



Shrimp Fishery Management Plan

Amendment 2

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Marine Fisheries

NC Marine Fisheries Commission

| Chris Stewart, Kimberlee Harding, and Jason Rock | February 20, 2020





Amendment 1:

- Established new management strategies that used gear changes, effort controls, and area restrictions to reduce bycatch in the shrimp trawl fishery as well as provide additional habitat protection

Amendment 2:

- Examine potential management strategies to reduce bycatch of non-target species, reduce habitat impacts, and improve management of the shrimp fishery
- Potential changes to existing shrimp management strategies that were adopted in the 2006 FMP, 2015 Amendment 1, and 2018 Revision to Amendment 1
- Refers to MFC motions from August 2018 and February 2019





August 2018 Motion:

Motion to include the following general focus in the development of Amendment 2 to the Shrimp FMP:

- Continue minimizing waste and enhance economic value of the shrimp resource by promoting more efficient harvesting practices.
- Further reduce mortality of non-target species of finfish and crustaceans and protected, threatened and endangered species.
- Promote the protection, restoration and enhancement of habitats and environmental quality.
- Encourage research and education to improve the understanding of the overall cumulative impacts of shrimp trawl bycatch on fish population dynamics.





February 2019 Motion:

Motion to refer the Wildlife Federation's Petition for Rulemaking (excluding spot and croaker) to the Shrimp FMP Advisory Committee for consideration in developing Amendment 2 to the FMP and to consider the following goals and objectives for the Shrimp FMP:

- Reduce takes and interactions of non-targeted species and threatened species.
- Improve the survival of non-target and threatened species at the population level.
- Continue to minimize bycatch and enhance the economic value of shrimp.
- Promote habitat enhancement and provide environmental quality necessary to improve the shrimp resource.
- Review nursery areas with an updated look at secondary nursery areas.
- Implement research and education programs to allow a better understanding of the public, industry and consumers of shrimp bycatch impact on fish population dynamics.



TIMELINE FOR AMENDMENT 2 TO THE SHRIMP FMP

**YOU
ARE
HERE** 

DATE	MILESTONES
Jan 7 - 21, 2020	1 Hold Scoping Period, Including In-Public Meetings, Online Questionnaire, and U.S. Mail
February 2020	2 NCMFC Approve Goal and Objectives; Division Provide Brief Results of Scoping Period, Solicit NCMFC Input on Potential Management Strategies
January - June 2020	3 Division Develop First Draft of Amendment 2
July - September 2020	4 Division Host Workshop with PDT and AC to Develop Second Draft of Amendment 2
October 2020	5 Division Select Initial Management Recommendations
November 2020	6 NCMFC Vote to Send Draft Amendment 2 for AC and Public Review
December 2020 - February 2021	7 AC and Public Review of FMP
February 2021	8 NCMFC Select Preferred Management Options
March 2021 - April 2021	9 NC DEQ Secretary and Legislature Review Draft Amendment 2
May 2021	10 NCMFC Vote on Final Adoption of Amendment 2*

*Assumes rulemaking not required.



The Scoping Process Serves To:

1. Provide notice to the public that a formal review of the FMP is underway by the division.
2. Inform the public of the stock status of the species (if available).
3. Provide opportunities to solicit public input on the list of potential management strategies identified by the division or identify other relevant strategies for consideration.
4. Recruit potential advisors to serve on the AC for the FMP.

Outcome of Shrimp Scoping Period:

- Shrimp Scoping Period: January 7 – 21, 2020
- Comments: 19 in-person, 229 online comments, 6 via U.S. Mail
- Comments primarily focused on potential management measures under the bycatch reduction management strategy
- Potential management strategies identified during the scoping period included a live bait shrimp permit and addressing water quality concerns
- Several individuals expressed interest in serving on the AC



Action Item I: Vote on FMP Goal and Objectives



Goal:

Manage the shrimp fishery to provide adequate resource protection, optimize long-term harvest, and minimize ecosystem impacts. The following objectives will be used to achieve this goal.

Objectives:

- Reduce bycatch of non-target species of finfish and crustaceans, as well as protected, threatened, and endangered species.
- Promote the restoration, enhancement, and protection of habitat and environmental quality in a manner consistent with the CHPP.
- Develop a strategy through the CHPP to review current nursery areas and to identify and evaluate potential areas suitable for designation.
- Use biological, environmental, habitat, fishery, social, and economic data needed to effectively monitor and manage the shrimp fishery and its ecosystem impacts (i.e., bycatch, habitat degradation).
- Promote implementation of research and education programs designed to improve stakeholder and the general public's understanding of shrimp trawl bycatch impacts on fish population dynamics.





Shrimp FMP Amendment 2 Potential Management Strategies

Bycatch Reduction

- Additional day(s) of week closure
- Develop closed seasons in internal coastal waters (estuarine) and the Atlantic Ocean (0-3 miles)
- Headrope reductions
- Close additional areas to shrimp trawling (bycatch hotspots, Intracoastal Waterway, Special Secondary Nursery Areas)
- Develop migration corridors closed to shrimp trawling

Shrimp Management

- Evaluate the current shrimp management strategies that determine season openings in Special Secondary Nursery Areas based on shrimp count size and finfish abundance within set dates

Habitat

- Close additional critical fish habitat areas to shrimp trawling





Action Items

- Vote on final approval of draft goal and objectives for Amendment 2
- Provide input on potential management strategies for Amendment 2

Next Steps

- Division develops first draft of Amendment 2
- Division/AC Workshops to develop second draft of Amendment 2
- Draft Amendment 2 to MFC for approval to go for public and AC review and comment





Questions?



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