



# **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 12, 2015

PRESS CONTACT: Tina Berger  
703.842.0740

### **New England States Schedule Hearings on the Public Information Document for Draft Amendment 3 for Northern Shrimp**

Arlington, VA – The states of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on the Public Information Document (PID) for Draft Amendment 3 for Northern Shrimp for public comment. The details of those hearings follow.

#### **Maine Department of Marine Resources**

*Saturday, March 7 at 1 PM*  
Maine Fishermen's Forum  
The Samoset Resort by the Sea, Camden Room  
220 Warrenton Street  
Rockport, Maine  
Contact: Terry Stockwell at 207.624.6553

*Monday, March 30 at 6 PM*  
Casco Bay Ferry Terminal Conference Room  
56 Commercial Street  
Portland, Maine  
Contact: Terry Stockwell at 207.624.6553

#### **New Hampshire Fish and Game**

*Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 7 PM*  
Urban Forestry Center  
45 Elwyn Road  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire  
Contact: Doug Grout at 603.868.1095

#### **Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries**

*Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 6 PM*  
MA DMF Annisquam River Station  
30 Emerson Avenue  
Gloucester, Massachusetts  
Contact: Kelly Whitmore at 978.282.0308

The Draft Amendment was initiated to consider establishing a limited entry program for the northern shrimp fishery for use in the future if and when the stock recovers and the fishery is re-opened. While the fishery is managed through a total allowable catch and defined season, it remains an open access fishery and has experienced significant fluctuations in participation over the last 30 years. This open access, coupled with concern about the health of the stock, led the Section to move forward on a limited entry program to further control effort in the fishery. A limited entry program will consider the appropriate number of participants in the fishery given biological, environmental, and economic considerations.

As the first step in the Commission's amendment process, the PID is intended to gather information concerning northern shrimp and provide an opportunity for the public to identify and comment on major

---

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 anadromous species.

issues relative to the management of this species. Following the initial phase of information-gathering and public comment, the Section will evaluate potential management alternatives and develop Draft Amendment 3 for public review. After the public comment period, the Section will specify the management measures to be included in Amendment 3. A tentative schedule for the completion of Amendment 3 is included in PID.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the PID either by attending public hearings or providing written comments. The PID can be obtained at [http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/NShrimpDraftAm3PID\\_PublicComment.pdf](http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/NShrimpDraftAm3PID_PublicComment.pdf) or via the Commission's website, [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org), under *Public Input*. Public comment will be accepted until **5:00 PM (EST) on April 15, 2015** and should be forwarded to Mike Waine, Senior FMP Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at [comments@asmfc.org](mailto:comments@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Shrimp PID). For more information, please contact Mike Waine at [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

###