



Public Information Document (PID) for Northern Shrimp Amendment 4 for Public Comment



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

July 2024

Overview



- Overview of ASMFC
- Background on Amendment 4
- Amendment Development Process
- Public Information Document (PID Overview)
- How to Provide Public Comment



ASMFC Overview



- Formed in 1942 – Interstate Compact
- 15 Atlantic coast states: ME – FL
- 0 – 3 miles from shore
- Deliberative forum for states
- 3 Commissioners from each state
- Each state has one vote



ASMFC Overview



Northern Shrimp Section:

- Maine
- New Hampshire
- Massachusetts



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.”



Amendment Development Process



1. Public Information Document (PID)

- Broad scoping document
- Provides public opportunity to identify and provide input on major issues
- Asks public how they would like to see the fishery managed

2. Draft Amendment

- A more focused document which details the suite of management options for each issue
- Provides public opportunity to comment on specific management options



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 <i>Current Step: Comments Due 11:59 PM August 16</i>
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



Amendment 4 PID



- Overview of issues identified by the Section
- Background information on the northern shrimp population, fisheries, and management
- Series of questions for the public to consider
- Overall, the Commission is seeking public comment on the question: **“How would you like management of the northern shrimp fishery to look in the future?”**



Amendment 4 PID – Three Issues



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



Overview of Issues in the Public Information Document (PID)



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 1: Specifications Timeline



- 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 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 of 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?
 - Are there any other sources of data that exist now or may exist in the future that could inform the management trigger?



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?





How to Provide Public Comment

Public Hearing Schedule



<u>Date and Hearing Format</u>	<u>State/Agency</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Monday, July 29 Webinar Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	New Hampshire Fish and Game Dept. and Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries	Cheri Patterson (NH) 603.868.1095 Robert Glenn (MA) 508.264.4157
Tuesday, July 30 Webinar Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Maine Dept. of Marine Resources	Megan Ware 207.446.0932
Wednesday, July 31 In-person Hearing 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Maine Dept. of Marine Resources	Megan Ware 207.446.0932
Thursday, August 1 Webinar Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Maine Dept. of Marine Resources, New Hampshire Fish and Game Dept., and Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries	Chelsea Tuohy (ASMFC) 703.842.0714

Resources



PID on ASMFC Public Input web page:

www.asmfc.org/about-us/public-input

Public Hearings on ASMFC Calendar:

www.asmfc.org/calendar/

YouTube Presentation Recording



ASMFCvideos

142 subscribers



Submit Written Comments to:



Chelsea Tuohy, FMP Coordinator

Email: comments@asmfc.org

Subject line: 'Northern Shrimp PID'

Mail address:

1050 N. Highland St. Suite 200A-N

Arlington, VA 22201

**Deadline for Public Comments is 11:59 PM (EST),
August 16, 2024**