



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
21 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0021

PATRICK C. KELIHER
COMMISSIONER

Seeking Industry Participants: 2025 Northern Shrimp Winter Sampling Research Pilot Program

The Maine Department of Marine Resources, in cooperation with the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Northern Shrimp Board, seeks fishing industry members to participate in a Winter Sampling Research Program for Northern shrimp, likely starting February 2025 and running into March 2025. **This program will not receive funding from the ASMFC or the states and participation in the Program will be entirely self-funded by industry participants.** Participants in this research will be allowed to land and sell Northern shrimp, subject to limitations specified.

Background and Requirements:

The Northern Shrimp Section has set a 26.5mt research set-aside for this Program. Like the previous Northern shrimp winter sampling programs, a trip limit and trap limit will also be established. For context, the 2017 winter sampling program had a 1,200-pound trip limit for trawls, and a 500-pound per week limit for traps. Vessels may fish for a maximum of six weeks or until the research set-aside is reached.

Participating shrimp trawl vessels will be assigned to one of three regions in Maine: Western Maine (Kittery to Phippsburg), Midcoast Maine (Phippsburg to Owls Head), or Eastern Maine (east of Owls Head). Participants may specify the region(s) in which they are willing to fish in their application. Standard shrimp nets must conform with Chapter 45.10 Net Restrictions, including using a size-sorting grate.

Shrimp trappers will collect samples in one of three regions of the Maine coast: Western Maine (Kittery to Phippsburg), Midcoast Maine (Phippsburg to Owls Head), or Eastern Maine (east of Owls Head). Traps may only be set in Maine state waters and must comply with applicable Chapter 75 Protect Resource regulations, including an approved 1700-pound weak link 50% down the vertical line.

The purpose of this research project is to collect samples of Northern shrimp during the winter when shrimp are in inshore waters. **Samples will be similar to those that would be collected from commercial shrimp catches if there was a fishery, providing information on fishing location, effort, timing and overall catch.** During each trip, the captain should attempt to fish in locations in which he/she would normally fish for shrimp.

OFFICES AT 32 BLOSSOM LANE, MARQUARDT BUILDING, AUGUSTA, MAINE
<http://www.Maine.gov/dmr>

PHONE: (207) 624-6550

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Participants must provide a 1 kg catch sample and accompanying data to scientists at the Maine Department of Marine Resources. Participants will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Maine DMR outlining responsibilities of participants. If participants are unable to perform the responsibilities, Maine DMR may select another participant as replacement.

A maximum of seven participants will be selected from the pool of applicants, including 4 trawl participants and 3 trap participants, and will be chosen to ensure geographic coverage. Shrimp trawlers and trappers are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility: In order to apply, an individual must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be a Maine resident; and
- Hold a current license from Maine DMR that authorizes the holder to fish commercially (e.g. a Commercial Fishing License, Lobster and Crab Fishing License, etc.); and
- Have demonstrated expertise fishing for shrimp, including at least 2-years of shrimp landings history; and
- Be willing to meet the project requirements specified above

Selection criteria: Maine DMR will select participants from the pool of eligible applicants based on the following considerations:

- Number of years of experience fishing for shrimp
- Timeframe during which the applicant last fished for shrimp
- History of marine resources violations during the prior 7 years
- Experience with participation in other DMR research projects
- Geographic area(s) in which applicant is willing to fish
- Vessel specifications
- Additional spatial information that an applicant is able to provide about their fishing activity (e.g. VMS, trackers, environmental monitoring, etc.)
- Availability to fish during the full-time frame of the research project

Should the Department receive more applications than available opportunities for participation, the Department reserves the right to select randomly from similarly qualified individuals.

Application and Contacts:

[The application and previous winter sampling reports can be found here.](#)

All applications must be received via mail, email, texted picture, or fax by **January 3, 2025**. Please send applications to:

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