

Basis Statement

Chapter 45.05(1)(A)(2) Shrimp Season, 2008 – 2009

This rule provides consistency with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Northern Shrimp Management Plan, based on the ASMFC's recommendations for the establishment of the 2008 - 2009 fishing season selected at its public hearing held November 7, 2008 in Gloucester, Massachusetts. These regulations are based upon the best available stock assessment information as presented by the ASMFC Northern Shrimp Technical Committee, additional information presented by the Northern Shrimp Industry Advisory Panel, industry and public input. This rule establishes closed periods for conservation during the period from December 1 through May 31 for mobile gear and the harvest of Northern Shrimp by trap.

As authorized by [12 M.R.S.A. §§6171](#) the Commissioner of Marine Resources, with the advice and consent of the Department's Advisory Council, adopts this amended regulation.

Summary of Comments

No comments were received.

Chapter 45 - Shrimp

45.05 Shrimp season

1. Shrimp Season ~~2007-2008~~2008-2009

A. Harvest and transport

(1) Closed season.

It shall be unlawful to fish for, or take by any method, or to land, ship, transport or possess any shrimp except during the period from December 1 through May 31 of any year.

(2) Fishing Season

(a) It is unlawful for any person or vessel fishing with nets or traps to fish for, take, land, transport or to have in possession any Northern Shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) except between the following dates, inclusive:

180 day season: December 1, 2008 through May 29, 2009.

~~152 day season: December 1, 2007 through April 30, 2008.~~

(b) Unbaited shrimp traps must be removed from the water no later than 5 days after the season is closed and no shrimp may be retained from traps hauled after the close of the season.

(c) On closed days, it is unlawful to fish for or land any shrimp during the entire 24 hour day; and it shall be prima facie evidence that any shrimp landed or possessed by harvesters during that period were taken during a closed day.

(d) It shall be unlawful to cull, grade, separate or shake shrimp, aboard any vessel, except by implements operated solely by hand. It is illegal to possess, aboard any vessel, any powered mechanical device used to cull, grade, separate or shake shrimp.

(3) Exception;

Any shrimp may be possessed, transported or sold during the closed periods or seasons by dealers provided the shrimp were legally obtained and the dealer is properly permitted or licensed to engage in that activity.