



## **U.S. Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fisheries Improvement Roundtable Agreement**

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The U.S. Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fisheries Improvement Roundtable ("Roundtable") is a collaboration between the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP), Ocean Conservancy, Texas A&M Sea Grant, Roundtable participants, other private companies engaged in or sourcing from the fishery and interested stakeholders.

### **1. Purpose of Fisheries Improvement Roundtable**

The purpose of the Roundtable is to:

- Provide a forum to discuss and agree on measures to improve Gulf of Mexico shrimp fisheries so they become ecologically and economically sustainable for the benefit of shrimpers, processors, wholesalers, buyers and society at large.
- Facilitate private-sector initiatives to help shrimp fishermen transition to lower impact, fuel efficient, fishing gear through innovative financing (low interest loans, carbon credits, etc.) and the training necessary for optimum performance of the cleaner gear.
- Promote and publicize the work of shrimpers employing low impact gear and develop marketing strategies that engage the marketplace in rewarding fishermen who have made the transition to better gear and practices.
- Engage state and federal regulators regarding policy and regulatory improvement measures.

### **2. Roundtable Structure**

The Roundtable is organized into two groups:

- Steering Committee
- Participants

The Steering Committee is responsible for managing Roundtable projects, scheduling meetings, proposing annual work plans, external communications and reporting progress. The Steering Committee will be made up of representatives from Texas Sea Grant, Ocean Conservancy, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, a representative from the processing sector, a shrimp fisherman representative and a shrimp buyer representative.

Participants can be any individual or organization interested in furthering the goals and objectives of the Roundtable. There is no fee requirement to be a Roundtable participant although members

are required to pay their own expenses.

The Roundtable is created for an indeterminate duration. It may be dissolved by a majority vote of the Steering Committee.

### **3. Responsibilities of Roundtable**

The U.S. Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery Improvement Roundtable will:

- Organize meetings, conferences and events to further the purpose of the Roundtable.
- Develop and promote the interest and image of the collaborating organizations with respect to the activities of the Roundtable.
- Work together with private and public sector organizations bodies on matters of common interest to achieve the purpose of the Roundtable.

### **4. Responsibilities of Roundtable Participants**

The responsibilities of all Roundtable Participants are to:

- Make every effort to play an active part in pursuance of the Roundtable's purpose and objectives and shall refrain from any action that may hinder the attainment of these objectives.
- Support the policy and advocacy policies/statements developed and agreed upon by the Roundtable.