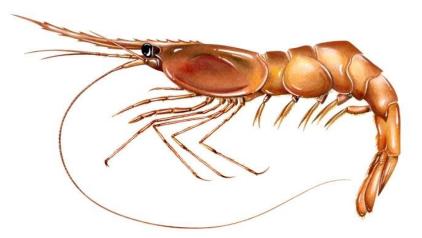


Northern Shrimp Draft Amendment 4 Public Information Document Overview



Northern Shrimp Section June 20, 2024

Overview

- Background
- Timeline
- Issues Under Consideration
 - 1. Specifications Setting Timeline
 - 2. Management Triggers
 - 3. Other Issues
- Other Considerations

Background – Status of the Stock

- Moratorium since 2014
 - December 2023: Moratorium extended through 2024
- 2023 Data Update:
 - No improvement in status
 - Indices of abundance, spawning stock biomass, and recruitment at new time-series lows
 - Recruitment below the 20th percentile of the 1984-2017 reference period in 9 of the last 11 years
 - Environmental conditions continue to be unfavorable in the Gulf of Maine for northern shrimp



Background - Management

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- Original FMP (1986)
 - Set requirement for annual specifications: "An open season, not to exceed 183 days, will be set on an annual basis"
- Amendment 3 (2017)
 - "The Section will meet annually during a public meeting in the fall or early winter to review the AP and NSTC recommendations"
 - "The Section has the ability to set a closed season annually up to 366 days (i.e., impose a moratorium)"
 - Specifications setting timeline may only be altered via an amendment to the FMP



Background - Management



December 2023 Section Motion:

"Move to initiate an amendment to implement an ongoing moratorium until the wake-up index is triggered."



Background – Plan Development Team



Name	Affiliation
Chelsea Tuohy	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Katie Drew	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Kelly Whitmore	Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries
Robert Atwood	New Hampshire Fish and Game
Lulu Bates	Maine Department of Marine Resources



Draft Amendment 4 Timeline



June 2024	Section reviews Draft PID and considers approving the PID for public comment
June-August 2024	Public comment on PID
August 2024	Section reviews public comment; directs Plan Development Team to develop Draft Amendment 4
August-September 2024	Preparation of Draft Amendment 4 with input from Technical Committee and Advisory Panel
September 2024	Section reviews Draft Amendment 4 and considers approving for public comment
October-November 2024	Public comment on Draft Amendment 4
December 2024	Section reviews public comment and selects final measures for Amendment 4; Policy Board and Commission approve Amendment 4



Issue 1: Specifications Timeline

- Talling Commession
- Annual specifications may no longer be appropriate for the species
- Consider extending the specifications setting timeline to allow for the setting of ongoing or multiyear moratoriums
- Section will not be required to meet annually, but Section member may choose to call a meeting at any time, if desired
- Annual TC data updates will continue regardless of specifications timeline



Issue 1: Specifications Timeline

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- Public Comment Questions:
 - Is a specifications setting timeline longer than one year appropriate given the status of the northern shrimp stock and fishery?
 - What would an appropriate specifications setting timeline be?
 - Should the Section explore the option of an ongoing or multiyear harvest moratorium?



Issue 2: Management Triggers



- Implement a management trigger for the stock as a method of stock monitoring
 - Set of biological indicators to indicate improvement in stock status
- If triggered, TC conducts a more thorough evaluation of stock status including projections
- Annual TC data updates will continue regardless of trigger implementation



Issue 2: Management Triggers



- Trigger defines a specific management response to definable metrics that indicate changes in northern shrimp biological and/or environmental conditions
- TC and PDT have identified recruitment trends as a potential trigger (i.e., year class strength and persistence through the time series)
 - Higher landings of northern shrimp observed in years following recruitment of dominant year classes that have survived to adulthood



Issue 2: Management Triggers



- Public Comment Questions:
 - Should this amendment consider adopting a management trigger for northern shrimp, where a particular set of biological indicators (to be defined) trigger a more thorough evaluation of stock condition and a potential management response?
 - Would recruitment (both in terms or year-class strength and persistence) serve as an effective indicator of northern shrimp stock health to inform a management trigger for re-evaluation of whether the stock could support a sustainable fishery?



Issue 3: Other Issues

 In addition to specifications timelines and management triggers, seeking feedback on other topics to be addressed in Amendment 4

 Public Comment Questions: What other changes should be made to the northern shrimp fishery that are not covered by the topics included in this document?



Amendment 4 - Other Considerations



- Amendment 3 NSTC will provide a northern shrimp stock assessment on an annual basis
 - SSB and annual recruitment are defined in the amendment text as being derived from the Summer Survey
- Stock assessment language will be updated in Draft Amendment 4 text to reflect current available surveys and/or provide flexibility to incorporate new data streams





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