



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201
703.842.0740 • 703.842.0741 (fax) • www.asmfmc.org

Northern Shrimp Section Meeting Summary

December 16, 2014

Section Members:

ME — Rep. Walter Kumiega, Terry Stockwell
NH — Ritchie White, Dennis Abbott, Doug Grout
MA — Mike Armstrong (Chair), Bill Adler

Technical Committee Members:

Maggie Hunter, ME DMR
Ann Richards, NOAA Fisheries
Kelly Whitmore, MA DMF
Robert Eckert, NH F&G

ASMFC Staff:

Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director
Marin Hawk, FMP Coordinator

Public:

Bill Sherman, David Osier, Maggie Raymond, Garry Libby, Arnie Gamage, Rick Trundy

Purpose: Discuss 2015 Shrimp RSA Program

The Technical Committee (TC) reviewed the report provided to the Board (see attached report).

How long would the soak time need to be? Trappers have said they do not need to be paid. There would need to be good communication with the trappers. The traps would need to be tended so the process would need to be different than the trawlers. Need to communicate when the best time to make each of the trips. How much RSA would the trappers need?

Arnie: Not seeing much signs of trips. Haul 10 traps 5 or 6 time don't think it would be more, 5 trappers with 10 traps each would not get much more than 500 pounds.

Back in December the TC recommended a maximum of 5 trap samples, which is 5 trips and 3 samples from each trip.

Doug would make a recommendation of since they are RSA collecting biological samples 20 sea days for trawlers with supplemental \$500 per trip, with 1 trapper doing 5 trips. Open to how the trapper would be handled (put out the traps and then bring them back in after a week).

Once the traps go in the water they need to be baited and hauled. Terry leaning towards supporting 2 trappers. Would it be useful to put forward a total TAC? Likely not be able to obtain the trip limit given the status of the resource. NH will have an observer on board to document catches. Need validation and

confirmation of amount coming off of the vessels. Doug recommends 1,5000 pounds. Do not think the entire RSA should be landed. In ME there are too many unknowns to commit to be at each landing to confirm landings.

Move to have 4 trawlers with a 20 sea day limit at \$500 a sea day with 1,800 trip limit 5 trapper with 100 pound trip limit for an RSA program in 2015.

Motion made by Mr. Stockwell. Motion fails for lack of a second.

Move to allow 20 sea-days providing vessels with \$500 per trip; 1 boat Downeast, 1 boat Mid-coast Maine, 1 boat Southern Maine, 1 boat NH/MA areas (all trawlers each vessel has 5 trips each). The trip limit would be 1,800 pounds.

Motion made by Mr. Grout seconded by Mr. Stockwell. Motion carries without objection.

How would the vessel selection work? Maine distribute the previous year's memo. The state directors can work on the solicitation together. The states would make sure each vessel is capable of collecting the proper information. All the vessels that made the criteria would be entered in a lottery, from which the final vessels would be selected.

For traps: What meets the TC requirement and what meets the states man power requirements? The TC gave the recommendation of a maximum of 5 trap samples. What additional info is needed to support the stock assessment if it is opened to more trappers? Doug sees 5 trap samples as 5 landing opportunities for the trappers.

The TC welcomed the comments from the advisory panel (AP), not being able to land more than 5 times may be a waste. How does going to multi small samples impact the data? There is a different proportion of effort that goes in the effort of the trapper vs trawl. Not a problem to have more effort in the trappers than the trawl especially with the shortened time frame with the trappers. The TC should get together and give a time frame, max number of trappers, how you will get the samples and tell the board what you are gaining from the new method compared to the old method. Give a clear and straightforward protocol.

Mike proposed: 5 trappers one landing day per week with a 100 pound trip limit for 10 weeks

Move to allow the state directors to determine a trap RSA program for the 2015 fishery.

Motion made by Mr. Stockwell and seconded by Mr. Abbott. Motion carries without objection.

A TC call will discuss an RSA program for trappers.

Up to 5 trappers? Total allowable catch for each trapper? 100 pounds per week seems reasonable with a cap on the weeks. Given to a select group of people.



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MEMORANDUM

December 18, 2014

To: Northern Shrimp Section
From: Kelly Whitmore, Technical Committee Chair
RE: 2015 Winter Research Samples

The ASMFC Northern Shrimp Technical Committee (TC) held a conference call with northern shrimp industry members on December 16, 2014 to clarify recommendations for obtaining winter research samples from the trap fishery. The ASMFC Northern Shrimp Section (Section) requested this review to determine how the TC's recommendations for obtaining trap-caught samples in the November 12, 2014 memorandum compare with options suggested during the Section's December 16, 2014 conference call.

Since the TC's Nov. 12 memorandum, our discussions with industry have improved strategies for obtaining trap samples. The TC originally proposed only one trapper because of constraints due to funding and the need to span the geographic range using the trawl vessels. The proposal for 5 trappers fishing 10 traps each over a greater geographic area would be scientifically more robust than the original proposal for a single trapper fishing a large number of traps in one region. Additionally, this would likely represent less trap catch overall, as the TC's original proposal assumed one trapper fishing more than 50 total traps.

Our revised trap sampling recommendation is:

- 5 trap vessels x 5 sampling dates x 2 samples per day = 50 samples total (25 for the TC and 25 for UMaine)

Whereby:

- 5 trap vessels fish a maximum of 10 traps each across as great a geographic range as possible
- Two 2-kg samples are taken per trip per vessel for a total of five trips (vs. 6 2-kg samples per trip for trawlers). The frequency of trips necessary to keep traps baited and active (3-4 day soak time preferable) means it is likely that not all trips will be sampled. The TC will work with captains on which trips to obtain samples from, i.e. every other trip/week, etc.
- Trapping begins mid-January and extends through March for a total maximum season length of about 10 weeks.
- A 100-lb per week landing limit is implemented.
- Samples are kept on ice and delivered to ME DMR staff within 24 hours at an agreed upon location or frozen if delivery must be delayed.

M14-115

Factors in support of the revised recommendations include:

- In 2013 some trapping areas had very little to no catch. Additional participants and locations would ensure samples are obtained under current limited stock conditions.
- A more comprehensive sampling design is gained by the increased number of participants across a broader geographic area.
- Trap participation will not limit samples obtained from the trawl fishery, as trappers are not seeking additional compensation beyond retaining catch in excess of the sampling requirement, up to the landing limit of 100 lbs per week (as compared to trawlers receiving \$500 per trip, per Dec. 16 Section motion).
- Implementation of a weekly trip limit will ensure trapping effort has minimal impact to the stock and on the total RSA. The maximum assumed trap catch is: 100 lbs/week x 5 trappers x 10 weeks = 5,000 lbs (2.3 mt). This represents 9% of the 25 mt RSA.