

Shrimp Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1 Bycatch Management Recommendations

N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission
Meeting

Feb. 20, 2014



Fishery Management Plan Tour

January 2014

- Southern Advisory Committee
- Northern Advisory Committee
- Habitat and Water Quality Advisory Committee
- Finfish Advisory Committee
- Shellfish/Crustacean Advisory Committee
- Shrimp Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee





FMP TOUR

2014



SOUTHCOAST MO JUN 5
 WASTCOAST MO JUN 9
 RABBIT AND WATER QUALITY MO JUN 10
 POMPEROY MO JUN 11
 SPELSPHAGNOSTICAN MO JUN 16
 SAL DENSITY MO JUN 21
 SPELMO MO JUN 22
 SPELMO MO JUN 23



Trawling Above the Highway 172 Bridge

Shrimp Committee: Allow skimmer and otter shrimp trawling in the New River special secondary nursery area.

Division: Status quo

Southern	Northern	Habitat	Finfish	Shell/Crust
Same as AC	Same as AC	Same as AC	Motion to support AC failed 3-3-1	Same as DMF



Evaluation of Other Gears Used for Shrimping

Shrimp Committee: Allow hand cast netting of shrimp in all closed areas, and increase the limit to four quarts per person.

Division: Status quo

Southern	Northern	Habitat	Finfish	Shell/Crust
Same as AC	Same as AC	Abstain	Same as AC	Same as AC



Evaluation of Other Gears Used for Shrimping

Division: Allow hand cast netting of shrimp in all closed areas, and increase the limit to four quarts (heads on) per person.



Evaluation of Other Gears Used for Shrimping

Shrimp Committee: Require a fishing license from the division to fish a cast net.

Division: Status quo

Southern	Northern	Habitat	Finfish	Shell/Crust
Motion to support AC failed 3-3-2	Same as DMF	Motion to support suggestion of a license failed 1-2-4	Motion to add to coastal recreational fishing license failed 2-5	No action



Turtle Excluder Devices in Commercial Skimmer Trawls

Shrimp Committee: Status quo

Division: Upon federal adoption of turtle excluder devices in skimmer trawls, the division will support the federal requirement. Rule 15A NCAC 03L.0103 allows for state enforcement.

Southern	Northern	Habitat	Finfish	Shell/Crust
Same as DMF	Same as DMF	Abstain	Same as DMF	Same as DMF



Consideration of a Commercial Live Bait Shrimp Fishery

Shrimp Committee: Recommend North Carolina established a permitted live bait fishery and for the division to craft the guidelines and permit fees after reviewing permitted operations in other states.

Division: Status quo

Southern	Northern	Habitat	Finfish	Shell/Crust
Same as AC	Same as DMF	Same as AC	Same as DMF	Same as DMF



Effort Management for Bycatch Reduction

Shrimp Committee/Division: Status quo

Southern	Northern	Habitat	Finfish	Shell/Crust
No discussion	No discussion	Abstain	No discussion	No discussion



Characterization of the Commercial Shrimp Trawl Fleet

Shrimp Committee: Status quo

Division: In order to put a cap on fleet capacity as a management tool, establish a maximum combined headrope length of 220 feet in all internal coastal waters where there are on existing maximum combined headrope requirements (i.e., 90 feet requirement).

Southern	Northern	Habitat	Finfish	Shell/Crust
Do not support DMF	Same as AC	Abstain	Same as DMF but include a 3-year phase in period	Same as DMF



Area Restrictions in Internal Coastal Waters

Shrimp Committee/Division: Prohibit shrimp trawling in the Intracoastal Waterway channel from Sunset Beach Bridge to the South Carolina state line, including Eastern Channel, lower Calabash River and Shallotte River.

Southern	Northern	Habitat	Finfish	Shell/Crust
Same as AC/DMF				



Area Restrictions in Internal Coastal Waters

Shrimp Committee: Status quo

Division: Recommend the Habitat and Water Quality Advisory Committee consider changing the designation of special secondary nursery areas that have not been opened to trawling since 1991 to permanent secondary nursery areas.

Southern	Northern	Habitat	Finfish	Shell/Crust
Same as DMF	Same as DMF	Same as DMF	Motion to support DMF failed 3-3-1	Same as DMF



Area Restrictions in Internal Coastal Waters

Division: Recommend the Habitat and Water Quality Advisory Committee consider changing the designation of special secondary nursery areas that have not been opened to trawling since 1991 to permanent secondary nursery areas. Based on outcome of the advisory committee input, rule changes may follow under the authority of the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.



Gear Modifications in Shrimp Trawls

Shrimp Committee/Division: Allow any federally certified bycatch reduction device in all North Carolina internal and offshore waters.

Southern	Northern	Habitat	Finfish	Shell/Crust
Same as AC/DMF	Same as AC/DMF	Abstain	Same as AC/DMF	Same as AC/DMF



Gear Modifications in Shrimp Trawls

Shrimp Committee: Update and certify bycatch reduction devices through the state bycatch reduction device program.

Division: Update the scientific testing protocol for the state bycatch reduction device certification program.

Southern	Northern	Habitat	Finfish	Shell/Crust
Same as DMF	Same as DMF	Abstain	Same as DMF	Same as DMF



Gear Modifications in Shrimp Trawls

Shrimp Committee:

- Convene an ongoing stakeholder workgroup charged with suggesting new trawl gear or trawl gear modifications.
- Initiate industry testing of new or modified bycatch reduction devices and gear modifications under the supervision of the division. After testing and collection of scientific data, regulations should be implemented to require or allow such devices or modifications to be used in North Carolina internal and offshore waters.
- Test a three-inch bar spaced turtle excluder device to see if it can be certified as a bycatch reduction device.
- Allow the shrimp industry a two-year period to test bycatch reduction devices.



Gear Modifications in Shrimp Trawls

Division: Convene a stakeholder group to initiate industry testing of minimum tail bag mesh size, T-90 panels, skylight panels, and reduced bar spacing in turtle excluder devices to reduce bycatch.

- Upon securing funding, testing in the ocean and internal waters will consist of three years of data using test nets compared to a control net with a Florida fish eye, and a federally approved turtle excluder device.
- Results should minimize shrimp loss and maximize reduction of bycatch of finfish. Promising configurations will be brought back to the commission for consideration for mandatory use.
- The stakeholder group may be partnered with the division and Sea Grant.
- Members should consist of fishermen, net/gear manufacturers and scientific/gear specialists.



Gear Modifications in Shrimp Trawls

Southern	Northern	Habitat	Finfish	Shell/Crust
Same as DMF				



Gear Modifications in Shrimp Trawls

Commission: Convene a stakeholder group to initiate a three-year study to test minimum tail bag mesh size, T-90 (square mesh) panels, skylight panels, reduced bar spacing in turtle excluder devices and any other new methods of reducing unwanted finfish bycatch to achieve a minimum of a 40-percent reduction of finfish by weight.

- Compare these to a control net with a Florida fish eye, a federally approved turtle excluder device and a 1.5-inch mesh tail bag.
- This stakeholder group should partner with the division and Sea Grant to help secure funding for the study.
- If the 40-percent target reduction by weight in finfish is not achieved, further restrictions will be placed on the shrimp trawl industry to achieve the 40-percent reduction.
- Additional restrictions on the shrimp trawl industry will be reviewed and discussed at that time.



Gear Modifications in Shrimp Trawls

Southern Committee: Do not support the commission recommendation because of no support for the 40-percent reduction due to no scientific basis and also to not support the remaining portions of the commission's motion because they are redundant to earlier recommendations.



Gear Modifications in Shrimp Trawls

Northern Committee: Strongly reject the commission recommendation for the 40-percent reduction due to no scientific basis, and also to not support the remaining portions of the commission's motion because they are redundant to earlier recommendations.



Gear Modifications in Shrimp Trawls

Habitat and Water Quality Committee: Convene a stakeholder group to initiate a three-year study to test minimum tail bag mesh size, T-90 (square mesh) panels, skylight panels, reduced bar spacing in turtle excluder devices and any other new methods of reducing unwanted finfish bycatch to achieve a reduction in bycatch.

- Compare these to a control net with a Florida fish eye, a federally approved turtle excluder device and a 1.5-inch mesh tail bag.
- This stakeholder group should partner with the division and Sea Grant to help secure funding for the study.



Gear Modifications in Shrimp Trawls

Finfish Committee: Strongly reject the commission recommendation for the 40-percent reduction due to no scientific basis, and also to not support the remaining portions of the commission's motion because they are redundant to earlier recommendations.



Gear Modifications in Shrimp Trawls

Shellfish and Crustacean Committee: Do not support the commission recommendation because recommendations are already addressed in the division recommendations.



Gear Modifications in Shrimp Trawls

Shrimp Committee: Strongly oppose the commission recommendation for 40-percent reduction in bycatch from a standard turtle excluder device and Florida fish eye.



Gear Modifications in Shrimp Trawls

Division: Convene a stakeholder group to initiate industry testing of minimum tail bag mesh size, T-90 panels, skylight panels, and reduced bar spacing in turtle excluder devices to reduce bycatch to the extent practicable.

- Upon securing funding, testing in the ocean and internal waters will consist of three years of data using test nets compared to a control net with a Florida fish eye, a federally approved turtle excluder device and a 1.5-inch mesh tail bag.
- Results should minimize shrimp loss and maximize reduction of bycatch of finfish. Promising configurations will be brought back to the commission for consideration for mandatory use.
- The stakeholder group may be partnered with the division and Sea Grant.
- Members should consist of fishermen, net/gear manufacturers and scientific/gear specialists.



Gear Modifications in Shrimp Trawls

Shrimp Committee: Status quo

Division: Require either a T-90 panel/square mesh tailbag or other applications of square mesh panels (e.g., skylight panel), reduced bar spacing in a turtle excluder devices, or another federal or state certified bycatch reduction devices in addition to existing turtle excluder device and bycatch reduction device requirements in all skimmer and otter trawls.

Southern	Northern	Habitat	Finfish	Shell/Crust
Same as DMF	Same as AC	Abstain	Same as DMF	Same as DMF but to require 1 year of testing



Timeline

COMMISSION MILESTONES	PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE
1. Present Timeline and Goal and Objectives to MFC; Get Commission Input on Issues	Feb. 28, 2013
2. Draft Sections and Issue Papers and Establish Division/AC Recommendations	January-August 2013
3. Obtain Commission Approval for Public Review of Plan	November 2013
4. Commission Selects Preferred Management Options	*Feb. 20, 2014*
5. Department/Legislative Review	March 2014
6. Commission Procedural Approval for Notice of Text for Rules	May 2014
7. Direct Rules Through APA Process	August-October 2014
8. Final Plan and Rule Approval by Commission	November 2014
9. Selected Management Measures Effective Date	48 hours if proclamation; April 1, 2015 if rule changes



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Next Step

- Select preferred management options.
- Vote to approve the draft amendment.
- Vote to send the draft amendment for further review by the secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations.

