Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Northern Shrimp Advisory Panel Meeting

June 12, 2015
9:00 – 11:30a.m.
Portland, Maine

Draft Agenda

The times listed are approximate; the order in which these items will be taken is subject to change; other items may be added as necessary.

1. Welcome/Call to Order/Coordinator introduction (*G. Libby*) 9:00 a.m.

2. Discuss test tows and 2015 stock assessment model (*K. Whitmore*) 9:05 a.m.
   - Results of test tows
   - Discuss process for a stock status update in the Fall

3. Public Comment Summary to Draft Amendment 3 Public Information Document 9:45 a.m.
   - Public Comment Summary (*M. Appelman*)

4. Formulate AP recommendations for Draft Amendment 3 10:05 a.m.
   - Provide guidance to Section for specific issues and management options to include in Draft Amendment 3 (*G. Libby*)

5. Other Business/adjourn 11:30 a.m.

The meeting will be held at the Westin Portland Harborview (formerly Eastland Hotel), 157 High Street, Portland, Maine; 207.775.5411

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Northern Shrimp Section Meeting

June 12, 2015
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Portland, Maine

Draft Agenda

The times listed are approximate; the order in which these items will be taken is subject to change; other items may be added as necessary.

1. Welcome/Call to Order/Coordinator introduction (*M. Armstrong*) 1:00 p.m.

2. Board Consent 1:00 p.m.
   - Approval of agenda

3. Public Comment 1:05 p.m.

4. Public Comment Summary to Draft Amendment 3 Public Information Document 1:15 p.m.
   - Public Comment Summary Report (*M. Appelman*)
   - Advisory Panel Report (*G. Libby*)
   - Technical Committee Report (*K. Whitmore*)

5. Draft Amendment 3 2:30 p.m.
   - Provide guidance to Plan Development Team for Draft Amendment 3 (*M. Armstrong*)

6. Other Business/adjourn 5:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Westin Portland Harborview (formerly Eastland Hotel), 157 High Street, Portland, Maine; 207.775.5411

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

MEETING OVERVIEW

Northern Shrimp Section Meeting
Friday, June 12, 2015
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Portland, Maine

Chair: Mike Armstrong (MA) Assumed Chairmanship: 12/13	Technical Committee Chair: Kelly Whitmore (MA)	Law Enforcement Committee Representative: Vacant
Vice Chair: William Adler (MA)	Advisory Panel Chair: Gary Libby (ME)	Previous Section Meeting: December 16, 2014
Voting Members: ME, NH, MA		

2. Section Consent

- Approval of Agenda

3. Public Comment – At the beginning of the meeting public comment will be taken on items not on the agenda. Individuals that wish to speak at this time must sign-in at the beginning of the meeting. For agenda items that have already gone out for public hearing and/or have had a public comment period that has closed, the Section Chair may determine that additional public comment will not provide additional information. In this circumstance the Chair will not allow additional public comment on an issue. For agenda items that the public has not had a chance to provide input, the Section Chair may allow limited opportunity for comment. The Section Chair has the discretion to limit the number of speakers and/or the length of each comment.

4. Public Comment Summary for the Public Information Document of Draft Amendment 3 (1:15- 2:30 p.m.)

Background

- The Public Information Document (PID) for Draft Amendment 3 went out for public comment in February 2015; public comment was accepted until 5:00 p.m. (EST) April 15, 2015
- The PID scoped management options that the Section will consider including in Draft Amendment 3 which plans to address recent years of recruitment failure and increased effort (**Briefing Materials**).
- Four public hearings were held in March; two in Maine, one in New Hampshire, and one in Massachusetts (**Briefing Materials**).
- Nineteen written comments were received by industry groups and individuals (**Briefing Materials**).
- The Technical Committee prepared a report regarding results of the 2015 winter sampling from the research set aside (**Supplemental Materials).**
- The Advisory Panel will meet prior to the Section meeting to formulate recommendations on the PID for Draft Amendment 3.

Presentations

- Public Comment Summary Report by M. Appelman, FMP Coordinator
- Advisory Panel Report by G. Libby, Chair
- Technical Committee Report by K. Whitmore, Chair

5. Draft Amendment 3 (2:30- 5:00 p.m.) Action
Background • Public comment was received on various management options to be included in Draft Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Northern shrimp • Upon review of PID comment summary, the Plan Development Team seeks the direction of the Section for specific management options to be included in Draft Amendment 3 for public comment.
Section actions for consideration at this meeting • Task Plan Development Team to develop Draft Amendment 3 for public comment.

6. Other Business/Adjourn

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

PUBLIC INFORMATION DOCUMENT

for Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan For

NORTHERN SHRIMP

ASMFC Vision Statement:
Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

February 2015

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission seeks your comments on the Initiation of Amendment 3 to the Northern Shrimp Fishery Management Plan

The public is encouraged to submit comments regarding this document during the public comment period. Comments will be accepted until **5:00 PM (EST) on April 15, 2015.** Regardless of when they were sent, comments received after that time will not be included in the official record. The Northern Shrimp Section will consider public comment on this document when developing the first draft of the Amendment 3.

You may submit public comment in one or more of the following ways:

1. Attend public hearings held in your state or jurisdiction, if applicable.
2. Refer comments to your state's members on the Northern Shrimp Section or Northern Shrimp Advisory Panel, if applicable.
3. Mail, fax, or email written comments to the following address:

Mike Waine
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1005 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201
Fax: (703) 842-0741
comments@asmfc.org (subject line: Northern Shrimp Amendment 3)

If you have any questions please call Mike Waine at (703) 842-0740.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Draft Public Information Document for Northern Shrimp Draft Amendment 3

Introduction

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) is developing an amendment to revise the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Northern Shrimp (FMP). The Commission, through the coastal states of Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, is responsible for managing northern shrimp.

This is your opportunity to inform the Commission about changes observed in the fisheries; actions you feel should or should not be taken in terms of management, regulation, enforcement, and research; and any other concerns you have about the resources or the fisheries, as well as the reasons for your concerns.

Management Issues

Amendment 2 to the FMP was approved in October 2011. Since implementation, the northern shrimp fishery and population have experienced significant changes. There have also been substantial changes in other fisheries in the northeast resulting in increased effort in the shrimp fishery. For example, reductions in the groundfish fishery have caused fishermen to switch their effort to the northern shrimp fishery to make up for the loss of opportunity in the groundfish fishery.

Recently, the northern shrimp resource has experienced three successive years of recruitment failure. In addition, abundance and stock biomass indices in recent years are the lowest on record. Changing environmental conditions paired with fluctuating effort in the fishery have resulted in uncertainties in the future status of the northern shrimp resource. Limited entry has been used in other fisheries to control fishing effort which stabilizes fishing pressure on the resource. An amendment to the plan is necessary to establish a limited entry program in the northern shrimp fishery.

Purpose of the Public Information Document (PID)

The purpose of this document is to inform the public of the Commission's intent to gather information concerning the northern shrimp fishery and to provide an opportunity for the public to identify major issues and alternatives related to the management of this species. Input received at the start of the amendment development process can influence the final outcome of the amendment. This document is intended to draw out observations and suggestions from northern shrimp harvesters and industry, the public, and other interested parties, as well as any supporting documentation and additional data sources.

To facilitate public input, this document provides a broad overview of the issues already identified for consideration in the amendment; background information on the northern shrimp

population, fisheries, and management; and a series of questions for the public to consider on the management of the species. In general, the Commission is seeking input on the following question: **"How would you like the northern shrimp fishery to be managed in the future?"**

Commission's Process and Timeline

The publication of this document and announcement of the Commission's intent to amend the existing FMP for northern shrimp is the first step of the formal amendment process. The following motion was made at the Northern Shrimp Section meeting in November 2014 to continue the amendment process:

Move to approve the Public Information Document (PID) for Amendment 3 to the Northern Shrimp FMP for public comment, pending the changes discussed today [adding more background information for the public to consider].

Following the initial phase of information gathering and public comment, the Commission will evaluate potential management alternatives and the impacts of those alternatives. The Commission will then develop Draft Amendment 3, incorporating the identified management alternatives through the PID process, for public review. After the public comment process is completed on Draft Amendment 3, the Commission will specify the management measures to be included in a final version of Amendment 3, as well as a timeline for implementation.

As a note, Draft Amendment 3 may include additional issues identified through the public comment period that were not initially included in the PID process.

The proposed timeline for completion of Amendment 3 is as follows:

June 2014	Northern Shrimp Section (Section) tasks the Plan Development Team (PDT) to develop Public Information Document
Fall 2014	Section receives the Public Information Document (PID) and considers approval for public comment
Spring 2015	**Public Comment on the PID**
Summer 2015	Section reviews PID for public comment, considers initiation of Draft Amendment. PDT will develop amendment with input from Technical Committee and Advisory Panel.
Fall 2015	Section reviews Draft Amendment for public comment
Fall 2015	Public comment on Draft Amendment
Winter 2016	Section reviews and approves Amendment

Description of the Resource

Summary of Management

The Gulf of Maine fishery for northern shrimp is managed through an interstate agreement between Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The management framework evolved during 1972-1979 under the auspices of the State/Federal Fisheries Management Program. In 1980, this program was restructured as the Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) of the Commission. The FMP for Northern Shrimp was approved under the ISFMP in October 1986.

The Commission approved Amendment 1 to the FMP in May 2004. Amendment 1, which replaced the original FMP, established biological reference points for the first time in the shrimp fishery and expanded the tools available to manage the fishery. Amendment 2, which completely replaced Amendment 1 and was approved in October 2011, further expanded the tools available to manage northern shrimp, including options to slow catch rates throughout the season. It also established a threshold level for the fishing mortality reference points; included a more timely and comprehensive reporting system; and allowed for the initiation of a limited entry program to be pursued through the adaptive management addendum process. The goal of Amendment 2 is "to manage the northern shrimp fishery in a manner that is biologically, economically, and socially sound, while protecting the resource, its users, and opportunities for participation."

Addendum I to Amendment 2, approved in November 2012, refined the annual specification process, and allocated the total allowable catch (TAC) to the trawl (87%) and trap (13%) fisheries based on historical landings since 2001.

The Northern Shrimp Technical Committee (NSTC) provides annual stock assessments and related information to the ASMFC Northern Shrimp Section (Section). Annually, the Section sets specifications on management measures after considering the NSTC stock assessment, input from the Northern Shrimp Advisory Panel, and comment from others knowledgeable about the shrimp fishing industry. Management tools used under Amendment 2 were primarily TACs and seasonal closures.

Summary of Stock Status

Stock assessments for northern shrimp are updated on an annual basis. The 2013 Stock Assessment Update utilized the model which was accepted by peer reviewers in 2007. The 2014 Benchmark Stock Assessment explored new analytic methods, including a new model and modifications to the accepted assessment model. The Benchmark Assessment went through peer review in January 2014 and the new approaches were not approved for management use.

Due to uncertainties raised by the Benchmark Review, the 2014 assessment did not include modeling results. Instead, the NSTC evaluated a suite of indicators that reflected fishery

performance, stock status, and environmental conditions. Abundance and biomass indices for 2012-2014 were the lowest on record in the thirty-one year survey time series (Figure 1). Recruitment indices for the 2010-2012 year classes were also well below average and included the two smallest year classes on record. As a result, the 2014 index of fishable biomass was the lowest on record. The recruitment index increased slightly in the 2014 survey, but was the ninth lowest in the time series. Recruits from the 2013 year class are not expected to reach exploitable size until 2017. Despite the marginal increase in recruitment, the NSTC concluded that the northern shrimp stock has collapsed with little prospect of recovery in the near future.

Recruitment of northern shrimp is related to both spawning biomass and ocean temperatures, with higher spawning biomass and colder temperatures producing stronger recruitment. Ocean temperatures in the western Gulf of Maine have increased in recent years and reached unprecedented highs in the past several years (Figure 2). While temperatures in 2014 were cooler, in the longer term they are predicted to continue rising as a result of climate change. This suggests an increasingly inhospitable environment for northern shrimp and the need for strong conservation efforts to help sustain the stock.

Summary of the Fishery

Drastic fluctuations in landings have characterized the Gulf of Maine northern shrimp fishery throughout its history. Annual landings of Gulf of Maine northern shrimp declined from an average of 11,400 metric tons (mt) during 1969-1972 to about 400 mt in 1977, resulting in a closure of the fishery in 1978 (Table 1a, Figure 3). The fishery reopened in 1979 and landings increased steadily to over 5,000 mt by 1987. Landings ranged from 2,300 to 6,400 mt during 1988-1995, and then rose dramatically to 9,500 mt in 1996, exceeding the previous high in 1973. Landings subsequently declined from 1997 to 2002, only to increase again between 2003 and 2011, from 1,300 to 6,400 mt, with a slight drop in 2009.

In recent years (2010-2012), the fishery has been closed early when landings approached the TAC. In 2011, a year in which the fishery closed early because the TAC was exceeded, the average price per pound was $0.75 and the estimated landed value of the catch was $10.6 million (Table 1b). Since then, the price per pound of shrimp has increased, but low landings have kept the value of the fishery well below $10 million (Table 1b).

The Section considered several factors in setting the specifications for the 2015 shrimp fishery, and ultimately implemented a moratorium to protect the limited number of spawning females. The Section's deliberation considered the biomass in 2014 (500 mt) that was the lowest value in recent history, estimated at 5.2% of the biomass of the reference period (1985-1994), and well below the FMP biomass threshold of 9,000 mt and the biomass limit of 6,000 mt. Additionally, there was recent recruitment failure of three consecutive year classes (2010-2012).

Typically, Maine accounts for about 90% of the landings of northern shrimp. In 2013, the most recent year with landings, Maine landed 83% (278.7 mt) of the season total, New Hampshire followed with 11% (36.9 mt) and Massachusetts landed 6% (18.9 mt) of the season total (preliminary data, Table 1a). The proportional distribution of landings among the states has been similar between 2003 and 2013, though has shifted gradually since the 1980's when Massachusetts averaged about 34% of the catch (Table 1a).

Most northern shrimp fishing in the Gulf of Maine is conducted using otter trawls designed for shrimp, although traps are also utilized off the central Maine coast. Trapping effort has increased in recent years, accounting for 22% of Maine's landings in 2010, but may have been lower relative to trawling in 2011 (17%) and 2012 (9%) because of the early closure of the fishing seasons which limited the trapper's ability to harvest (Table 2). Preliminary dealer reports indicate that trappers accounted for about 7% of Maine's landings in 2013, which was a season impacted by the low abundance of northern shrimp.

Size composition data from both the fishery and summer trawl surveys indicate that higher landings have followed the recruitment of strong (dominant) year classes. Low biomass and landings during 1998 – 2004 can be attributed in part to the below-average recruitment of the associated year classes. In 2014, the female population was comprised of the 2009 and 2010 year classes; the 2010 year class was the first of three successive year classes of recruitment failure. The last two year classes failed to recruit into the fishery, therefore it is anticipated that landings will be low even if the fishery reopens.

Issues for Public Comment

Public comment is sought on a series of issues being considered for inclusion in Draft Amendment 3. The issues are intended to focus the public comment and provide the Section with the necessary input to develop the Amendment. The public is encouraged to submit comment on the issues listed below as well as other issues that may need to be addressed in the management document.

ISSUE 1: LIMITED ENTRY INTO THE FISHERY

Background

The northern shrimp fishery is currently open access and has experienced significant fluctuations in participation over the last 30 years (Table 3). Interest and effort in the fishery generally increases as the season length or price increases. As one of the last open access fisheries in the region, the northern shrimp fishery has provided opportunities for harvesters to target an alternative species when other fishing was unavailable or not economically viable.

However, as the shrimp biomass has decreased, concern has been raised over the influx of boats into the fishery when shrimp stocks and markets warrant. Harvesters and managers have noted the reduced fishing opportunities in other fisheries such as the New England groundfish fishery and are concerned about the impact of shifting effort entering the shrimp fishery. More effort in the fishery would result in increased pressure on the shrimp population. This concern has led to the suggestion that access to the shrimp fishery should be restricted.

Limited access has been used in a number of fisheries along the Atlantic coast to control effort while maintaining access by harvesters who have demonstrated a history and a vested interest in the fishery. Limited entry may also moderate the boom and bust cycle for both harvesters and processors in this relatively small fishery by ensuring more stable landings for northern shrimp. The current status of the northern shrimp stock (lowest indices in the time series) has increased the interest in exploring options to limit new entrants into the fishery. Managers are seeking strategies to stabilize the fishery and improve harvesters and processors' ability to make informed business decisions each year.

Addendum I also scoped the potential for limited entry programs and a summary of public comment is presented below the management questions.

Management Questions

- Should limited entry be used in the northern shrimp fishery?
- How should effort be capped (number of vessels, number of licenses)?
- How should landings history be assigned (by vessel, by individual, by state license holder [Maine only])?
- What years should be used to determine the landings history?
- Should the previously set control date of June 7, 2011 remain or be re-evaluated?

- Should new participants be allowed to enter the fishery? If yes, how and when would new participants enter the fishery?

Addendum I to Amendment 2 included preliminary options concerning entrance into a limited entry program to the Section. Options that received the most positive public comment from Addendum I are included below, however, the Section welcomes comments on other options.

Potential options for entrance into the program include:

- Assign landings history to a vessel, by default the current vessel owner gets landings history, unless specified.
- Assign landings history to an individual.

In addition, Addendum I explored which years are appropriate to determine landings history. Options that are the most feasible given data availability and reliability are included below, however, the Section welcomes comments on other options:

Potential options for assigning landings history include:

- Assign landings history based on average annual landings between 2001 and 2009. Logbook reporting requirements were initiated in 2000 for Maine, allowing for one year of quality assurance/quality control procedures to ensure full reporting. This time period includes the last season before emergency closures were implemented.
- Assign landings history based on average annual landings between 2008 and 2012. These years reflect the more recent condition of the stock.

ISSUE 2: STATE-BY-STATE ALLOCATION

Background

Over the past five fishing seasons (2009-2013), Maine has accounted for approximately 90% of the northern shrimp landings. Maine is the only state with a trap fishery for northern shrimp. Under a limited entry program, Maine would be the only state in which a significant reduction in participation would be necessary to achieve an effective limited entry program. An alternative to limited entry (see Issue 1 above) would be to determine state-by-state allocations of the TAC. Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts could implement measures to meet the needs of the state's fishery, as long as the state allocation was not exceeded. In other Commission-managed species, state allocations are based on average landings over a certain period of time. Usually, this period of time represents a stable period in the fishery to ensure equitable division of landings. It should be noted that state-by-state allocation of the fishery may limit vessels seeking to enter the fishery and reduce growth of the fishery in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The managers are

investigating the most fair and equitable way to manage the fishery while ensuring flexibility for the future.

Addendum I also scoped the potential for state-by-state allocations and a summary of public comment is presented below the management questions.

Management Questions

- Should the northern shrimp TAC be allocated by state?
- Should landings history be used to determine allocations? Which years should be used to determine landings history?
- How should historical landings be accounted for when a boat permitted in one state lands shrimp in a different state?
- Should a permitted harvester from one state be able to land in another state? If yes, what state's quota would the landings be deducted from (permitted or landed state)?
- Would quota transfers between states be allowed?
- Are there other methods to set state allocations that the Section should consider?

The Plan Development Team (PDT) has previously investigated which years are appropriate for determining state-by-state allocation. Options that are the most feasible given data availability and reliability are included below, however, the Section welcomes comments on other options

Potential time frames for assigning landings history include:

- Timeline 1 - 2001 – 2009 - This time period represents landings after new logbook reporting requirements for non-federal permits were instituted in Maine in 2000, allowing for one year of quality assurance/quality control procedures to ensure full reporting. The time period includes the last season before emergency closures were implemented because the TAC was reached.
- Timeline 2 - 2001 – 2013 - This time period represents the full range of data of new logbook reporting requirements in Maine for non-federal permits, which were implemented in 2000, allowing for one year for quality assurance/quality control procedures to ensure full reporting and accountability. This includes management measures in 2010-2012 that may have influenced landings history.
- Timeline 3 - 2003 – 2008 - This time period represents data three years after new logbook reporting requirements for non-federal permits were implemented in Maine in 2000, but before emergency closures were implemented in the 2010-2012 seasons

because the TAC was reached. It is similar to but shorter than Timeline 1.

ISSUE 3: HOW SHOULD THE SPECIFICATIONS PROCESS OCCUR UNDER AMENDMENT 3?

Background

Northern shrimp specifications are based on a TAC for the entire fishery. Typically, an annual stock assessment estimates values for the fishing mortality target (F_{target}) and fishing mortality threshold ($F_{threshold}$). The TAC is set based on those estimates and 87% is allocated to the trawl fishery and 13% to the trap fishery. The Section may then specify various effort controls such as fishing seasons, trip limits, days out of the fishery, trap limits, season closure dates and a research set aside. These measures are based upon the most recent stock status report and are revisited annually. Measures which may be changed within seasons include trip limits, days out, and transferability of the TAC between gear types.

Due to the uncertainties in the benchmark stock assessment (ASMFC 2014), current estimates of fishing mortality are not usable for establishing a TAC. The Section would like to explore flexibility in the specifications process so a TAC can be set when (1) fishing mortality estimates are not usable (2) as the stock recovers and/or (3) as environmental conditions change. For example, the Section may use stock status indicators (e.g., catch rates, recruitment) and/or empirical harvest levels (e.g., historical harvest levels that match similar stock status conditions) to set the TAC. In addition, the Section would like to consider including multi-year specifications in the fishery to provide stability to the market and processors.

Management Questions

- How should the TAC be set under Amendment 3 (stock assessments, other)?
- How should overages/underages in the TAC be handled?
- Should the gear allocation of 87%/13% for trawl/trap be revisited?
- Should target reference points (fishing mortality or biomass) be determined for northern shrimp? How should they be determined?
- Should the northern shrimp fishery have a defined season, or should the season be set on an annual or multi-annual basis?
- Should there be trip limits in the northern shrimp fishery?
- Should there be an option for research set asides? If so, what maximum percentage of the TAC should be allocated for research set asides?
- Should multi-year specifications be considered in the northern shrimp fishery?

ISSUE 4: SHOULD THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVE OF THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR NOTHERN SHRIMP BE REVISED?

Background

The goal and objectives for this management program should be reviewed to ensure they are consistent with the needs of the northern shrimp fishery. The current goal and objectives are outlined in Amendment 2:

GOAL

"To manage the northern shrimp fishery in a manner that is biologically, economically and socially sound, while protecting the resource, its users and opportunities for participation."

OBJECTIVES (as outlined in Amendment 2 to the FMP)

- Protect and maintain the northern shrimp stock at levels that will support a viable fishery
- Optimize utilization of the resource within the constraints imposed by distribution of the resource, available fishing areas, and harvesting, processing and marketing capacity
- Maintain the flexibility and timeliness of public involvement in the northern shrimp management program
- Maintain existing social and cultural features of the fishery to the extent possible
- Minimize the adverse impacts the shrimp fishery may have on other natural resources
- Minimize the adverse impacts of regulations, including increased cost to the shrimp industry and the associated coastal communities
- Promote research and improve the collection of information to better understand northern shrimp biology, ecology, and population dynamics,
- Achieve compatible and equitable management measures through coordinated monitoring and law enforcement among jurisdictions throughout the fishery management unit

<u>Management Questions</u>

- Are the goals and objectives from Amendment 2 still appropriate for the northern shrimp fishery?
- What changes to the goals and objectives need to be made to reflect the needs of the fishery?

ISSUE 5: OTHER ISSUES

Background

As stated earlier in this document, the goal of the PID is to solicit comments on a broad range of issues for consideration as the next amendment to the northern shrimp FMP is developed. The public comment should generally focus on

"How would you like the northern shrimp fishery to be managed in the future?" The Section is interested in hearing from the public on all issues associated with the fishery. Comments do not need to be limited to issues included in this document.

A number of other issues have been discussed by stakeholders, scientists, and managers regarding the future of the fishery. These topics include:

- Implementation of area management
- Individual fishing/transferable quotas (ITQ/IFQ)
- Fleet or sector quotas
- Days-at-sea restrictions
- Vessel limits (size, horsepower, tonnage)
- Catch limits by gear type and vessel category
- Additional gear restrictions (mesh size, sweep length, roller size)
- Monthly and seasonally divided catch
- Bycatch of finfish species
- Maximum count-per-pound limits
- Size-selective gear and research
- Assessment methodology
- Management reference points
- Adapting to climate change

Management Questions

- What other changes should be made to the northern shrimp fishery that is not covered by the topics included in this document?

References

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, 2014. Stock Status Report for Northern Shrimp. http://www.asmfc.org/uploads/file/545cf3b5NShrimpStockStatusReport_2014.pdf

Tables and Figures

Table 1a. U.S. Commercial landings (mt) of northern shrimp in the Gulf of Maine

Year	Maine		Massachusetts		New Hampshire		Total	
	Annual	Season	Annual	Season	Annual	Season	Annual	Season
1958	2.2		0.0		0.0		2.2	
1959	5.5		2.3		0.0		7.8	
1960	40.4		0.5		0.0		40.9	
1961	30.5		0.3		0.0		30.8	
1962	159.5		16.2		0.0		175.7	
1963	244.3		10.4		0.0		254.7	
1964	419.4		3.1		0.0		422.5	
1965	941.3		8.0		0.0		949.3	
1966	1,737.8		10.5		18.1		1,766.4	
1967	3,141.2		10.0		20.0		3,171.2	
1968	6,515.2		51.9		43.1		6,610.2	
1969	10,993.1		1,773.1		58.1		12,824.3	
1970	7,712.8		2,902.3		54.4		10,669.5	
1971	8,354.8		2,724.0		50.8		11,129.6	
1972	7,515.6		3,504.6		74.8		11,095.0	
1973	5,476.6		3,868.2		59.9		9,404.7	
1974	4,430.7		3,477.3		36.7		7,944.7	
1975	3,177.2		2,080.0		29.4		5,286.6	
1976	617.3		397.8		7.3		1,022.4	
1977	142.1		236.9		2.2		381.2	
1978	0.0		3.3		0.0		3.3	
1979	32.8		405.9		0.0		438.7	
1980	69.6		256.9		6.3		332.8	
1981	530.0		539.4		4.5		1,073.9	
1982	883.0		658.5		32.8		1,574.3	
1983	1,029.2		508.2		36.5		1,573.9	
1984	2,564.7		565.4		96.8		3,226.9	
1985	2,957.0	2,946.4	1,030.5	968.8	207.4	216.7	4,194.9	4,131.9
1986	3,407.2	3,268.2	1,085.7	1,136.3	191.1	230.5	4,684.0	4,635.0
1987	3,534.2	3,680.2	1,338.7	1,427.9	152.5	157.9	5,025.4	5,266.0
1988	2,272.5	2,258.4	632.7	619.6	173.1	157.6	3,078.3	3,035.6
1989	2,544.8	2,384.0	751.6	699.9	314.3	231.5	3,610.7	3,315.4

Table 1a continued – U.S. commercial landings of northern shrimp (*2013 data are preliminary)

Year	Maine		Massachusetts		New Hampshire		Total	
	Annual	**Season**	**Annual**	**Season**	**Annual**	**Season**	**Annual**	**Season**
1990	2,962.1	3,236.3	993.4	974.9	447.3	451.3	4,402.8	4,662.5
1991	2,431.5	2,488.6	737.7	814.6	208.3	282.1	3,377.5	3,585.3
1992	2,990.4	3,070.6	291.7	289.3	100.1	100.1	3,382.2	3,460.0
1993	1,563.1	1,492.5	300.3	292.8	441.2	357.6	2,304.6	2,142.9
1994	2,815.4	2,239.7	381.9	247.5	521.0	428.0	3,718.3	2,915.2
1995		5,013.7		670.1		772.8		6,456.6
1996		8,107.1		660.6		771.7		9,539.4
1997		6,086.9		366.4		666.2		7,119.5
1998		3,481.3		240.3		445.2		4,166.8
1999		1,573.2		75.7		217.0		1,865.9
2000		2,516.2		124.1		214.7		2,855.0
2001		1,075.2		49.4		206.4		1,331.0
2002		391.6		8.1		53.0		452.7
2003		1,203.7		27.7		113.0		1,344.4
2004		1,926.9		21.3		183.2		2,131.4
2005		2,270.2		49.6		290.3		2,610.1
2006		2,201.6		30.0		91.1		2,322.7
2007		4,469.3		27.5		382.9		4,879.7
2008		4,515.8		29.9		416.8		4,962.4
2009		2,315.7	MA & NH combined			185.6		2,501.2
2010		5,604.3		35.1		501.4		6,140.8
2011		5,569.7		196.4		631.5		6,397.5
2012		2,219.9		77.8		187.8		2,485.4
*2013		278.7		18.9		36.9		334.5
2014	Moratorium in fishery							

Table 1b. Price and value of U.S. Commercial landings (mt) of northern shrimp in the Gulf of Maine. (*2013 data are preliminary.) Values are not adjusted for inflation.

Year	Price $/Lb	Value $
1958	0.32	1,532
1959	0.29	5,002
1960	0.23	20,714
1961	0.2	13,754
1962	0.15	57,382
1963	0.12	66,840
1964	0.12	112,528
1965	0.12	245,469
1966	0.14	549,466
1967	0.12	871,924
1968	0.11	1,611,425
1969	0.12	3,478,910
1970	0.2	4,697,418
1971	0.19	4,653,202
1972	0.19	4,586,484
1973	0.27	5,657,347
1974	0.32	5,577,465
1975	0.26	3,062,721
1976	0.34	764,094
1977	0.55	458,198
1978	0.24	1,758
1979	0.33	320,361
1980	0.65	478,883
1981	0.64	1,516,521
1982	0.6	2,079,109
1983	0.67	2,312,073
1984	0.49	3,474,351
1985	0.44	3,984,563
1986	0.63	6,451,207
1987	1.1	12,740,583
1988	1.1	7,391,778
1989	0.98	7,177,660
1990	0.72	7,351,421
1991	0.91	7,208,839
1992	0.99	7,547,942
1993	1.07	5,038,053
1994	0.75	4,829,107
1995	0.9	12,828,031
1996	0.73	15,341,506
1997	0.79	12,355,873
1998	0.96	8,811,939
1999	0.91	3,762,044
2000	0.79	4,968,656
2001	0.86	2,534,095
2002	1.08	1,077,534
2003	0.87	2,590,917
2004	0.44	2,089,636
2005	0.57	3,261,648
2006	0.37	1,885,978
2007	0.38	4,087,121
2008	0.49	5,407,374
2009	0.4	2,216,411
2010	0.52	6,994,107
2011	0.75	10,625,534
2012	0.95	5,230,032
*2013	1.81	1,332,150
2014	NA	moratorium

Table 2. Distribution of landings (metric tons) in the Maine northern shrimp fishery by season, gear type, and month.

	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Other	Season Total	% of total
2000 Season, 51 days, Jan 17 - Mar 15, Sundays off									
Trawl		731.1	1,354.8	163.6				2,249.47	89%
Trap		28.9	179.6	58.3				266.7	11%
Total	0.0	759.9	1,534.4	221.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,516.2	
2001 Season, 83 days, Jan 9 - Apr 30, Mar 18 - Apr 16 off, experimental offshore fishery in May									
Trawl		533.0	360.1	30.9	29.8	0.3		954.0	89%
Trap		42.9	72.6	5.7				121.2	11%
Total	0.0	575.8	432.8	36.6	29.8	0.3	0.0	1,075.2	
2002 Season, 25 days, Feb 15 - Mar 11									
Trawl			263.6	77.2				340.8	87%
Trap			43.2	7.6				50.8	13%
Total	0.0	0.0	306.8	84.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	391.6	
2003 Season, 38 days, Jan 15 - Feb 27, Fridays off									
Trawl		467.2	518.8	0.4			0.6	987.0	82%
Trap		67.5	149.2					216.7	18%
Total	0.0	534.7	668.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.6	1,203.7	
2004 Season, 40 days, Jan 19 - Mar 12, Saturdays and Sundays off									
Trawl	1.8	514.0	905.5	430.0	4.7	2.7	0.04	1858.7	96%
Trap		12.2	39.5	16.5				68.1	4%
Total	1.8	526.2	945.1	446.4	4.7	2.7	0.04	1926.9	
2005 Season, 70 days, Dec 19 - 30, Fri-Sat off, Jan 3 - Mar 25, Sat-Sun off									
Trawl	75.0	369.4	770.6	663.6			0.01	1878.5	83%
Trap		conf	132.6	259.0				391.6	17%
Total	75.0	369.4	903.2	922.6	0.0	0.0	0.01	2270.2	
2006 Season, 140 days, Dec 12 - Apr 30									
Trawl	144.1	675.0	733.8	256.9	117.1			1927.0	88%
Trap	conf	16.7	163.1	93.9	0.9			274.6	12%
Total	144.1	691.7	896.9	350.8	118.0	0.0	0.0	2201.6	
2007 Season, 151 days, Dec 1- Apr 30									
Trawl	758.2	1,443.3	1,275.6	362.1	143.6	0.4	0.0	3,983.2	89%
Trap	3.7	37.2	314.7	119.8	10.6			486.1	11%
Total	761.9	1,480.5	1,590.4	481.9	154.2	0.4	0.0	4,469.3	

	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Other	Season Total	% of total
2008 Season, 152 days, Dec 1- Apr 30									
Trawl	408.5	989.6	1,680.8	603.4	42.6		0.1	3,724.9	82%
Trap	conf	64.1	339.6	380.4	6.7			790.8	18%
Total	408.5	1,053.7	2,020.4	983.8	49.3	0.0	0.1	4,515.8	
2009 Season, 180 days, Dec 1- May 29									
Trawl	134.3	579.7	780.9	405.4	33.6	1.8	0.2	1,935.9	84%
Trap	0.4	16.2	207.3	154.7	1.3			379.8	16%
Total	134.6	595.9	988.2	560.1	34.9	1.8	0.2	2,315.7	
2010 Season, 156 days, Dec 1- May 5									
Trawl	263.4	1,488.3	2,091.1	326.3	194.3	33.0	0.4	4,396.7	78%
Trap	conf	194.8	823.4	189.3	conf			1,207.6	22%
Total	263.4	1,683.1	2,914.5	515.6	194.3	33.0	0.4	5,604.3	
2011 Season, 90 days, Dec 1- Feb 28									
Trawl	720.8	2,194.5	1,728.5	0.5				4,644.4	83%
Trap	1.9	377.7	545.8					925.3	17%
Total	722.7	2,572.2	2,274.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	5,569.7	
2012 Season, Trawling Mon,Wed,Fri, Jan 2- Feb 17 (21 days); Trapping Feb 1-17 (17 days)									
Trawl	0.5	1,130.6	895.2	0.5				2,026.8	91%
Trap			193.1					193.1	9%
Total	0.5	1,130.6	1,088.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,219.9	
***2013** Season, Trawl 2-7 days/wk, Jan 23-Apr 12 (54 days); Trap 6-7 days/wk, Feb 5-Apr 12 (62 days)									
Trawl		63.0	155.6	37.4	2.4			258.3	93%
Trap			15.2	4.9	0.2			20.4	7%
Total	0.0	63.0	170.8	42.4	2.6	0.0	0.0	278.7	
2014 Season was closed.									

conf = Confidential data were combined with an adjacent month.
* Preliminary data

Table 3. Estimated numbers of active vessels in the Gulf of Maine northern shrimp fishery by fishing season and state.

Season	Maine			Massachusetts	New Hampshire	Total
	Trawl	Trap	Total			
1980			15-20	15-20		30-40
1981			~75	~20-25		~100
1982			>75	~20-25		>100
1983			~164	~25	~5-8	~197
1984			239	43	6	288
1985			~231	~40	~17	~300
1986						~300
1987			289	39	17	345
1988			~290	~70	~30	~390
1989			~230	~50	~30	~310
1990			~220			~250
1991			~200	~30	~20	~250
1992			~259	~50	16	~325
1993			192	52	29	273
1994			178	40	29	247
1995						
1996			275	43	29	347
1997			238	32	41	311
1998			195	33	32	260
1999			181	27	30	238
2000			249	15	23	287
2001	174	60	234	19	27	275
2002	117	52	168	7	23	198
2003	142	49	191	12	22	222
2004	114	56	170	7	15	192
2005	102	64	166	9	22	197
2006	68	62	129	4	11	144
2007	97	84	179	3	15	196
2008	121	94	215	4	15	234
2009	80	78	158	12 (MA and NH combined)		170
2010	124	112	236	6	14	256
2011	172	143	311	12	19	342
2012	164	132	295	15	17	327
*2013	109	72	181	13	14	207
2014	0	0	0	0	0	0

note that some boats reported both trapping and trawling

* preliminary

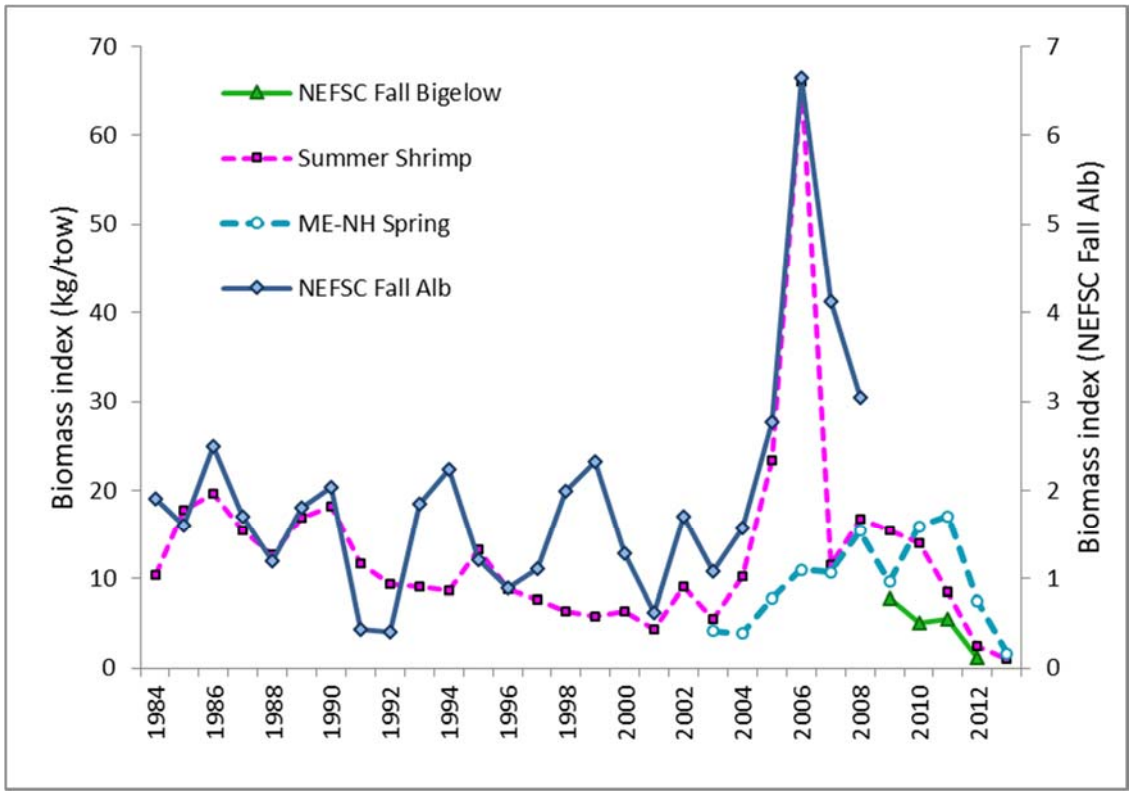

Figure 1. Biomass indices (kg/tow) from various northern shrimp surveys in the Gulf of Maine.

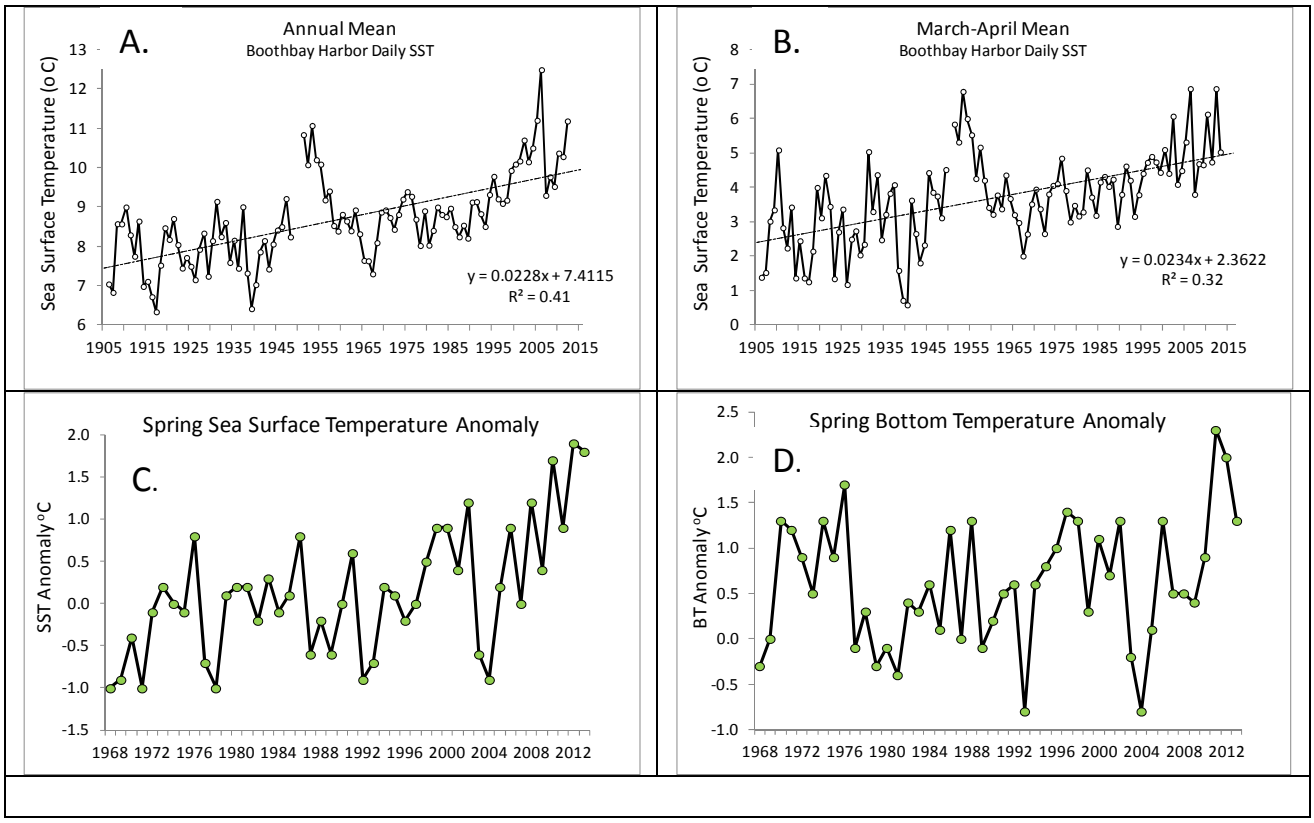

Figure 2. (A) Average annual sea surface temperature (SST) at Boothbay Harbor, Maine, during 1906-2013 and (B) average SST during March-April, 1906-2013. (C) Spring sea surface temperature anomaly in shrimp offshore habitat areas from NEFSC trawl surveys, 1968-2013. (D) Spring bottom temperature anomaly in shrimp offshore habitat areas from NEFSC trawl surveys, 1968-2013.

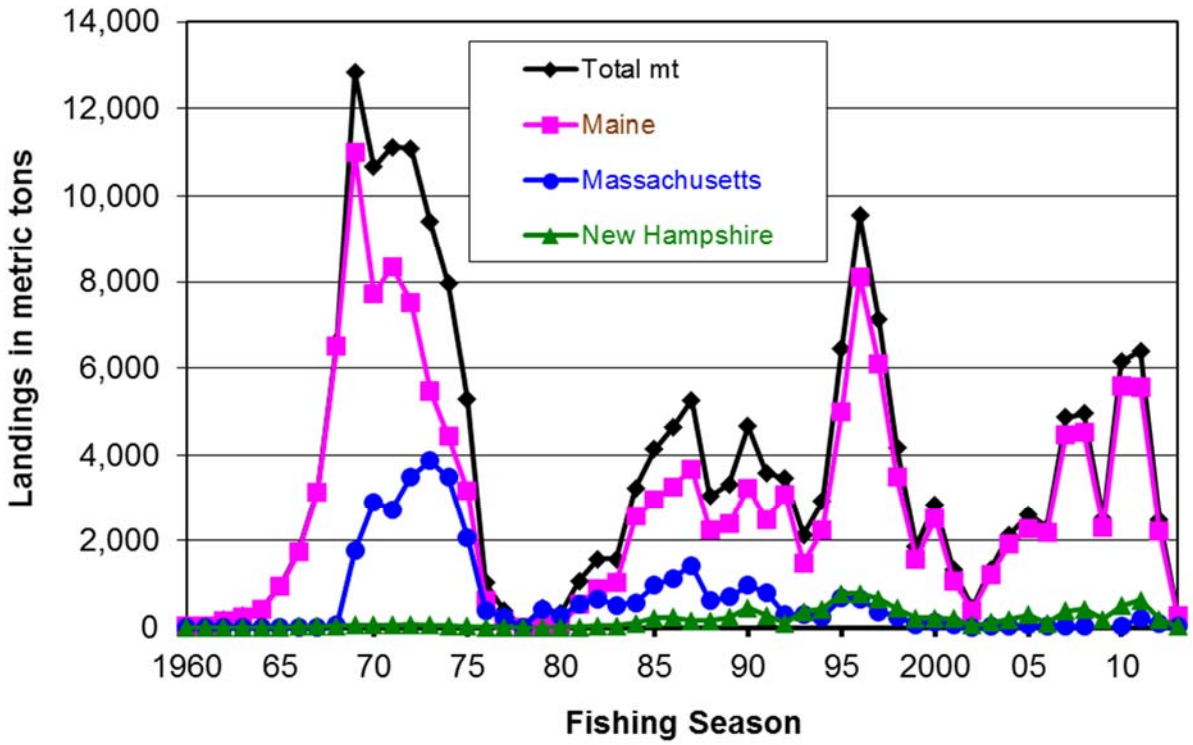

Figure 3. Gulf of Maine northern shrimp landings by season and state. MA landings are combined with NH landings in 2009 to preserve confidentiality.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

May 29, 2015

To: Northern Shrimp Section and Advisory Panel
From: Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator
Subject: Public Comment on Northern Shrimp Public Information Document for Amendment 3

The following pages represent a summary of all public comment received by ASMFC by April 15, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. (closing deadline) on the Public Information Document (PID) for Amendment 3 to the Northern Shrimp Interstate Fishery Management Plan.

A total of 19 written comments were received during the public comment period. Four of those comments were from the following groups and organizations: Associated Fisheries of Maine, Maine Coast Fishermen's Association, Maine Lobstermen's Association, and Penobscot East Resource Center. Written comments were submitted primarily by Maine trap and trawl fishermen. A summary of the written comment (PDF pages 27-29) is provided as well as individual comment letters (PDF pages 40-82).

All states within the management unit held a public hearing; there were two in Maine and one in both New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Approximately 128 individuals attended all the public hearings. A brief summary of comments received at the public hearings is provided, followed by detailed summaries for each hearing (PDF pages 30-39).

Written Comment Summary

Five major themes were identified and supported throughout public comment received:

1. Amending the FMP to promote the long term sustainability of the northern shrimp fishery.
2. Supported limiting effort, although not necessarily by means of limited entry (e.g., gear and vessel restrictions also a means of reducing effort).
3. Maintaining State's access to the resource that is based on historical landings.
4. Allowing new participants to enter the fishery if limited entry is implemented.
5. Management measures that maximize the catch of large females while minimizing catch of egg bearing females and small shrimp

ISSUE 1: LIMITED ENTRY INTO THE FISHERY

Limited Entry	in favor	not in favor	no preference
Individual	4	4	7
Group/Organization	2	2	-
Total	6	6	7

Those in favor of limited entry generally agree:

- That limited entry should be implemented as a measure to moderate the boom and bust cycle of northern shrimp and provide for a more stable harvest from year to year.
- That the current control date of June 7, 2011 is appropriate.
- To freezing the number of licenses at current levels, and assigning
- Landings history assigned to individual vessels in conjunction with the longest timeframe possible.
- That new participants should be encouraged to enter the fishery, at some "Entry Level Quota," via a weighted lottery system as attrition occurs (e.g., as individuals leave the fishery, individuals are allowed in using a weighted lottery system).

Primary reasons identified by those not in favor of limited entry include:

- The shrimp fishery is currently a supplemental fishery
- Limiting effort by other restrictions is more applicable to the long term sustainability of northern shrimp biomass.
- Concern of a barrier to younger fishermen trying to enter the fishery; contrary to simplicity of current/past participation.
- Fear of unfair exclusion of participants that have shown commitment to the fishery; many fishermen have fished extensively in years prior to proposed timeframes
- Feared that a few permits would eventually control most of the total allowable catch (TAC)

ISSUE 2: STATE-BY-STATE ALLOCATION

State-by-State allocation	In favor	Not in favor	No Preference
Individual	1	5	9
Group/Organization	*1	3	-
Total	2	8	9

*support by default; prefer state-by-state rather than limited entry

- Majority of public comment received is opposed to state-by-state allocations.
- Primary concern is that the TAC will be unfairly allocated to Maine.
- Those in favor suggested the states allocate quota to individuals and/or vessels based on landings history during a specified timeframe.
- Little opposition to allowing fishermen in different states to transfer quota between states.
- Vessels could be allowed to land in other states as long as they had state issued permits and/or quota for that state.

ISSUE 3: HOW SHOULD THE SPECIFCATIONS PROCESS OCCUR UNDER AMENDMENT 3?

Key points from public comment received relating to Issue 3 are as follows:

- Five comments suggest that 87/13 gear allocation should be revisited, and closer to 50/50
- A defined season from some date in January through March
- Management measures reflective of minimizing catch of egg-bearing females.
- No trip limits; catch limits had minimal support.
- Research set aside: 3 support, 1 against
- Three comments in favor of multi-year specs. Sixteen no comment.

ISSUE 4: SHOULD THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR NOTHERN SHRIMP BE REVISITED?

Current goals and objectives are appropriate as identified by the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for northern shrimp, although current management effort should focus on goals and objectives relating to rebuilding stock biomass as opposed to social and cultural goals and objectives.

ISSUE 5: OTHER ISSUES; how would you like to see northern shrimp managed in the future?

Public comment received under issue 5 was primarily for management measures that minimize the catch of egg bearing females and small shrimp including:

- size sorting grates to reduce catch of small shrimp

- no trawling within 3 miles
- minimum count per pound
- different trawl and trap seasons to minimize catch of egg-bearing females
- restrict mesh size, roller size, and sweep length
- restrict number of traps
- some comments in reference to individual quotas and TAC allocations, but were addressed in Issues 1 and 2.

Other notable comments from written comment:

- Should be able to pass landings history to a family member
- Lowest year should be dropped in the final calculation for assigning landings history
- Trap only fishery in 2016; initiate buy-back program for trawlers to switch to traps
- No trawling until biomass recovers
- Daily catch limit will demand higher market prices
- Put a freeze on the current number of licenses
- No fishing until 50% egg drop
- Regulations should focus on small/egg bearing shrimp
- “Use it, or loose it” license requirement if limited entry
- Individuals that have shown commitment should not be excluded
- Research on gear technologies to reduce catch of egg bearing females and small males
- Catch shares, or days allowed to fish, assigned to license based on historic days-at-sea for that license (i.e., higher catch allotted to licenses that depend more on the resource)

Public Hearing Brief Summary

Massachusetts:
No attendance

New Hampshire:
Attendees provided suggestions for a limited entry program including how the number of licenses should be capped and how the quota could be allocated to the qualified licenses. Attendees also provided suggestions for state-by-state allocations including discussion on quota transfer limitations, and where particular state issued permits could operate under the regulation. Some small discussion occurred on other issues, including how the specification process should occur under Amendment 3.

Maine:
Many commenters were not in favor of limited entry, and there was minimal support for state-by-state allocations. Heavy support was received for allowing young fishermen to enter the fishery. Other discussion included the time frame to be considered when attributing landings history to permit holders, quota transfer limitations, vessel and gear restrictions that protect egg bearing shrimp, and acknowledging goals and objectives when making management decisions.

New Hampshire Public Hearing
Public Information Document for Draft Amendment 3
13 Attendees

Meeting Staff: Mike Waine (ASMFC), Douglas Grout (NH F&G), Cheri Patterson (NH F&G)
Meeting Participants: See enclosed sign in sheet

Issue 1: Limited Entry
-State should hold the licenses and there would always be a set number of licenses so that new participants could enter into the fisheries
-Limited entry program suggestion

- Cap total number of licenses by state from qualification period and assign licenses by state to a vessel
- Qualification period: Two in favor for 2001-2009 would like to see data on landings before making a final decision.
- If a license was fishing during the qualification period and they are still fishing they would automatically get a license
- Use the same qualification period for licenses to decide state by state allocation.
- Therefore, effort would be capped by license number
- Do not re-evaluate the control date
- Vessel participants is 20-25 and percent landings is relatively stable so that is what New Hampshire would be looking at.

Other Limited Entry Comments:
-New Hampshire favors 20-25 licenses and think it is unfair to limit Massachusetts because they did not have processing ability.

-Multiple people spoke in favor of state by state allocation with licenses being distributed by the state to cap effort and stay within the quota.
-A couple people spoke in favor of keeping the control date.

Issue 2: State by State Allocation
-One person is in favor of state by state allocations noting the groundfish fishery. State by state allocation is a more equitable way to manage.
-There was no market in the New Hampshire fishery, but in the state of Maine they have the infrastructure to support a market.
-One person would like flexibility for New Hampshire to have a trap fishery with state by state allocations
-One person in favor of quota transfers because the fishery wants to take advantage of the resource wherever it is.
-One person is in favor of quota rollovers.
-One person wants industry to land within the state that they are permitted.
-Two people would like to limit participants to land in one state even if they hold licenses in all states.
-The Section should consider allowing individuals to fish in Maine state waters, but not land in Maine.
-Individuals would like for the plan to clarify the definition of state waters in terms of enforcement because it is believed that in Maine they can enforce up to 12 miles.
-New Hampshire was concerned that Maine processors may not buy shrimp that was harvested by New Hampshire because they want to control the fishery.

Issue 3: How Should the Specification Process Occur Under Amendment 3?
-One person is against trip limits because they are wasteful. This was also a problem in the groundfish fishery.
-The overage/underage provision should be at the discretion of the Section.
-One person is in favor of using historical performance to establish a TAC
-One person was in favor of 25mt of a research set aside so that it would minimize a directed fishery but still allow for obtaining samples.

Issue 4: Should the Goals and Objectives of the Fishery Management Plan be Revised?
No comments at the hearing.

Issue 5: Other Issues
-Days at sea in the fishery was previously considered, and one participant thinks it's a good idea and should be considered again.

General Comments
-The groundfish fishery is in a poor condition which makes the shrimp fishery more desirable from a participation standpoint.
-Participants in the shrimp fishery are getting old and people should consider reconstituting the fishery for when the next generation takes over.

Northern Shrimp Public Information Document for Amendment 3

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
March 3, 2015
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

-- PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY --

Name	Company/Organization	City, State
Marissa Hammond	Penobscot East Resource Center	Stonington, ME
Peter Kendall	Yankee Co-op	Seabrook NH
Ritchie White	Gov. Apt. ASMFC	
David Goethel	F/V Ellen Diane	Hampton NH
Carl E. Bouchard	F/V Stormy Weather	
Peter A. Whelan	CCA	Portsmouth
Neal Pike	F/V Sandi Lynn	Seabrook
Fred Clews	F+G	Hampton
Peter Tilton Jr	Advisory Committee	Hampton
Graham Courtney	NHFG	So. Hampton
Erick Anderson	NHCFA	Ports, NH.
Ellen Goethel	NEFMC	Hampton
Esther Kennedy	Housing Committee	Portsmouth NH

Public Hearing: Rockland, Maine
Approximate head count 80 people-only 26 signed the sign-in sheet; 12 commenters
March 7, 2015

Issue 1: Limited Entry into the Fishery

The majority of the commenters were not in favor of limited entry. Most felt limited entry would cause disagreement within the Northern shrimp fishery, putting one gear type against another. It would force some fisherman to go out of business. Too many Maine fisherman would be locked out of the fishery under limited entry. It would also make it very difficult for new fisherman to enter into the fishery. It is important to the many commenters that younger guys are able to get into the fishery and there is diversification within the fleet.

Issue 2: State-by-State Allocation

There were some commenters in favor of state-by-state allocation. They felt the state would be able to manage its own quota. The state could zone the fishery to have the fisherman fish when the shrimp came into their areas.

Issue 3: How Should the Specifications Process Occur Under Amendment 3?

No comment

Issue 4: Should the Goals and Objectives of the Fishery Management Plan for N. Shrimp be Revised?

No comment

Issue 5: Other Issues

Some commenters felt it would be good to have daily trip limits. Some noted it was important to not fish on egged shrimp. There were commenters that felt how the section voted was not fair.

Specific Comments:

Garry Libby- Gave an overview of his written comments.

Limited entry is needed to get the shrimp back as soon as possible. Yes effort should be capped. Need to reduce the potential effort. Landings should be assigned using history either by vessel or individual. Could potential set up a cooperative.

In favor of a 5 year time frame instead of a 10 year. If we did a 5 year 2006-2010. Or in 10 year 2001-2010. In favor of keeping the current control date.

There should be new participants in the future somehow. If one was retired then one can come back in. When there is room for growth than this could be rethought.

Should the TAC be allocated to the states? It could be. Should it be an IFQ or coops or sectors? He prefers coops or sectors. Have the structure through groundfish. Take a percent of landings to pay for the sectors that way.

Leave the TAC set just the way it is now. Should the fishery have a defined season? Yes it would help to make business plans.

Depending on the shrimp stock if we took 2% from each state than it would give 6% total and that would be good.

Proposed some new goals and objectives.

It should be mandatory to use the fish excluder. Think about using zones that were far out to protect the juvenile males that live offshore all the time.

Craig S.: Shrimp trapper for year, been watching the shrimp go up or down. When there are a lot they are caught with the eggs it impacts the future of the stocks. We are hearing the best possible science. If you catch them like the trappers catch them then you catch when, how and where you want them. I have a big problem with limited entry. I want to see the young guys get in. Everything that is in the document will put people out of business. You should open to just to traps until the biomass opens up then give it to the draggers, then you might get a good catch rate. Look at what has happened in lobster fisher. They are doing well they give them a chance to grow. You have to take care of the brood stock and the ones that are growing up. Just like our kids.

Walter Kumiega- The commission needs to change the way the section votes. The two states that have 10% of the fishery can out vote Maine. Limited entry: Sustainable fishery is the vision and they can do this with a TAC and then have the state do a limited entry the way we want. State by state is crucial to the fishery otherwise we will have a derby, see price fall with large catches, and the fishery closes early. Then the fisherman all lose out then the fishery closes early.

Sustainable is a max count per pound limit but institute fair voting.

Ring B. Fishing using mobile gear. Modify the gear for the best of the fishery. When you start to drive wedges between the fleet. In years past we had enough go around for everyone. We did that ourselves. If it isn't conducive it is not going to be worth doing it. For us to say someone cannot go fishing. Look at the lobster fishy it is a huge mess. People cannot get in because of the laws in the 1990s and it hurting everyone. You tell me sectors work in the ground fishery you are crazy. DAS was working. Sectors is going the wrong way. Be fair to everyone.

Arnie G. south Bristol trap fisherman. I think this plan might work if we are at the top of our game. We are trying to go through some rebuilding years it is going to be an impossible tasks. I would like to go out fishing as soon as I can. You cannot control how fast the fisherman are going to bring in the fish. You need a daily trip limit to control the amount coming in. Most of the trappers are in mid-coast. State-by-state is good way to go. The DMR proved that they can regulate they fish. We don't l know how fast we can rebuild there are guys willing to go back fishing for 3, 4, 500 pounds. We need to get away from fishing on the egged shrimp.

You should use days out daily trip limits and close when they are spawning. People deserve the right to eat shrimp in Maine.

Would need to address the latent effort from the federal fishery licenses.

Pat Keliher- Need to address the concept of quota monitoring and daily quota monitoring. Maine has swipe cad. All states would need to show the same ability of monitoring the quota on a daily basis like the Maine swipe card.

Tad M. In favor of an open fishery but if we have to go into limited entry. My thoughts against a catch share. Everyone in the room that has gone should go and should stay. State should manage their share. Maine's should manage how they choose, so favor state-by-state. Care for our young fishermen should have diversification in the fleet. People cannot predicted what is coming in the future. But allow people to come into the fishery. Keep the control date. You are injuring people from all around. You should not do that. I am getting older but I am not that old I still have some days fishing. It is an aging fishery like the lobster fishery. Figure out what level you need that build up or down to that level. Let people age out of the fishery. Think about something with participation. Put a participation window in there if you have a window of time that you use.

When you do license issues maybe do a draw. You could get more draws based on different criteria, did you do research? Did you do the draw the year before?

David O. Not in favor of complicated limited entry because only a few end up in the fishery and it gets very complicated. If you have to go down this path then maybe you should do something simple like a tiered license based on your historic landings and everyone gets to go. If you go down this path than you allow for folks on the bottom to get to the top tier. So the young guys can work their way up instead of having to buy your way up. You keep changing the rules and then you have to buy more so why bother.

Don't think that ME should regulate the Maine themselves, the 3 states you get a more diversified government group. There have been years when a lot of shrimp have been caught off of ME and NH.

Jim H. I disagree with all of this there is too much regulations. Pitting fisherman against themselves is bad. Garry has a well-orchestrated plan for himself and that is bad. You cannot let people go hog wild but you still have to let young people into the fishery. It seems foolish to not let people fish on the fishery that dies in 5 years. The guys will not go if they do not make any money. Zone the state since everything is so different in each area in particular when the shrimp come in. It is best to catch shrimp with no eggs on them. Limited entry is foolish. Everyone should have a chance to go fishing. Leave it alone and let it be. Design a small quota based fishery. People are screaming for shrimp all over the state. Do something that can start something. Don't pit the trapper against the trawler.

Jeff H. Portland buyer and processer. I have seen the fishery boom and bust many times. I have a problem with us harvesting shrimp with eggs on them. You take away so much potential. This has contributed to the boom and bust. Eggs survive at a much higher level when the water is cold. We compounded this problem by overfishing, not reporting how much is coming in fast enough, and then the eggs not surviving with current warm water. You are going to make people unhappy by preserving the fishery. You can only take out so many each year to preserve the resource. This fishery developed from small boats that wanted to do something in the winter because the shrimp were close to the shore. They were easiest to catch but that does not translate

to the value of the fishery. You need to know if you are going to have a season to invest into the fishery. You need a management plan that has been very different than now because if not it will take us just back to where we are now.

James W Fishing on and off since the 80s. When the state put us to 51 days we lost all our market and the price went down. If you go with the limited entry and quota system it would hurt guys east of Rockland. They will only have a small piece of the pie. I may or may not get much depending on what years you go. There are guys that saw this coming so they went fishing just to have history down the road. We used to fish on big shrimp with no egg and then the quota get caught up and we were shut down and therefore we do not have any history. I am against limited entry.

Gerry C. MA and NH catch shrimp before we do and they are fully egged. Why don't we leave the ASMFC? The shrimp will be caught up before they get to the east and some guys will not be able to get to any fish.

Northern Shrimp Public Information Document for Amendment 3

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
March 7, 2015
Rockport, Maine

-- PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY --

Name	Company/Organization	City, State
Shlomit Avcello	College of the Atlantic	Bar Harbor
Gary Libby	RXB Fisheries	Port Clyde
Charlie Pinns	MRAG Americas	
Lessie White Jr	Maine DMR	Boothbay ME
Arnold Gamage Jr	AP	So. Bristol Me
Seamus Gilbert	Maine Fresh lobster	Bremen Me
David J. Osier	Osier Seafood.	So. Bristol ME
John Seiders	AP	So Bristol ME
Walter Kumiega	ME Legislature	Deer Isle, ME
Marilyn Lash	DMR	Friendship, ME
Arthur Poole Jr	Fisherman	So. Bristol, ME
Darrel Chadwick	Fisherman	Bristol ME
John R. Williams	Kristy Michelle Inc	Stonington, Me
James Hanscom	Fisherman	Bar Harbor ME
Robert Cogley	Fisherman	So Bristol ME.
Kyle Molton	PERC	Stonington ME
Maggie Hunter	ME DMR	Boothbay Harbor ME
Kenneth Cline	College of the Atlantic	Bar Harbor ME
Arnold Nickerson	FV Hy/ay Ann	Rockport me
Katie O'Brien	College of the Atlantic	Bar Harbor
Robin Alden	Penobscot East Res Ctr	Stonington ME
Corey Prock	Fisherman	So. Bristol ME.
Tad Miller	Fisherman	Tenants Harbor, Me
Mark Cheney	Shrimper	Pemaquid, Me.
James West Sr	F.V. First Impression	Sorrento, ME
Rocky Trundy	Fisherman	Deer Isle ME.

Head count was 80 people

Public Hearing: Portland, Maine
~30-40 Attendees (Only 13 signed in).
March 30, 2015

Meeting Staff: Terry Stockwell (ME DMR) & Chris Vonderweidt (ME DMR)

Meeting Participants: Tray B., Roger Allard (F/V Robyn Elizabeth), Jim Shifelds (F/V Top Notch), Lester Durant (Cundy's Harbor Wharf), Rick Callou (F/V E Cosi II), B. Viducie, Joe Nickerson (F/V Haley Ann), Tom Cassamassa (F/V TheresaIrene III), Marshall Alexander (F/V D.), Jeff Holden (Portland Shellfish), Craig Durant (F/V Marie Ann), Troy Brenner (F/V Ocean Spring), and Martin Leeman (F/V Jennifer).

Following the ASFMC supplied presentation, attendees offered comments on all five management issues in the order of their preference. Comments were rearranged by management issue when possible for the purposes of this report.

Issue 1: Limited Entry into the Fishery:

- If limited entry is implemented, do not allow permit stacking the way groundfish is managed.
- We need to maintain shrimp as a small inshore fishery and a limited entry system will destroy that. Do not let it go the route of groundfish management where 10% of the boats are allocated 90% of the quota.

Issue 2: State-by-state Allocation:

- Should use history of state landings to allocate state by state quotas.
- Leery of a Maine state quota because politics will ruin state by state allocation. Maine state legislators will give shrimp quota to lobstermen.
- Management measures should not allow fishermen to catch shrimp 3-miles out and land in other states without being accountable.
- ITQ's should be non-transferrable. Licenses should expire when they are no longer fished, giving young fishermen a chance to enter the fishery.
- Allowing permits/licenses to be sold will create a barrier to young fishermen entering the fishery.

General Comments About Effort Control

- Effort controls should include restrictions on horsepower
- We will never be able to control this fishery until we have some type of effort control.
- Effort control is inevitable, but the devil is in the details.
- Effort control should go by history.
- Should just cap the number of licenses and allow them to be transferrable so that fishermen can buy into the fishery.
- Need to provide opportunity for new entrants.
- No need for effort control because Mother Nature and markets are sufficient controls. Fishermen will not go fishing for nothing.

- The Amendment should include the number of years that the technical committee recommended no season.
- The allocation years should be 2001-2011 (expand 2001-2009 timeline to include 2010 & 2011) because markets came back a bit in 2010 & 2011.
- Allocation history should go back to the 1980's.
- Even if landings cannot be tied to a specific permit or license, the length that someone held a shrimp license should be factored into the allocation.
- VMS will be necessary to enforce any area management measures.

Issue 3: How Should the Specification Process Occur Under Amendment 3:

- While the idea of multi-year specifications sounds good in theory to promote market stability, they are a bad idea because it could mean multiple closed seasons.
- Should not be liable for overages.

Issue 4: Should the Goals and Objectives of the FMP be Revised:

- Goals and objectives are useless because the Section never references them when making management decisions. Should force Section to consider G&O when making management decisions.

Issue 5: Other Issues:

- The discussion on climate change should be removed from the document because it is unfounded by science.
- Egg bearing shrimp should not be caught to sustain the stock. Management should monitor the stock and shut down when the shrimp are egg bearing. Continue to monitor the stock throughout the year and re-open after egg release.
- When the fishery re-opens, the processing sector is further from being viable than the fishery is because the markets and equipment is highly specialized. Maine's processors cannot compete with less expensive Canadian shrimp. Reestablishment of a volume fishery is necessary in order for Maine processors to be viable again. The Canadian processors can operate 5-6 months out of the year.
- Landings are not a true indicator of the resource. The Section should look at what effected landings and the reasons why people went fishing in some years and not others.
- The shrimp industry is in so much trouble right now that it is the right time to get a fresh start with management measures. Step 1 is to figure out how we establish a sustainable catch level and go from there. Imperative to be clear of all political pressures.

ASSOCIATED FISHERIES OF MAINE

PO Box 287, South Berwick, ME 03908

April 10, 2015

Robert E. Beal, Executive Director
Atlantic States Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Mr. Beal:

The Associated Fisheries of Maine (AFM) responds here to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) request for comments on the draft amendment 3 to the northern shrimp fishery management plan.

For over 20 years, the AFM has been an active and constructive participant in the management process for northern shrimp. During that time, we have advocated for the sustainable management of the northern shrimp fishery and for a limited entry program to achieve that goal. We urge the ASMFC to expeditiously develop a limited entry program for the northern shrimp fishery that reflects the historic participation of our members.

Issue 1: The AFM would support a limited entry program that caps the number of vessels using vessel landings history. This approach is consistent with the way that limited access programs in the US and around the world are developed. Of the two potential landings history time frames proposed, the AFM prefers the period from 2001-2009. The AFM would prefer an allocation of a percentage of the total allowable catch to individual vessels based on historic participation. The AFM would also prefer that individual catch percentage be made transferable (temporarily or permanently) to other vessels.

Issue 2: The AFM strongly opposes a state by state allocation of the total allowable catch. Like all other limited entry programs, vessels allocated a permit or a percentage of the catch based on historic participation should be free to land in a state of choice.

Issue 3: The AFM strongly opposes a revision of the trawl/trap allocation. The AFM would support allocation of the catch to individual vessels, regardless of gear type, based on historic participation.

Issue 4: The AFM supports the current goals and objectives of the northern fishery management plan but argues that the goals and objectives cannot be fully realized as long as the fishery remains open access.

Issue 5: The AFM would prefer the fishery be managed by individual quotas, or to self selecting sectors, with allocation based on historic participation.

Sincerely,

M. Raymond
Maggie Raymond
Executive Director

Penobscot EAST Resource Center

PO Box 27
13 Atlantic Avenue
Stonington, ME 04681
Phone: (207) 367-2708
Fax: (207) 367-2680
www.penobscoteast.org

Securing a future for fishing communities

April 15, 2014

Robert Beal
Executive Director
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A
Arlington, Virginia 22201

RE: Northern Shrimp Fishery Management Plan Comments

Dear Mr. Beal:

I write you this letter to comment, on behalf of Penobscot East Resource Center in Stonington, Maine, on the initiation of Amendment 3 to the Northern Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Most importantly, any changes to the shrimp management plan should acknowledge the supplementary nature of this fishery as few, if any, fishermen in the region make a living solely targeting shrimp. In particular, we would like to voice substantial concern over any consideration of limited entry programs in the northern shrimp fishery, and any arrangement to assign quota based on state or vessel landings history in any form, whether to individual vessels, owners, or gear types. This species has historically had considerable swings in abundance and been pursued opportunistically by those seeking to diversify between seasons and/or to supplement other fishing income. This makes it imperative that individual operators have opportunity to enter and exit the fishery depending on their individual circumstances as well as the status of the stock.

We are also concerned that the Commission appears to be pursuing a system of managing the shrimp fishery that is more and more dependent on assessment and quota methods. The inherently large changes in abundance of this fishery, and future climate uncertainty call into question whether measuring abundance and stabilizing catch using such methods in this fishery is desirable or even possible. We argue that the Commission should consider alternative management measures that consider other biological reference points or even CPUE data. Alternative methods could focus harvest on 3+ year olds and reduce the take of egg bearing shrimp prior to spawning. We argue that alternative strategies hold much more promise in this unique fishery.

We look forward to working with you to develop more effective management approaches for northern shrimp. Thank you again for the opportunity to share our comments.

Sincerely,

Kyle Molton
Policy Director
Penobscot East Resource Center

MAINE COAST FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

April 15, 2015

Mr. Mike Waine

Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Shrimp PID

Dear Mr. Waine,

The Maine Coast Fishermen's Association (MCFA) is a fishermen-led non-profit organization that identifies and fosters ways to restore the fisheries of the Gulf of Maine and sustain Maine's iconic fishing communities for future generations. As stewards of the marine ecosystem, MCFA commercial fishermen promote the ecological and financial sustainability of the fishery through balancing the needs of the current generation of fishermen with the long-term environmental restoration of the Gulf of Maine. There is consensus among the fishermen members of the organization that now is an opportune moment for creating an effective, sustainable and adaptive management plan for Northern Shrimp before the moratorium is lifted.

MCFA represents 35 of the remaining community-based fishermen in Maine who participate primarily in the groundfish fishery as members of the Maine Coast Community Sector. Of these fishermen, 85% of them have dependably harvested Northern Shrimp since the early 1980's along the coast of Maine. They want to see access to the Northern Shrimp fishery maintained for current and future fishermen in Maine. However, among the members there are differing ideas about how the management system should be structured. In response to the Public Information Document, our comments are inclusive of all ideas proposed by fishermen members because we believe that the scoping process for developing a responsible and responsive management plan for Northern Shrimp should be broad and consider a multitude of potential management options. As such, we thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Initiation of Amendment 3 to the Northern Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.

MCFA will provide comment on the five broad issue areas presented in the PID.

1. Limited Entry into the fishery

Among the fishermen, the majority are in favor of a limited entry system as a management measure to limit fishing effort on the resource while maintaining access to the fishery for those who have participated in the past. There is consensus that effort needs to be capped in some manner to prevent overfishing on the resource. However, there is wide variation in opinions about whether allocation, or an ITQ, should be associated with a license.

PO Box 112 | Topsham, ME 04086 | Tel (207) 619.1755 | Fax (866) 876.3564 | www.MaineCoastFishermen.org

For the fishermen who are in favor of an allocation-based limited entry system, they would like to see allocation assigned to an individual, or the combination of an individual and a vessel, as one cannot land shrimp without the other and many fishermen would like to be able to pass their history and vessel on to a family member. All fishermen strongly believe that there needs to be a method for new entrants to join the fishery. Many also felt that no one fishing business should own, or have exclusive access, to the resource in a dominant manner and propose implementing a low allocation cap (1 to 2%) per individual.

One mechanism that would create the potential for transferring allocation to the next generation of fishermen would be to reassess the allocation distribution based on a rolling timeframe that includes the landings from most recent three or five years. This management option would help remove latent effort from the fishery, and allow vessels with limited allocation initially to build participation in the fishery over time, by allowing those who have small permits with limited allocation to build history though landings either though common pool fishing or though leasing allocation from other fishermen in the allocation pool. In this way, allocation would flow to those who actually rely on the industry, the value of permits would not increase as those who don't fish their permits would lose that value over a period of three years and there would be a gradual transition of allocation through generations while giving those leaving the fishery a buffer to transition out over.

If the management system moves toward an ITQ-type system, several fishermen would like to see the landings history timeline extended as far as possible. Of the timelines proposed in the PID, the favored timeline was 2001-2009, since there were market constraints in place in 2010 that severely limited landings. However, several fishermen asked for the timeline to start in 2003 when the new logbooks went into place and go through 2013 with the option of disregarding the lowest and highest landings years when calculating the percent allocation. Many fishermen asked for a much longer timeline to be examined, and that any history be considered. Most of the fishermen MCFA works with started participating in the shrimp fishery in the 1980's. Most of them have landings in the proposed time period, but several opted to participate in other fisheries recently and feel that their participation in the shrimp fishery will be overlooked with the short, and recent landings history being proposed. As such, we hope that several ranges will be considered through the development of this document.

All fishermen are in favor of maintaining the control date of June 7, 2011. It can serve as a baseline for making decisions about limiting licenses or vessels in the fishery. It also serves as a clear indicator to fishermen that they need to have made a decision about participating the shrimp fishery by this date. Having a control date provides clarity and fairness to those who wanted to purchase a state license.

2. State by State Allocation

All of the member fishermen agree that allocation should not be distributed by state, especially if the distribution is disconnected from historical landings by state. If any allocation is to be given to each state, then member fishermen agree that the allocation must be distributed be based on the landings of individuals and vessels landing in that state during the decided timeframe.

There is a range of opinions on whether landings should count for one state if the vessel or individual is permitted in another, and we urge the Commission to consider the scenarios. Since our membership is very concerned with the viability and economic health of our coastal communities,

we support having vessels land in the state in which they are permitted. We understand that there will be extenuating circumstances, in which a vessel should be able to land for safety reasons, but with the majority of fishermen supporting individual allocations, the landings could be taken from an individual or vessel. If an ITQ system is in place, then transfers could be allowed between fishermen in different states.

3. Specification Process

The natural boom and bust cycle of Northern Shrimp is susceptible to changes in fishing level efforts. This is one of the reasons that the fishermen are supportive of limiting effort and providing a little bit of stability to the fishery, the markets and the processors. We are supportive of continuing to set the specifications on scientific bases stock assessments with a goal of having multi-year specifications if the biomass warrants them.

With respect to harvesting exceeding or not meeting the TAC, if the management system moves toward an allocation-based system, then each individual or vessel can be responsible to staying within their own allocation and repaying any overages the following season. Having an individual allocation garners support from fishermen to have a six month season that allows flexibility in making decisions on when to fish. However, within the season, there is support to limit fishing effort on shrimp before they've dropped their eggs. Some suggestions from fishermen include; having a different season for trawl gear and trap gear, a days-out per month system that limits the number of days any vessel can fish but allows a captain to decide how and when to use those days, and lastly a weekly landing limit that restricts effort on a per vessel and per month basis.

The distribution of allocation by gear type as-is with 87% directed towards trawl gear, and 13% directed toward trap gear is generally supported among members. However, several fishermen are concerned with the changing environment and increasing operating costs in the future, and strongly encourage the management plan to include mechanisms to re-examine any allocation distribution that would allow flexibility in business planning.

All fishermen who participated in our discussion are in favor of maintaining a research set-aside within the shrimp fishery.

Trip limits within the shrimp fishery are a contentious issue among our members. Those fishermen completely in favor of an allocation based management system, are dead-set against trip limits. Trip limits cause waste of the resource and can severely limit the potential for a successful business. However, a few fishermen were in favor of lower trip limits if it allowed more participants in the fishery and created a greater benefit for the entire community over a single fishing business. The Maine state scallop fishery has small trip limits imposed and within 15 years the industry has accepted this management mechanism as the new norm. Another alternative option to be examined would be to have a weekly landing limit, which would still constrain catch but allow for flexibility and business planning.

4. Goals and Objectives of the fishery management plan

Quite simply, there was consensus that the goals and objectives of Amendment 2 in the shrimp FMP are adequate, but members would encourage strengthening the goal of maintaining access to the fishery in specific communities so that communities that have historically had access to the shrimp fishery do not get shut out of the fishery in the future.

5. Other Issues

With respect to other issues present in the shrimp fishery, members have a wide range of responses. A primary concern is developing a flexible and appropriate mechanism for new entrants to participate in this fishery in the future. We acknowledge the concern of having too much effort in the shrimp fishery, but many members firmly believe that the age of active fishermen will correct the level in the fishery through attrition. One idea is to add a requirement that a fishermen must land shrimp in at least one out of every three years in order to maintain a license. Another idea with a lot of support is to have a weighted lottery to allow new entrants. The majority of active fishermen strongly feel that they were granted access to the fishery for just the cost of a state license and do not want to see future entrants prohibited from the fishery due to high permit costs. Some of the proposed metrics for weighting the lottery include: residency in a community that has had fishermen relinquish their license, participation in an RSA project, and an apprenticeship-type program. These ideas are proposed for consideration, but additional metrics are encouraged.

With a changing environment, and the recent moratorium, there is consensus that the new management plan must be adaptive and responsive. We have real time landing data, and vessels could be required to carry a VMS to have more comprehensive monitoring in the fishery to ensure that overfishing does not occur moving forward. It is likely that the resource location and abundance will shift. The management plan must be adaptive enough to maintain access to the resource in a responsible manner, but also allows flexibility as the fishery changes.

All fishermen agree that a Nordmore grate, or some other type of grate is necessary to limit interactions with other fisheries and marine life.

In conclusion, there is great support among member fishermen to amend the shrimp fishery management plan in a manner that promotes a healthy resource and a healthy fishery into the future. Limiting effort through a limited access fishery is generally supported. Maintaining access that is reflective of historical landings in the state of Maine is very important. Lastly, all fishermen strongly support creating a mechanism that allows young, new entrants into the fishery. Current fishermen were able to access the fishery for a minimal license cost, and maintaining community access to the fishery is a great concern. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the PID and look forward to participating in the process as Amendment 3 continues to develop.

Sincerely,

Ben Martens
Executive Director

MAINE
Lobstermen's Association, Inc.
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207-967-4555 * 866-407-3770 * www.mainelobstermen.org

Mike Waine
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland St, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

April 15, 2015

Dear Mr. Waine:

The Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) is providing comments on the *Public Information Document (PID) for Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Northern Shrimp*. The MLA is a Maine-based fishing industry organization whose mission is to advocate for a sustainable lobster resource and the fishermen and communities that depend on it.

The shrimp fishery has traditionally served as an important supplemental winter fishery for many Maine lobstermen. It has provided much needed economic opportunity for Maine's owner operator small boat fleet based in communities spanning the length of the Maine coast during the winter months when the inshore lobster fishery is dormant.

The lobster industry has enjoyed tremendous success in recent decades through continued record landings. The lobster industry's success is due in large part to our long-standing protection of spawning females, the use of passive gear and our owner-operator provision. The MLA urges the Commission to consider how these proven approaches could be adapted to shrimp management.

The extremely poor condition of the shrimp resource provides an opportunity to examine new management approaches to help stabilize the future fishery. While the shrimp resource has always been highly cyclical and very sensitive to environmental changes, the management system has never adequately prioritized protection of spawning females as a core tenant or taken into account how gear selectivity impacts the resource.

The MLA strongly urges the Commission to develop a flexible management approach that supports a more stable and sustainable shrimp fishery able to provide fishing opportunity for a diverse group of vessels. The MLA supports continued open access to the shrimp fishery coupled with a season that allows the majority of shrimp to drop their eggs before they are harvested and effort controls to allow Maine's trappers as well as our mid coast and downeast fishermen the opportunity to access the resource before allowable catches are reached.

The MLA supports the establishment of state by state allocation of Total Allowable Catch (TAC), rather than a limited entry system, as the best method to achieve this. The MLA does not currently have a preference on which method to use to determine state by state allocation process, but supports Maine receiving its recent average proportion of landings or at least 90% of the total allowable catch.

The MLA strongly urges the Commission to adopt management measures that maximize the catch females after they have dropped their eggs (Female stage II), and minimize the catch of shrimp in other life stages. Figures 2 and 3 in the *Assessment Report for Gulf of Maine Northern Shrimp – 2013* (pages 45-49) clearly show that the timing and location of the fishery and the gear used to catch the shrimp strongly influence the proportion of Female stage II shrimp in the catch. Regardless of all other variables which might affect the status of the shrimp resource, allowing shrimp to drop their eggs before they are harvested will improve the health of the resource.

The timing of the season, based on location, greatly influences the proportion of females landed after egg hatch. For example, in January 2013 only 22.5% of shrimp landed by Maine trawlers were Female Stage II compared to 95.6% landed by New Hampshire trawlers during the same time period. The percentage of Female Stage II shrimp landed by Maine trawlers increased to 45% in February, and 93% in March, 2013. The timing of the season must prioritize targeting shrimp after egg hatch in order to allow a higher proportion of the population to successfully reproduce. This approach has been very successful in the lobster fishery which bans the harvest of egg-bearing females.

The impact of gear selectivity should also be considered in future management approaches. While the MLA continues to support the continuation of the both the trawl and trap fishery for shrimp, shrimp landings data show that trappers are generally more apt to catch females after egg hatch than trawlers. Further, the trap fishery is a lower volume fishery and most fishermen report that the quality of trapped shrimp is typically superior to trawl shrimp, and the price per pound is consistently higher. Exploring opportunities for future growth in the trap sector would allow more fishermen to participate in the fishery while maximizing the value of the shrimp and minimizing the overall impact on the resource by targeting Stage II females.

Under the current management system shrimp trappers did not have an equal opportunity to access the resource by being allocated limited quota and a delayed start. Further, fishermen located in downeast areas did not have an opportunity to access the shrimp resource in recent years, at a time when nearly all the landings would be comprised of Stage II females, because the quota had already been reached before the shrimp were catchable. This resulted in a lost economic opportunity for fishermen who live in rural communities with limited economic prospects. The management community must come up with a mechanism to allow for all fishermen to fish on these Stage II females because if they are not harvested they will simply die with no economic benefit to communities.

The MLA urges the Commission not to implement a limited entry system, but rather to implement a management approach which protects spawning females, examines the impact of gear on the resource and allows Maine fishermen from the entire length of the coast an opportunity to access the resource.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Patrice McCarron
Executive Director

-----Original Message-----
From: Misstaylor08ap@gmail.com [mailto:misstaylor08.ap@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 08, 2015 11:33 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Northern Shrimp Amendment 3

Comment to Northern Shrimp Fishery

Mike Wain,

My name is Arthur Poland of South Bristol, Maine, mobile gear fisherman for 25 years. I am not in favor of a limited entry fishery, on the other hand I don't want to see the 100' dragger come back into the shrimp fishery should it get big again like it did a few years ago. You could take care of an entry into the fishery issue by setting catch limits for instance 600-1,200 pounds per day. Having a catch limit would increase the value of the product and would prevent over fishing of the industry.

Don't get me wrong, I like catching 5,000-10,000 pounds a day, it's exciting, but at the end of the day I've killed a lot of shrimp for 30 cents a pound. I would prefer to catch 600-1,200 pounds of shrimp for $1.50-$2.00 a pound and have a season that is consistent every year.

In regards to restrictions, I think limiting the size of a boats rock hoppers and roller size. My boat is a 38' with a lot of horsepower and a big wheel. Currently I tow with 16 inch and 14 inch rock hoppers and can tow on the bottom anywhere I point my boat. That is why I think there should be a restriction on the size of gear.

For an example, 8 inch rollers or rock hoppers, or no rollers or rockhoppers and have chain sweep only. This would limit the amount of spawn shrimp you would catch later in the season when they go on the bottom and spawn.

I would like to see a fishery from mid January - March 31, weekends off. I don't care if the weather is bad for two weeks and nobody gets out. All boats, draggers and trappers, should have equal daily catch limits 600-1,200 pounds a day. I think we should run with this plan for a few years and I bet it will work for the fisherman and the shrimp stock. We can only manage Mother Nature and her elements so much.

Thank you,

Arthur Poland Jr.
South Bristol, Maine
misstaylor08ap@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

Northern Shrimp

I started fishing for shrimp in 1983 , just a few years after the last complete closure of the shrimp fishery. I feel it would be Insane to continue to manage Northern Shrimp Fishery as we have for the past 50 plus years and expect any thing to change. The boom and bust cycle needs to stop. In the globile economy of today the market needs a steady , STABLE supply of our product “NORTHERN SHRIMP”. The Fishermen and Dealers will be better off with more stability ,the managers and scientist would be more able to respond quickly to fluctuations in stock biomass if a consistent amount of effort and participation occurred within the fishery. As with any single stock fishery there is a responsible way to control effort , Limited Entry. It’s a common effort control used in numerous fisheries regulated by ASMFC and the state of Maine. It should now be used in this fishery. It’s the right time for this to happen. Before this fishery reopens an ITQ system needs to be established. With Individual quotas it puts more responsibility on fishermen to self manage their landings for the most economic gain,that’s good for them,there community and the states the shrimp are landed.

An ITQ system could be put in place that would allow the season to be lengthened out ,which would allow all participants adequate time to harvest their quota ,some early, some mid season and some after spawning. With this system managers could more accurately develop a season that would allow moderate egg drop by only allowing a fixed amount of “user picked days” per month, each year. All harvesters should be

required to have onboard a VMS system to monitor the days that they use. Most all of the core group of shrimpers already have VMS on their vessels. Under ITQ a new tool can be used “PICKED DAYS”. They are for safety ,market and family concerns.and could also be used to control effort on EGG Bearing Shrimp. Regulations should not cause fishermen ,who are dependent on this fishery , to risk it ALL. Days could be limited each year , by the individual month, to allow for spawning, all within a fixed season .Managers can pick the number “of days”considering stock size and egg drop estimates, as a tool to keep a robust stock out there. A small group of shrimpers, I’ll call “the core group” are fully Invested in this fishery, we lost Ground Fish opportunity because we participated in this fishery every year. We have contributed significantly to the 90% of landings in the state of Maine. Above all else these fishermen have hundreds of years of experience and a vast amount of knowledge between them. They should get the full amount of landing history due them and not have it striped away because of Political pressure, especially here in Maine !!! Don’t let the Lobster industry rule this fishery!!!

LANDINGS are a product of the Individual who operated a Vessel. No boat ,by itself, ever caught a shrimp ! And a License doesn’t catch them either .

LANDINGS by State could be done but may get messy and complicated, but if allocation is assigned to individuals it doesn't matter where they live.

TRANSFERS by State could be done, but ITQ has a meaning.

ALLOCATION should ,at the onset, be caped at 1- 1.5 % MAX per individual… Allocation between trappers and trawlers should remain at historical levels.

TIMELINE considering all factors I think the longest possible number of years .

Due to the logbooks,2000, the poor market, 2002, its likely 2003 is the best year to start and should run thru 2011 even with the emergency closures. Individuals should be allowed to drop there lowest average year in the final calculations !!

Thats 8 years , minus 1 year ,giving them a 7 years of averaged landings !!!

ABSOLUTELY NO YEARS CONSIDERED AFTER THE CONTROL DATE…!!!!!!! Biomass should be considered stable above 12 - 15 thousand mt . and some new entrants could be allowed into the fishery when the Biomass exceeds a level Higher than that.

TAC will be Biased upon biomass projections annually with data from spring and fall surveys .Still will have to be using the stock assessment ,which model???

Target reference points F of .26 while in build up seasons.

F of .30-.28 while stock is stable ,triggers lottery for new entrants ?!!

Regardless of how we feel about the science , its all we have, and money should be directed to improving it!

Lottery: for new entrants , Just for new trapper license and another lottery for those who want to trawl for shrimp. Some amount of quota will be needed at a starting level. To be determined by economic factors but would be at an Entry level !!

Trap limits must be put in place and also penalties for exceeding that limit.

Trappers may have a shorter season but would not have the days out that trawlers would. They could fish consecutive days thru out their season.

SEASON could be the entire six months thats in the rules presently. There Certainly should be a fixed season length.

TRIP LIMITS should not be a tool, thats just a waist of resource.

A RESEARCH SET ASSIDE can and should be in place , but only having quota allocated to it if a project is in place “approved prior to the season”.

A multiyear plan for harvesting Northern Shrimp is long over due and should be put in place . The season length set for all harvesters , with annual changes to days out ,for trawlers,and trap limits for trappers Biased on biomass estimates.

VESSEL SIZE LIMIT Yes some limits are necessary. We have a limited resource .The larger vessels that have been in the fishery have, at times, fished on smaller/ younger shrimp in off shore areas, and, or fished up on the hard bottom and caused some gear conflicts. The core group ,most of which are Ground fisherman,have Length ,Tonnage and Horse Power limits on their vessels. With that said they need their history or they will become disadvantaged in this fishery.

Now with the trend in the Lobster fishery towards bigger vessels 45-50’ with huge horse power, 600-1,000 hp. These vessels and those individuals have NO restrictions on there permits or license and may have the ability tow much larger nets than the core group of fishermen. That disadvantage is a regulatory one ,and it should be changed in the Omnibus Amendment to Simplify Vessel Baselines ! More politics.

Objectives in AMD 2 are appropriate in this fishery , with the exception on the social and cultural features . I think that in Managing this fishery for the near term ,until it becomes stable again. That some regulatory impacts are unavoidable. That has happened in the Scallop,Ground fish,Elver and Lobster fisheries. Unintended consequences are unfortunate but are to some extent necessary to achieve a rebuilt, sustainable resource and economically viable industry .

F/V HAYLEY ANN Arnold Nickerson IV

3-30-15

TO ALL,

I HAVE PUT THIS INFORMATION TOGETHER FROM D.M.R. RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN THE LAST FULL SEASON 2010

IT CONSISTS OF LANDINGS BY BOTH DRAGGERS AND TRAPER

SEVERAL THINGS ARE VERY EVIDENT. ONE IS MANS ABILITY TO DESTROY A BIO-MA OF SHRIMP IN A 5 YEAR PERIOD! ANOTHER IS HOW QUICKL NO FISHING ALLOWS THE BIO-MA TO COME BACK

WHEN ONE LOOKS AT WHEN SHRIMP ARE CAUGHT AND WHAT TYPE— SIZE-EGGBEARING — MALES FEMALES IT BECOMES VERY CLEAR THAT A DECEMBER FISHERIE NOT ONLY CATCHES ALL EGGERS BUT ALSO LARGE NUMBERS OF SMALL MALES!!!

I JANUARY, DRAGGING AGAIN TAKES LARGE NUMBERS OF EGGERS + MALES

I FEBURARY THE CATCH

CLEANS UP BUT STILL A LOT OF MALES

IN MARCH A LOT LESS EGGERS BUT STILL A LOT OF MALES – I.E. NEXT YEARS FIRST YEAR EGGERS.!!

APRIL – SAME STORY

THROUGHT OUT ALL OF THE SEASON TRAPPED SHRIMP HAVE A MUCH BETTER RECORD A LOT LESS EGGERS + SMALL MALE

THE FINAL CHART COMPARES SHRIMP SIZE TO NUMBER OF EGGS CARRIED

WITH IN TWO YEARS THE NUMBER OF EGGS DOUBLES

SO THE NUMBER OF EGGERS AND MALES CAUGHT BY DRAGGERS THROUGH OUT THE SEASON IS DEFINATLY A MAJOR FACTOR IN DECLINE OF BIO-MAS AND DRAMATIC UPS & DOWNS OF PRODUCTION!

MY CONCLUSION

NO-SHRIMPING IN DECEMBER

NO-DRAGGING UNTIL BIO-MAS RECOVERS TO A CERTAIN LEVEL

DO-EXPERIMENTAL TOWS TO FIND WAYS TO REDUCE SMALL MALES & TRANSITIONAL SHRIMP - THROUGHOUT THE SEASON.

FISHERMEN HAVE ALWAYS FOUND A WAY!!!

START A DRAGGING SEASON AFTER BIO-MASS HAS RECOVERED AND NET MODIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE!

STARTING IN 2016 A TRAPS ONLY SEASON JAN-FEB-MAR WITH CLOSE MONITERING OF CATCH.

ALLOW ANYONE WHO HAS SHRIMPED WEATHER DRAGGED OR TRAPPED TO FISH WITH TRAPS!

PERHAPS HAVE A 200 TRAP LIMIT

BOATS 50 FEET OR OVER SHOULD BE LIMITED TO 5 DAYS A WEEK.

SMALL BOATS WILL BE LIMITED BY WEATHER!

BY NOT CATCHING SO MANY EGGERS + SMALL MALES THE BIO-MASS CAN ONLY RECOVER

LOOK AT THE STATISTICS

FIGURES DON'T LIE!!!

THINK LOBSTER RESOURSE

WHERE WOULD IT BE IF

ALL EGGERS AND SMALL LOBSTOR

WERE KEPT!!!

BY USING THE BEST POSSIBL

SCIENCE THIS PLAN

WOULD CREATE A STABL

RESOURSE!!!

THANK YOU

CRAIG S. SPROUL

P.S. 50+ YEARS

A FISHERMAN

From: osierswharf@aol.com [mailto:osierswharf@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 1:48 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Northern Shrimp Amendment 3

Osier Seafood, Inc.
2104 State Route 129
P.O. Box 128
South Bristol, ME 04568
Phone (207) 644-8500
Fax (207) 644-8102
Email - osierswharf@aol.com

April 14, 2015

Mike Waine
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1005 North Highland St., Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Waine:

My name is David J. Osier, I started shrimping back in 1981. I own and operate Osier Seafood Inc., a wharf in South Bristol, Maine. We also own 5 medium size trawlers, that range from 50 to 62.5 ft. long.

Depending on the shrimp season length, we have had 1 to all 5 vessels target shrimp. We also buy shrimp from other fishermen. Shrimp is very important to me and everyone involved in my operations.

The Issues are as follow:

Issue 1: I think limited entry should be used in the Northern Shrimp
Fishery and should be capped by the number of permits that landed shrimp in the years 2000 - 2011. Federal Permits that qualify should be issued a separate Northern Shrimp Permit. Northern Shrimp Permits should be able to be transferred to allow individuals to get in and out of the fishery.

Non Federal Permits/Licenses would have to qualify with state VTRs only and issued a Federal Northern Shrimp Permit.

Any individual that held a Federal Permit with Northern Shrimp Landings during qualifying years that sold/transferred it would not qualify.
The Landing History should stay with the permit.

The June 7, 2011 control date should remain in place. New participants would not be able to enter the fishery unless they obtained a Northern Shrimp Permit.

Issue 2: Northern Shrimp TAC should not be allocated state by state and

should remain managed by A.S.M.F.C.

Any vessel issued a Northern Shrimp Permit should be able to fish where they want, and land in what state they want with a Nonresident State Landing License.

Issue 3: Overages/underages should be carried forward to the Next Years
T.A.C.

The gear allocation of 87°/13% trawl/trap should be eliminated. I think there should be only one T.A.C. for all Shrimp Fishermen. We have a choice of what gear we want to use.

If the consensus is to keep the Trap/Trawl allocation then it should remain the same @ 87°/13% based on the historical data.

Northern shrimp should have a defined rock bottom Season of January 15
- February 15, No Days Out and No Time Restrictions. There should be no trip limits and no research set aside.

Issue 4: The goals and objectives from Amendment 2 are still
appropriate.

Issue 5: I am not in favor of area management.

I am not in favor of ITQ/IFQ. No one should own Shrimp/Fish. The Ground Fish A.C.E./Sector Fishery is a complicated fishery and has put most of the Small Vessels out of Business and put most of the Quota in the hands of a Few.

Horse power restrictions should be addressed because Federal Permitted Vessels are restricted and Non Federal Permits are wide open.
Non-Federal Permits can build any size boat and has no horse power limit, not catch limits, and gear restrictions, no monthly or seasonal divided catch, and no count on shrimp catch..

The best way to determine who and how participates, is with D.A.S.
Historic effort. By using VTR/Logbooks add up how many D.A.S. each Northern Shrimp Permits fished, between 2000 and 2011.

If the Northern Shrimp Permits fished 50% of all the days, they would be in the Full Time category, 37.5% of the days, they would be Limited Full Time category, 25% of the D.A.S., they would be Part Time category, and 12.5% of the days, they would be Occasional category.

Full Time Permits - would be able to fish every day of the season set by A.S.M.F.C.

Limited Full Time Permits - would be able to fish 75% of seasons days.

Part Time Permits - would be able to fish 50% of the season days.

Occasional Permits - would be able to fish 25% of the seasons days.

Bad weather would not allow Full Time boats to fish every day of season. Days at Sea would be kept track of by V.M.S., phone call in system setup by their state, or a card swipe like Maine Elver Fishermen use.

This D.A.S. method would award qualified Northern Shrimp Permit holders that put more effort into shrimping because it is part of the yearly living and not just a part time fill in.

Seasons number of days would be set based on T.A.C. and could be closed early if T.A.C. was reached.

D.A.S. might work out better for individuals that fish in Eastern Maine.

If I.T.Q. is used in this Northern Shrimp Fishery, in time most of the quota will end up in hands of a few.

Any effort reduction to do with owner operated only in the Shrimp Trawl Fishery should be off the table. An existing business like myself, has had 1 - 5 vessels participate in Shrimp Industry since 1981. I have a shore side facility that depends on these vessels to survive. The last
2 winters have been hard without a season. The Captains that work for me have been Shrimp Captains for years and are in their late 40s, one is 60 yrs. old.

It would be unfair to put these men out of work. With a Shrimp Season long enough to make it worth wild, our fleet supplies local markets, processors, and peddlers with a steady supply of shrimp. Also returning a lot of revenue back into the economy of Maine for fuel, oil, gear, supplies, Welders, Electricians insurance, trucking, licenses, groceries, ice, etc.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to help via email or by phone.

Sincerely,

David J. Osier, President
Osier Seafood, Inc.

F/V Lori Ann
F/V Blue Water III
F/V Paulo Marc
F/V Christina Carol
F/V Tara Lynn II

MIKE WAINE SENIOR FMP COORDINATOR
1050 N HIGHLAND ST. SUITE 200 A-N
ARLINGTON, VA 22201

Public comment on proposed ASMFC shrimp regulations 3/24/2015

The allocation proposals for the Atlantic pandalus shrimp industry are based on the same principals as catch shares. Catch shares have not worked.

Allocation would put many small dayboat shrimpers out of business and have a negative effect on the fishing communities they support.

I propose that shrimp should be managed by the same model that the Maine scallop fishery is being successfully rebuilt on. We should have industry TAC's not IFQ's. Use the already established control date, and start the season after egg bearing females have dropped all of their eggs. We need the science of reproductive recruitment to determine when the season should start. This would rebuild shrimp stocks significantly more than arguing over who gets the largest share of what's left of a shrimp fishery that will never reach its growth potential as long as there is a truncated breeding season.

David A. Sweenie

39 Fifth Ave.

Pembroke, ME 04666 F/V Charming Lady

(207) 214-2375

From: Howard, Fred S CIV PORTS, 1236 [mailto:fred.s.howard@navy.mil]
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 6:31 AM
To: Comments
Subject: "Northern Shrimp Amendment 3."

To Whom it May Concern,

You know I went to a local restaurant last year around this time and looked at the menu and it said Maine Shrimp as one of the meals. Now I was wondering where in the heck the Maine Shrimp were coming from so I asked the waitress and she said Canada. I went to that same restaurant this past weekend and sure enough Maine Shrimp was on the menu. Why can't Maine work with Canada to supply the shrimp to Maine? Obviously they don't care in Canada about depleting the resource or is it they are abundant up there? Fred Howard

I would like to thank the shrimp management for this opportunity to comment on this fishery that's very important to the Maine fishing community. What we need is a shrimp resource in the near future and long term that supports our fishing communities and prevents the hardships we have endured for the last two years.

The first management question, should limited entry be used in northern shrimp?

My answer is yes, due to the high exploration rate in past seasons, and two years of moratorium, open access has caused hardship for the industry to say the least.

The next, question, how should effort be capped?

Yes, I think it should be done by the number of participants that can done with vessels or licenses. But I think a licenses needs to have a vessel attached to it with history, because the licenses without history is a big part of this problem. We need to reduce potential effort, so that the true effort can be used as a management tool.

Next, how landings history should be assigned?

I think they should assigned by the vessel, that covers individuals that own their own vessels and if you use just a individual only without a vessel it would become catch share or commodity. I personal don't see how a individual can get history without a vessel under them.

Next, what years should be used for history and should we use the previously set control date?

My answer is yes, It would depend on a 5 or 10 year timeframe, if a 5 year timeframe is used and kept the previously set control date which I'm in favor of it would be 2006 thru 2010 seasons, for the ten timeframe 2001 thru 2010 seasons using the June 7, 2011 control date.

Next should new participants be allowed into the fishery?

This should be obvious; yes there should be a reentry. Next question is how it should be done? I think only when the fishery is rebuilt and market conditions are favorable and a level of sustainability is reached. If one vessel leaves the fishery one vessel can be allowed in. Until we reach sustainability we won't be any more vessels in than the fishery can stand to meet the rebuilding targets. And I would like to restate that a individual needs a vessel with history to participate in this fishery with 5 year timeframe is 2006 thru 2010, a 10 year timeframe is 2001 thru 2010.

Next, should the shrimp TAC be allocated to the states?

It can be, but the history that each vessel or individual brings to the table is their percentage and that percentage should be assigned to that vessel or individual by each state. The states should have the option to do this as a individual vessel [IFQ] if this is used the cost of administration stays with the state, we could also form co-op's [SECTORS] if this is used the cost of administration would fall on the vessels or individuals, also there is the possibility of community catch, the problem with community is

administration cost that would fall on the community and they would need a agreement with the vessels or individuals in that community.

Next, should a permitted harvester from one state be able land in another.

Only if they have quota from that state, or if the section allows quota to be transferred from state to state. If vessels are allowed to land in other states, landings will need to be tracked by the states so we can determine which states quota that catch is deducted from. The vessel should have state licenses and landing data from the state landed. I think transfers between states would be up to the states, there would be extra costs.

Next, how should the TAC be set?

The same way that is now with survey results, if we rework that system we will need another amendment and this may stall for another 10 years. As for overages/underages in the TAC if there is good reporting and target levels set with a buffer large enough there shouldn't be a problem, if there is a problem it can be handled by the states if we use IFQ's or co-op's if they are used.

Next, should the gear allocation of 87% for trawl and 13% for trappers be revised?

I don't think we need to, that was based on history and that's what we are moving to in the future.

Next, should the shrimp fishery have a defined season?

I think it could, this would be helpful for market and business planning. But I don't think a trip limit should be needed if we use of quota or TAC. Also the research set aside should be allocated by the states, about 2% percent of each states TAC that 6% preseason. I think we should do annual surveys like we are now to set the season.

Next, the goals and objectives

Protect and maintain the northern shrimp stock and optimize the resource.

Maintain the existing social and cultural and historical make up of the fishery

Minimize the adverse impacts on other fisheries and the impacts of adverse regulation in the northern shrimp fishery while promoting a robust and sustainable northern shrimp fishery.

Achieve compatible and fair management measures through industry monitoring and science with law enforcement.

Next, tools in managements tool box for crafting future seasons

Individual or vessel quota

Co-op or sector quota

A start and a end date to the season based on allocated TAC

Gear restrictions [mesh size, roller size, and sweep length] for trappers [number of traps]

Vessel limit [horsepower, and tonnage]

Mandatory use of fish excluder

Implementation of areas fished zones or offshore lines

Gary Libby F/V Leslie & Jessica

-----Original Message-----
From: Julie Miller [mailto:jamiller54@roadrunner.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 08, 2015 11:27 PM
To: Comments
Cc: BEN MARTENS; Terry Stockwell
Subject: Shrimp PID

Dear Mr. Waine, and members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:

3/8/15

I am writing to you in response to the question moved forward by the ASMFC concerning how the northern shrimp fishery should be managed in the future. I have already submitted one letter at the Maine Fishermen's Forum on Saturday March 7. That note was a quick outline of some of my thoughts that I had sent to my sector manager Ben Martens. I would like to submit this letter which will contain a lot of the same content as that note I submitted while also adding a bit more content. I believe that in regards to managing any species when there are drastic differences from state to state in landings as there is with shrimp, the management process should reflect that in how the stakeholders states are represented. Many Maine fishermen including myself feel that as the situation now exists with each member state having an equal vote that it is impossible for Maine to get a fair shake in this process in regards to shrimp . It is hard enough to arrive at a fair conclusion within the state given all of the different factors that come into play, let alone try to make a one size fits all plan that also includes Massachusetts and New Hampshire. I believe that if Maine stays in the ASFMC we should able to submit a plan that will work for us as NH and Mass should also be able to do also. Within that plan it should reflect the right of historical access on a state by state basis. As far as how we manage the fishery in the state of Maine I don't have a big problem with just leaving things as they exist now, but if the state chooses limited entry I would like to consider some form of this as a possible path forward. In my previous note I stated that I am dead set against individual ownership of the resource and that the fishery be accessible for the cost of a license just like it has been for all participants to this point. i say this out of concern for all of the younger fishermen following in our footsteps and the need for diversification within the fleet. I have had many years of participation in this fishery, few if any of which would be counted in any of the years being considered for qualification. I have a substantial investment in a second boat that I bought just to participate in this fishery again along with my stepson whom I hope to hand down to one day. During one or two of the qualifying years being considered it was impossible to fish in a commercial sense as there was only one processor operational at the time and he would only buy from an exclusive group of boats and no others, making it impossible to factor those years into any kind of history formula. During my earlier years shrimping before they log books were required there was never a push from the industry to exclude anyone let, alone without being previously forewarned that they may be treated differently.

If it is determined that limited entry is the path we must take than I suggest that the previously established control date is used as people were forewarned that they may be treated differently after that time as being the only fair way to proceed. The next step would be to build to an appropriate number of licenses yet to be determined. If the number of desired licenses desired was lower then set by the control date we should achieve a lower number through attrition as this is an aging fishery. Maybe you could include some kind of minimum participation cap as a way of dealing with latency (example: verifiably use your license once every three years or loose it). With these measures in place at some point you would be below the number of licenses associated with a sustainable fishery as set forth by industry and managers thus allowing for new entrants to the fishery. From that point forward you

could conduct weighted random drawings which would issue licenses to future fishermen. There could be multiple ways to increase ones chances in a draw system like this (example: a draw for each license held by the applicant, or for being involved in research, or completing some sort of safety standards). I think that an owner/ operator scheme should be considered with at least a 51% ownership factored into that scheme, you could possibly grandfather existing situations while raising the bar from here on out. Another scenario, although I would suspect it to be unpopular would be to divide quota evenly or maybe by some other formula to be divided amongst fishermen on a weekly basis. The only reason I even suggest this that it may be a way to allow for more participation in the fishery thus benefiting not only more fishermen, but also their communities, states and region as a whole. This is how the Maine scallop fishery is now executed and though some don't care for this method it is widely accepted by industry. In closing I say to you that the shrimp do in fact belong to the people(as do the fish), so please be open to new concepts and strive to find other ways to manage participants in way that promotes access and versitility for the the fleet, while not following the failed policies of ground fish.

Sincerely, Ira (Tad) Miller

COMMENTS FOR DRAFT AMENDMENT 3

The Northern Shrimp Fishery is a unique and different fishery from others. There is a combination of smaller boats along with some larger draggers and fishing boats. Lobstermen shrimp in the winter for added profit and also enjoyment of doing it. Draggers have to rely on this fishery for survival. This is two drastically different cultures pursuing this fishery which is different from any other.

ISSUE 1: LIMITED ENTRY

I believe supply and demand will regulate this fishery and should not be turned into limited entry.

That said, if the entry is pursued to limited Entry, care should be observed with fairness in mind for all. Future rules should be made that look forward and in doing so should not penalize the past practices of the individuals involved of not meeting certain criteria of years ago when there was no set rules to govern these years.

The control date of June 7, 2011 should remain and if needed limit new entry but not limit past participants.

LANDING HISTORY: this is where there is a main difference. I believe the boat should hold the history. All lobster boats have to have the owner onboard. With draggers this is not the case. Over the years, Draggers have numerous captains where on a lobster boat, they could use other captains also during shrimping but not lobstering. So by keeping history with the boat, this would be fair to all. The lobster boats and owners would be covered and the draggers would keep their history. This is normal to the commercial fishing industry. The captains that rotate around would not have the history but they also do not have an investment in a vessel. If they did, the history would also be theirs. In this way, the draggers will be able to employ the rotary captains. The dragger/Lobsterboat operation is totally different and this needs to be understood.

The years to determine landing history should be from the control date back, not limited to just a few years. Especially the last few years of 2008-2012, when the fishing was bad, high fuel prices and no market. This would apply against those who didn't fish these years lessening impact and rewarding those that kept fishing. Landings history should be just that, proof of a committed effort in the fishery. I have a steel dragger and hauled it out after the 2009 year due to low catches and high costs. I have maintained this vessel and my license and plan on fishing again when the fishery again stabilizes. I should not be penalized for this. My boat is not a lobster boat but a dragger where it will depend on the shrimp fishery along with the scallop fishery for survival as the New England Multi Species fishery has given too low a quota to provide a living.

QUOTA: No personal quota system should be set up. This would only reward those that fished hard, had the money to do so and would limit those fishermen who honestly need the income. Quota for the whole fishery could be used for each state or like now for the year total but not down to the individual fisherman level. This would be totally unfair as you would judge the future ability to catch shrimp on the past years when there was not any criteria in place to meet a proven mark. Shrimping is also different for each tow or area along the coast. Catches are higher during the season in some areas and are not in reach for others. For a fisherman in one area to be given a lower quota just because he/she did not fish

where the high shrimp count was is just not right. Most Fisherman do not have the ability to fish other areas just because the Shrimping is better there. This has even caused some fishermen to give up fishing during a particular year/s due to low abundance of shrimp in their area while others have had a banner year.

SUMMARY OF MY COMMENTS:

-Limited entry only in keeping the licenses at present level and using the control date in place.

-lobstermen shrimping in my opinion are doing so for the enjoyment of the experience and to supplement their income which since the late 80's has been at an all time high. The dragger fishermen are strickly in a survival mode. Maybe not in every case, but the majority. The draggers have had their fishing ability cut to an extreme low level and there is only a handful of draggers surviving compared to the prosperous fishing for lobster of which the dragger fisherman is excluded from.

-landings history should be by vessel and not individual. This way the boat owner operators are covered and the draggers that employ various captains would be able to shrimp. This way the captains with no investment into the fishery other than their personal days at sea operation, would still have boats to Captain.

-Landing history timeline should not be just for a few years which may exclude those with a larger investment and history than others that just happened to fish those few years. The history criteria should reflect a person's commitment to the fishery and if shown to own a boat which has fished shrimp from 2001 on for at least 3-4 years and most importantly kept current with the licensing requirements.

-any person who owns a boat that has been licensed to fish for Shrimp and kept the boat license and/or individual license current should not have to be subject to fishing certain years as long as they have fished for at least 2 yrs since 2001. Again, this is to make sure the person with a boat, gear investment and the want to fish isn't excluded for a rule that the person wasn't subject to in making the decision not to fish during certain years.

The over regulation of this industry will kill the sustainability of the Shrimp Industry. The market was taken away once in the mid 2000's when the fishing stock quota's were so low that most of the processors went out of business. The few that survived managed to regain some market share but now with the last 2 seasons shut down, the future is unpredictable.

In the early 2000's Regulators wanted to shut the industry down due to low stock class landings during test tows. This was found to be in error as that particular year ended up being a very good year for landing.

I realize the management will never be easy but I hope that no one is excluded from this fishery that has shown to have a commitment of boat/gear ownership and that have kept lawfully committed also in keeping up the licensing requirements along with other costs like excise taxes and similar costs.

Best Regards,

Todd Watts : FV MEGALTAY-608181, 134 Harts Neck Road, Tenants Harbor, Maine 04860

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Mike Wayne, Senior FMP Coordinator
1050 N. Highland St
Suite A-N
Arlington, Va 22201

April 10, 2015

Fwd: Public comment.

I think we need to substantially change the way the northern shrimp fishery is managed in the future.

I believe we must acknowledge that while this is an important fishery, this is a supplemental fishery to ground fishermen and lobstermen alike. A size sorting grate to reduce small shrimp being caught before they reach 4 years old should be mandatory, along with minimum count per pound requirements. I also believe we should not fish for shrimp until 50% have dropped their eggs. The three States should have their own quota and should be able to control the length and starting date of their own seasons.

The Shrimp fishery in Downeast Maine is very different than in Southern Maine and New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

I am not in favor of a closed fishery. I think strict regulations for protecting small and egg bearing shrimp would help keep this fishery from continuing its boom and bust past.

A closed fishery would put a lot of small boats out of the fishery and hurt a number of communities on the coast of Maine, while doing little to protect the northern shrimp stocks by just letting a few big boats have the fishery to themselves.

Thank you.

Mark E. Bennett

Mark Bennett
Trawler and AP Member
Sorrento, Maine

Mark Chene - Shrimp fisherman Bristol, Me.
14 Bradley shore Road
Pemaquid, Me. 04558

To: ASMFC This is my public comment on amendment 3 to the Northern shrimp Fishery plan.

No to Limited Entry.

Effort should be held to a 3 month season Jan. - March and no trawling inside 3 miles. Trapping only inside 3 mi. This would allow more shrimp to spawn before be caught. As shrimp don't trap well until the last week of Jan. when the water temp. goes down. Trawlers would not be towing over shrimp spawning beds inside 3 mi. and disrupting the "garden".

L:05 on april 15th

The gear allocation of 87% trawl 13% trap should be revisited to something closer to 50 - 50.
The season should be defined as Jan. - March on a multi-annual basis, with trip limits imposed on certin years when there's a lower Tac.

Size selective gear + research should be mandatory and max. count-per-pound limits too. Most shrimp trappers and traps meet these restrictions.

Keep management simple by doing a couple of small things that could change the health of the biomass of shrimp. Don't complicate the plan with most of these management Questions. By having a 3 month season trawlers get a good chance at the shrimp in Jan. Trappers get them good in Feb. and March the shrimp are around for the Trawlers as they leave spawning beds and migrate offshore also the downeast Maine boats have a shot at them in Feb. + March.

I've been shrimping for 30 years and lobstering 40 years After witnessing no trawling inside 3 miles the past two winters, the lobstering is better with fewer culls and it must be helping anything else thats trying to survive.

Hello I'm a shrimp trapper in New Harbor ME. I sell to the co-op.

I have 3 years of history with my new boat. And only 2 years with my old boat.

For a few years I worked on shore in the winters do to no market at our co-op or low prices. I didn't get a license those few winters. I never thought it would come back and bite me in the ass. I never invisioned it would haunt me.

Fishing is our sole income for our family. I go winter lobstering now but there is no money in it. We are so far off shore. With a very cold very windy winter we only worked 11 days between Jan + Feb.

With that being said I could be shrimp trapping. We shrimp less than 2 miles from the harbor.

Even with a 1000 lbs quota I am able to pay my bills.

Now that you have my brief history of the last few years I would like to give my opinion.

I don't want to see "Landings" be a factor. Start with refreezing the license for 3 to 5 years.

Our age is a factor. None of us are getting any younger. As people get older they will get out of the business.

Thats why I think it should

be an owner operator business. I am the one on the boat fishing. Not the owner of a boat sitting at star bucks and telling my young captain to go fishing because I don't want to put in the cold winter.

Being a trapper we don't get many shrimp with eggs. Eggs are the future of the fishery. It seems like alot of trawl captains have a hard time understanding that.

As you know trappers have been given much less quota than the draggers in the past few seasons.

Looking at your paper work "Trappers are almost 1/2 of the "Maine" fleet with only a small amount of quota.

Another thing. If I'm told I might not have all the correct requirements like other people. I will be sitting on shrimp traps worth "Nothing" Nobody will be willing to buy traps they can't use. The same as dragging gear.

As a means of control put a freeze on license for 3 to 5 years and see what happens. Wait and watch.

Thanks. Sincerely

Martin Leeman
Shrimp Trapper
New Harbor
Maine

From: Michael Cromwell [mailto:mecmancave@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 10:40 AM
To: Comments
Subject: shrimp pid

Just a couple of quick comments for the shrimp fishing industry in Maine .
These arguments are for the use of shrimp traps only .
1) trapping shrimp yields a more uniform size product
2) trapping shrimp does not tear up the bottom
3) trapping shrimp virtually eliminates by-catch
4) trapping (only) would help reduce fishing pressure

Why not have some sort of a "buy back" program of shrimp nets and have the funds that are received from this buy-back go toward the purchase of shrimp traps ?

From: Kimberly McLain [mailto:kimphoto@roadrunner.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 10:14 AM
To: Comments
Cc: sheilaandivy@outlook.com
Subject: Shrimp PID

To Whom It May Concern;
My name is William McLain and I am a shrimp fisherman from Pemaquid and New Harbor, Maine.
I have 35 years of experience trapping shrimp but have also done some trawling . Even though it is two different fisheries we are still targeting the same species so therefore I feel we should be put on the same playing field. I don't agree with the 87% / 13% split between trawlers / trappers!
Just because that is how the landings have traditionally gone in the past means nothing. Not many fisheries can be controlled by tradition as everything changes over time.

I think individual quotas or trap limits could work if they were big enough for us to earn a living.
February and March are good months to harvest shrimp because at this time the shrimp have dropped their spawn (December and January). This time might not work well for New Hampshire or Massachusetts so maybe they could have an earlier season and set their own rules.
My Dad bought shrimp on the docks for 50 years and these closed seasons combined with a overflowing glut when there is a season wreak havoc on the market as well as the price.

I examined this years test tows off of Pemaquid and New Harbor and saw many various sizes of shrimp which means there are all years (ages) being caught. This fact proves that the stock is out there and looks positive for the future.

I honestly believe that Mother Nature plays the biggest part in the biomass and what we harvest inshore does not greatly affect that. Protect them for 9 months in the offseason and let fisherman harvest them for 2-3 after they have dropped their spawn. If during that time, scientists feel the stock is getting low then they could have an early closure to the season. After spawning, the five year old shrimp die off anyways so they may as well be harvested and enjoyed.

I feel that the stocks will be healthy and our economy truly needs a shrimp season so if you have to place limits so be it but please don't shut it down completely!

Sincerely,
William McLain

Sent from my iPad

Willis M. Spear Jr.
28 Birchwood Ave
Yarmouth, Maine
04096

Mike Waine
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1005 North Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Mr. Waine,

Listening to testimony at the shrimp hearings, knowing what I've experienced shrimping with my own boat and being a partner in a wharf and wholesale shrimp company in Portland Maine for almost forty years. It's important to think of the future of shrimping and who is going to harvest the shrimp.

What amount of participation from the fleet is necessary to support the historical fishing infrastructure and balance a sustainable harvest of an animal that is a capricious, temperature dependant animal at best?

The present amount of licenses should be frozen. As older fishermen get out of the fishery their licenses should be given by their state to young stake holders of that state.

No I.T.Q.s or selling of the present amount of licenses

This must not happen for two reasons.

(1) The present amount of shrimp licenses helps to maintain our present coastal marine infrastructure. This prevents non marine users from displacing the remaining wharfs and open access areas along the shore which are critical to commercial marine users.

(2) This selling of permits and ITQ's is how the N.M.F.S. and the N.E.F.M.C. decided how to manage the New England ground fish industry. This type of management was proven to be a total failure when N.E.F.M.C. chose to ignore Federal Mandate, National Standard #8 and 90% of the ground fish effort wound up in 10% of the fishermens hands. Effort was rewarded to big business and speculators who now threaten to sell their quotas and boats to foreign interests.

The seasonal quota must be set by scientests and fishermen. Opening and closing dates may fluctuate depending on the assessment of stock and possibly of a 1 or 2 week closure towards the end of February to help insure the laying of shrimp eggs on the shore.

Young people are our future - give them a management scheme they can see will work for their future.

Shrimp is a public resource not to be sold to the highest bidder. It (the resource) must be passed on to young stakeholders. They will help insure the

survival of New England's fisheries and coastal communities

Sincerely,

Willis M. Spear Jr.

April 14, 2015