

15 August, 2016

Steve Atran
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Tampa, FL

Mr. Atran,

We are writing to you today to introduce our organization, the US Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Supply Chain Roundtable (<http://bit.ly/1HIkIxA>). We are a group of US shrimp wholesalers who are concerned with the economic and environmental sustainability of the domestic shrimp fishery. We work with Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) to maintain current knowledge of the current issues facing the domestic shrimp industry, and work together in a pre-competitive manner to address these issues.

A recent Marine Stewardship Council pre-assessment of the Louisiana shrimp fishery brought to light some potential inadequacies related to ecosystem-based fishery management. We have researched the issue and found that the Gulf Council Convened an Ecosystem-based Fishery Management Working Group in 2014, and are interested in any advancements that have been made since then. Specifically:

1. Have there been any meetings of Ecosystem Based Fishery Management Working Group since September 2014?
2. Has there been any progress on developing goals and objectives of an ecosystem based fisheries management plan?
3. Has there been any progress on gathering information for or applying the ERAEF (Hobday et al. 2011 approach) to the Gulf shrimp fishery or generally how to incorporate this framework into the management process?

If you would like to convey a written response to our questions, please send it to Derrick Nagle at Big Easy Foods (contact information below). If you would prefer to set up a conference call to discuss our questions in more detail we'd be glad to do so – please reach out to Derrick Nagle to arrange a time.

Respectfully,

The Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Supply Chain Roundtable

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