



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ASMFC Approves Amendment 4 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Northern Shrimp

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission approved Amendment 4 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Northern Shrimp. In response to the continued poor condition of the northern shrimp stock, Amendment 4 modifies the first objective of the FMP to recognize the influence of environmental conditions on stock productivity and lengthens the amount of time the Northern Shrimp Section can set a moratorium from one year to up to five years. The Section can call a meeting at any time to review information relative to the fishery and the resource and initiate management action if necessary.

Amendment 4 also adds management triggers to the FMP as part of the annual stock monitoring process. Management triggers include recruitment and temperature triggers that signal potential improvement in stock conditions. The recruitment trigger will be achieved when the stock experiences non-failed recruitment for three consecutive years. If achieved, a stock assessment update will be conducted. If the recruitment trigger is not achieved, but non-failed recruitment occurs in two out of three years, the Section will consider conducting a winter sampling program without the use of size-sorting grates. This program will allow the Northern Shrimp Technical Committee to evaluate stage and length frequencies, and year class persistence before initiating a full assessment update. The temperature trigger will be considered reached when two out of three consecutive years of winter surface temperature and spring bottom temperature in the Gulf of Maine fall below the 80th percentile of the reference period. If achieved, the Section will consider a winter sampling program. These triggers are intended to help the Section identify if the stock is viable enough to support a fishery.

Finally, Amendment 4 adds the specifications setting timeline and management triggers to measures subject to change through adaptive management, allowing these management measures to be changed in the future via an addendum rather than an amendment.

All provisions of Amendment 4 are considered effective immediately. Amendment 4 will be available on the Commission's website, <https://asmfc.org/species/northern-shrimp/>, by the end of May. For more information, please contact Chelsea Tuohy, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at ctuohy@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and diadromous species.

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Motions from the May 1, 2025 Meeting of the Northern Shrimp Section

Move to select Option B in Amendment 4 Section 2.3 by replacing the first bulleted objective to “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.”

Motion made by Cheri Patterson and seconded by Raymond Kane. Motion approved by unanimous consent.

Main Motion

Move to adopt in Amendment 4, Sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.3:

Option B (Extended Specifications Setting Timeline for Moratorium Years) with Sub-Option B.3 (Moratorium specifications for up to 5 years at a time) in Section 4.1.1; and Option B with Sub-Option B.3 (Moratorium for up to 5 consecutive years or 1,826 days) in Section 4.1.3.

Motion made by Cheri Patterson and seconded by Raymond Kane. Motion amended.

Motion to Amend

Move to amend to strike Sub-Option B.3 in Section 4.1.1 (Moratorium specifications for up to 5 years at a time) and Sub-Option B.3 in 4.1.3 and replace with Sub-Option B.2 in Section 4.1.1 and Sub-Option B.2 in 4.1.3 (Moratorium for up to 3 consecutive years or 1,096 days).

Motion made by Megan Ware and seconded by Dennis Abbott. Motion fails (1 in favor and 2 opposed).

Main Motion

Move to adopt in Amendment 4, Sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.3:

Option B (Extended Specifications Setting Timeline for Moratorium Years) with Sub-Option B.3 (Moratorium specifications for up to 5 years at a time) in Section 4.1.1; and Option B with Sub-Option B.3 (Moratorium for up to 5 consecutive years or 1,826 days) in Section 4.1.3.

Motion made by Cheri Patterson and seconded by Raymond Kane. Motion carries (2 in favor and 1 opposed).

Main Motion

Move to adopt in Amendment 4, Section 4.1.13:

Option B (Management Triggers);

Sub-Option B.1 (Recruitment Trigger); and

Sub-Option B.2 (Temperature Trigger).

Motion made by Cheri Patterson and seconded by Sarah Ferrara. Motion amended.

Motion to Amend

Move to amend Sub-Option B.1 to modify the recruitment trigger to ‘trip’ the Section to consider running the winter sampling program with 2 out of three years of recruitment above the 20th percentile, as opposed to “2 consecutive years”.

Motion made by Megan Ware and seconded by Raymond Kane. Motion passes unanimously.

Main Motion as Amended

Move to adopt in Amendment 4, Section 4.1.13:

Option B (Management Triggers);

Modified Sub-Option B.1 (Recruitment Trigger) where two out of three years of recruitment above the 20th percentile would prompt the Section to consider running the winter sampling program; and

Sub-Option B.2 (Temperature Trigger).

Motion carries (2 in favor and 1 opposed).

Move to select Option B in Amendment 4 Section 4.5.2.2 by removing (12), renumber appropriately, and adding the following measures:

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

Motion made by Cheri Patterson and seconded by Sarah Ferrara. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

Move to recommend to the Commission the approval of Amendment 4 to the Northern Shrimp Interstate Fishery Management Plan as modified today. All of the provisions of Amendment 4 will be effective immediately.

Motion made by Sarah Ferrara and seconded by Dennis Abbott. Motion carries. Roll Call: In favor – MA, NH; Opposed – ME.