

Northern Shrimp Draft Amendment 4



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Public Hearings

February 2025

- **Overview of ASMFC**
- **Draft Amendment 4**
 - Background
 - Timeline
 - Proposed Management Options



- 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



- Northern Shrimp Section:
 - Maine
 - New Hampshire
 - Massachusetts

Amendment 4 Background

- Initiated in 2023 in response to continued poor condition of the northern shrimp stock to consider two primary issues:
 1. Specifications Timeline
 2. Management Triggers
- Current regulations state:
“The Section has the ability to set a closed season annually up to 366 days (i.e., impose a moratorium)”
- Annual specifications requirement may no longer be appropriate for the species
 - Can only be changed through an amendment to the FMP

December 2023	Section initiates Amendment 4
June 2024	Section approves PID
June 2024 – August 2024	Public comment period on PID and public hearings
September 2024	Section reviews public comment; directs Plan Development Team to develop Draft Amendment 4
December 2024	Section approves Draft Amendment 4 for public comment
January 2025 – March 2025	Public comment period and public hearings <i>Current Step: Comments Due 11:59 PM March 12, 2025</i>
Spring 2025	Section reviews public comment and selects final measures for the amendment; Policy Board and Commission approve the amendment

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Goals and Objectives

3.0 Monitoring Program Specifications/Elements

4.0 Management Program Implementation

5.0 Compliance

6.0 Management and Research Needs

7.0 Protected Species

8.0 Works Cited

9.0 Tables and Figures

10.0 Appendix



OPTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION



2.3 Objectives

- Option A: Status Quo
- Option B: Modified First Objective

4.1.1 Fishery Specifications and Total Allowable Catch

- Option A: Status Quo
- Option B: Extended Specifications Setting Timelines for Moratorium Years (including Sub-Options B.1-B.3)

4.1.3 Fishing Season

- Option A: Status Quo
- Option B: Extended Moratoriums (including Sub-Options B.1-B.3)

4.1.13 Management Triggers

- Option A: Status Quo
- Option B: Management Trigger(s) (including Sub-Options B.1, B.2, and New Data Provision)

4.5.2.2 Measures Subject to Change through Adaptive Management

- Option A: Status Quo
- Option B: Adding Specifications Timeline and Management Triggers to Adaptive Management

Section 2.3

Option A: Status Quo

- Protect and maintain the northern shrimp stock at sustainable levels that will support a viable fishery

Option B: Modified First Objective

- Manage the northern shrimp stock to allow for rebuilding, minimize fishery related impacts, and maintain harvest opportunity, recognizing the influence of environmental conditions on stock productivity

Section 4.1.1

Option A: Status Quo

- Annual specifications

Option B: Extended Specifications for Closed Seasons

- Sub-Option B.1: 2 year moratoriums
- Sub-Option B.2: 3 year moratoriums
- Sub-Option B.3: 5 year moratoriums

Section 4.1.3

Option A: Status Quo

- Maximum closed season (moratorium) of up to 366 days

Option B: Extended Moratoriums

- Sub-Option B.1: Maximum closed season of up to 2 consecutive years (731 days)
- Sub-Option B.2: Maximum closed season of up to 3 consecutive years (1,096 days)
- Sub-Option B.3: Maximum closed season of up to 5 consecutive years (1,826 days)

Section 4.1.13

Option A: Status Quo

- No management trigger, this section would be removed from the document

Option B: Management Trigger(s)

- Sub-Option B.1: Recruitment Trigger
- Sub-Option B.2: Temperature Trigger
- Provision for the Incorporation of New Data

Sub-Option B.1: Recruitment Trigger

- 3 consecutive years of non-failed recruitment would trigger stock assessment update
 - Recruitment value above the 20th percentile of the reference period for both the ME-NH Spring Survey and NEFSC Fall Survey (6/6 values above the 20th percentile)
- If a survey goes offline temporarily:
 - If offline for 1 year, 5/6 values above 20th percentile to trip trigger
 - If offline for greater than one year, 4/6 values above the 20th percentile to trip trigger

Sub-Option B.1: Recruitment Trigger

- If both surveys remain online and recruitment has been above the 20th percentile for 2 consecutive years (4/4 values), Section could consider reopening winter sampling program without use of size sorting grates
 - Removing grates would allow TC to assess stage, length frequencies, and year-class persistence before commencing a full assessment update

Sub-Option B.2: Temperature Trigger

- 2/3 years of winter surface temperature and spring bottom temperature below the 80th percentile of the reference period would prompt the Section to consider reopening winter sampling program without use of size sorting grates
 - Removing grates would allow TC to assess stage, length frequencies, and year-class persistence before commencing a full assessment update

Management Triggers

- **Recruitment trigger reached** → Stock assessment update
- **Temperature trigger reached** → Section would consider running winter sampling program without size sorting grates
- **Neither trigger reached, but recruitment is above the 20th percentile of the reference period for two consecutive years and both surveys remain online** → Section would consider running winter sampling program without size sorting grates
- **Both triggers reached** → Stock assessment update and Section may choose to also run the winter sampling program with the size sorting grates removed

New Data Provision

- New data or trigger thresholds may be incorporated into management triggers without an addendum or amendment
- Section tasks TC to evaluate new information → TC reports back to Section with recommendation → Data/thresholds could be modified via Section action

Section 4.5.2.2 - Option A: Status Quo

1. Biological Reference Points can be changed through Section action (no addendum necessary) per Section 2.5 of this amendment
2. Rebuilding target and schedule
3. Gear requirements or prohibitions
4. Management areas
5. Harvest set-asides
6. Limited/controlled entry (including, but not limited to, days-at-sea and ITQs/IFQs and catch shares)
7. Catch controls
8. Vessel limits
9. Recommendations to the Secretary of Commerce for complementary action
10. Research or monitoring requirements
11. Frequency of stock assessments
- 12. Any other management measures included in Amendment 4 that are not subject to annual specification**
13. Vessel monitoring programs

Option B: Adding Specifications and Management Triggers

- Numbers 1-11 and 13 will remain the same
 - Number 13 will become number 12
- Add:
 13. Specifications setting timeline
 14. Fishing season
 15. Any management trigger modification not subject to change through the new data provision or Section action
 16. Any other management measures included in Amendment 4

HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENT



Public Hearing Schedule

Date and Hearing Format	State/Agency
<p>Tuesday, February 18, 2025 Webinar 5:00 – 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Maine Dept. of Marine Resources</p>
<p>Thursday, February 20, 2025 Webinar 6:00 – 8:00 pm</p>	<p>New Hampshire Fish and Game Dept. and Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries</p>
<p>Monday, February 24, 2025 In-person 5:00 – 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Maine Dept. of Marine Resources Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission 297 Bath Road Wiscasset, Maine 04578</p>
<p>Tuesday, February 25, 2025 Webinar 6:00 – 8:00 pm</p>	<p>Maine Dept. of Marine Resources, New Hampshire Fish and Game Dept., and Massachusetts Div. of Marine Fisheries</p>

Draft Amendment 4 on ASMFC Action Tracker
web page:

www.asmfc.org/actions/

Public Hearings on ASMFC Meetings webpage:

www.asmfc.org/events/

YouTube Presentation Recording



ASMFCvideos

142 subscribers

Submitting Written Comment

Chelsea Tuohy, FMP Coordinator

Email: comments@asmfc.org

Subject line: 'Northern Shrimp Draft Amendment 4'

Mail address:

1050 N. Highland St. Suite 200A-N

Arlington, VA 22201

**Deadline for Public Comments is 11:59 PM (EST),
March 12, 2025**