

# Basis Statement

## Chapter 8.10(C)(6) Primary Buyer Permit Reporting, Shrimp (weekly reporting by dealers)

In recent years, Maine's shrimp fishery has been managed by establishing a target total catch for the season, and then establishing a season of a particular length in which to catch the target. During the season, the dealer catch reports are tallied to see how close the fishery is coming to catching the target. In the past two seasons, the season was closed earlier than expected through emergency action, as soon as it was known (based on the available reports) that the target had been caught. Unfortunately, in part because some reports only come in monthly, the fishery had actually exceeded the target by about 20% in 2010, and almost 50% in 2011. This likely had serious consequences for the health of the stock.

In order to ensure consistency with all dealer reporting this regulation will establish weekly reporting for 98 dealers. This will be consistent with the 99 dealers who hold a federal dealer permit issued by NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office). These federal dealers must already report weekly, and will not be affected by this regulation.

There are 8 dealers with shrimp permits (who purchase shrimp directly from shrimp harvesters) who do not hold federal permits and currently report on a monthly basis who will be affected by this regulation. Additionally, there are 90 dealers who hold a shrimp permit ([12 M.R.S.A. §6851\(2-D\)](#)) who will be affected by this reporting requirement although most of them do not buy shrimp. The regulation will change the report submission time from monthly to weekly, but does not change the type or quantity of information required. Weekly landings reports by shrimp dealers are needed to manage the fishery. Currently, some dealers report only monthly, and this is not timely enough to effectively monitor landings.

All species purchased from harvesters are included in this regulation to be consistent with federal reporting rules, ensure dealers submit all data required in Chapter 8 at one time and to avoid DMR compliance tracking by individual species. Each year, the shrimp season usually runs during the winter and spring from December through March, April, or May and is established by rule the previous November. Dealers will be able to report either electronically or on paper forms.

## Summary of Comments

Two public hearings were held, October 19, 2011 in Yarmouth and October 20, 2011 in Ellsworth. No persons attended the hearings and no written comments were received.

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES  
Chapter 8 Landings Program

### 8.10 Primary Buyer Permit Reporting

#### C. Additional data elements and requirements for specific fisheries:

##### 6. Shrimp:

A dealer who holds a Wholesale Seafood license with shrimp permit (12 M.R.S. §6851(2-D)) shall report all landings bought from harvesters (including any marine organism) to DMR on a weekly basis for the entire shrimp season as specified in DMR regulations Chapter 45.05. The reporting week begins on Sunday at 0001 hrs (12:01 AM) local time and ends Saturday at 2400 hrs (12:00 midnight). Reports must be postmarked or received at the DMR by 1700 hours (5:00 PM) Tuesday, three days after the end of each reporting week.