



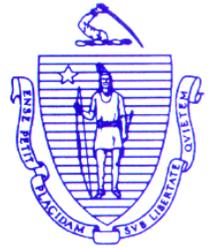
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October 11, 2018

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Public Comment Sought: Northern Shrimp Management

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is seeking public comment on Draft Addendum I to Amendment 3 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Northern Shrimp. The Draft Addendum proposes providing states the authority to allocate their state-specific quota between gear types (in the event the fishery reopens). MA DMF opted to not have a hearing in Massachusetts due to negligible expected impacts of the management options here, but is encouraging the submission of any comments in writing to ASMFC.

The Draft Addendum is available [here](#) or via the ASMFC website (www.asmfc.org), under *Public Input*. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM on **November 7, 2018** and should be forwarded to Megan Ware, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N, Arlington, VA, 22201; 703.842.07401 (fax); or comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Northern Shrimp).

Amendment 3 currently specifies that, in jurisdictions with historical trawl and trap fisheries (i.e., Maine), a state's quota must be divided such that 87% is allocated to the trawl fishery and 13% is allocated to the trap fishery. This addendum considers changing this requirement by transferring the authority to states to annually determine the split of northern shrimp quota between gear types, rather than having the split specified in the management plan. The state-by-state quota shares established in Amendment 3 (80% ME, 10% NH, and 10% MA) are not being considered for revision.

The ASMFC Northern Shrimp Section will consider final action on Addendum I in mid-November, when it also will set the 2019 commercial fishery specifications. Note that the northern shrimp population is assessed to be at extremely low levels and the fishery has been subject to a harvest moratorium since 2014.

For more information, please contact Megan Ware at ASMFC (mware@asmfc.org, 703-842-0740) or Dr. Michael Armstrong at MA DMF (michael.armstrong@mass.gov or 978-282-0308).