



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



- 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
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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



- 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 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 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?



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



Questions?

