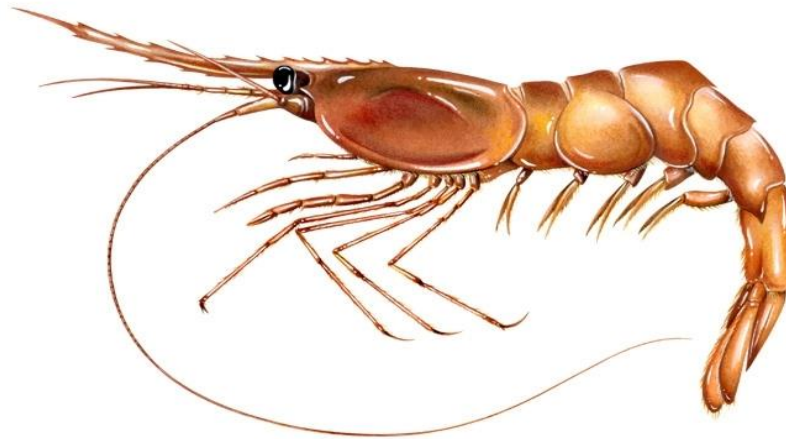




Amendment 4 Public Information Document (PID) Public Comment Summary and Advisory Panel Report



Northern Shrimp Section
September 2024

Overview



- Background
- Timeline
- Public Information Document (PID Overview)
- Public Comment Summary
- Advisory Panel Report



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



- 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.”



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
September 2024	Section reviews public comment; directs Plan Development Team to develop Draft Amendment 4
September-October 2024	Preparation of Draft Amendment 4 with input from Technical Committee and Advisory Panel
November 2024	Section reviews Draft Amendment 4 and considers approving for public comment
November-December 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



Amendment 4 PID – Three Issues



1. Specifications Timeline
2. Management Triggers
3. Other Issues



Issue 1: Specifications Timeline



- 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 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 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 3: Other Issues



“How would you like management of the northern shrimp fishery to look in the future?”

Examples of other issues could include:

- Impacts due to climate change
- Impacts from habitat degradation
- Research priorities

➔ What actions can managers take to address these concerns?





PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Am4 PID Public Comment Summary



Public Hearings

- 3 webinar hearings and 1 in-person hearing (ME)
- 24 attendees* and 11 commentors
- Some individuals attended multiple hearings

**not including state staff, ASMFC staff, or Commissioners/proxies*

Written Comment

- 4 written comments received
 - 3 from individual stakeholders 1 from an organization



Issue 1 (PC): Specifications Timeline



Three comments supported the continuation of annual specifications:

- Annual specifications meetings allow the public to weigh in on the fishery management process
- In years where changing conditions are witnessed (e.g. 2024 cooling trend), public can relay that information to managers
- Concern that multi-year moratorium could result in Section missing an uptick in the stock



Issue 2 (PC): Management Triggers



One comment supported the addition of a management trigger to the FMP:

- Supported the use of eDNA and/or stock surveys
- Supported the use of environmental indicators such as temperature

One comment expressed concern that current data from surveys is not sufficient for use in future management triggers



Issue 3 (PC): Other Issues



- One comment supported a recreational trap fishery in the winter months
- 13 comments supported the implementation of an industry-based research program



Issue 3 (PC): Other Issues



Industry-Based Research Program Comments:

- Increase in shrimp abundance this year and cooling trend in the GOM
- Concern over the loss of generational shrimp fishery knowledge
- Concerns with gear used in previous surveys
- Time of year and time of day is important for surveying the stock
- Support for sampling program in the winter months



Advisory Panel Report



1. Specifications Timeline

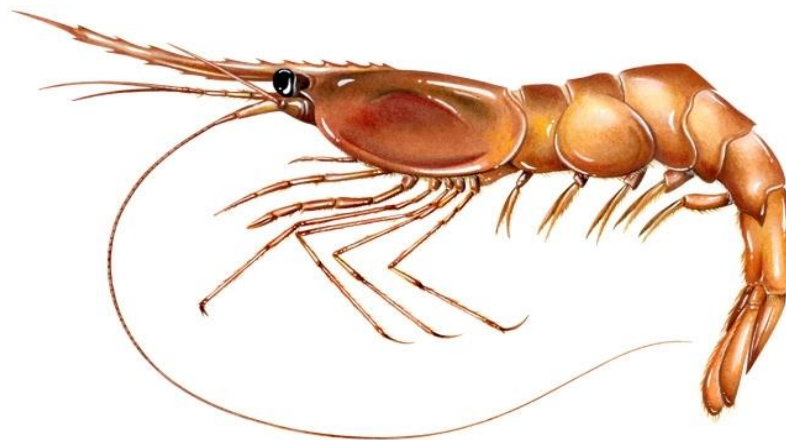
- AP supported the continuation of annual specifications
- Important to have annual meeting to get people together to discuss shrimp
- AP supported 2 year maximum specifications, if necessary

2. Management Triggers

- AP supported the use of management triggers
- Wake-up index would be difficult to wake up without help from industry (hard to have a trigger without a summer survey)
- Need a dedicated summer shrimp survey
- AP supported industry data for use in trigger



Questions?



Task: Provide direction to the Plan Development Team for development of Draft Amendment 4.



Industry-Based Research Program Investigation and Advisory Panel Report



Northern Shrimp Section
September 2024

Overview



- Background
- Overview of Technical Committee Discussions
- Advisory Panel Report
- Discussion



Background



December 2023 Section Motion:

Move to task the Northern Shrimp Technical Committee (TC) to investigate an industry-based research program. The TC should weigh:

- Information that would provide utility to management and science (indicators of stock abundance? Summer sampling given residency of shrimp in offshore waters? Other TC suggestions).
- Appropriate methodology to support that research goal, including breadth of sampling in time and place, and across years.
- Approximate estimate of cost, if possible.

The Section indicates that an industry-based research program would operate under a catch cap. As conversations progress, the TC should collaborate with the AP to get feedback on research priorities and metrics.



Technical Committee Meeting



- The Northern Shrimp Technical Committee (TC) met in March 2024 to discuss industry-based research program
- TC developed two potential options for an industry-based research program for AP feedback



Option 1 – Summer Survey



Summer sampling program to replace NEFSC Summer Survey which has been indefinitely postponed

- Pros:
 - Can be used in stock assessment
 - Detailed information on recruitment, SSB, and abundance
- Cons:
 - Time lag between when data could be used in assessment
 - High cost and significant staff time
 - High barrier to entry for industry participants
 - Challenges with standardization



Option 2 – Winter Sampling



Limited industry-funded winter sampling program allowing vessels to fish in specified strata

- Pros
 - Lower cost to the states than summer survey
 - Data could be used immediately
- Cons
 - Data would be less useful in the long term to the stock assessment
 - Continuation of the program would be dependent on industry participation and self-funding



Catch Cap



- Catch cap could be developed using projections from stock assessment update
 - Stock assessment update scheduled for 2025
- Catch cap will be dependent on risk tolerance of the Section
 - Any removals of shrimp would likely continue to depress SSB



Advisory Panel Report



- AP Goals for an Industry-Based Research Program:
 - Fish in the future
 - Find out what is out there
- Summer Survey v. Winter Sampling Program:
 - AP preference for both a summer survey and winter sampling
 - Preference for a summer survey
 - Understanding that a winter sampling program (February-March) is more probable given the lower costs
- Catch Cap:
 - Preference for a high enough catch cap that would allow fishers to cover the cost of fuel and crew



Discussion



- What type of data is the Section seeking from an industry-based research program?
 - Summer survey: New time series for use in stock assessment and recruitment, SSB, and abundance estimates
 - Winter sampling: CPUE, length frequency
- What capacity do states have to devote to an industry-based research program?
 - Staff time?
 - Permits?
 - Sampling?
 - Funding?



Questions?

