



GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

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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, has once again launched a survey of commercial fishermen who harvest shrimp in inshore or state waters across the Gulf of Mexico. This survey is intended to serve as an update to an earlier survey of inshore shrimpers (conducted by the GSMFC in 2008) and as a complement to an ongoing series of economic surveys of shrimpers in federal waters conducted by NOAA Fisheries. The information gathered in this project will contribute to more informed decision-making on a variety of commercial fishing issues.

This latest systematic effort to collect data from shrimpers throughout the Gulf will document the current economic health of the inshore shrimp fishery in 2012. Having such information in hand will help fisheries managers, commercial shrimpers, and other associated stakeholders understand the current economic conditions and challenges of the inshore Gulf shrimp fishery. The availability of systematic, unbiased data regarding this important economic sector is expected to contribute to improved fisheries management decisions, just as the results of the 2008 survey did in years past.

This study will analyze the economic performance of the fishery and estimate the economic impacts of the industry on the local and regional economy. The analysis will present estimates of average revenues, expenses, and jobs connected to the industry.

This study is being conducted as a mail survey. Individual responses will remain confidential. The first 600 shrimpers who complete the survey will receive a compensation card that can be used anywhere credit cards are accepted. The GSMFC is grateful for the cooperation and support of the relevant state regulatory agencies and several industry groups in each of the five Gulf States in the organization and implementation of this survey.

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