



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Northern Shrimp Section

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

Northern Shrimp Section
August 18, 2022

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NORTHERN SHRIMP SECTION (AUGUST 18, 2022)

Meeting Summary

The Northern Shrimp Section (Section) met in person in Portland, Maine to review the potential effects of losing funding for the summer survey and discuss the possibility of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) relinquishing management authority of northern shrimp.

For several years, funding for the Northern Shrimp Summer Survey has been in question, which represents a potential loss of important data for informing the northern shrimp stock assessments and management. Dr. Katie Drew, the lead stock assessment scientist for northern shrimp, presented initial exploratory model runs that aimed to demonstrate the efficacy of the stock assessment model if these data were no longer available. While the model does not perform as well without the summer survey data, this analysis demonstrated that the remaining survey data inputs from the Maine-New Hampshire Inshore Trawl Survey and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center Bottom Trawl Survey allow the model to still make projections about general population trends.

The Section also received a presentation on the potential ramifications of the Commission relinquishing management authority of northern shrimp. The Section determined further consultation with NOAA Fisheries is needed prior to further consideration of this issue. Specifically, the Section is interested in learning whether the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) standards would apply to northern shrimp management in state waters if the Commission relinquished management control of the species. In addition, Section members requested further consideration be given to implementing a permanent moratorium along with developing a science-based trigger for reopening the fishery. The fishery has been under a moratorium since 2014 in response to a collapsed stock. At the meeting, several Section members voiced support for implementing a permanent moratorium rather than revisiting the decision to re-open the fishery every year. The Section tasked the Northern Shrimp Technical Committee to work collaboratively with the Northern Shrimp Work Group to develop a set of biological indicators along with a threshold that could serve as a trigger to indicate when the northern shrimp stock approaches a healthy population level that may be able to support a viable fishery. When developing potential triggers, the Technical Committee and Work Group will need to consider the fact that data collected from the summer survey may not be available in future years.

The Section plans to meet again in early 2023 to continue discussion on how best to move forward with northern shrimp management either through a continued moratorium or fully relinquishing management control. It will also review progress on the development of the moratorium triggers and a stock assessment data update.

Finally, the Section congratulated Maggie Hunter, Technical Committee Chair, on her retirement from Maine's Department of Marine Resources and her over 20 years of service on the Northern Shrimp Technical Committee. Toni Kerns, ASMFC Fisheries Policy Director, presented Maggie with a Commission bronze compass rose pin. This commemorative pin was designed to honor the long-term contributions of individuals to the Commission's programs and activities. Like the points in the compass rose, those who receive the commemorative pin have played an important role in advancing the Commission's mission and vision.

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