



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Northern Shrimp Section

FROM: Vincent Balzano, Northern Shrimp Advisory Panel Chair

SUBJECT: AP Recommendations for Next Steps in Northern Shrimp Management

DATE: May 22, 2012

The Advisory Panel (AP) met on May 17, 2012 in Yarmouth, ME. The two main agenda items were (1) review the advisory panel membership; and (2) discuss next steps for northern shrimp management. Below is a summary of that meeting.

Attendees

4 Advisory Panel Members

Vincent Balzano, Chair

Gary Libby

John Seiders

Peter Kendall

Other Public

See attached sheet

2 Section Members

Commissioner Pat Keliher

Terry Stockwell

Staff

Mike Waine, ASMFC staff

Maggie Hunter, TC Chair

AP Membership

Currently there are eight total members on the northern shrimp AP. The AP discussed adding advisors from each state with the intent of increasing industry participation in the northern shrimp management process. The AP recommends a total membership of twelve individuals with the following state break down (ME = 6, NH = 3, MA = 3).

Given that recommendation, Maine has 3 advisors (Vincent Balzano, Gary Libby and John Seiders), and three vacancies. NH has 2 advisors (Peter Kendall and Andrew Lang), and one vacancy. Massachusetts has 1 advisor (Joseph Testaverde) and two vacancies.

Next Steps in Northern Shrimp Management

The AP recommends moving forward with an alternative model to assess the northern shrimp stock. They also recommend considering alternative biological reference points before the next benchmark stock assessment scheduled for fall 2013.

The AP is concerned that the gear configuration on northern shrimp summer survey is not the industry standard for catching northern shrimp because there appears to be a discrepancy between the stock assessment results and the amount of shrimp the industry is seeing. The AP recommends the Section fund a member of the AP to attend a leg of the summer survey to validate the fishing operations on board the R/V Gloria Michelle.

The AP split its management recommendations into short-term options that could potentially be implemented in the 2012/2013 fishery, and long-term options that could be implemented shortly thereafter. The AP recommends that the Section actively pursue development and implementation of the long-term options as soon as possible.

AP Short-term Recommendations:

1. Consider use of a weekly trip limit – acknowledging this would require better monitoring
2. An option to allocate the TAC by gear type to accommodate for the trap and trawl fisheries
3. An option to allocate the TAC by state based on landings history. If implemented, a fishermen/vessel would have to declare one state for harvest if they hold permits in two states
4. Implement mandatory use of a size-sorting grate system that would minimize the retention of small shrimp. Currently, a double grate is allowed in the N. Shrimp FMP, but not mandatory.
5. An option to allocate by individual/group based on catch history (see attached limited entry/fixed percentage share proposal as one potential option)

Long-term Recommendations:

1. An option to allocate by individual/group based on catch history (see attached limited entry/fixed percentage share proposal as one potential option)

The AP recommended that the Plan Development Team provide an analysis of the number of participants that would qualify for any potential qualification period in relation to a catch share or limited entry program selected by the Section.