Under the section on overfishing criteria and rebuilding period for stocks for the crustacean fisheries, the Council has proposed that MSY, OY, and the overfishing thresholds be set as follows:

For penaeid shrimp - as the parent stock numbers (as indexed from current virtual population analysis [VPA] procedures) for the 3 penaeid species of shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico at or above the following levels:

- Brown Shrimp - 125 million individuals, age 7+ months during the November through February period;
- White shrimp - 330 million individuals, age 7+ months during the May through August period;
- Pink shrimp - 100 million individuals, age 5+ months during the July through June year.

For royal red shrimp - as 650,000 pounds

For spiny lobster - as 20 percent transitional SPR or SSBR (spawning stock biomass per recruit), except OY is set at 30 percent SPR.

For stone crab - as the harvest that results from a realized egg production per recruit at or above 70 percent of potential production. This harvest capacity is currently estimated at between 3.0 and 3.5 million pounds (MP) of claws (minimum 70mm propodus length).

Overfished thresholds are specified as one-half of MSY or slightly higher for the crustacean stocks, none of which are overfished.

The effect of specifying overfishing criteria at a higher level for the finfish stocks is that additional stocks may be classified as overfished when NMFS approves the SFA amendment in 1999. The amendment also identified Gulf fishing communities dependent on fishing so that eventually the impact of fishery management measures on these communities can be assessed.

Although other issues not on the agenda may come before the AP and SSC for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during the meeting. Actions will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda listed as available by this notice.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see ADDRESSES) by December 29, 1998.