

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

December 16, 2021: NOTE - It appears the sea surface sensor on the oceanographic buoy has malfunctioned as we have not had a new reading for a couple of weeks.

Once again, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is recommending that the northern shrimp fishery moratorium be continued in 2022. The Maine shrimp fishery has been closed since 2014 and the Northern Shrimp Section of the ASMFC will meet this Friday, to present its recommendations for continuing the moratorium. Maine's native shrimp, *Pandalus borealis*, is the small, pink shrimp that was highly desirable for seafood consumers during the annual winter harvest. Stock assessment scientists, using data from the Maine DMR trawl survey, continue to find low biomass numbers, and based on this, coupled with environmental data and modeling efforts, they conclude that a commercial fishery at this time would further jeopardize the recovery of the fishery if conditions were to improve in the future.

According to the draft report and based on the results of the 2021 Stock Assessment Update, the northern shrimp stock in the Gulf of Maine remains depleted, with spawning stock biomass at extremely low levels since 2013. In addition, recruitment continues to be low, with the 2016, 2018, and 2020 year classes being the lowest in the time series. Fishing mortality has been very low in recent years due to the moratorium, but high levels of natural mortality and low recruitment have hindered rebuilding. Given the continued poor condition of the resource, the extremely low likelihood of being able to fish sustainably, and the value of maximizing spawning potential to rebuild the stock if environmental conditions improve, the Northern Shrimp Technical Committee does not see any biological justification for harvest and recommends that the Section extend the moratorium on all fishing. The upcoming meeting is Friday, December 17, 2021 from 9-11am and is open to the public by Zoom. More information is available at www.asmfc.org.

Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to info@coastalfisheries.org or call 207.367.2708. Learn more about MCCF by visiting us online at www.coastalfisheries.org

FISHERIES LOG

Prices to Harvesters in Stonington

Scallops: \$20/lb.

Lobsters (shedders): \$5.30/lb.

Bait (frzn. redfish heads): \$37.50/50lbs.

Fuel (diesel): \$3.29/gal.

Oceanographic Buoy I-01

44°6'10"N 68°6'44"W – Frenchboro

Sea Surface Temperature: NA (avg. for this date: 46.5°F)

Bottom Temperature: 49.6°F (avg. for this date: 46.9°F)

Source: www.neracoos.org