mississippi Shrimp Task Force. Motion did not carry.	Completed
January 2017	Due to lack of interest from MCMR, determined that best path forward is to engage the Commission informally and update on progress of project. Should need for industry task force arise in future, Committee will support formation and continue to be engaged.	Completed



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