



**Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Supply Chain Roundtable  
Meeting Notes  
4 May 2021 - Webinar**

**SR Participants**

Big Easy Foods – Derrick Nagle  
Biloxi Freezing & Processing Inc. – Richard McGowan  
Cox's Wholesale Seafood – Nancy Mathews  
DoRan Seafood – Hunter Pierce  
JBS Packing – Mark Leckich  
Paul Piazza & Son, Inc. – Garet Hutchinson  
Philly Seafood – Regina Peña  
Wood's Fisheries – Reese Antley  
Sunnyvale Seafood – James Baros

**Other Attendees**

Audubon Nature Institute – Laura Deighan  
TX Sea Grant – Laura Picariello

**SFP Staff**

Megan Westmeyer, Katie Mihalik

**General Agenda**

1. SR industry funding
2. 2021 SR workplan review
3. TED Compliance/Effectiveness update
4. Observer data verification project
5. Full bycatch characterization study update
6. Harvest control rule outreach planning

**Purpose/Objectives**

The purpose of this meeting was to provide SR participants with an update on 2020-2021 workplan activities and next steps, as well as to discuss funding needs.

**Key Points**

1. SFP has facilitated Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery improvement work since 2008 (through FIPs, then the SR) with the support of philanthropic funding. This funding is no longer available, and in order to continue facilitating this Supply Chain Roundtable

SFP will need \$7,000/year from the industry. Based on the current number of SR participants, and anticipating a possible decrease in SR participation due to the funding request, this is likely to be between \$550 and \$900 per year per participant.

2. NOAA recently released a new Biological Opinion on the impact of the shrimp fishery on endangered species, including sea turtles. This document contains a new methodology for estimating the impact of the fishery on sea turtles based on observer coverage data (instead of TED compliance/effectiveness). This new method results in a far smaller estimate of shrimp-fishery-induced sea turtle mortality, but it is not yet clear how certification standards and bodies will view the new method, especially given the low observer coverage rate. This may be more clear when the Mississippi/Alabama MSC pre-assessment is completed, as the new Biological Opinion (in draft form) was considered during this pre-assessment.
3. The full bycatch characterization project is ongoing. While some vessels selected to carry NOAA observers have agreed to also participate in the bycatch characterization project (by storing bycatch samples on the vessels and in shoreside facilities until the samples can be transported to the lab), others have not. There appears to be some confusion about the origin of and need for this project. SFP advised the SR that it would be helpful if the SR participants could sign a joint letter of support for the project and send it to their suppliers, to increase vessel-level willingness to participate. SFP will provide a draft letter for the SR to consider.
4. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has convened the ABC Control Rule Working Group to evaluate the harvest control rules in a number of fisheries – this is a good opportunity for the SR to ask the Council to develop a formal harvest control rule for the shrimp fishery. Before doing so, it would be wise for SR participants to reach out to members of the Shrimp Advisory Panel to share information on the need for a harvest control rule and cultivate their support. SFP will provide background information and help SR participants identify and reach out to Shrimp Advisory Panel members.