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December 30, 2014

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Northern Shrimp Moratorium

The Director of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, with the approval of the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, has declared that effective January 1, 2015 commercial fishermen are prohibited from fishing for, retaining or landing northern shrimp in Massachusetts ([Declaration](#)). This moratorium will remain in effect until further notice.

In the late fall of 2014, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Northern Shrimp Section - consisting of the states of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts - approved these states to take action to prohibit the commercial harvest, possession and landing of northern shrimp for January 1, 2015. The moratorium is in response to a stock collapse and recruitment failure. The 2013 Stock Assessment Report indicated the northern shrimp stock is overfished and experiencing overfishing. This stock's abundance has declined steadily since 2006 and its biomass is currently at its lowest value (500 mt) in recent history, well below the biomass threshold of 9,000 mt and the biomass limit of 6,000 mt. Due to these current stock conditions, this moratorium may remain in place for more than one year.

For more information about the management of northern shrimp and other fish species in Massachusetts please visit our website at: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.