



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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July 11, 2024

Marine Fisheries Advisory

ASMFC Public Hearings on Northern Shrimp Draft Amendment 4 Scoping Document

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is seeking public comment on the Public Information Document to Draft Amendment 4 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Northern Shrimp. The states of Maine through Massachusetts have scheduled public hearings, and a written comment period has been established. Some hearings will be conducted in-person, and some hearings will be conducted via webinar. Stakeholder participation is welcome at any hearing regardless of your home state. The public hearing details follow:

Date and Hearing Format	State/Agency	Contact
Monday, July 29 Webinar Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	New Hampshire Fish and Game Dept. & Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries <i>The webinar registration link is available here, and additional webinar instructions are below.</i>	Cheri Patterson (NH) 603.868.1095 Robert Glenn (MA) 508.264.4157
Tuesday, July 30 Webinar Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Maine Dept. of Marine Resources <i>The webinar registration link is available here, and additional webinar instructions are below.</i>	Megan Ware 207.446.0932
Wednesday, July 31 In-person Hearing 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Maine Dept. of Marine Resources Hearing Location: Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission 297 Bath Road Wiscasset, ME 04578	Megan Ware 207.446.0932
Thursday, August 1 Webinar Hearing 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Maine Dept. of Marine Resources, New Hampshire Fish and Game Dept., & Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries <i>The webinar registration link is available here, and additional webinar instructions are below.</i>	Chelsea Tuohy (ASMFC) 703.842.0714

Given the northern shrimp stock's continued depleted status, the draft amendment was initiated to consider extending the specifications setting timeline to allow for ongoing or multiyear harvest moratoria and adding management triggers to the management program. A management trigger,

defined by a set of biological indicators, could inform when a harvest moratorium could be reevaluated to allow for a potential fishery in future years.

As the first step in the ASMFC's amendment process, the Public Information Document (PID) is intended to gather information concerning northern shrimp and provide an opportunity for the public to identify and comment on major issues relative to the management of the species. Following the initial phase of information gathering and public comment, the Northern Shrimp Section will evaluate potential management alternatives and develop Draft Amendment 4 for public review. After the next round of public comment, the Section will identify the management measures to be included in Amendment 4. A tentative schedule for the completion of Amendment 4 is included in the PID.

Webinar Instructions

Please note that in order to comment during virtual webinar hearings you will need to use your computer or download the GoTo app for your phone. Those joining by phone only will be limited to listening to the presentation and will not be able to provide input. In those cases, you can send your comments to staff via [email](#) or US mail at any time during the public comment period. To attend the webinar in listen only mode, dial (213) 929-4212 and enter access code 846-921-953.

For all virtual hearings, please click [HERE](#) and select the hearing(s) you plan to attend from the dropdown menu to register for a public hearing webinar. Hearings will be held via GoToWebinar, and you can join the webinar from your computer, tablet or smartphone. If you are new to GoToWebinar, you can download the software by ([clicking here](#)) or via the App store under GoTo. We recommend you register for the hearing well in advance of the hearing since GoToWebinar will provide you with a link to test your device's compatibility with the webinar. If you find your device is not compatible, please contact the Commission at info@asmfc.org (subject line: GoToWebinar help) and we will try to get you connected. We also strongly encourage participants to **use the computer voice over internet protocol (VoIP)** so you can ask questions and provide input at the hearing.

Hearing Presentation Recording

For those who cannot attend any in-person or virtual hearings, the Commission will also post a recording of the hearing presentation on the Commission's YouTube page so that stakeholders may watch the presentation and submit comment at any time during the comment process. This recording will be available by July 22, with the recording link provided at <https://asmfc.org/about-us/public-input>.

Submitting Comments

The PID is available [HERE](#) or on the Commission's Public Input webpage at <https://asmfc.org/about-us/public-input>. All those interested in the management of northern shrimp are encouraged to provide input either by participating in the public hearings or providing written comment. Written public comment will be accepted until **11:59 PM (EST) on August 15, 2024** and should be sent to Chelsea Tuohy, FMP Coordinator, at 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, Virginia 22201; or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Northern Shrimp PID). For more information, please contact Chelsea Tuohy at ctuohy@asmfc.org.