



# ***Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission***

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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*Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger  
703.842.0749

### **Northern Shrimp Section Approves Pilot Winter Sampling Program and Draft Amendment 4 for Public Comment *Moratorium Maintained for the 2025 Fishing Year***

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s Northern Shrimp Section has maintained the current moratorium on northern shrimp fishing through the 2025 fishing year. This action responds to the findings of the 2024 Stock Assessment Update, which indicates the northern shrimp stock has been at low levels of biomass for over the past decade despite the fishery being under a moratorium since 2014. The Update found no improvement in stock status and 2023 summer survey indices of abundance, biomass, and recruitment were the lowest in the 1984-2023 time-series.

Given the loss of the summer shrimp survey and continued industry interest in data collection, the Section approved a pilot industry-funded winter sampling program for 2025 with a research set-aside quota of 26.5 metric tons (or approximately 58,400 pounds). The pilot sampling program is scheduled to run through March or until the quota is reached, whichever is sooner. The goal of the program is to continue the winter time series of biological data for shrimp by collecting samples similar to those that might have been collected under an active commercial fishery. Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts will work in the coming weeks to outline the provisions of the pilot sampling program, determine a start date, and select the number of participants.

The Section also approved for public comment Draft Amendment 4 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Northern Shrimp. Draft Amendment 4 considers options for extending the specifications timeframe to allow for longer moratoria (i.e., two-, three-, or five-year moratoria as opposed to setting a closed season annually). The Draft Amendment also considers adding recruitment and temperature triggers to the management toolbox that could signal when biological and/or environmental conditions are favorable to support stock rebuilding and a sustainable fishery. Finally, Draft Amendment 4 considers adding the specifications setting timeframe to measures subject to change through adaptive management by providing an option for the timeframe to be changed via an addendum rather than an amendment.

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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.

Public hearings on Draft Amendment 4 will be conducted in 2025; the details of which will be released in a subsequent press release. The Draft Amendment will be available on the Commission's website under Public Input at <https://asmfc.org/about-us/public-input> in late December.

For more information, please contact Chelsea Tuohy, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [ctuohy@asmfc.org](mailto:ctuohy@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

**Motions**

**Move to maintain the commercial harvest moratorium in 2025 and develop an RSA pilot winter sampling program to be implemented in 2025, with an research set-aside quota set at 26.5 metric tons.**

Motion made by Mr. Glenn and seconded by Mr. Abbott. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

**Move to approve Draft Amendment 4 to the Northern Shrimp Fishery Management Plan for public comment as modified today.**

Motion made by Ms. Patterson and seconded by Mr. Glenn. Motion passes by unanimous consent

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