

Six Month Progress Report
South Carolina Shrimp Project
July 2, 2004

The South Carolina Shrimp Association submitted a petition to the Foreign Agricultural Service to qualify for participation in the 2003-2004 Technical Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. The petition was approved. The TAA program provides direct payments up to \$10,000 to shrimp fishermen that meet the criteria of the program. Four presentations were made at meetings of the South Carolina Shrimp Association and other forums to inform shrimpers about the availability of TAA and the criteria to participate. Congress mandated that Extension conduct educational training for participants in the TAA program. Seventy-seven shrimp fishermen qualified for the program payments and participated in one of the three educational trainings which were required to receive the payments.

David Barkley, Mike Hammig, Mark Henry and Dan Smith are studying the feasibility and profitability of purchasing or renting freezer capacity for storing shrimp twelve months of the year. Without freezer capacity, shrimpers sell their catch when the local market tends to be over supplied thus temporarily putting substantial downward pressure on prices during harvest season. Freezer capacity would provide the capability to market shrimp year round when seasonal prices tend to be much higher than during the harvest season.

An educational program of workshops on marketing, financial management , alternative enterprises and tax management to be conducted in late fall and early winter was proposed to the Advisory Committee of the Shrimp Fishery Assistance Project. The proposal was not accepted by the advisory committee.

The feasibility of a shrimp cooperative is being studied. The cooperative form of business organization would focus on marketing, value added and quality to improve the net income for shrimpers.

In collaboration with an independent shrimp business, a value added grant proposal is being revised for submission to the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA. The major objective of the proposal is to add value to the processing and packaging of shrimp caught in the wild through marketing frozen shrimp twelve months of the year. More than ninety percent of the South Carolina market is currently being supplied by frozen imports of farm raised shrimp.

Submitted by:

Dan Smith