

Northern Shrimp Advisory Panel Meeting Summary

The Advisory Panel (AP) met on June 7, 2011 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The two main agenda items were (1) review public comment regarding the Public Information Document (PID) for Amendment 2 to the FMP for Northern Shrimp; and (2) make recommendations to the Section on management options appropriate for the northern shrimp fishery. Below is a summary of that meeting.

Attendees

4 Advisory Panel Members

Vincent Balzano, Chair

Gary Libby

John Seiders

Peter Kendall

2 Section Members

Douglas Grout

Dennis Damon

9 Other Public

Patrice McCarron

Ben Martens

Francis Seiders

Arnold Gamage Jr.

Spencer Fuller

Marshall Alexander

Maggie Raymond

Lessie White, ME DMR

Jessica Fischer, NH F&G

Staff

Mike Waine, ASMFC staff

Bob Beal, ASMFC staff

Maggie Hunter, TC Chair

The AP defined clear goals for the northern shrimp fishery that were the basis for its recommendations to the Section on issues detailed in the PID.

AP Defined Goals (Issue 7):

1. Stabilize the fishery and fish to maximum sustainable yield.
2. Protect historical participants including processors.
3. Include a mechanism to allow for new entrants.
4. Guard against a derby fishery.
5. Maximize value of harvested shrimp in support of maximum sustainable yield.

The AP split its recommendations into short-term options that could be implemented in the 2011/2012 fishery, and long-term options that could be implemented shortly thereafter. The AP recommends that the Section actively pursue development and implementation of the long-term options as soon as possible.

AP Short-term Recommendations:

1. Set a control date of June 7, 2011.
2. Implement weekly reporting, with electronic mechanism for reporting preferred.
3. Evaluate trip limits to control catch rates for the short term only. Not in favor as a long-term management measure.
4. F should be updated with new assessments.
5. Allow gear modifications, but do not require them, and if needed allow through an Addendum.

Long-term Recommendations:

1. Develop a limited entry program that is,
 - Including options for separate by license categories (trap and trawl)
 - Mandated by the ASMFC

- Based on historical participants after the implementation of dealer reporting in 2003 and considering the following timeframes
 - o 2003 to 2009 (noting that the last two years had early season closures)
 - o 2003 to 2011
- Setup a baseline restriction for each fishery (trap and trawl) that limits vessel/gear upgrading.
- 2. Two options for harvest quota
 - If implementing a hard TAC, then implement Individual Transferrable Quota (ITQ) or other catch share system.
 - If implementing a target TAC, then implement limited entry program above.



Healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by 2015

**Northern Shrimp Amendment 2
Public Information Document
for
Public Comment Review
June 2011**

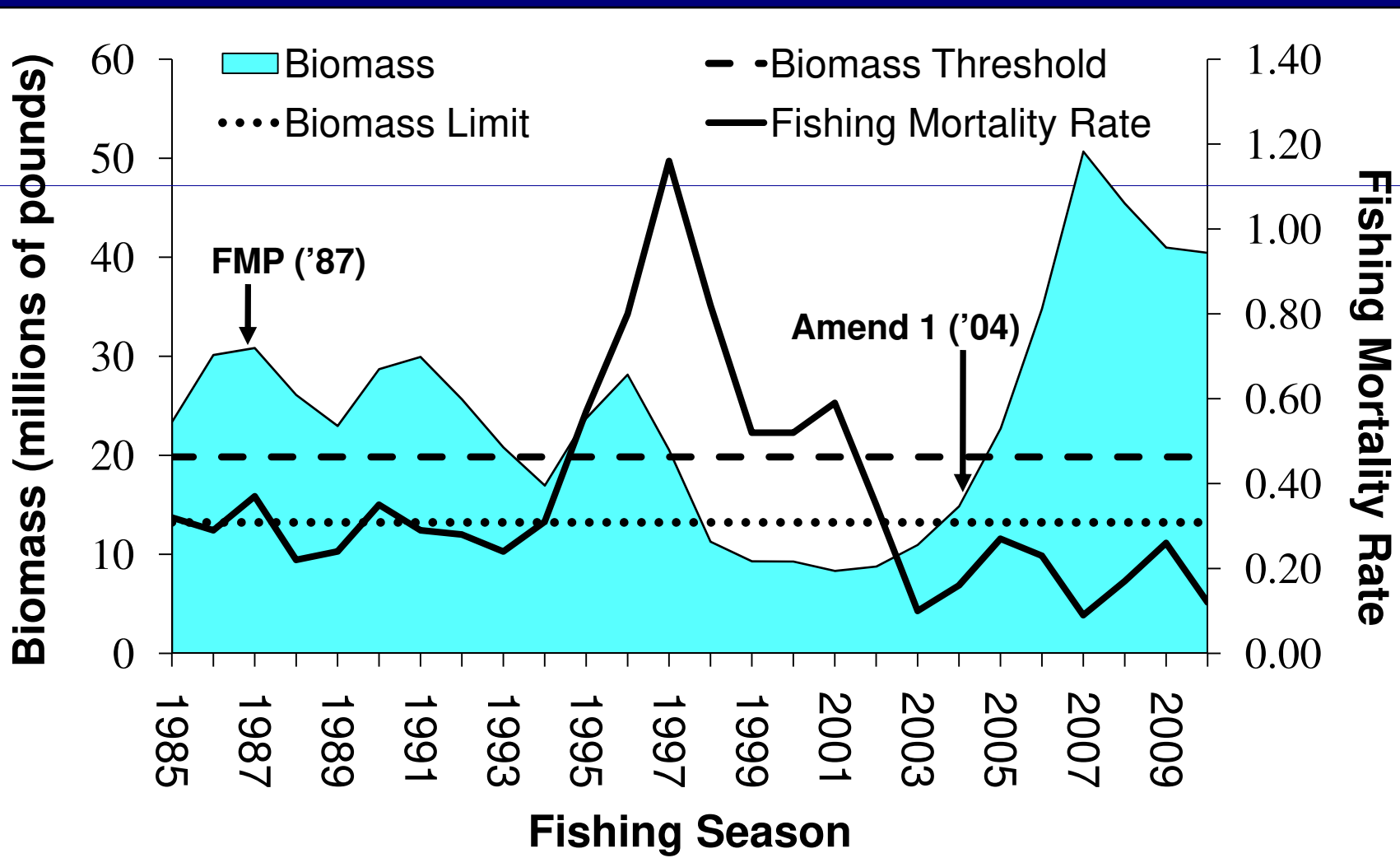


Management History

- **1986 Fishery Management Plan**
- **2004 Amendment 1**
 - **Closed season and gear restrictions**
 - **Overfished and overfishing definitions**
 - **Since Amend 1, stock considered rebuilt**



Stock Status





Purpose of Amendment

- **To provide management flexibility**
- **Changes since Amendment 1 (2004)**
 - **Significant changes in population**
 - **Significant changes in participation**



Purpose of PID

- **Solicit comment**
- **Gather information**
- **“How would you like the northern shrimp fishery to look in the future?”**



Timeline for the Amendment

November 2010	Board Decides Need for Amendment
Winter 2011	Public Information Document Developed
Spring 2011	Public Meetings & Comment Period
Spring-Summer 2011	First Draft of Amendment Produced
Late Summer 2011	Public Hearings
Early Fall 2011	Section Review and Final Approval
Fall 2011	Full Commission Review and Final Approval
Fall 2011	Final Plan Produced



Written Comment Summary

- **26 written comments**
- **6 comments from groups/organizations**
 - **Maine Seafood Alliance**
 - **Associated Fisheries of Maine**
 - **Bar Harbor Town Council**
 - **Maine Lobstermen's Association, Inc.**
 - **National Marine Fisheries Service**
 - **Midcoast Fishermen's Association**



Public Hearing Summary

- **5 public hearings (105 total attendees)**
 - **Gloucester, MA (no attendees)**
 - **Ellsworth, ME**
 - **Portsmouth, NH**
 - **Portland, ME**
 - **Rockland, ME**
- **Note: comments summarized by hearing simply reflect comments received and not consensus - unless noted otherwise.**



Issue 1. Trip Limits

- **Currently no trip limits**
- **Problem: Fishery closed early last 2 years**
- **Objective: Control landings rate**



Trip Limit Comment

- 7 in favor of trip limits and 2 opposed.
- Ellsworth and Portsmouth in favor, and Portland and Rockland opposed.
 - Suggested trip limits were
 - 1,000 lbs
 - 3,000 lbs
 - 5,000 lbs
 - Suggested trap limit of 200 traps



Issue 2. F-Rate

- **Currently, fishing mortality rate (F) is fixed and based on stable period (1985-1994).**
 - $F_{50\%} = 0.22$ and $F_{\text{limit}} = 0.60$
 - $F_{50\%} = 0.29$ (based on updated assessment)
- **Problem: F set based on 2002 assessment. Updated assessments yield better F estimates**
- **Objective: Redefine F reference points indicating threshold and target levels.**



F-Rate Comments

- **All in favor of updating F with new assessments**
- **It was noted that F should be a target**
- **F should be lower not higher because not all landings were accounted for in stable period**



Issue 3. Limited Entry

- **Currently open access**
- **Problem: Unpredictable participation levels**
- **Objective: stabilize the fishery**



Issue 3. Limited Entry

- **Potential criteria (PID page 6)**
 - **A specific time period (participation based)**
 - **Demonstrated dependency on fishery**
 - **Linked to reporting period**
 - **Allocate licenses to state (distribute)**



Limited Entry Comments

- **5 comments and Portland, ME want to freeze permits at the 2011 level**
- **5 comments and 3 Maine hearings want to keep fishery open access**
- **5 found limited entry appropriate if based on historical participation and not recent entrants**
- **Several suggested to let individual states decide limited entry criteria**



Issue 4. Catch Reporting

- **Current reporting inadequate**
- **Problem: Short notice of closures**
- **Objective: Managers/fishermen could anticipate closures with better reporting**



Catch Reporting Comments

- **12 in favor of more timely reporting by,**
 - **Dealer**
 - **Harvester or**
 - **Vessel**
- **NH hearing in favor by dealer only**
- **1 opposed citing current reporting is fine.**



Issue 5. Gear Modifications

- **Current gear restrictions (Amend 1)**
 - **Min mesh size 1¾” stretch, 1” codend**
 - **Nordmore Grate System**
- **Problem: Retaining small shrimp**
- **Objective: Retain fewer small shrimp**



Gear Modification Comments

- **All supported gear modifications, but more testing is needed before implementing any gear changes**



Issue 6. Harvest Quota

- **Currently Managed using season and harvest target**
- **Problem: Fishing season does not control harvest in recent seasons**
- **Objective: Harvest Quota**
 - **Fishery closed when quota reached**
 - **Requires improved monitoring**



Harvest Quota Comments

- **4 comments and 2 ME hearings were opposed to fleet wide quota because it will create a derby fishery.**
- **2 comments and Rockland, ME hearing support hard TAC, but needs better reporting**
- **2 comments and NH hearing support current soft quota method**
- **All Maine hearings supported a system to extend the harvest for the trap fishery.**



Issue 7. Goal and Objectives

- **Amendment 1 Goals and Objectives**
 - **PID pages 8-9**
- **May need updating depending on Amendment 2 selected options**



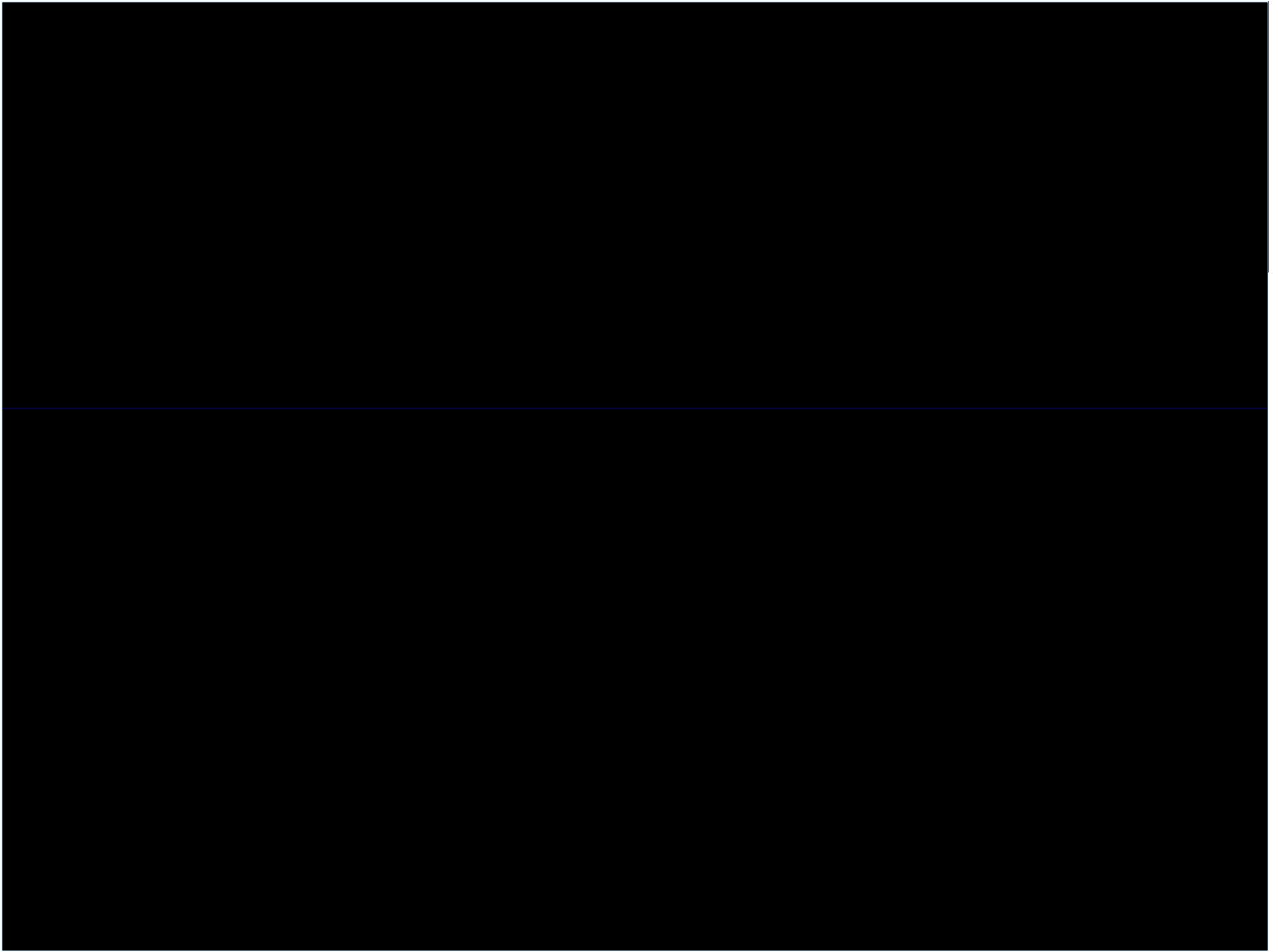
Issue 7. Goal and Objectives

- **Change goal statement if needed**
- **Support for other objectives**
 - **Prevent growth overfishing**



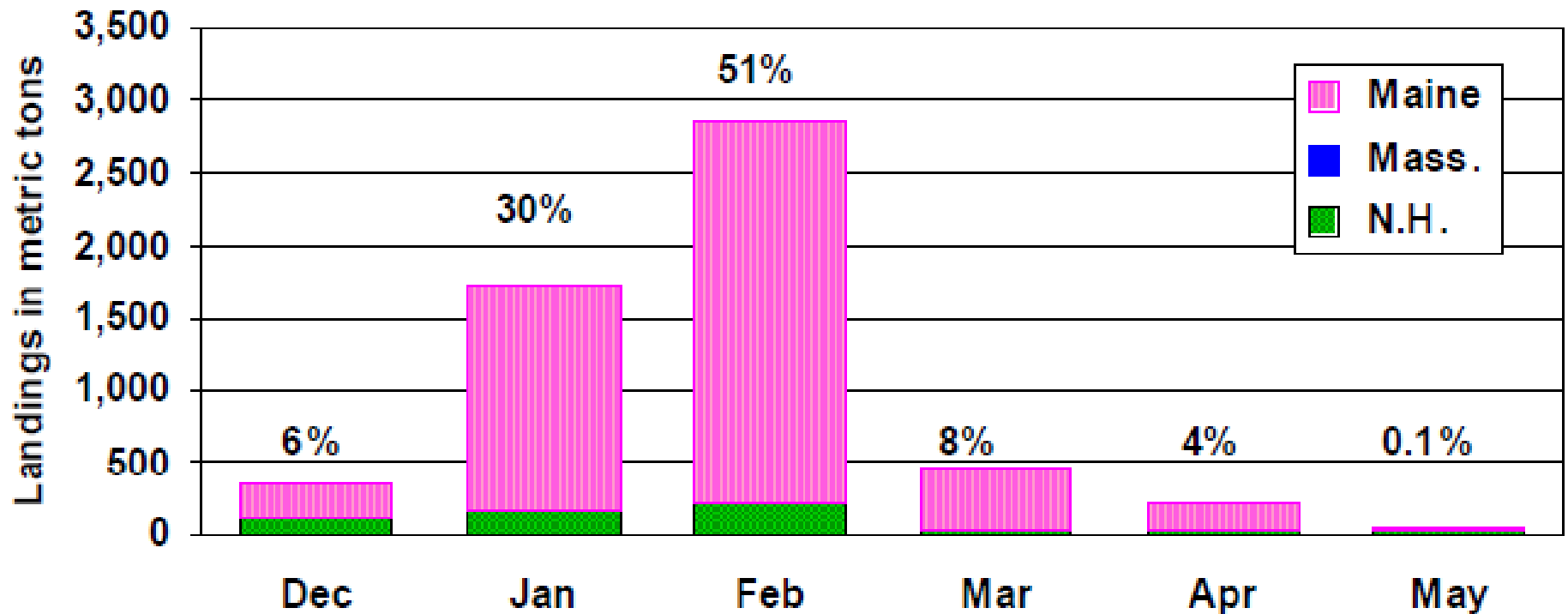
Issue 8. Other Comments

- **ALL support a core season from January through March**
- **7 favor better science to evaluate shrimp population**
- **3 comments and 2 ME Hearings support establishing areas with area quotas**
- **3 comments and Rockland, Maine were in favor of at least one day out of fishery**
- **All ME hearings want individual states to manage allocate the shrimp resource**





Issue 1. Trip Limits





Landings

