



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Northern Shrimp Section Meeting Summary

December 3, 2013

Section Members:

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

Technical Committee Members:

Kelly Whitmore, MA DMF

ASMFC Staff:

Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director
Marin Hawk, FMP Coordinator

Public:

Garry Libby

Purpose: 2014 Specifications

Where did all the shrimp go from 2010-2013? Overharvest from 2010-2011. Also poor survival of that year class.

Perhaps the stock should be classified as 'depleted' because there is no fishing going on so how can it be overfished or overfishing if there is no fishing occurring. The term overfishing suggests that the problem is with fishermen when the problem might not be the fishermen but other factors (environmental etc).

Decline in other areas (Greenland, Flemish Cap) indicates that the shrimp are not necessarily moving, but the shrimp are not surviving or are disappearing (for unknown reasons).

From a biological opinion, there is no such thing as a "do no harm" fishery. Last year's "do no harm" fishery may have actually harmed the stock since the TC recommended a moratorium last year.

Looking at the year classes and recruitment, assuming shrimp live for 5 years, there is not going to be any fishable biomass in the future for any fishery (track a year class through time).

Is it possible to fish just the 5 year old females who have carried eggs before? Not for a fishermen, because he would have to look at the belly to determine whether or not the spikes were rubbed off.

A moratorium for just one year might not be sufficient to protect the stock; a few years of moratorium might be necessary.

TC task: TC can caucus and determine if anything should be done on test tows.