

Request for Participants: 2015 Northern Shrimp Test Tows

Introduction

The states of Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts are seeking four shrimp trawling vessels and captains to collect northern shrimp samples in four regions of the Gulf of Maine (Eastern Maine, Mid-coast Maine, Western Maine, and Massachusetts/New Hampshire region, beginning in mid to late January, 2015, fishing approximately once every two weeks, until the shrimp are no longer carrying eggs, perhaps near the middle of March.

There is a total of \$10,000 available to pay the four project participants. Each participant will be required to conduct five research trips in one region, and will be compensated \$500 per trip. Participants will also be allowed to land and sell up to 1,800 pounds of northern shrimp per trip.

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to collect northern shrimp samples during the winter period when the shrimp are in inshore waters, to collect data on the timing of the egg hatch, and the size, gender, and developmental stage of the shrimp.

Location

Four vessels will be selected, one to fish in each of these four regions: Northern Massachusetts to Boon Island (MA/NH area), Boon Island to Small Point (Western ME), Small Point to Port Clyde (Midcoast ME), and Port Clyde to the US/CAN border (Eastern ME). A vessel is not expected to cover the entire region; instead the fishermen/women should fish on traditional grounds where they would normally fish for shrimp; the fishing locations within the region will be chosen by the captain.

Vessel and Gear

The vessels and captains must have experience fishing for northern shrimp in the region for which they apply. Vessels must have a current US Coast Guard Fishing Vessel Safety Decal and must show proof of liability insurance. The gear should be typical legal (for northern shrimp) trawl gear with a standard or combination grate.

Schedule

The selected vessels and captains will collect samples beginning in January 2015 as soon as funds for this project become available, and then about once every two weeks. For example, there will probably be one or two trips in January, two in February, and one or two in March, or until the shrimp eggs are hatched off. The captains and their state ASMFC Technical Committee (TC) members will work together to develop the schedule, which will depend on the rate of egg hatch as the season progresses.

Sample Collection

During each trip, the trawler should conduct at least three tows, in different locations if possible. The captain should attempt to fish in locations in which he/she would normally fish for shrimp. Two 2-kg samples (about 4.5 lbs each) should be collected from each tow's shrimp catch, for a total of six samples each day. The samples should be chosen at random (blind) from the catch. All other shrimp catch may be kept or sold up to a limit of 1,800 lbs per day. Each sample should be bagged and labeled with name, date, and tow number (1,2,3 etc.) for the day.

Data Collection

For each tow, the captain should record the date, the tow number (1,2,3 etc.), the GPS coordinates of the tow, the tow start time, the tow duration (hours and minutes), the depth (fa), and an estimate of the number of pounds of shrimp caught. Captains will be supplied with data sheets by their state TC member. These data will be made public, and will not be confidential.

Sample and Data Delivery

For Maine boats, the six samples (frozen) and data sheets should be delivered to a mutually agreed upon location at a mutually agreed upon time. For Massachusetts or New Hampshire boats, an observer on the boat will collect the samples and data sheets.

Contract and Payment

Captains of boats fishing in the Midcoast Maine and Eastern Maine areas must sign a standard special services contract with the State of Maine, which will list the work to be performed and a mutually agreeable payment schedule. Captains will submit a bill to the Maine DMR after each trip. Captains of boats fishing in the MA/NH area or the Western Maine area will sign a contract with the ASMFC and submit bills to the ASMFC. Work will be performed under a special license or Letter of Authorization issued by the state where you plan to land.

Vessel Selection

To qualify, applicants must supply the information listed below. If there is more than one similarly qualified applicant per region, one will be picked at random. Applications will be reviewed by state marine enforcement personnel, and a history of marine resource violations will disqualify applicants.

To Apply

Anyone interested in applying for this project should send a letter or e-mail to [Maggie Hunter](mailto:margaret.hunter@maine.gov) at:

Maggie Hunter, DMR
PO Box 8
W. Boothbay Harbor ME 04556
margaret.hunter@maine.gov

Your letter or e-mail should briefly describe:

- Your experience fishing for shrimp in the region for which you are applying, and any other fishing experience
- Your vessel and gear, including the date of your USCG safety decal
- Your ability to provide proof of insurance
- The region (MA/NH, Western ME, Midcoast ME, or Eastern ME) for which you are applying, and the general location(s) within that region in which you would fish
- Your plan for avoiding fixed gear
- For MA and NH boats, your willingness to have an observer on board
- Your understanding of the project and your willingness to sign a contract with the State of Maine or ASMFC
- Your ability to be flexible in timing the trips to capture shrimp at the beginning (or as close as our estimated start time of January 20 allows), middle, and end of egg hatch, and your willingness to work with your state TC member to set a mutually agreeable fishing schedule
- Whether you plan to sell your catch, and who your buyer would be – Maine buyers must have a DMR shrimp permit or special license to participate

Deadline

Letters or e-mails must be received by **5pm, Thursday, January 8, 2015**.

Request for Participants: 2015 Northern Shrimp Test Traps

Introduction

The Maine DMR is seeking five shrimp trapping vessels to collect northern shrimp samples, beginning February 1, 2015, approximately once every two weeks, until March 20, 2015. Trappers will be allowed to fish up to 10 traps each, hauled as often as necessary during the project, with a 100 lb weekly catch limit per vessel. Shrimp catches may be kept for personal use but not sold.

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to collect northern shrimp samples during the winter period when the shrimp are in inshore waters, to collect data on the timing of the egg hatch, and the size, gender, and developmental stage of the shrimp.

Vessel and Gear

The vessels and captains must have experience trapping northern shrimp in Maine. The vessels must have a current US Coast Guard Fishing Vessel Safety Decal. The gear should be typical northern shrimp traps. Each boat will be allowed up to 10 traps.

Schedule

The selected vessels and captains may set traps beginning January 28, 2015 and may collect samples beginning February 1 as the weather allows and then about once every two weeks. All traps must be removed from the water by March 20. There will probably be two sampling trips in February, and two in March. The captains and their state ASMFC Technical Committee (TC) member will work together to develop the sample collection schedule, which will depend on the rate of egg hatch as the season progresses. Since traps need to be tended and baited, there may be some fishing trips when no samples will be collected. However, there will be a 100 lb weekly shrimp catch limit per vessel.

Location

The trapper should attempt to fish in locations in which he/she would normally fish for shrimp.

Sample Collection

During each sampling trip, the trapper will collect two 2-kg samples (about 4.5 lbs each). 1-kg samples (or smaller) are acceptable if catches are small. The samples should be chosen at random (blind) from the day's catch. Each sample should be bagged and labeled with name and date. All additional shrimp catch may be kept for personal use, to a limit of 100 lbs per vessel per week.

Data Collection

For each fishing trip, including those when no samples are collected, the captain will record data for each trap string hauled, including the date, number of traps in the string, GPS coordinates, number of set-over-days, the depth (fa), and an estimate of the number of pounds of shrimp caught. Captains will be supplied with data sheets by their Maine TC member. These data will be made public, and will not be confidential.

Sample and Data Delivery

The two samples (frozen) and all data sheets should be delivered to DMR at a mutually agreed upon location at a mutually agreed upon time after each sampling trip.

Special License

The selected vessels and captains will be operating under a DMR special license for research. Data from all shrimp trap hauls must be reported, including those when no samples are collected. Any

violations of the special license terms and conditions will result in an immediate revocation of the special license and ineligibility for any future special licenses or RSA projects.

Vessel Selection

To qualify, applicants must supply the information listed below. Applicants will be chosen to achieve as broad a geographic range of samples as possible. If there is more than one similarly qualified applicant in the same area, one will be picked at random. Applications will be reviewed by Maine Marine Patrol, and a history of marine resource violations will disqualify the applicant.

To Apply

Anyone interested in applying for this project should send a letter or e-mail to [Maggie Hunter](mailto:Maggie.Hunter@maine.gov) at:

Maggie Hunter, DMR
PO Box 8
W. Boothbay Harbor ME 04556
margaret.hunter@maine.gov

Your letter or e-mail should briefly describe:

- Your experience trapping shrimp in the region for which you are applying, and any other fishing experience
- Your vessel and gear, including the date of your USCG safety decal
- Your port and the specific area(s) in which you will fish
- Your understanding of the project
- Your ability to be flexible in timing the trips to capture shrimp at the beginning (or as close as our estimated start time of February 1 allows), middle, and end of egg hatch, and your willingness to work with your state TC member to set a mutually agreeable sampling schedule

Deadline

Letters or e-mails must be **received by 5pm, Thursday, January 8, 2015.**