



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations of all Atlantic coast fish species, or successful restoration
well in progress by the year 2015*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ASMFC Northern Shrimp Section Approves Addendum I to Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan *Addendum Refines Annual Specification Process*

Portland, ME – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s Northern Shrimp Section has approved Addendum I to Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Northern Shrimp. The Addendum provides flexibility and transparency in the annual specification process with the goal of maximizing benefits to the fishery while ensuring stock rebuilding.

Specifically, the Addendum includes provisions to (1) set an annual hard total allowable catch (TAC) that may range between the fishing mortality target and threshold values, inclusive; (2) allocate 87% of the TAC to the trawl fishery and 13% to the trap fishery; and (3) close each fishery when a certain percentage of the TAC is projected to be reached. The exact percent, ranging between 80 and 95%, would be established by the Section during the annual specification process. The Addendum also provides flexibly to (1) transfer unused TAC between gear types; (2) set aside a portion of the TAC for research purposes; and (3) allow for the optional use of a size sorting grate system (compound grate or double Nordmore) to minimize the retention of small shrimp.

The Addendum responds to recent trends in the fishery and the resource that jeopardize the stability of the northern shrimp resource. For the past three fishing seasons, late and incomplete catch reporting and continued fluctuations in participation have led to overharvest of the TAC. These overages coupled with a recent poor recruitment resulted in an overfished and overfishing stock status. The Addendum refines the annual specification process to better control annual harvest and minimize risks to the resource as it rebuilds.

The Section is also committed to continuing to explore longer term management options, such as limited entry programs, through a future addendum or amendment. The Section and Advisory Panel will next meet on December 3, 2012 in Portland, Maine (at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street) to review the 2012 stock assessment update and set the specifications for the 2012/2013 fishing season. Addendum I will be available on the Commission website, www.asmfc.org, under Breaking News. For more information, please contact Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mwaine@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.



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Northern Shrimp Section Motions

Portland, Maine
November 9, 2012

Move to approve Joseph Jurek to the Northern Shrimp Advisory Panel.

Motion made by Mr. Adler and seconded by Mr. Grout. Motion passes.

Move to adopt option C for 3.1 TAC Specification, allowing for setting the TAC between the F target and F threshold, inclusive.

Motion made by Mr. Train and seconded by Mr. Adler. Motion carries.

Move to adopt option C, allocating the TAC by gear with 87% for the trawl and 13% for the trap.

Motion made by Mr. Abbott and seconded by Dr. Armstrong. Motion carries (2 in favor, 1 opposed).

Move to adopt option B for TAC transferability. Any state can request transfer between gear types, and a transfer decision would be made by the Section during a in person meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Keliher and seconded by Mr. Grout. Motion carries (2 in favor, 1 opposed).

Move to adopt option B for Projecting Season Closure, with the following change, the percent range could be 80-95% and the closure period could range from 2-7 days, as specified annually with the flexibility to differentiate by gear type.

Motion made by Mr. R White and seconded by Mr. Adler. Motion carries unanimously.

Move to adopt option A, status quo for quota paybacks.

Motion made by Mr. R White and seconded by Mr. Train. Motion carries (3 in favor).

Move to adopt option B, RSA determined at annual specification.

Motion made by Mr. Train and seconded by Mr. Abbott. Motion carries (3 in favor).

Move to adopt option C, optional use of size sorting grates.

Motion by Mr. Train and seconded by Mr. Adler. Motion carries unanimously.

Move to approve the addendum I as modified, effective immediately.

Motion made by Mr. Abbott and seconded by Dr. Armstrong. Motion carries (3 in favor).

Move to adopt option B for section 3.8, further development of limited entry in the next addendum/amendment.

Motion made by Mr. Grout and seconded by Dr. Armstrong. Motion carries (3 in favor).