



The Shrimp e-Advocate

FYI

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The Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA) is a non-profit alliance of members of the U.S. shrimp industry in eight states committed to preventing the continued deterioration of America's shrimp industry and to ensuring the industry's future viability. SSA serves as the national voice for the shrimp fishermen and processors in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas.

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Board of Directors

North Carolina:

Nancy Edens
keywestnative57@yahoo.com

PD Mason
cmason5@ec.rr.com

South Carolina:

Clay Cable
claycable@aol.com

Kerry Abraham
iateone2@embargmail.com

Georgia:

Elaine Knight
kseafood@bellsouth.net



GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

P.O. Box 726 Ocean Springs MS 39566-0726

(228) 875-5912 · (228) 875-6604 Fax

www.gsmfc.org

Larry B. Simpson
Executive Director

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Study to Document the Economic Performance and Impacts of the Inshore Shrimp Fishery throughout the Gulf of Mexico

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC), in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, is about to embark on an effort to gather up-to-date information about the economics of commercial shrimping in inshore or state waters across the Gulf of Mexico. Following recent data collection efforts conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service for federally permitted vessels that harvest shrimp in waters offshore, this study will provide a systematic economic analysis of an important economic segment-the inshore shrimp industry-which has not previously been examined with such depth and rigor. The GSMFC has obtained the cooperation and support of the relevant state regulatory agencies and several industry groups in each of the five Gulf States. The information gathered in this project will

Mike Dubberly
daddysboy1775@aol.com

Mississippi:

Steve Bosarge
stevebosarge@hotmail.com

Tommy Schultz
evahopkins@bellsouth.net

Florida:

Chris Gala
tricocg@aol.com

Sal Versaggi
sal@versaggi-shrimp.com

Alabama:

Ernie Anderson
and5612@comcast.net

Mickey Johnson
jbuiltinc@aol.com

Louisiana:

Cathy Blanchard
madamecheverette@myviscom.com

Scott St. Pierre
momanddad@mobiletel.net

Texas:

Wilma Anderson
texasshrimp@clearwire.net

Craig Wallis
Wallis.shrimp@yahoo.com

contribute to more informed decision-making on a variety of commercial fishing issues.

Most fisheries management decisions are made with an abundance of biological data. While these are useful in describing ecological conditions, such as the state of the shrimp stock, they do not describe the condition of the human element, the commercial shrimpers. Existing economic data for commercial shrimping in state waters are often piecemeal, outdated, or not fully relevant. This latest systematic effort to collect data from shrimpers throughout the Gulf will document the current economic health of the shrimp fishery. Having such information in hand will enable fisheries managers, commercial shrimpers, and others who utilize shrimp resources to form unbiased conclusions and will lead to improved fisheries management decisions.

In addition to analyzing the economic performance of the fishery, this study will estimate the economic impacts of the industry on the local and regional economy. In other words, the number of jobs and revenue generated by the commercial shrimp fishery, in the industry itself and in other portions of the regional economy, will be determined and presented in the final report.

This study will be conducted as a mail survey and will begin in early April. Individual responses will remain confidential. All figures and estimates will be presented as Texas industry totals and averages. The first 600 shrimpers who complete the survey will receive a \$25.00 gift card that can be used anywhere credit cards are accepted. Please feel free to contact Alex Miller or Jack Isaacs for more information concerning this study.

CONTACT:

Alex Miller
Economist
228-875-5912 225-765-2605
amiller@gsmfc.org

Jack Isaacs
Economist
225-765-2605
jisaacs@wlf.louisiana.gov